

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

To: Interested Parties
From: David C. Johnson
CC: ITS Project Number 47076
Date: June 14, 2022
Re: Sole Source Certification Number 4477 to provide digital forensic software licenses, support, and maintenance for the Mississippi Attorney General Office (AGO).
Contact Name: Roshunda Mitchell
Contact Phone Number: 601-432-8223
Contact E-mail Address: Roshunda.Mitchell@its.ms.gov

Sole Source Certification Award Details

Regarding Information Technology Services (ITS) Sole Source Certification Number 4477 for the Mississippi Attorney General Office (AGO), please be advised that ITS intends to award Griffeye Inc., as the sole source provider of digital forensic software licenses, support, and maintenance through August 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$22,425.00. Please be advised that ITS will determine if additional licenses, enhancements, upgrades, or support are within scope during the certification period and may increase the spending authority accordingly. Should Griffeye Inc. change their name during this certification period, then ITS will determine if a recertification is necessary. For an explanation regarding Mississippi state law, policy and procedures for sole source procurements, refer to Attachment B: Sole Source Procurement Overview.

Sole Source Criteria

1. The product or services being purchased must perform a function for which no other product or source of services exist:

Griffeye DI Pro program pulls out all media files in a dataset and hashes them for categorization. After hashing the files, Griffeye DI Pro compares the files to known datasets. The automated categorization dramatically reduces the amount of time it takes to categorize the media files within a dataset. This program is unique in that it has the capability to tap into crowd sourced datasets. This allows for datasets to be pulled down and categorized by law enforcement agencies all over the world such as International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Griffeye DI Pro also collaborates with Project Video Image Classification (VIC) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) which is an ideal tool for child exploitation investigations. Griffeye DI Pro uses a social media identifier which helps to predict the origin of a file via characteristics typical to a particular social

media platform. The program statistically graphs types of media in a high level for prosecutions and presentations. The reverse geocoding feature converts geo locational data from one form to another and associates a location with distances. The video utility pack provides the ability to view different types of files with manipulation abilities. This is the only product with the ability to import and view large amounts of photos and videos, the ability to utilize image hashing to pre-categorize known data and stack duplicates, and the ability to open and view cases on more than one forensic machine, enabling group collaboration.

2. The purchaser must be able to show specific business objectives that can be met only through the unique product or services:

Currently, examiners and investigators must manually categorize all media extracted from each device in a child exploitation examination. Without the features in the Griffeye DI Pro program, this process can take hours, days, and in some cases weeks. By utilizing the hash set sharing among users within AGO, the processing and analyzation time of each case is reduced. The program will save hours to days of review and classifications in each case. The program also allows categorized media to be shared to and opened on other machines to enable group collaboration in a centralized place without losing the time invested in each database.

3. The product or services must be available only from the manufacturer and not through resellers who could submit competitive pricing for the product or services:

The Griffeye Analyze platform is developed and manufactured by Griffeye Technologies AB. All Griffeye software is proprietary to Griffeye Technologies AB. Griffeye Inc. is the only authorized reseller in the United States or around the world that is authorized to sell Griffeye products to State and Local law enforcement in the United States. This includes the Griffeye platform, as well as all associated license renewals, certification training, and other services. Griffeye Technologies AB does not outsource or refer out any of its software. The Vendor’s sole source certification letter is included as Attachment A.

Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date	06/14/22
Second Advertisement Date	06/21/22
Response Deadline From Objectors	06/28/22 at 3:00 P.M. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before 06/29/22

Project Details

The Mississippi Attorney General Office Cyber Crime Division seeks to purchase forensic software to assist with the cyber crime investigations. In an effort for the Cyber Crime Division of the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office to enhance operational capabilities and keep up with technological advancements, the addition of Griffeye DI Pro is essential. This software has been around for several years and is used by all forms of law enforcement all over the globe primarily to combat child exploitation.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the digital forensic software licenses, support, and maintenance should not be certified as a sole source should provide information in the following format for the state to use in determining whether or not to proceed with awarding the Sole Source contract to Griffeye Inc.

1.1 Interested Party Information

1.1.1 Contact Name, Phone Number and email address

1.1.2 Company Website URL, if applicable

1.2 Objection to Sole Source Certification

1.2.1 Interested parties must present specific objections to the Sole Source certification using the criteria listed above.

1.2.2 A statement regarding the Interested Party's capabilities as related to this Sole Source Certification Request.

1.3 Comments will be accepted at any time prior to Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) to Roshunda Mitchell at Roshunda.Mitchell@its.ms.gov or at the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. Responses may be delivered by hand, via regular mail, overnight delivery, e-mail or by fax. Fax number is (601) 713-6380. ITS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OF RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the Interested Parties that responses reach ITS on time. Interested Parties may contact Roshunda Mitchell to verify the receipt of their Responses. Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.

1.4 Interested Party responses should include the following information:

SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO
Sole Source Certification No. 4477-47076
Accepted until June 28, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.,
ATTENTION: Roshunda Mitchell

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Roshunda Mitchell at 601-432-8223 or via email at Roshunda.Mitchell@its.ms.gov.

Attachment A: Vendor Correspondence

Attachment B: Sole Source Procurement Overview



May 27, 2022

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to confirm that the Griffeye Analyze platform (including products DI Core, DI Pro, Processing Engine, CS Operations Client, CS Enterprise Client, Collaboration Server Operations, Collaboration Server Enterprise, Command, and Entity Management) are developed and manufactured by Griffeye Technologies AB. All Griffeye software is proprietary to Griffeye Technologies AB. Griffeye Technologies AB and Griffeye Inc. are wholly owned subsidiaries to Safer Society Group Sweden AB.

Griffeye Inc. is the only authorized reseller, either in the United States or around the world, that is authorized to sell Griffeye products to State & Local law enforcement in the United States, including the Griffeye platform, as well as all associated license renewals, certification training and other services.

Griffeye Technologies AB does not outsource or refer out any of its software.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Madsen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Madsen
COO, Griffeye Inc.
john.madsen@griffeye.com

Attachment B

The acquisition of information technology for all state agencies and institutions of higher learning (IHLs) is within the scope of the ITS law, found in Mississippi Code Section 25-53-1, et seq., and the policies and procedures established in accordance with this statute, found in the ITS Procurement Handbook posted on the ITS website (www.its.ms.gov).

ITS enabling legislation requires that information technology hardware, software and services be acquired in a manner that insures the maximum of competition among all manufacturers and suppliers of such equipment and services. Accordingly, ITS promotes full and open competition through the issuance of open specifications and the objective evaluation of Interested Party proposals to determine the lowest and best offering to meet an agency's or public university's business requirements. True competition protects the integrity and credibility of purchasing in the public sector and is essential in providing best value and adequate contractual protection for the purchasing entity. In certain limited situations, information technology acquisitions may be sole-sourced.

ITS utilizes the provisions of Public Purchasing Law for Sole Source and Emergency procurements of information technology. Mississippi Public Purchasing Law (Mississippi Code Section 31-7-13) specifies that noncompetitive items available from one source only be exempted from bid requirements (sole-sourced). ITS statute, in Section 25-53-5 (p), permits ITS to utilize provisions in Public Purchasing Law or regulations, when applicable.

Per Public Purchasing law, acquisitions must meet the following criteria to be authorized as sole source:

1. The product or services being purchased must perform a function for which no other product or source of services exists,
2. The purchaser must be able to show specific business objectives that can be met only through the unique product or services, AND
3. The product or services must be available only from the manufacturer and NOT through resellers who could submit competitive pricing for the product or services. The vendor's correspondence regarding this criterion for this project is included as Attachment A.

By policy as documented in the ITS Procurement Handbook, acquisitions of IT services must include the following information to be authorized as sole source:

1. An explanation about why the amount to be expended is reasonable, and
2. An explanation regarding the efforts by the purchaser to obtain the best possible price.

For state agencies, approval of all technology purchases with a lifecycle cost of \$5,000 or less, including sole source purchases, has been delegated to the agency. The ITS Procurement Limits Policies for Agencies (a section in the ITS Procurement Handbook) require a minimum of two competitive written bids or proposals for technology purchases with a lifecycle cost over \$5,000 but not over \$50,000 (not over \$25,000 for projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). Since, for single source items, the procuring agency will be unable to obtain two written bids, ITS must certify all sole source acquisitions of information technology with a lifecycle cost greater than \$5,000.

Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) or public universities have been delegated the authority to certify sole source procurements up to \$250,000 lifecycle cost under the ITS Procurement Limits Policies for IHLs (a section in the ITS Procurement Handbook). For the certification of sole source procurements delegated to the CIOs at public universities, the public university must follow ITS' Sole Source Procedure, including advertisement of the intent to award as sole source. Institutions certifying a sole source purchase must ensure the criteria listed above are met and documented in writing by the institution and the Interested Party prior to certifying a product or service as sole source. Sole source documentation must be reviewed and approved by the IHL's CIO for any sole-source certification

above \$5,000. All sole source documentation should be retained in the public university's procurement file. Sole source requests above \$250,000 lifecycle cost require ITS approval.

Other than the delegations outlined above, all sole source technology procurements must be certified by ITS.

ITS thoroughly reviews Sole Source Certification Requests, determining if competing products and/or services exist. If so, ITS conducts a competitive procurement. If ITS' review confirms the sole source, then a Sole Source advertisement is issued, giving other Interested Parties an opportunity to identify competing products and/or services. Based upon the results of the Sole Source advertisement, ITS will either certify the request as a sole source or conduct a competitive procurement.