

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: Bruker Daltonics

Contact Person: Griffith Carr

Address: 40 Manning Road, Billerica, MA, 01821

Telephone: 732-308-5326 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: griffith.carr@bruker.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)

Our research is centered on targeting disease-causing RNAs with drug-like small molecules. One way we do this is by modifying RNA and/or proteins with chemical labels or small molecules. The Bruker neoflex is a MALDI-TOF/TOF instrument that measures the size (mass) of biomolecules (like RNA/proteins) with high resolution capabilities to study small molecules. This instrument will enable us to study the success of labeling RNAs or proteins with small molecules by measuring their size (mass).

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)

The Bruker neoflex is a versatile instrument that will simultaneously enable us to: 1) characterize small molecules with high resolution MS and MS/MS capabilities. 2) Measure RNA mass with high signal to noise. 3) Map binding sites of small molecules cross-linked to proteins by MS/MS peptide fragmentation. In addition to its versatility, the unique Smartbeam laser of the neoflex enables rapid sample measurement with high signal to noise. Because RNA is intrinsically a difficult target with low signal to noise, this laser design will maximize our ability to rapidly screen compounds, and is only available on this instrument.

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)

It is only available for purchase from the manufacturer

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.

There are no other sources for this instrument

F. What efforts have been made to obtain the best price possible? Why do you feel this price is fair and reasonable? (cont. P2)

We have negotiated with Bruker and received a substantial discount.

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.		This acquisition is approved as a non-competitive purchase.	
Matthew D. Disney Principal Investigator's Signature	Date	Purchasing Coordinator Signature	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.		N J Heredia Purchasing Authorized Signature	
		1-13-2026 Date	
		1-13-2026 Date	

## Sole Source Certification (Continued)

Please use the following sections to continue documentation if needed.

B. continued

C. continued

Bruker is the only commercial vendor that uses a 10 kHz solid-state laser, specifically a smartbeam 3D laser. This allows for rapid data acquisition. The Bruker NeoFlex MALDI source is under vacuum, unlike other vendors where the MALDI source is under intermediate vacuum. The MALDI source under vacuum allows for enhanced detection limit (more sensitive) and can detect very low concentration samples. The mass resolution of the Bruker NeoFlex exceeds 40,000 where as competitors are 20,000. The higher resolution is necessary for accurate assignment of masses from our RNA-small molecule adducts. Finally, the Bruker solid-state laser has a lifetime of over 1B laser shots compared to an average of 20M or less for N2 lasers present in other instruments. This extends the lifetime of the instrument many years, without having to replace the expensive laser.

D. continued

E. continued

F. continued