Mississippi Forensic Laboratory
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase
Sole source # 3150002924

The Mississippi Forensic Laboratory (MSFL) is seeking to purchase Qiagen EZ1 DNA Investigator Kits and related consumables as defined in the state law.

1. **Description of the commodity or commodities the MSFL is seeking to procure:**

Make and Model: EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit (48) part number 952034

Item	Catalog number	Description
1	**1002137**	**Freight Charges**
2	**1014636**	**Buffer G2 (260/250)**
3	**19076**	**Buffer ATL (200ml)**
4	**19112**	**Buffer MTL (54 ml)**
5	**19133**	**Proteinase K (10 ml)**
6	**19134**	**Proteinase K**
7	**952034**	**EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit (48)**

Description: Qiagen Kits and related consumables. EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit (48) Part Number 952034

The QIAGEN EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit (Part Number 952034) reproducibly automates purification of genomic DNA from reference and casework samples in human identity testing. The kit can be used with the **EZ1 Advanced XL** (1–14 samples per run) instruments. The EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit provides optimized chemistries for automated DNA purification with more efficient yields. STR analysis shows higher peaks for more sensitive detection. The higher peaks demonstrate the improved signal-to-noise ratio for highly sensitive detection and high performance in downstream applications. The EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit includes carrier RNA for increased efficiency. Carrier RNA enhances binding of DNA to the silica surface of the magnetic particles, especially if the sample contains low amounts of DNA (<100 ng). Published data suggest that addition of carrier RNA enables more efficient isolation of low amounts of DNA from forensic samples and may, for some sample types, provide improved DNA yields. The DNA Investigator kits are the only extraction kit that works on the instruments being used by the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory.

2. **Explanation of why the commodity is the only one that can meet the needs of the Agency:**

The QIAGEN EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit (48) Part Number 952034 is the consumable kit required for extraction of genomic DNA from forensic sample types on the QIAGEN BioRobot

EZ1. The QIAGEN EZ1 Kit chemistry is the only chemistry that can operate on the QIAGEN BioRobot EZ1 Nucleic Acid Extraction System. QIAGEN is the sole manufacturer and distributor of EZ1 Kit chemistry and EZ1 extraction platform. The QIAGEN EZ1 DNA Investigator Kit (48) has been proven to provide the required results for downstream applications of quantitative PCR and STR profiling for the purpose of casework processing and uploading data to the CODIS and NDIS reference database.

3. **Explanation of why the source is the only person or entity that can provide the required commodity:**

QIAGEN is the only manufacturer that produces forensic-DNA grade extraction chemistry with Production and Quality Control standards that exceed ISO18385 requirements (December 2017: new QIAGEN spec: <4 pg/40 µl eluate (12.5-fold more stringent than ISO 18485 requirement of <50pg/100µl eluate) necessary for the sensitivity developed and in use at the MSFL. The EZ1 DNA Investigator chemistry is only suitable for use with the EZ1 Advanced instruments and protocol installed, validated and in use at the Mississippi Forensics laboratory.

4. **Explanation of why the amount to be expended for the commodity is reasonable:**

Estimated Cost: $432,000.00

Amount is within the expected price range of these items requested.

5. **Efforts the Agency went through to obtain the best possible price for the commodity:**

MSFL receives a 6.62% discount on the instruments, a 3% discount on the cards and install and a 3% discount on the EZ1 investigator kits. The price has been established by the discount provided by the company.

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 should submit a written notice to:

Betsy M. Toles or Sonya Toaster
Procurement Department
4th Floor, Room 402
Jackson, MS 39216

The notice should contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement, as well as, but not limited to the following information:

Interested Party Information

- Contact Name, Phone Number, and email address
- Company Website URL, if applicable

Objection to Sole Source Justification

- Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification, including, but not limited to the following:
    a) A description of the commodity or commodities that Interested Party believes is comparable to the Qiagen Kits and related consumables;
    b) An explanation of why Interested Party's commodity or commodities can also meet the needs of the agency; and
    c) A list of sources from which Interested Party's commodity may be procured.

- If Interested Party claims that the Qiagen Kits and related consumables are available from a source other than Qiagen objection must contain a written statement from Qiagen is that the Interested Party is an authorized distributor or reseller of the Qiagen Kits and related consumables.

This information should be provided no later than Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 5:00 pm local time. Response may be delivered by hand, via regular mail or overnight delivery.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSFL determines that the commodity in the proposed sole-source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSFL will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity or commodities to an advertised competitive bid process.

If MSFL determines after the review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity or commodities, then MSFL will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB). MSFL will have the burden of proving that the commodity or commodities is only provided by one (1) source.