Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

167-95

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):

PSLF (with the GMD add-on) by GE. High level large-scale power system analysis software with the tools of Geomagnetic Disturbance (GMD) analysis.

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 research team is doing the research on the impact of Geomagnetic Disturbance on large-scale power systems. GE PSLF software not only provides powerful capabilities of large-scale power system simulation, calculation, data management, and analysis, but also provides GMD analysis tools which meet North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards. The company providing the funding for the project uses this software for their research. In doing so they have written scripts and project expectations for us based on the analysis tools provide by GE PSLF and any deviation would skew the results produced.

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

GE is the maker of PSLF. Because PSLF is a software and solely owned by GE which is the only organization that can sell it.

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

This research team must purchase one set of PSLF software with GMD add-on. The cost of a PSLF Educational license and the GMD add-on is $7,000 for year 1. Renewal for subsequent years is $1,000.

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:

We have done extensive research on other software packages available for combining the large-scale power system analysis and the GMD analysis, and found that PSLF owns multiple benefits, especially for its GMD tools, such as advanced estimation tool enabling quick initial analysis of systems without the need to collect data, support for non-uniform e-fields to accurately reproduce actual GMD event, full EPCL and editor support to edit

GMD-specific data, and automated solution process to improve overall solution convergence, which makes it much more applicable to our researchers. We are receiving a university academic rate which is substantially lower than regular retail pricing.

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:

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Don Buffum, CPPO
Director of Procurement & Contracts
dbuffum@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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