

Mississippi State University

Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

245-150

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

Advanced Mechanical Technology, Inc. (AMTI) Single Force Platform System (two platforms will be purchased) consisting of:

- OPTIMA BMS600600-2K
- 9-meter force platform to amplifier cable
- OPTIMA amplifier
- Force platform mounting hardware and resin kit

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s), how is it unique from all other options, and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

The Neuromechanics Laboratory housed in the Department of Kinesiology at Mississippi State University has a long-standing relationship with AMTI that has been established over the past 15 years. We purchased two AMTI Accugait force platforms with startup funds and grant money approximately 12-15 years ago, and these platforms have served the laboratory well. However, as with all equipment, the technology has evolved and changed over the years, and superior and upgraded options are now available. The OPTIMA Biomechanics Measurement System (BMS600600) is an upgrade to our current force platforms, and it will allow for the measurement of forces during both walking, running, and jumping activities, where our current force platforms are limited to collecting data during walking and light jogging. This new force platform model is larger than our current platforms (60 x 60 cm as opposed to 50 x 50 cm), and they offer improved accuracy and fit into the new laboratory space in the Duff Center. Additionally, our current Motion Analysis motion capture system is configured work with AMTI force platforms, so the purchase of these new platforms from AMTI is necessary to ensure that capability continues. We have received excellent customer service and technical assistance from AMTI over the past 15 years, and the faculty and graduate students who work in the Neuromechanics Laboratory are trained to operate the AMTI force platforms.

This option is best suited to meet the demands of the Neuromechanics Laboratory and the Department of Kinesiology. AMTI is a leading manufacturer of force platforms, and these platforms will allow for expanded research and teaching capabilities within the Neuromechanics Laboratory.

3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

Advanced Mechanical Technology, Inc. (AMTI): they are the only manufacturer that produces this specific type of force platform

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

$$\$16,575.00 \times 2 = \$33,150$$

Force platforms range in cost from \$15,000-\$30,000, and this is largely due to the sensitivity and accuracy required from the force transducers.

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

The Department of Kinesiology has conducted a thorough evaluation of available force platforms and has determined that the Advanced Mechanical Technology, Inc. (AMTI) BMS600600 is a system providing unique capabilities for the department's stringent scientific, operational, and instructional requirements.

- **Internal System Consistency:** The department and Neuromechanics Laboratory currently uses two AMTI force platforms. Adding two newer force platform models unit ensures increased standardization across the laboratory, facilitates shared maintenance protocols, and supports collaborative research by minimizing data variability caused by differing hardware.
- **Direct Vendor Communication:** AMTI is the exclusive manufacturer and distributor of the BMS 600600 system. The department has engaged directly with AMTI to confirm system capabilities and proprietary components.
- **Negotiated Pricing:** The department is working with AMTI to purchase the most recent model.
- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** Thanks to system durability, long-lifespan sensors, and shared parts with the current units, the department anticipates reduced

long-term maintenance and calibration expenses compared to other systems.

- **Integration:** The AMTI BMS 600600 force platforms will integrate with the laboratories current motion capture system.

The decision to proceed with a sole source purchase is justified by AMTI's exclusive rights to produce and sell the BMS 600600 force platform and the platform's alignment with the Neuromechanics laboratory and department's research, teaching, and equipment integration needs.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Jennifer Mayfield, CPPO

Director of Procurement & Contracts

jmayfield@procurement.msstate.edu

Subject Line must read "Sole Source Objection"

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.

.