

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

267-030

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):
Anthropic Claude Artificial Intelligence (AI) Cloud Service.
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:
MSU has reached the limit of 150 licenses for the Claude Team package. Anthropic Claude via the Education Enterprise license is a requirement to increase license count. Enterprise allows for greatly increased features including expanded monthly limits and additional enterprise features which are uniquely required for research projects based on Claude AI models. Access to the newest release of Claude models is a fundamental requirement in this fast-changing research environment. Premium educational enterprise licenses provide 5x more usage than Standard.
3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):
Anthropic is the sole provider of first-party licenses for Anthropic Claude Premium educational licenses with immediate access to new releases.
4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:
A campus enterprise license will be procured that allows for Premium and standard licenses with monthly charges per license. This procurement will not exceed \$250,000.
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:

ITS investigated Carahsoft as the only other potential Anthropic reseller but they do not sell the Premium version at this time, only Standard.

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.

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