

Note: This Sole Source Certification will become a public document, open to public inspection; therefore, you should be certain all material facts are true, relevant and clearly understandable.

SOLE SOURCE CERTIFICATION

Under the requirement of University of Florida Rule No. 6C1-3.020(5)(e)(2), the following is submitted in support of this request for authority to purchase, without bidding, the items available from only one source.

Note: Sole Source means that the item/service is unique and that the vendor is the only one from whom the item/service can be provided. Best Price alone cannot be used for sole source. If the item/service is available from more than one source of supply, best price must be determined through the competitive bid process.

A. Sole Source Vendor Company Name: Socio-Ecological Solutions, LLC (SOEC SO)
 Contact Person: Dr. Montes
 Address: 7901 4th St. North STE 300, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702
 Telephone: 352-340-0752 Fax: _____ Email: nmontes@soecso.com

B. Describe in lay language, what the item/service is and how it is to be used in your area of research. (cont. P2)
Fisheries and human dimensions science integrating cutting edge data visualization, modeling and new programming technologies into tools developed by the consultant (SOEC SO) for near real-time monitoring and evaluation of a sustainable angling program called Return 'Em Right.


C. What feature or special condition of this commodity/service is unique and cannot be obtained from any other source? Why are these features or special conditions important to the research? (cont. P2)
SOEC SO designed and implemented a unique multi-lingual interactive web-based monitoring and evaluation program bridging fisheries and human-dimensions science, geo-spatial technologies, statistical modelling, data visualization, and scholarly works developed specifically for the Return 'Em Right program and continuity of services is required by the project sponsor who wants to retain SOEC SO services to support program growth at UF.

D. Is this product being purchased directly from the manufacturer? Yes No
 If No, is it available from more than one dealer? Yes No
 If Yes, it is available from more than one dealer, why can this item not be bid? (cont. P2)
The unique intellectual and technical services provided by SOEC SO that have developed the Return 'Em Right program (which is being trademarked by UF) are sought to support the program's planned expansion at UF. The consultancy was stipulated in the grant proposal, which has been approved by UF and the NOAA Restoration Center, the program sponsor.

E. Prior to submitting this requisition, did you investigate other possible sources? Yes No
 If Yes: 1) Did you obtain quotes from the other sources? Yes No If Yes, attach copies.
 2) Is this Vendor's price lower than the other sources? Yes No If No, justify the additional cost below.
We investigated sourcing expertise from within UF, but individual faculty did not possess the suite of skills needed and mainly wanted to work during the summer months, which is not a cost-effective or viable option. The Return 'Em Right program requires dedicated full-time Ph.D. level commitment to meet its research, monitoring and evaluation goals.

F. What efforts have been made to obtain the best price possible? Why do you feel this price is fair and reasonable? (cont. P2)
The price is justified in the grant proposal, which was approved by the project sponsor and by UF. The price is consistent with cost of an assistant scientist at UF including specialized software and computing technologies.

I / We, the undersigned, certify the above to be true and correct to the best of my / our knowledge and belief and the user and / or undersigned does not have a financial interest in the above named vendor.

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL	PURCHASING APPROVAL
I hereby certify the validity of the information and feel confident the Sole Source Certification will meet University criteria and would withstand any audit or vendor protest. <u>Charles Sidman</u> 9-9-2024 Principal Investigator's Signature Date	This acquisition is approved as a non-competitive purchase.  Purchasing Coordinator Signature 11/18/2024 Date
FAILURE TO FILE A PROTEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG) REGULATION 18.002 OR FAILURE TO POST THE BOND OR OTHER SECURITY AS REQUIRED IN THE BOG REGULATION 18.002 AND 18.003(3) SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF PROTEST PROCEEDING.	<u>NJ Heredia</u> 11-18-2024 Purchasing Authorized Signature Date

Sole Source Certification (Continued)

Please use the following sections to continue documentation if needed.

B. continued

C. continued

The research connected and supported Return 'Em Right education, outreach, communications, customer service and evaluation. Importantly, the consultant is developing unique scholarly works derived from this research, not available from other consultants/companies, to support the science behind Return 'Em Right as feedback to guide future educational, communications and outreach programming.

D. continued

The sponsor has pledged future resources to UF and Florida Sea Grant and loss of this continuation of service provided by SOECOS would cause great disruption and greatly diminish our ability to effectively run the program.

E. continued

F. continued