

**Mississippi State University**  
**Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase**  
**201-103**

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):

Academic Licensing of PAM Composites FEA Software:

VTS-CE-54 - **Visual for RTM & Distortion Bundle**: an interface to all listed solvers. Contains: Visual CORE (GUI) + Visual RTM + Visual Distortion + Visual Viewer + Visual Mesh

RTM-S-02 - **RTM Thermal Solver** (4 CORE): for curing (thermoset materials only)

RTM-S-11- **RTM Isothermal Solver** (4 CORE) for Liquid Composite Molding (RTM, Infusion)

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:

This software is named in the federal grant, as the software that MSU should use in the analysis of resin flow fronts and curing kinetics related to the fabrication of composite parts for MSU's contract with the FAA, "Technology Readiness Assessment of Stitched and Unstitching Resin Infused Composites". The project focuses on working with industry partners to determine what is limiting the broader adoption of resin infusion technology in the fabrication of aerospace parts. One specific area of study is the industry's current technology available to predict successful infusion of resin into composite laminates and using computers and finite element analysis to identify designs that may have problems prior to the physical production of a part. MSU will be using this software to gain insight into the current state of the technology and how it is used in the aerospace industry.

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

ESI Group developed the software described in Section 1 and it has been selected by MSU for purchase after multiple sources in the literature review portion of the FAA project indicated that tier 1 OEMs such as Boeing and Airbus utilize this software for analysis of resin flow and infusion of composites parts currently in industry. As such, this specific software is relevant to our project and MSU wishes to purchase the software through ESI North America, Inc. which

has exclusive rights to distribute all products and services produced or marketed by ESI Group, within the United States.

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

Standard pricing for a yearly license to the products listed in Section 1 is \$37,800 but ESI has offered an Academic Applied Research Discount of 80% for a total cost of \$7560 to MSU. This is reasonable and similar in cost to the licensing of other software we have purchased in the past. Depending on the results of the research, this license may or may not be renewed at the conclusion of the project and after license expiration.

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:

This software is the only one of its kind that has come up in the first phase of the federal project which has consisted of a 5 month review of the available literature related to infusion processes used in the aerospace industry.

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:

Don Buffum, CPPO  
Director of Procurement & Contracts  
[dbuffum@procurement.msstate.edu](mailto:dbuffum@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.