

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
245-70

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):

This item is a set of reference masses (weights) with an acceptable traceability, measurement uncertainty, quality assurance requirements, and dimensions to be used for calibration of a universal tester.

The weights are:

-A quantity of (8) 50-pound slotted weights (Troemner Model Number 8304778)

-A quantity of (1) 5-pound hanging weight capable of supporting 400 pounds (Troemner Model Number 83040913)

The calibration weights must together add to at least 400 pounds and must be at least Class 5. Additionally, in order to use them on our tester, the weights must have a radius under 3.6 inches. The hanging weight must be capable of supporting 400 pounds. The weights must be stainless steel to prevent corrosion. The weights must also have grip placement or be interlocking for safety of the operators and must include an ISO 17025- accredited calibration certificate with data, be purchased directly from the actual calibration lab, and the calibration lab company must meet NQA-1 quality requirements for the Evaluated Suppliers List for ISO 17025 Calibration Laboratories.

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:

These reference weights for calibration of a Thwing-Albert Vantage NX Universal Tester Model 1902-2001 Rev 00 were the only weights we received a price quotation for over the course of 8 months of inquiry because of the unique dimensions and requirements.

The requirements include:

Reference weights must have a radius under 3.6 inches to use on our tester.

Reference weights must be at least Class 5 with tolerances to 4:1.

The 50-pound Reference weights must have interlocking feature or hand grip area for safety.

The hanging weight must be capable of supporting 400 pounds.

The set of Reference weights must add to collectively be 400 pounds.

The reference weights must come with an ISO 17025 accredited calibration certificate with uncertainties and data.

The calibration certificate must be issued by the company supplying the weights in order to meet the requirements of our research funders for Quality Assurance

The reference weights must be stainless steel to prevent corrosion

The reference weights must be purchased directly from the calibration laboratory issuing the certificate.

The reference weight company must meet the requirements of NQA-1 for ISO 17025 calibration laboratories, meet quality assurance clauses provided, and be capable of entry of the Evaluated Suppliers List.

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

Troemner DBA Mettler Toledo is the only company that returned a price quotation on Class 5 reference weights set with under 3.6 inch radius and totaling 400 pounds with a calibration certificate from the company laboratory.

Other third party companies may purchase and supply these exact Troemner weights; however, due to the requirements of the agency funding this research, the calibration certificate for this item must be provided by the seller's company laboratory itself in order to preserve traceability. If the weights were purchased from a third party supplier, the calibration certificate would be void under the funding agency requirements and the weights would then need to be shipped out for recalibration (shipping 400 pounds and recalibration service could almost double the purchase price for the item).

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

Our quoted price for this item is \$15,158.00. Comparable weights that do not meet all these criteria (dimensions, Class, and quality requirements) are similar in price to the ~\$500 for the hanging weight and the ~1,500 -2,000 for the slotted weights.

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:

All searches and inquiries for sources did not return price quotations for purchase other than the manufacturer.

Various suppliers have this exact product for purchase; however, the calibration certificate is from the original laboratory, not the supplier laboratory, which voids the certificate.

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.