

## JUSTIFICATION FOR AWARD WITHOUT COMPETITION

(To be completed and submitted by the Office of Procurement)

Based upon the following determination, the proposed procurement action described below is being procured pursuant to the authority of Section 11-35-1560 of the SC Procurement Code and 19-445.2105 of the Rules and Regulations, 1976 SC Code of Laws.

**Why does the governmental body need this item or service:** (description of the agency need that this procurement meets):

The College has been awarded a five-year NOAA grant for \$1.35M to investigate water quality and ecosystem dynamics in Charleston Harbor. We have partnered with Charleston Waterkeeper to collect samples for 6 months every year. One important parameter that determines water quality is the concentration of nutrients. The SEAL nutrient autoanalyzer can determine different inorganic seawater nutrient concentrations on 5 separate channels. For example, we can measure the concentrations of ammonium, nitrate, nitrite, phosphate, and silicate simultaneously. We will collect approximately 500 nutrient samples per year, or a total of ~ 2500 samples over the 5-year project. In addition, we have a backlog of ~ 1500 samples from the last few years of sampling.

**As a sole source procurement for \$** 76,708.00

**from** (name of sole source contractor): SEAL Analytical, Inc.

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

Market research through Procurement IQ and GovSpend did not provide any findings. However, research using Google verified that the AA500 Nutrient Analyzer is proprietary to SEAL Analytical, Inc., and they are the only source for purchasing it in the United States.

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

Nutrient autoanalyzer for seawater chemical analysis (SEAL Analytical AA500)

5 Channel AA500 HR System with Auto Start-up and Shutdown, 1 Random Access Sampler – AS2 (2 sample racks)

(Includes 1 pack of 1000 5mL Sample Cups), 1 Pump with Digital air injector and automatic platen release, 5 Chemistry Multi-Test Manifolds for NOx, NO2, NH3, oP, Si; 5 Flowcells ; 5 Wavelength filters/LED; 5 Complete method documentation as detailed above

5 Single Channel High Resolution Digital Colorimeters; 1 AACE Software; 1 System Accessory Kit; 1 Consumable Kit, including one change of pump tubes.

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

The AA500 is the only nutrient autoanalyzer that combines four key specifications that are critical to the research project. One of those is unique and critical to our work: software-controlled automatic engage/disengage. This will ensure that we can process thousands of samples without having a full-time technician constantly monitoring the equipment. Additionally, it will result in less long-term 'wear' as the automatic disengage ensures that the equipment is not damaged when unattended. No other nutrient autoanalyzer on the market performs this specific function, and this is critical to this grant-funded research project.

X In accordance with the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement section 11-35-1560 - Sole Source, the College of Charleston announced the intent to award without Competition. No protests were received.

Solicitation# 25.91.JCB.SS

Contract Expiration Date: 10/31/2025

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Wendy E. Williams, CPPO, C.P.M., Director of Procurement

5/13/2025

Date

DocuSigned by:  
  
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John F. Loonan, Executive Vice President for Business Affairs

5/14/2025

Date

If this procurement is \$50,000 or greater, the Drug Free Workplace Act (§ 44-107-10, et Seq. Code of Laws of SC) applies, the acceptance of a Purchase Order signifies the Vendor certification that they are in compliance with the Drug Free Workplace Act.

6-Digit Index Number: 521662

6-Digit Account Code: 770115

NIGP 3-Digit Commodity Code: 938

Buyer's Initials JCB