

Mississippi State University Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

256-071

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):

Response: Solinst Eureka Manta+ Multi Parameter Water Quality Sonde compatible expansion sensors and communication module, including:

- Dissolved Oxygen sensor compatible with existing Manta+ sonde
- BGA PC sensor compatible with existing Manta+ sonde
- Turbidity sensor compatible with existing Manta+ sonde
- MantaMobile Bluetooth Assembly communication module

These components are manufacturer certified expansion modules designed specifically for integration with the existing Solinst Eureka Manta+ multiparameter sonde currently owned by the Department.

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:

Response: The Department currently owns a Solinst Eureka Manta+ multiparameter water quality sonde equipped with temperature, conductivity, pH, CDOM, and chlorophyll-a sensors. The proposed research requires continuous monitoring of dissolved oxygen, blue green algae phycocyanin, and turbidity in the same integrated platform. The Manta+ sonde is a modular, manufacturer specific instrument system. Only Solinst Eureka manufactured sensors and communication modules are mechanically, electronically, and firmware compatible with this sonde. Third party sensors cannot be installed due to:

- Proprietary mechanical port configuration
- Manufacturer specific electrical interface
- Firmware and internal calibration architecture
- Integrated data logging and telemetry compatibility

Therefore, Solinst Eureka expansion modules are the only components that can meet the technical and compatibility requirements of this project.

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

Response: Solinst Eureka, LLC
2113 Wells Branch Pkwy, Suite 4400
Austin, Texas 78728

Solinst Eureka is the original manufacturer and sole authorized producer of the Manta+ sonde and its compatible expansion sensors and communication modules. The required sensors and MantaMobile Bluetooth Assembly are proprietary components designed exclusively for the Manta+ system.

No other manufacturer produces compatible expansion modules for this instrument platform.

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

Response: Estimated total cost: \$7,398

The cost is consistent with standard market pricing for manufacturer certified dissolved oxygen, BGA phycocyanin, turbidity sensors, and telemetry modules for multiparameter sondes of this class. Pricing was obtained directly from Solinst Eureka through an official quotation.

The amount is considered reasonable because:

- These are precision scientific instrumentation components
- They include factory calibration and certification
- They maintain compatibility with existing equipment
- They avoid the significantly higher cost of purchasing an entirely new multiparameter sonde

Purchasing these expansion modules leverages an existing \$13,000 instrument investment and represents a cost effective solution compared to acquiring a new system.

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:

Response: The Department evaluated whether third party sensors or alternative vendors could supply equivalent components. Due to the proprietary design of the Solinst Eureka Manta+ sonde, no other manufacturer produces mechanically and electronically compatible sensors or communication modules for integration into this system.

Alternative vendors would require purchasing an entirely separate multiparameter sonde, which would substantially increase project costs and create data compatibility issues.

The Department requested an updated formal quotation directly from Solinst Eureka to ensure current pricing. The purchase is limited strictly to required expansion modules to minimize cost.

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.