

**Mississippi State University**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**256-021**

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:**

Moody's Orbis databases (various modules)

**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:**

Moody's provides the most complete source of information on global business entities. The Orbis dataset contains information on over 448 million legal entities, their ownership interests, and relationships. It's the most powerful database of beneficial owner, shareholder, and subsidiary information on private and public companies globally. Orbis deeply maps companies, including organizations of all legal form; non-profit, academic institutions, sole traders, LLCs, LLPs, Funds, SPACs, Joint Ventures, etc., as well as marine vessels, governments and sovereigns. Moody's takes a unique approach to gathering, validating, and updating ownership information. By sourcing ownership data from over 180 information providers and through our ownership research and validation team, Moody's provides ownership linkages throughout all regions of the world. Moody's Analytics ownership team validates corporate hierarchies through non-transparent regions of the world through a top-down (owner published percentage of subsidiary) and bottom-up (subsidiary published percentage of owners) approach.

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

Moody's Analytics are the sole source and provider for Orbis datasets. Moody's Analytics is the legal entity distributing the Orbis datasets. Researchers require access to the web interface that Moody's provides along with the customizability/exportability features that the interface provides.

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

\$250,000 is considered a reasonable cost for this access due to the customizability of the modules that Moody's will provide based on the state research use case.

**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:**

There are no products other than Moody's Orbis that has the combination of open-source data, global data reach, and proprietary analytical offerings required by the investigator. Investigator held multiple meetings with Moody's, and Moody's drafted a custom proposal to ensure we are purchasing the minimum access required. This price is significantly lower than the starting point.

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

Interim Deputy Director of Procurement & Contracts

[jmayfield@procurement.msstate.edu](mailto: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.