

Alcorn State University  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase  
SSP 2025-01  
RFx 3150006092

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):

FARM-NG Open Source V6 Amiga Flex

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:

The Farm-ng Amiga is a platform that is an essential prerequisite to participate in the Farm Robotics Challenge International Competition. Alcorn can participate in the competition after acquisition of the machine and students will develop on the software and engineer and build hardware on the platform.

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

Farm-ng provides the only open sourced, agricultural robot platform with 1HP of power and capable of operations such as lift, lower, rotate, and pump while driving in an Autonomous Fashion.

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

\$22,017. Other machines provide less capability and are not open in architecture. (Clearpath Robotics >\$23,000 without sensor or computer hardware & is 1 fixed dimension incapable of operating OVER vegetable crops.)

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:

Price Comparison and feature comparison.

Farm-ng is the only robotic platform of its specific kind. There are no other directly comparable units, however there are a number of companies building similar machines that have features that do not compare directly.

**Naio**, builds several robotic platforms capable of autonomous navigation, however they are significantly different in the following nature. Farm-ng is an Open-sourced platform allowing

users to deploy their own code and sensor packages. NAIO restricts users from accessing their operating system.

**Burro** is also a comparable robot in size and cost, however, cannot be physically changed in the manner that Farm-ng can be. The Farm-ng Amiga can be configured to go over the row, be wider or narrow, depending on crop and have sensors deployed based on user needs. Burro is also a closed platform in software development and hardware integration. Burro requires an operating subscription which is starkly different than Farm-ng's stand-alone operating system.

AgXeed builds a singular size platform that cannot be deployed over row crops and does not allow external users to develop their own applications (eg.fruit counting, flower detection, etc) on the platform.

John Deere, Kubota, Agco all build larger platforms that are typically not electric and may have significant vibrational or speed management issues and not be capable of slow operations or be externally controlled by other robotic tooling (e.g. fruit picking arms) in the same manner as the Farm-ng Amiga.

Advertisement Schedule	Date
1 <sup>st</sup> scheduled	January 23,2025
2 <sup>nd</sup> scheduled	January 30,2025

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 are 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.

## ADVERTISEMENT

Alcorn State University anticipates purchasing the item (s) listed below as a sole source purchase.

SSP# 2025-01 Farm-NG Open Source V6 Amiga Flex

Anyone objecting to this purchase as a sole source shall follow the link below for further instructions:

[https://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract\\_bid\\_search/Bid](https://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Bid) under RFX #3150006092

Interested Parties who have reason to believe that the item (s) above should not be certified as a sole source should respond in accordance with instructions found at the link above no later than Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm central standard time.

Questions and/or paper letter related to the notice should be submitted to:

Mertha George

Purchasing Agent

Alcorn State University

1000 ASU Dr # 509

Lorman, MS 39096

mgeorge@alcorn.edu

Publication Dates :

January 23, 2025 & January 30,2025