

# Notice of Intent to Sole Source

**Posting Date: 11/14/2024**

Francis Marion University seeks to sole source the procurement of a Mass Spectrometer addition for current HPLC Equipment.

## **Intent to Sole Source:**

The FMU Chemistry Department requires the use of a Mass Spectrometer (MS) for student use in the academic setting. Research is very important for developing fundamental skills that are essential for experimental chemistry research.

FMU's current High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) is used to separate and analyze the components of a liquid mixture by pushing a solvent (mobile phase) through a packed column (stationary phase) under high pressure, allowing for precise identification and quantification of individual compounds within the sample. By adding an MS to our current Liquid Chromatography (LC), students will be able to isolate active ingredients, identify drugs, evaluate formulations, and check purity of samples. This will provide training on a commonly used instrument in the industry that we have not been able to train our students to use in the past. The LCMS will benefit students majoring in chemistry, pharmacy and environmental science. Students in these majors will learn to use this technique in our organic, instrumental and environmental chemistry courses; this instrument may also be used in various independent research projects for not only students but also current FMU Faculty.

The FMU Chemistry Department competitively procured an HPLC System from Shimadzu Scientific Instruments with IFB 2432. Mass Spectrometers (MS) are coupled to another instrument to provide an analysis of liquid samples. An MS will be added to the Shimadzu HPLC to enhance analysis by adding the capability of mass determination for substances that can't be analyzed by GCMS. This is a capability that we do not currently have in our instrument labs. The Mass Spectrometer can be coupled with the department's existing LC as a more cost-effective solution.

Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc. would be the sole source provider of the MS because it will be coupled to the existing Shimadzu HPLC System. The maintenance and warranty for these systems are comprised of proprietary hardware and software that is the intellectual property of Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc. There are no other authorized entities that can provide factory-certified maintenance services for Shimadzu's equipment; any maintenance performed by technicians other than Shimadzu Scientific certified technicians will void all factory warranties on the equipment. The MS addition meets the needs, requirements, and budget provided by the Chemistry Department for student training for future career opportunities. For these reasons, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc. is the sole source for the University's needs.

The cost for the MS is \$110,148.18.

## **Company Specifics:**

**Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc.**  
**7102 Riverwood Dr.**  
**Columbia MD 21046**

## **Contact Person for this Intent to Sole Source:**

**Jennifer D Hester, Director of Purchasing**  
**Phone: 843 661-1161**  
**Email: [jdhester@fmarion.edu](mailto:jdhester@fmarion.edu)**  
**<http://www.fmarion.edu/about/solicitationsawards/>**

**Contact deadline: November 21, 2024 11:59 pm EST**

**Unless additional pertinent information is forthcoming, Award will be posted at the following physical address and website address on November 22, 2024:**

**Francis Marion University**  
**Purchasing Office**  
**Stokes Administration Building, Room 102**  
**4822 East Palmetto Street**  
**Florence, SC 29506**  
**[www.fmarion.edu/about/solicitationsawards](http://www.fmarion.edu/about/solicitationsawards)**

If you are aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of the contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in Section 11-35-4210. To protest a solicitation, you must submit a protest within fifteen days of the date the applicable solicitation document is issued. To protest an award, you must (i) submit notice of your intent to protest within seven business days of the date the award notice is posted, and (ii) submit your actual protest within fifteen days of the date the award notice is posted. Days are calculated as provided in Section 11-35-310(13). Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be in writing and must be received by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer within the time provided. See clause entitled "Protest-CPO". The grounds of the protest and the relief requested must be set forth with enough particularity to give notice of the issues to be decided.

**PROTEST – CPO ADDRESS – MMO:** Any protest must be addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer, Materials Management Office, and submitted in writing

(a) by email to [protest-mmo@mmo.sc.gov](mailto:protest-mmo@mmo.sc.gov),

(b) by facsimile at 803-737-0639, or

(c) by post or delivery to:

**CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER**  
**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICE**  
**1201 MAIN STREET, SUITE 600**  
**COLUMBIA, S.C. 29201**