

## Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

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**To:** Interested Parties

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

**CC:** ITS Project Number 49228

**Date:** November 25, 2025

**Re:** Sole Source Certification Number 4727 to provide maintenance and support of the PRISM application for the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)

**Contact Name:** Vershonda Grindle

**Contact Phone Number:** 601-432-8213

**Contact E-mail Address:** [Vershonda.Grindle@its.ms.gov](mailto:Vershonda.Grindle@its.ms.gov)

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### Sole Source Certification Award Details

Regarding Information Technology Services (ITS) Sole Source Certification Number 4727 for the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), please be advised that ITS intends to award Health Data Solutions, LLC as the sole source provider of maintenance and support of the PRISM application renewal through June 30, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$225,000.00. Please be advised that ITS will determine if additional licenses, enhancements, upgrades, and support are within scope during the certification period and may increase the spending authority accordingly. Should Health Data Solutions, 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 exists:

**Health Data Solutions, LLC holds the exclusive rights to maintain, license and support the MSDH Patient Reporting Investigation Surveillance Manager (PRISM) application, and is the only licensed developer and sole-source provider of PRISM. The application is used by MSDH and employees throughout the state to enter chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea, HIV and Tuberculous (TB) diagnoses. It allows PRISM users to conduct partner services and Sexually Transmitted Disease Management Information System (STD\*MIS) available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). There is currently no other system on the market that contains all of the features that PRISM has, allowing users of the PRISM application to conduct Partner Services and STD Surveillance.**

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

**The MSDH PRISM application collects Electronics Laboratory Reporting (ELR) and Health Level Seven (HL7) messages from providers, provides case management tools to epidemiologists, and reports confirmed cases back to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which allows connectivity by field staff, such as Public Health District Disease Intervention Specialists and Epidemiology Nurses. PRISM supports surveillance for chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea, HIV, public lice, and TB, also provides case management for STD's, accepts ELR messages, parses and creates case reports, and transmits cases to the CDC via file transfer to the Secure Data Network (SDN) for National Electronic Telecommunication Systems for Surveillance (NETSS). PRISM support includes case management tools for epidemiologists and bi-monthly meetings to discuss the help desk tickets and other issues.**

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:

**Health Data Solutions, LLC (HDS) is the only vendor who can provide required support and maintenance services related to PRISM in a manner that would be consistent with the requirements and protections of federal copyright law. HDS has developed and supported the PRISM application since its inception in 2008. HDS employs only PRISM technical subject matter experts and is the owner, developer, and sole-source provider of the PRISM application. HDS has no resellers of the PRISM application. The Vendor's sole source certification letter is included as Attachment A.**

## **Schedule**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>
First Advertisement Date	11/25/2025
Second Advertisement Date	12/02/2025
Response Deadline From Objectors	12/11/2025 at 3:00 P.M. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before 12/12/2025

## **Project Details**

PRISM is open-source software that was originally developed by the Florida Department of Health and given to the State of Mississippi. Software edits and upgrades were performed by Advanced Systems Design, Inc. (now Health Data Solutions, LLC). In December 2016, ITS began issuing Notices of Intent to Certify Sole Source for the maintenance and support of the PRISM application, and has not received any objections. The Software License and Maintenance Agreement between the State and Health Data Solutions expired June 30, 2025. To date, MSDH has spent \$484,805.66 on this product.

## **Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties**

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the maintenance and support of the PRISM application 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 Health Data Solutions, LLC.

### **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 Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) to Vershonda Grindle at [Vershonda.Grindle@its.ms.gov](mailto:Vershonda.Grindle@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 Vershonda Grindle 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:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO</b> <b>Sole Source Certification No. 4727-49228</b> <b>Accepted until December 11, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.,</b> <b>ATTENTION: Vershonda Grindle</b></p>
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If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Vershonda Grindle at 601-432-8213 or via email at [Vershonda.Grindle@its.ms.gov](mailto:Vershonda.Grindle@its.ms.gov).

Attachment A: Vendor Correspondence  
Attachment B: Sole Source Procurement Overview



1225 Gateshead Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32317  
850.510.0639  
Mary.White@hdsprism.com



June 23, 2025

Caleb Durden  
Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services  
Mississippi State Department of Health  
570 E Woodrow Wilson Avenue  
Jackson, MS 39216

Subject: Health Data Solutions, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Corporation ("HDS"), and the Patient Reporting Investigation Surveillance Manager application and system ("PRISM"); Sole Source Letter

Dear Mr. Durden,

Health Data Solutions, LLC (HDS) holds the exclusive rights to maintain, license and support PRISM from Advanced Systems Design, Inc. (ASD). This is under federal laws regarding copyright (registration number TX 8-310-043) and trademark (registration number 5434130). All future contracts for PRISM support must be with HDS as the sole-source provider.

Moreover, HDS has not provided any written license to the Department, or to any other person or entity for that matter, that would permit any competing service or support provider to access or modify the PRISM software code. Cf. 17 U.S.C. §101 (generally defining transfers of copyright ownership); 17 U.S.C. §204(a) ("[a] transfer of copyright ownership, other than by operation of law, is not valid unless an instrument of conveyance, or a note or memorandum of the transfer, is in writing and signed by the owner of the rights conveyed or such owner's duly authorized agent"). Therefore, HDS is the only vendor who can provide required support and maintenance services related to PRISM in a manner that would be consistent with the requirements and protection of federal copyright law. The staff at Health Data Solutions, LLC (HDS) has developed and supported the PRISM application since its inception in 2008. HDS employs the only PRISM technical subject matter experts and is the only licensed developer and sole-source provider of the PRISM application. HDS has no resellers of the PRISM application. HDS as a result claims an exclusive, proprietary interest in the PRISM application.

Please contact me at my mobile number of 850-510-0639 or by email at [mary.white@hdsprism.com](mailto:mary.white@hdsprism.com), if you have any questions regarding the sole source with HDS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary White  
Managing Director  
Health Data Solutions, LLC

## 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](http://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.