



Please run the following notice on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 and Wednesday, November 27, 2027, in the Legal Advertisement of THE BOLIVAR BULLET. Please send this office a copy of the proof for our files.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CERTIFY SOLE SOURCE

Delta State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase as a sole source shall follow the procedures outlined below before Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 2:00 pm CST.

Purchase of: Digistar 7 Projector Upgrade

Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification by submitting a response. Comments will be accepted at any time prior to Wednesday, December 15, 2024 at 2:00 pm CST to Mechelle Jones at mdjones@deltastate.edu

Delta State University
Office of Procurement Services
1003 West Sunflower Road
Cleveland, MS 38733

Responses may be delivered by hand, via regular mail, or overnight delivery. The envelope or email should reference the sole source number. DSU WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF RESPONSES.

It is solely the responsibility of the Interested Parties that responses reach DSU on time. Interested Parties may contact Mechelle Jones to verify the receipt of their responses.

Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.

Detail specifications may be obtained by contacting Mechelle Jones at (662) 846-4046, mdjones@deltastate.edu, or on our website www.deltastate.edu/finance-admin/procurement/current-bid-opportunities/.

Sole Source # DSUSS01-2025
RFx number: 3150006003

Delta State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
DSUSS01 / RFX 3150006003

Delta 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):
 - (A) Two cove-mounted Sony VPL-GTZ380 laser phosphor projectors
 - (B) Auto-alignment and auto-blending hardware and software for these projectors which interface with existing Digistar planetarium system
 - (C) 120 Hz 3D upgrade software and hardware to enable these projectors to display 3D imagery with existing Digistar planetarium system
 - (D) 4Kx2K streaming video input hardware and software to interface with existing Digistar planetarium system

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

NEED to be fulfilled by items:

The Wiley Planetarium at Delta State University was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the US Federal Department of Education to fund upgrades of the planetarium's hardware and projectors with a new, state-of-the-art 3D laser projector system. To fulfill the goals of this grant, our existing projectors must be replaced by new laser projectors capable of rendering images in 3D. In addition to the projectors themselves, additional software and hardware must be augmented within our existing planetarium system. This will ensure seamless coupling between these new projectors and our planetarium's existing digital rendering system, Digistar, and existing infrastructure. Our current planetarium system (hardware and software) was installed by Evans & Sutherland, now a COSM company.

How items are UNIQUE from all other options:

The Sony VPL-GTZ380 laser phosphor projectors are superior to other planetarium lamp projectors. Typical lamp life for planetarium projectors (like the ones Wiley Planetarium currently operates) is ~2,000 hours. Typical lifetime for a laser phosphor projector is ten-fold this duration, at ~20,000 hours to 50% output (quote based on Sony VPL-GTZ380). These projectors are unique in that they outperform lamp projectors and can be modified to interface with our current digital planetarium system, Digistar, to render images in 3D. This modification

requires elements B,C,D listed in Section 1, all of which must be developed and installed by the manufacturers of our current planetarium system, Evans & Sutherland (E&S). Furthermore, if the two Sony VPL-GTZ380 projectors are purchased through E&S, they will manufacture custom glass-printed blend masks and projector stands manufactured to the specifications of our theater.

Why these items are the ONLY ONES that can MEET SPECIFIC NEEDS:

The goals of our US Federal Department of Education grant require 3D planetarium technology. Utilizing the selected Sony VPL-GTZ380 projectors balances performance and affordability. An alternative option of two Christie 4K35-RGB would be more expensive. The Sony VPL-GTZ380 projectors are chosen in mind to interface within the specifications of our existing Digistar digital planetarium system. Planetarium projectors are not 'plug and play'. They must integrate within the planetarium software for optimum image generation, and to allow the digital system to display stereo 3D content. It is possible to operate a 3D image generation system at 60 Hz, but such systems are becoming obsolete as 120 Hz 3D image generating systems are now available (120 frames per second, 60 frames per second to each eye). To accommodate the 120 Hz 3D system, our computer rack will need to be reconfigured by the manufacturer of our existing planetarium system, Evans & Sutherland (E&S). They are the only ones that can perform this task. If we do not purchase the auto-alignment and auto-blending systems, we would have to go through the painstaking and delicate process of aligning and blending our projector beams manually in-house. Procuring the auto-alignment and auto-blending systems through E&S, the makers of our existing digital planetarium system Digistar, ensures that the existing planetarium software can control the projectors and properly calibrate the fulldome imagery.

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

We seek to procure all of our items (elements A, B, C, D in Section 1) through Evans & Sutherland, a COSM company. Evans & Sutherland (E&S) is the sole manufacturer, sole developer, and sole distributor of the Digistar 7 planetarium system we currently operate in Wiley Planetarium. Digistar is a full-stack solution consisting of planetarium software, image generator computers, and projection system to deliver fulldome, immersive educational content. E&S is the original provider and installer of Wiley Planetarium's existing Digistar system, and they have the knowledge and familiarity to facilitate a seamless upgrade process. In effect, the items we seek to procure under this sole source document constitute an upgrade to our existing system. If it is determined that we cannot go through E&S to procure the requested items, we would need to find a new planetarium software vendor and reinstallation of a completely new digital system with new 3D projectors. This option would be more costly, and would certainly exceed the budget allocated to us by the US Department of Education.

Furthermore, if all purchases are made through E&S, they will provide full-system support. If E&S sells directly to us and provides installation services for us, they are able to provide warranties and service contracts for the life of the system. When the two Sony VPL-GTZ380 projectors are purchased through E&S, they will also provide the following items (part of the quoted cost):

- Two cove projector stands
- Cables and connectors
- Reconfiguration of Digistar 7 (our existing system) to support Sony VPL-GTZ380 projectors
- One-year warranty on all supplied hardware
- On-site installation and all E&S travel costs included
- Upgrade to most recent Digistar 7 version

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

The following quotes are from our E&S sales contact, Scott Niskach. Quote was made on September 6 2024, and is valid for a maximum of 120 days from this date.

Two cove-mounted Sony VPL-GTZ380 projectors Also includes:	\$367,500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two cove lenses • Two cove projector stands • Cables/connectors • Reconfigure Digistar software to support new projectors • One-year warranty on hardware • On-site installation and all E&S travel costs • Digistar software upgrade 	
3D image generation: 120 Hz 3D upgrade	\$49,000
Auto-Alignment & Auto-Blending	\$22,700
4Kx2K Streaming Video Input	\$11,000
Total	\$450,200

Additionally, shipping of items with insurance is estimated to be ~\$1000.

The cost for these items is reasonable given the technological nature of maintaining a state-of-the-art planetarium. Digital planetarium projectors are as robust as movie theater projectors, which can typically run ~\$100,000 each. Furthermore, the technology, software, and installation expertise required to integrate the chosen projectors with our existing digital system comes from a company (Evans & Sutherland) that has been a pioneer of computer graphics and digital planetariums for 35+ years. As the fastest-selling digital planetarium in the

world, it is clear that Digistar systems are reputable and vouched for. We believe that the cost of the commodities is commensurate with the quality of product and service E&S provides.

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:

Wiley Planetarium director, Dr. Maria Weber, routinely attends planetarium conferences and workshops where she interacts with vendors and other planetarium professionals. She has mingled with other Digistar users and is familiar with the costs required to maintain Digistar systems and other digital planetariums. The quotation provided by Evans & Sutherland (E&S) is in line with what she has learned through these interactions. Furthermore, as we operate a small planetarium in a rural area, it is the case that the quotation obtained for our planetarium is reasonable for our size and demographics. We have requested the cheaper Sony VPL-GTZ380 projector options, as compared to the more costly Christie 4K35-RGB projectors. The Sony projectors are a reasonable option to balance performance with affordability. Dr. Weber has met with Scott Niskach, E&S's Director of International Sales and our quote contact, on multiple occasions. She has also visited E&S's headquarters in Salt Lake City, where she observed the Sony VPL-GTZ380 projectors in operation inside a dome similar in size to Wiley Planetarium. She can vouch for the fact that these new laser phosphor projectors will put our current outdated projectors 'to shame'. Evans & Sutherland is the only source for our upgrade work at Wiley Planetarium (elements A, B, C, D in Section 1) owing to the fact that (1) our current planetarium system was installed by E&S, (2) we currently operate with E&S's proprietary Digistar digital planetarium system for which Dr. Weber has extensive training, (3) working directly with E&S will allow us to obtain warranties and service contracts for the life of the system and all components (including the Sony projectors), (4) the requested items constitute upgrades or seamless integrations to our existing Digistar system, (5) purchasing the Sony projectors through another company will not allow seamless integration of the projectors to our current Digistar system - this will degrade the system's performance and image quality, prevent us from using Digistar to display stereo 3D content, image alignment and blending will have to be done painstakingly 'by hand', and any issues regarding the interface between the projectors and the Digistar system will be ours alone to sort out, as it would not be covered under E&S's service contract agreement that we regularly maintain for our existing system.

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:

Mechelle Jones, CMPA
Accounts Payable & Procurement Coordinator

mdjones@deltastate.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, DSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then DSU 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 DSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then DSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. DSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.