

Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

To: Interested Parties
From: Craig P. Orgeron, CPM, Ph.D.
CC: ITS Project Number 49238
Date: March 10, 2026
Re: Sole Source Certification Number 4729 to provide clinical decision database subscriptions for the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC)
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 4729 for the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), please be advised that ITS intends to award Merative US L.P. as the sole source provider of Micromedex clinical decision database subscriptions through June 30, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$618,893.02. Please be advised that ITS will determine if additional subscriptions, upgrades, or support are within scope during the certification period and may increase the spending authority accordingly. Should Merative US L.P. 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:

The Micromedex Solutions® software is a medical and healthcare database that covers toxicology, pharmacology, acute care medicine, patient education, disease management, chemical agent information, and biological agent information. Micromedex Solutions'® unique comprehensive software provides several products including, but not limited to:

- **REPROTOX® database that provides the effects of medications, chemicals, and other agents on human reproduction and development.**
- **CareNotes Online that assists in educating patients about their condition, laboratory tests, treatments, follow-up care, and ongoing health concerns.**

- **TOMES® system that provides hazard and regulatory information, exposure evaluations, and emergency response guidelines.**
- **Medication Essential Fact Sheet Online/Integrated offers consistent and concise medication education to reinforce adherence and compliance while providing handouts to improve patient satisfaction.**

The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) uses POISINDEX®, also included in the Micromedex Clinical Evidence Premium Package, exclusively to allow poison control centers to consistently code their occurrences and document them within the national poison data system. Subscription is verified by an authenticated IP address.

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

Micromedex Solutions® offers products that are unique to them and, of most importance, to UMMC for clinical and operational functionality for clinical care and decision making. As the State’s Poison Control Center, UMMC is required to utilize POISINDEX®, a product that is only available and provided by Merative US L.P. The integrated solutions provided consist of comprehensive neonatal and pediatric evidence-based drug information, medication instructions for adherence and compliance, formulary management in determining better distribution and cost analysis, comprehensive compilation on the effects of medications, chemicals, and other agents on reproduction, unbiased information on drugs and other related substances.

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:

Merative US L.P. sells to UMMC a standalone version of “Micromedex” that is not combined with any other commercially available, third-party offering. Merative US L.P. is the sole direct seller of such Product. The Vendor’s sole source certification letter is included as Attachment A.

Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date	03/10/26
Second Advertisement Date	03/17/26
Response Deadline From Objectors	03/24/26 at 3:00 P.M. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before 03/25/26

Project Details

In 2014, UMMC purchased Truven Health Analytics’ Micromedex Solutions® via then-approved sole source procurement methods for \$404,113.39 for an initial three-year period. In 2017, ITS, on behalf of UMMC, issued Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source No. 3997 with Truven Health as the sole provider of Micromedex Solutions® software and internet subscriptions through June 30, 2020, at a total 3-year lifecycle cost of \$454,569.89.

In April 2016, International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) announced that it had completed the acquisition of Truven Health Analytics, one of the largest providers of healthcare analytics solutions and services designed to help improve healthcare quality and access while reducing costs. Beginning August 1, 2018, Truven Health Analytics, an IBM Company, began conducting business as IBM. In February 2020, ITS issued Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

Number 4227 to transfer the sole source certification from Truven to IBM Corporation through June 30, 2020, and in May 2020, ITS issued Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source Number 4307 for the renewal of Micromedex subscriptions for three years at \$501,432.24.

In 2022, IBM and Merative US L.P. reached an agreement under which Merative US L.P. acquired IBM technology assets and existing client relationships associated with IBM's Watson Health business to form a standalone technology company. In January 2023, ITS issued Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source Number 4512 with Merative US L.P. as the now sole provider of the Micromedex subscriptions for \$531,970.03 through June 30, 2026. The total expenditure to date is \$1,911,198.32.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the clinical decision database subscriptions 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 Merative US L.P.

- 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, March 24, 2026, 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:

<p>SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO Sole Source Certification No. 4729-49238 Accepted until March 24, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m., ATTENTION: Matthew Livingston</p>

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

merATIVE

February 24, 2026

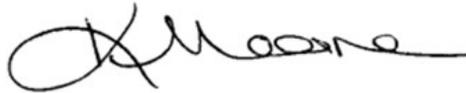
Office of Contracts Administration
University of Mississippi Medical
Center
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216

merative.com

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in response to a request received by Merative ("Company") from University of Mississippi Medical Center ("UMMC") to provide certain information about the sale and distribution of certain Micromedex products.

Specifically, Merative sells to UMMC pursuant to the Order Transaction Document (CLM21259) dated July 22, 2025 (the "Agreement") a standalone version of "Micromedex" that is not combined with any other commercially available, third party offerings when it is made available to UMMC under the Agreement (collectively, the "Merative Product"). Merative is the sole direct seller of such Merative Product.



Kimberly Moore

Account Executive, Micromedex
843.377.7550 Mobile
Kimberly.moore@merative.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 \$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.