

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

256-091

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):

Two SmartFeed Pro units mounted into a SmartFeed Pro 10' standard trailer from C-Lock

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 two SmartFeed Pro units mounted into a SmartFeed Pro 10' standard trailer is a research equipment critical to supporting beef cattle nutrition research. This equipment will allow researchers to precisely deliver and monitor the intake of cattle in extensive research settings (i.e. cattle on pasture). While other smartfeeders exist, as described below, no smart feeder is mobile like the proposed equipment.

The SmartFeed Pro system's mobile capability to be mounted into a bumper-pull trailer is what primarily distinguishes the equipment from other smart feeders. The system is outfitted with solar panels to run the feeders, a cellular modem to transmit data in real time, and a hydraulic system to raise and lower the trailer for transport. An additional feature that distinguishes the SmartFeed Pro system is the powered door in front of the feeder. This door manages cattle access to the feeder and can control intake, which is critical in feed additive and cattle nutrition research on pasture. C-Lock is the sole manufacturer of other mobile precision monitoring systems. All of their monitoring systems are hosted in one data platform for ease of the end-user.

This equipment was selected for partial funding through the MSU EQUIP MAFES competitive funding program to support beef cattle research conducted at the Brown Loam Branch Experiment Station.

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

C-Lock currently holds patents for specific components of the SmartFeed pro unit.

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

\$76,300

This cost is competitive with other smart feeders and precision monitoring equipment.

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 searched the internet and Bully Buy for procurement of this equipment through existing vendors. The department spoke with C-Lock on the equipment and received a discount on the data package

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

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.

