

**Mississippi State University**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**245-68**

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):**

Make: SmartSpeed Timing Gate System

Model: SmartSpeed Plus

Description: The SmartSpeed Plus system is a cutting-edge timing gate solution designed to measure speed, agility, and reactivity of athletes. Purchase includes complementary access/integration to VALD Hub Cloud Analytics for seamless integration with existing performance technologies in use at MSU. The system features laser-based timing and an LED screen for enhanced athlete engagement and streamlined record-keeping during testing sessions.

**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:**

Purchase of the Smartspeed Plus system addresses the strength and conditioning department's requirement for precise, real-time assessments of athletic performance metrics such as speed and agility without increasing the burden placed on both practitioners and athletes during testing/monitoring sessions. This capability is vital for benchmarking and monitoring the physical development of athletes over time.

Smartspeed Plus is currently the only timing gate system on the market that integrates measured activities into the VALD Hub cloud analytics service (currently in use at MSU), allowing the sports performance staff to have a holistic view of athlete development rather than through independent data sources. With each athlete having a profile in said platform, these profiles can be used to queue athletes in a sequential fashion during testing sessions for enhanced logistics and automatic record keeping. Additionally, the Smartspeed Plus hardware includes an embedded LED screen, providing athletes with real-time feedback on their performance, enhancing engagement by gamifying the testing process.

The proprietary design and exclusive integration capabilities of SmartSpeed Plus make it the sole solution that meets the department's requirements for seamless data analysis, logistical efficiency, and performance tracking.

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

Vendor: VALD Performance

Justification: VALD is the sole provider of the SmartSpeed Plus system. The product's proprietary design and exclusive features, including integration with VALD Hub Cloud Analytics, mean it is not available through any other vendor.

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

The final estimated cost of the SmartSpeed Pro item(s) is estimated to be \$4,576. Competing products lack the ability to integrate with VALD Hub Cloud Analytics, making SmartSpeed Plus the only company that can provide these type of services and can gather and analyze the data gathered uniquely compatible with the software and operating systems.

**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:**

VALD SmartSpeed Plus is the only company that meets the requirement to successfully gather all the necessary data reporting requirements for the strength & conditioning staff. Other companies were not contacted as they do not meet the requirements for successful data reporting for the department's athletes. There are no reselling of this product or services.

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  
Interim Deputy Director of Procurement & Contracts  
[jmayfield@procurement.msstate.edu](mailto: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.