

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

To: Interested Parties

From: Jennifer Douglas
Administrative Director, Category Management and Procurement

Date: January 13, 2022

Re: Sole Source Certification Number SS5617 for **In Vivo test chambers**.

Contact Email Address: solesource@umc.edu

Sole Source Certification Award Details

Regarding University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Sole Source Certification Number **SS5617** for **In Vivo test chambers**, please be advised that UMMC intends to award the purchase to MedAssociates, Inc. as the sole source provider.

UMMC issues this notice in accordance with Mississippi state law, policy, and procedures for sole source procurements.

Sole Source Criteria

1. Where the compatibility of equipment, accessories, or replacement parts is the paramount consideration (and manufacturer is the sole supplier).
2. Where a sole supplier's item is needed for trial use or testing.
3. Where a sole supplier's item is to be required when no other item will service the needs of UMMC.

Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date	January 13, 2022
Second Advertisement Date	January 20, 2022
Response Deadline from Objectors	January 28, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before January 28, 2022

Project Details

1. Describe the commodity that the agency is seeking to procure:

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) is seeking to expand current inventory of self-administration equipment. This purchase is for a set of in vivo test chambers to be used for drug self-administration studies in rats. These test chambers enable rats to press levers to self-administer their own intravenous injections of drugs, including common opioids like oxycodone and hydrocodone. These drugs are rewarding and therefore maintain high rates of lever-pressing behavior. The way we study “abuse deterrence” here is by testing novel compounds for their ability to reduce or eliminate the rewarding effects of opioids. “Deterrence” is operationalized by a reduction in drug-taking behavior relative to the levels of self-administration of the opioid prior to treatment. When a rat presses a lever, a signal is sent to an interface and then to a computer to process the information. The computer then signals a drug pump to infuse X ml of solution into the rat’s catheter. This operation requires sophisticated hardware and software to ensure accurate and timely delivery of precise amounts of drug solution contingent upon the rat’s behavior.

2. Explain why the commodity is the only one (1) that can meet the needs of the agency:

UMMC Department of Research is facilitating ongoing behavioral research surrounding non-human primates using the MedAssociates equipment. The department is seeking to expand current inventory to support a new research study described above. Additional self-administration equipment that is compatible with the current MedAssociates equipment is needed for this project.

3. Explain why the source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:

MedAssociates Incorporated is the sole manufacturer and supplier of the In Vivo test chambers that are compatible to integrate with existing equipment. They are not available from any other distributor. See supporting letter from MedAssociates Incorporated, Attachment A.

4. Explain why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:

The estimated amount to be expended is for the purchase of the In Vivo test chambers is \$52,600.00. This amount is within the expected price range for these products.

5. Describe the efforts that the agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:

Through market intelligence, UMMC was able to negotiate best pricing for these products. All applicable discounts were explored and applied.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the In Vivo test chambers (hereafter, “Products”) should not be certified as a sole source should provide information in the Vendor Form for the State to use in determining whether or not to proceed with awarding the sole source to MedAssociates Incorporated. The Vendor Form may be found at <https://www.dfa.ms.gov/media/9357/opscrform-001objection-to-sole-source-determination.pdf>

Objections must include the certification in Attachment B.

Comments will be accepted at any time prior to January 28, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) to solesource@umc.edu. Responses may be delivered via email to solesource@umc.edu. UMMC WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the Interested Parties that responses reach UMMC on time. Responses received after the deadline and responses that lack all required information will be rejected. UMMC reserves the right to inspect Interested Party’s commodity for comparison purposes.

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact solesource@umc.edu.

Attachment A: Vendor Correspondence

Attachment B: Objection Certification

Attachment A



12/13/2021

Sole Source Justification

It is hereby certified that all material used in the manufacture of parts in the quantity called for on the subject quote conform to the material and/or manufacturing specifications indicated in drawings or specifications called for on said quote and that all items for said quote are fabricated, assembled and tested as a system by MED Associates Inc at our Georgia, Vermont facility and we are the sole manufacturer and supplier of said equipment.

Med Associates has a single pricing structure and this pricing is certified by MED Associates Inc. to the purchaser as most favorable to universities and government funded projects.

We hereby certify that the prices quoted to the University of Mississippi Medical Center are not in excess of the lowest price charged anyone else, including the Vendor's most favored customer or government agencies for a similar product/equipment.

RE: MQ41497

MED Associates Inc.
Tax ID# 23-1883238
CAGE Code 1HQ1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Walsh", is written over a horizontal line.

Authorized Signature

Stephen Walsh
Sales Manager

Attachment B

**SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO
Sole Source Certification No. SS5617
Accepted until January 28, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

I certify that the information contained in this objection is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that UMMC will investigate all statements made in this objection and that any false or misleading information provided may result in adverse action.

Objector Name
Objector's title

Date