Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

267-063

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):

SCIEX ZenoTOF 8600 high-resolution accurate-mass mass spectrometer with SCIEX OS acquisition and processing software, Windows 11 data-acquisition computer, OptiFlow Pro ion source with microflow/nanoflow components and Micro E-Lens, Waters ACQUITY M-Class micro/nanoflow trap-and-elute UHPLC system, SCIEX gas generator, 8 kVA UPS, instrument and LC benches, NIST 2023 tandem mass spectral library, MarkerView software upgrade, installation, training, and service coverage as specified in SCIEX quotation Q-11049163.

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 department requires a high-resolution accurate-mass platform capable of sensitive qualitative and quantitative analysis of low-abundance compounds in very small-volume breath-particulate samples. The ZenoTOF 8600 combines the Zeno trap for enhanced MS/MS sensitivity, electron-activated dissociation (EAD), collision-induced dissociation, ZT Scan 3.0 DIA, high-speed acquisition, and SCIEX OS 5.0 software in one integrated platform. These capabilities support confident identification, quantitation, and structural characterization of complex compounds, including non-targeted lipid analysis. The quoted configuration also includes the ACQUITY M-Class system for micro- and nano-flow separations and trap-and-elute operation, which is important for conserving limited sample and maximizing analytical information.

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

AB SCIEX LLC is the manufacturer and quoted supplier of the ZenoTOF 8600 system. The requested configuration depends on proprietary SCIEX technologies and an integrated SCIEX workflow, including Zeno trap-enabled MS/MS, EAD, ZT Scan 3.0 DIA, the OptiFlow Pro/DJet/QJet ion path, Mass Guard technology, SCIEX OS 5.0 control and processing, and compatible SCIEX libraries and support. The quotation also includes the required SCIEX instrument, Waters ACQUITY M-Class LC, software, micro/nano source components, installation, training, and service coverage under one consolidated vendor purchase.

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

SCIEX quotation Q-11049163 lists a total price of $622,574.43, including $5,000.00 in estimated shipping and handling; taxes are not included. The quoted total equipment and service list price is $1,402,254.37, with a discount of $784,679.94, equal to approximately 56% off list price. The price includes the ZenoTOF 8600 system, Waters ACQUITY M-Class UHPLC with trapping capability and installation, OptiFlow Pro microflow components and nanoflow upgrade, SCIEX gas generator, 8 kVA UPS, benches for the instruments, software and library licenses, training, and service coverage. The ZenoTOF 8600 includes a one-year limited warranty with one preventive-maintenance visit, and the quote adds a two-year SCIEX ProtectPlus plan for the 8600. The quote also contains M-Class warranty/service line items. These inclusions, the documented discount, and the combined hardware, software, training, installation, and support package provide the basis for determining that the expenditure is reasonable.

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 consulted multiple vendors and technology specialists to evaluate platforms for sensitive and versatile analysis of very small-volume breath-particulate samples. The evaluation included review of vendor-generated sample data relevant to the proposed research. SCIEX data demonstrated detection of thousands of non-targeted lipid features, providing proof of concept for the intended workflow. The department selected the ZenoTOF 8600 configuration because its combined Zeno trap-enabled MS/MS, EAD, ZT Scan DIA, sensitive quantitative performance, micro/nanoflow UHPLC compatibility, and integrated SCIEX OS workflow aligned with the project's identification, quantitation, and structural-characterization requirements. To obtain the best price, the department negotiated consolidated quotation Q-11049163 from a total list price of $1,402,254.37 to $622,574.43, including $5,000 in estimated shipping and handling, representing a discount of $784,679.94 (approximately 56% off list price), while retaining installation, training, micro/nanoflow capabilities, key accessories, instrument benches, and service coverage.

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
jmayfield@procurement.msstate.edu
Subject Line must read “Sole Source Objection”

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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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