

# Mississippi State University

## Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

256-023

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):**

Rhino computer software, version 8

**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:**

Rhino is a critical software for design education because it allows the learning of a computational software that allows for freeform, curved geometries. This attribute is essential for student learning as it keeps the focus on design and not the teaching of a particular software. The software is also flexible, able to be integrated with other systems such as Revit and Grasshopper, and is easy to translate into printed presentations. Rhino is the only software that provides all of these features packaged in one platform, making it uniquely suited for both design education and professional practice.

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

McNeel is the company that designs, builds, and sells this software.

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

McNeel sells individual licenses for this software online for \$195 but provides individual licenses to schools for \$95 in bulk orders. The schools re-sell to students. \$95 for this software for the rest of one's education is a necessary investment.

**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:**

McNeel is the only company who makes this software and we have developed a good relationship with them to purchase in bulk over the years.

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 Services, Chief Procurement Officer

[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.

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