

Intent to Sole Source

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

March 4, 2024

In accordance with Section 11-35-1560(a) of the SC Consolidated Procurement Code, and Section 19-445.2015 of the SC Code of State Regulations, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College intends to enter into a sole source contract for: UR3 Robotic Integrated Mobile Cart as well as a UR3 Certification Package

Description of the Agency need that this procurement meets:

The College will be purchasing a UR3 Robotic Integrated Mobile Cart as well as UR3 Certification Package of software, hardware and training. The UR3 Robotic Integrated Cart is an addition to the UR3 Innotek/SMC technology and UR3 carts that were purchased in 2021. It will also continue to enhance the current Kuka Robotics Training System that has been in place at the College since before 2014. OCtech also has Innotek trainers in use in multiple labs for several Industrial Technology Programs and the UR3 is interfaceable and compatible with the Kuka robotic components that the college already has in place. This purchase will expand the lab and allow more students to be working at the same time. The Universal Robot Cart is a new trend used in local industry and will allow another level of robotics and automated controls to the curriculum. Universal Robots are collaborative robots. They work closely with humans with less limitations. In industry, these robots are being used for more delicate tasks. The Universal Robot curriculum will offer the Mechatronic student an opportunity to complete an industry administered exam and receive an industry certificate from Universal Robots before entering the workforce; thus eliminating the need for additional on the job training.

Description of market research Agency performed to determine the availability of products or services that would meet the Agency's needs.

In market research, it was found that the Universal Robot platform is used industry in our area including PCAS, Zeus, Volvo and BMW. These companies frequently employ OCtech students upon graduation. This platform is organized in such a way to help the student better understand programming. The platform includes external buttons that allow a student to begin understanding robot motions before even using the robot software programming method. The UR3 cart also has a unique design that allows for quick changes in the modular applications. The teacher has the ability to teach on different aspects of Robotics in the same training session. The applications have built in lessons and labs that flow directly with the Innotek/SMC curriculum that is already in place at the college and associated with the UR3 Carts, to include the current UR3 Robots, Kuka Robotic Technology and Innotek Curriculum Programming and systems.

Description of supplies, construction, information technology, and/or service Vendor will provide under the contract:

UR3 Robot Intergrated Mobile Cart with Power and Control &
UR Certification Package

Detailed explanation why no other vendor's supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services will meet the needs of the Agency:

These trainers are manufactured by SMC Corporation and are part of an SMC International Training product line. The only reseller authorized to sell their product in South Carolina is Southern Educational Systems, Inc. This has been verified with a letter from SMC Corporation. Southern Education Systems is recognized as the exclusive reseller and contact for technical support, assistance and training.

Please send questions or concerns via e-mail to Scarlet Geddings @ geddings@octech.edu for this Intent to Sole Source no later than 5:00 PM on March 11, 2024, EDT.

This notice will be posted in the South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO) as required by SC Code 11-35-1560.

PROTESTS:

If you are aggrieved in connection with the intended award or award of the contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in Section 11-35-4210. To protest an award, you must (i) submit notice of your intent to protest within five (5) business days of the date this notice is posted, and (ii) submit your actual protest within fifteen days of the date this notice is posted. Days are calculated as provided in Section 11-35-310(13). Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be in writing and must be received by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer within the time provided. The grounds of the protest and the relief requested must be set forth with enough particularity to give notice of the issues to be decided. Any protest or notice of intent to protest must be addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer, Information Technology Management Office, and submitted in writing

(a) by email to: protest-itmo@itmo.sc.gov, or

(b) by post or delivery to: 1201 Main Street, Suite 600, Columbia, SC 29201.

Official signed document on file in the Procurement Office

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