

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
245-77

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):

Syniti Data Replication [2 licenses], Part No. AMSP0010062
Syniti Annual Maintenance and Support Plan (AMSP) for period 04/16/2025 to 04/15/2026

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s) and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

The attendance tracking project is a top priority in the student retention mission of the University. In support of the attendance tracking project that was initially kicked-off in 2014, Information Technology Services (ITS) implemented a scanning system comprised of our Ellucian Banner system with the student and section information to allow real time integration with our AS400 TotalCard system, to support the scanning software in classrooms where card readers are located. In implementing this system, ITS had to evaluate and determine the proper tool that would allow the Banner Oracle database to synchronize data to and from the TotalCard DB2 database. MSU's TotalCard vendor exclusively uses Syniti is a database replication tool offered by BackOffice Associates Software. Because of this requirement by our TotalCard vendor, ITS purchased and installed the Syniti software. The renewal of Software Annual Maintenance and Support Plan (AMSP) will give ITS continued access to the Syniti support team as well as upgrades to the software and documentation.

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

BackOffice Associates Software is the only possible source for this maintenance renewal. ITS spoke with BackOffice Associates Software and have confirmed in writing that our AMSP Service for Syniti software can only be renewed through them. Due to this fact, I declare BackOffice Associates to be the sole-source provider for this renewal purchase.

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

To obtain Syniti AMSP from BackOffice Associates ITS must purchase a renewal service in the amount of \$7,260.00, prior to the April 16th, 2025 expiration date. Cost increased \$660.00 from last year's renewal. Should ITS choose not to renew our AMSP for the next fiscal year, the consequences of not renewing are twofold. First, without Syniti Annual Maintenance and Support, ITS does not have access to their support team should any problems or errors arise which can happen with hardware or upgrades and/or changes to the underlying data. Second, ITS would not have access to product upgrades, which can include minor updates as well as new version release, and many times will include support for hardware or software upgrades. For these reasons, it is easy to justify purchase of a renewal of Syniti Annual Maintenance and Support Plan (AMSP) for our Syniti software.

It must be noted that if we choose not to renew and need to upgrade the software, we would be required to pay a reinstatement fee in addition to the AMSP price list. Reinstatement fees are based on days past expiration date listed in paragraph 4 of the Back Office price quote. In a worse case, after 180 days past the expiration date, a reinstatement fee would be a product upgrade purchase, plus AMSP which, based on last year's data, could add up to over \$23,000.

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:

ITS spoke to BackOffice Associates and confirmed in writing that they sell directly and have no other sales channel for this maintenance renewal.

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

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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