



3771 Eastwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211-6381
Phone: 601-432-8000
Fax: 601-713-6380
www.its.ms.gov

Craig P. Orgeron, CPM, Ph.D., Executive Director

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

To: Interested Parties

From: Craig P. Orgeron, CPM, Ph.D.

CC: ITS Project Number 49163

Date: November 25, 2025

Initial
CPD

Re: Sole Source Certification Number 4723 for Maintenance and Support of the Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) System for the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE)

Contact Name: Matthew Livingston

Contact Phone Number: 601-432-8244

Contact E-mail Address: matthew.livingston@its.ms.gov

Sole Source Certification Award Details

Regarding Information Technology Services (ITS) Sole Source Certification Number 4723 for the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), please be advised that ITS intends to award Level Data, LLC as the sole source provider of maintenance and support of the Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) System through December 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$753,963.00 for a three-year period. Please be advised that ITS will determine if additional licenses, maintenance, or support are within scope during the certification period and may increase the spending authority accordingly. Should Level Data, LLC 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:

The Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) System is a customized cloud-based and single sign-on platform that was developed by R & A Solutions dba RANDA Solutions, now Level Data, LLC. This system was designed specifically for MDE to serve as a comprehensive hub that captures the full lifecycle of Mississippi educators from recruitment to retirement. It is critical for MDE to secure ongoing maintenance and technical assistance from the system's original developer to ensure continuity of operations, data integrity, and consistent support.

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

The MECCA system significantly enhances the efficiency and compliance of MDE’s educator-related operations by centralizing data, automating workflows, and ensuring real-time access to critical information. This integrated system includes four portals – Educator Licensing, Professional Growth, Talent, and Accreditation. These portals allow for educator licensing, professional growth tracking, accreditation, workforce applications to streamline administrative tasks, adherence to state and federal regulations, and the support of informed decision making at all levels.

- 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:

Level Data, LLC has certified that they are the sole source provider of the licenses, support and maintenance of the MECCA system. This software is only distributed by Level Data, LLC. The Vendor’s sole source certification letter is included as Attachment A.

Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date	11/25/25
Second Advertisement Date	12/02/25
Response Deadline From Objectors	12/11/25 at 3:00 P.M. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before 12/12/25

Project Details

The MECCA System was originally procured in 2022 to replace the Educator License Management System (ELMS). Due to the impact that COVID-19 had on elementary and secondary schools, the Federal Government provided funding through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. The U.S. Department of Education established very strict and aggressive timelines to obligate these funds. MDE declared the replacement of this system as an emergency, based on the aggressive timeline and that there was no other source of funds available for a replacement system. For the replacement system, MDE selected R & A Solutions dba RANDA Solutions, and a Software Development Agreement was executed on March 10, 2022. A second emergency agreement was executed on September 30, 2024. Additionally, RANDA Solutions was acquired by Level Data in 2024. Since 2022, MDE has spent approximately \$5,204,569.34.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the maintenance and support of the Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) System 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 Level Data, LLC.

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 Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) to Matthew Livingston at matthew.livingston@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 Matthew Livingston 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. 4723-49163
Accepted until December 11, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.,
ATTENTION: Matthew Livingston**

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Matthew Livingston at 601-432-8244 or via email at matthew.livingston@its.ms.gov.

Attachment A: Vendor Correspondence

Attachment B: Sole Source Procurement Overview

Attachment A



July 18, 2025

Mississippi Department of Education

359 N. West St.
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

SUBJECT: Sole Source Authorization Letter

Level Data, LLC provides talent, special programs, process workflow and managed data integration solutions to K 12 entities throughout North America.

Level Data, LLC is the SOLE SOURCE provider for the license, support and maintenance to the Level Data Licensure, Growth, Talent and Accreditation core software as the foundation to the Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA) system. Our solution is truly unique in that we offer the platform as a certified client specific solution delivered as a license. We provide this software exclusively for managing the Licensure, Evaluation, Placement and Accreditation as deployed in the MECCA system.

Our solution is not available in part or whole through any other distribution channel, manufacturer or other in the United States.

If there are any further questions regarding our products or services, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marty Reed".

Marty Reed / Chief Product Officer

Marty.Reed@leveledata.com

Level Data, LLC.

Office: 866.511.3282 / Direct: 615 915 5446

6850 Stadium Dr. | Kalamazoo, MI 49009

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 \$75,000 (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.