**Alcorn State University**

Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

SSP2022-04

RFx 3150003951

Alcorn State University anticipates purchasing the services/products 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):

Exxact TensorEX TS4-195183185-DPN

TS4-195183185 - 4U **Rackmount HGX A100 GPU System**

- Supports 2x AMD EPYC Rome/Milan (Up To 280W), 32x DDR4 Slots (Min. 1.2TB for 80GB A100 or 1.0TB for 40GB A100 Required) - HGX A100 8-GPU SXM4 w/ NVSwitch, 8x A100 40GB or 8x A100 80GB

- 8x PCIe 4.0 16x Slots (Direct RDMA Capable) + 1x PCI-E 4.0 16x LP and 1x PCI-E 4.0 8x LP Slot

- 6x 2.5in Drive Bays (4x U.2 NVMe and 2x SATA/NVMe U.2 Native)

- Dual Port 10GbE + Dedicated GbE Management Port

- 2.2KW (3+1) 80 PLUS Platinum Redundant Power, 50-60Hz, 100-240v, Auto-Switching - Server Depth: 31.5in

- C13 to C14 Power Cables Included

- Rackmount Rails Included

1. 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:

Project proposal were developed around the acquiring deep learning server and it was budgeted very tightly, during the process of writing the grant proposal, they have applied deep discount for educational institution. The deep learning server that the company offer is specially designed to meet the requirement of high performance deep learning system for accelerated training and testing deep learning system. The software and hardware are tightly coupled to work for its peak performance for accelerated designing, training and testing deep learning neural network models.

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

Exxact Corp, Sales person: Nick Chen, his contact information is provided in the submitted quote.

The system offers turnkey solutions for GPU accelerated deep machine learning research, the sole purpose of the grant is to acquire specially designed deep learning computing to enhance deep learning artificial intelligence related research at ASU. The system the vendor provides full 3-year warranty which is important after requisition completed.

Their support personnel have been trained to give support deep learning researchers at ASU to use the system effectively. The system specially designed by trained developers that has been configured, tested and benchmarked to provide highest performance. While the other vendors provide warranty and support one year with very high price which is not acceptable for fitting their cost to grant budget, Exxact’ deep learning server system provides 3 years support and warranty at a price that is within original grant budget.

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

The cost of acquiring deep learning server will be $106,388.00 that includes 3 years warranty and support. The grant proposal was developed based on quote received from the vendor, the vendor has applied deep educational discount to fit in the proposal budget, considering the current state of the chip industry facing global chip shortage, we are positive that we get the best price performance ratio.

1. 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:

Considering the current state of supply chain and condition of global chip shortage in the market, we are certain that we get the best price performance ratio with their quote. The demand for deep learning server equipment steadily increasing since the applications of artificial intelligence and deep learning research spans wide areas from health care to national security.

The information should be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on December 01, 2021.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the services/products listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Mertha George

Purchasing Agent

[mgeorge@alcorn.edu](mailto:mgeorge@alcorn.edu)

Subject Line must read “Sole Source Objection”

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the services/products is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, ASU determines that the services/products in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then ASU 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 ASU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then ASU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. ASU will have the burden of proving that the services/products are only provided by one (1) source.