Alcorn State University

Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

SSP 2024-01

RFx3150005245

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):

TurnItIn is the item to be purchased. TurnItIn is a plagiarism detection service that is meant for integration/use with the University Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas.

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:

The need for TurnItIn is to provide the University’s faculty the ability to detect & prevent plagiarism in papers submitted by students through the Canvas system; it’s considered as a critical need for faculty.

It’s the only plagiarism detection service that both:

* 1. has an LMS integration with Canvas and…
	2. houses its data on US soil; the second requirement came as a result of passing this through state attorneys’ desk and getting a concern back saying that the data (from competitor Unicheck) was not on domestic servers.
1. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

TurnItIn, Inc. is the name of the company selling the item. Turnitin is a unique service that is not offered by any other vendor or reseller in a similar format. The product may be procured only from Turnitin, LLC, at the address listed below. Turnitin is an item for which competition is precluded due to patent (SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR FACILITATING ORIGINALITY ANALYSIS - USPTO 8,296,661

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

The estimated cost for TurnItIn is $29,984.00 for the next two years; the quote is attached to this document for reference.

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:

In 2019, all possible competitors to TurnItIn were contacted and attached (Attachment #2) is an email conversation where findings were sent to Special Assistant Attorney General Jane Mapp for approval to proceed with purchase on last year despite TurnItIn being the most expensive among its competitors:

A check is currently underway for this year with the same vendors, and most look to be the same, but so far, there is one change among the vendors to be noted since that time; Unicheck has been acquired by TurnItIn as of June 2020.

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

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.