Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

245-134

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):

Sente Software, Ltd., JMatPro software - annual maintenance renewal

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:

JMatPro is a simulation software which calculates a wide range of materials properties for alloys and is particularly aimed at multi-component alloys used in industrial practice.
This software is used in currently funded research at MSU/HPC2 and is required to fulfill research obligations.

Renewal is required on an annual basis in order to have continued access to licenses, support, and upgrades. Without renewal, current research projects as well as future funded research projects could be in jeopardy.

For initial purchase, researchers compared functionality, features, and support. They determined this software to be the most effective solution to complete research goals in a timely manner. Since then, researchers have developed methodologies and workflows that require JMatPro's continued use. These methodologies and workflows cannot be used with competing products.

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

Sente Software Ltd. sells their product direct and provides no other sales outlets for this market.

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

Annual renewal cost is $ 5,670. As an academic institution, MSU receives a significant discount over commercial pricing.

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:

Upon asking Sente Software, Ltd., they provided documentation stating they are the sole source for their product. To confirm, a diligent web search yielded no other resellers for the US academic market. They have provided academic pricing for their products.

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.

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