

SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT CERTIFICATION

Issuing Office: PASSHE/Office of the Chancellor
Contractor: Quality Matters, Inc.

Contract Number: TBD
Contract Cost: \$200,000 over five years

I certify that the proposed contract identified above is a sole source procurement based on the statutory criteria checked below:

- Only a single contractor is capable of providing the supply, service or construction.
- A Federal or State statute or Federal regulations exempts the supply, service or construction from the competitive procedure.
- It is clearly not feasible to award the contract for supplies or services on a competitive basis.
- The services involve the repair, modification or calibration of equipment and they are to be performed by the manufacturer of the equipment or by the manufacturer's authorized dealer, provided the contracting officer determines that bidding is not appropriate under the circumstances.
- The contract for supplies or services is in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

Justification for Criteria Selected/Basis for Selection:

MarylandOnline, the creator of Quality Matters, is a nationwide consortium of higher education Institutions dedicated to championing distance learning. The Quality Matters Program is a research-centered approach to quality assurance and continuous improvement for online learning. The Quality Matters Rubric is based on recognized best practices, built on the expertise of instructional designers and experienced online teachers, and supported by distance education literature and research. The goal of the program is to enable faculty to increase student engagement, learning, and satisfaction in online courses by implementing better course design.

The Quality Matters subscription provides:

1. A process for peer-to-peer feedback for faculty in the continuous improvement of their course and certifies courses as meeting shared Standards of best practice;
2. Professional development workshops and certification courses for instructors and online learning professionals;
3. Rubrics for applying quality standards to course design.

The PASSHE universities that subscribe to Quality Matters use the standards contained in the Rubric as the basis for developing online courses. Each campus has had one or more faculty participate in Quality Matters workshops to become certified course reviewers. An online course that is recognized as meeting or exceeding the Quality Matters standards is the foundation for our campuses' online programs. It tells students that our courses are of high quality.

Quality Matters is not available from any other vendor. There is no other vendor that provides similar programs and services. As this is an on-going relationship, we request the designation be valid for 5 years, to ease the process of yearly renewal.

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
Office of the Chancellor

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

I certify this proposed sole source justification has been posted on a publicly accessible website for public comment for a minimum of seven (7) calendar days as required by 62 Pa.C.S. §106.1(b)(5)

Signature of Contracting Officer

Date

APPROVAL

For the Office of the Chancellor

Signature

Date

Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved as to Procurement Method

State System of Higher Education
Legal Counsel

Date