Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

To: Interested Parties

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

CC: ITS Project Number 49256

Initial
CPO

Date: December 9, 2025

Re: Sole Source Certification Number 4732 to provide Message Switching Interface Maintenance and Support for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety-Criminal Information Center (MDPS-CIC)

Contact Name: Denetta Durr

Contact Phone Number: 601-432-8022

Contact E-mail Address: denetta.durr@its.ms.gov

Sole Source Certification Award Details

Regarding Information Technology Services (ITS) Sole Source Certification Number 4732 for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety-Criminal Information Center (MSDPS-CIC), please be advised that ITS intends to award Computer Projects of Illinois, Inc. (CPI), as the sole source provider of Message Switching Interface Maintenance and Support through December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $13,737.36. If MDPS-CIC opts to renew the Message Switching Interface Maintenance and Support, this sole source certification shall be valid through December 31, 2028. Please be advised that ITS will determine if additional enhancements, upgrades, and support are within scope during the certification period and may increase the spending authority accordingly. Should Computer Projects of Illinois, 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 exists:

   The National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (Nlets) links together and supports every state, local, and federal law enforcement, justice, and public safety agency for the purposes of sharing and exchanging critical information. Through the Nlets network, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies can access a wide range of information from standard driver license and vehicle queries to criminal history and Interpol information. The asynchronous, transactional nature of Nlets requires switching and routing infrastructure at each level of the

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communications, including the Nlets national switching systems at the top level that route to switching infrastructure at the State level, OpenFox® in Mississippi's case, down to switches at local police departments and sheriffs' offices and terminal services that connect individual terminals. Through the Nlets network, law enforcement and criminal justice agencies can access a wide range of information, from standard driver license and vehicle queries to criminal history and Interpol information. CPI developed the interface between Nlets and the Mississippi Department of Public Safety's driver's license application and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks' Boat Registration application.

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

   Nlets allows the exchange of information with law enforcement and other justice and public safety agencies for information such as criminal history and standard driver's license queries. In order to track the latest information regarding a driver's license or a boat registration, comparing to a national database, MDPS must be able to interface Nlets from the driver's license application or the boat registration system.

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:

   Computer Projects of Illinois, Inc. (CPI) is the sole owner of the software and marketing rights to the OpenFox® Message Switching suite of products and, therefore, is the sole source for maintenance, new development, and enhancements. The Vendor's sole source certification letter is included as Attachment A.

Schedule

Task	Date
First Advertisement Date	12/9/25
Second Advertisement Date	12/16/25
Response Deadline From Objectors	12/23/25 at 3:00 P.M. Central Time
Notice of Award/No Award Posted	Not before 12/24/25

Project Details

In 2008, MDPS-CIC purchased consulting services from Computer Projects of Illinois, Inc. (CPI) through then approved sole source methods to create an interface from the State messaging switch to an SQL database used by law enforcement officers for vehicle tag information using the OpenFox® suite of products. Since 2008, MDPS-CIC has continued to purchase maintenance and support for the OpenFox® interface through approved sole source methods. MDPS-CIC is currently requesting a one-year renewal of this maintenance. With this project, MDPS-CIC has spent approximately $3,809,847.42 on the OpenFox® suite of products with CPI.

Submission Instructions and Format of Response from Objecting Parties

Interested parties who have reason to believe that the Message Switching Interface Maintenance and Support 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 Computer Projects of Illinois, Inc. (CPI).

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, December 23, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) to Denetta Durr at denetta.durr@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 Denetta Durr 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. 4732-49256
Accepted until December 23, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.,
ATTENTION: Denetta Durr

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Denetta Durr at 601-432-8022 or via email at Denetta.durr@its.ms.gov.

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

Attachment A

10/08/2025

Sheila Miller
MS Dept. of Public Safety

Ms. Miller:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that Computer Projects of Illinois, Inc. (CPI) is the sole owner of the software and marketing rights to the OpenFox® Message Switching suite of products deployed for use by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MSDPS) and therefore is the sole source for license purchases, maintenance, new development and enhancements including encryption and new interfaces.

The OpenFox® suite of productions includes:

- OpenFox® Message Switching System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® NextGen Hot Files System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Validations System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Soft Tokens Application
- OpenFox® Configurator System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Operator Aid System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Desktop System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Messenger System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Forms Configurator System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Interceptor System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Archive (java) client System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® NextGen Computerized Criminal History (CCH) System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® NextGen Sex Offender Registry (SOR) System and all modules and customizations
- OpenFox® Messenger NOW

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 630-754-8820 Ext. 117.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sawatzky

Kevin Sawatzky,
CEO
ksawatzky@openfox.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.