

Mississippi Forensic Laboratory  
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase  
Sole source # 3150005212

The Mississippi Forensic Laboratory (MSFL) is seeking to purchase two Qiagen QIAcube Connect 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: Qiagen QIAcube Connect (cat 9002864)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Catalog number</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>9002864</b>	<b>QIAcube Connect Device</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>9003094</b>	<b>QIASphere Connectivity Package B</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>990392</b>	<b>Roter Adapter Holder</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>990395</b>	<b>Starter Pack, QIAcube</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>1002137</b>	<b>Freight charges</b>

Description: Qiagen QIAcube Connect (cat 9002864) and related consumables

The Qiagen QIAcube Connect is an automated nucleic acid extraction platform that simplifies purification of the Qiagen spin-column kits. The QIAcube Connect is highly suitable for biotechnology, forensic laboratories performing sequencing analysis, gene expression analysis, genotyping, proteomics, and microbiome research. The QIAcube Connect has a variety of pre-installed protocols for purification of RNA, genomic DNA, plasmid DNA, viral nucleic acids, and proteins, plus DNA and RNA cleanup.

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

The Qiagen QIAcube Connect instrument is the only instrument available with a customized protocol for the automated separation of digested epithelial cells and sperm cells in sexual assault kit processing of samples. This protocol alleviates the DNA scientists need to manually separate

the two fractions. Additionally, the QIAcube Connect decontaminates the full worktable with built-in UV light to prevent carryover between samples.

The QIAcube Connect is the only instrument capable of performing automated differential wash steps consistent in technique and results comparable to a trained forensic DNA analyst.

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

The Qiagen QIAcube Connect is the only fully automated, spin-column-based nucleic acid extraction with an optional protocol customization to expand the use. QIAcube Connect isolates high pure nucleic acids or proteins using a spin-column-based lyse, bind, wash and elute procedures of up to 12 samples at a time. The instrument and optimized protocol for differential wash is only available from Qiagen.

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

Estimated Cost: \$53,611.96

The 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 has negotiated with Qiagen who has given us a discount. The price has been established by the discount provided by the company. MSFL is not paying the list price for the commodities.

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodities listed are not a sole source and can be provided by another person or entity should submit a written notice to:

Britney Wesley or Sonya Toaster  
Procurement Department  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 402  
Jackson, MS 39216

The notice should contain a detailed explanation of why the commodities are 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 QIAcube Connect 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 QIAcube Connect and related consumables are available from a source other than Qiagen the objection must contain a written statement from Qiagen that the Interested Party is an authorized distributor or reseller of the Qiagen QIAcube Connect and related consumables.

This information should be provided no later than Monday, October 2, 2023, 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.