



Sole Source Application and Determination Form

A sole source determination is not effective until the sole source application for determination has been posted on the Purchasing website for thirty (30) calendar days without protest and is subsequently approved in writing by the Vice President of Administration and Finance.

1. Name of Department: Earth and Environmental Science
Contact Name: John Naliboff
Phone: 530-304-4363
Email: john.naliboff@nmt.edu
2. Name of Prospective Vendor:
Contact Name: ASPEN Systems
Phone: 1-800-992-9242
Email: makof@aspsys.com
Estimated Cost: Up to \$750,000
Duration (for Services or Professional Services – limited to four years): through June 30 , 2027
3. Purpose/need for purchase and detailed list of items of tangible property, services, or professional services:

Node purchases will expand the New Mexico Tech High-Performance System, which was designed and installed by the prospective vendor (ASPEN Systems). ASPEN Systems continues to support NMT in management of the systems, use of their proprietary ACME cluster management software, and system expansion through additional hardware through the original RFP award. This sole source application and determination form will involve ASPEN systems expanding the NMT HPC to include an (1) additional GPU Nodes (3-4) and (2) related equipment (i.e., file server and login nodes) that would support optimized use of the new GPU nodes. In detail, this process will involve sourcing and designing the nodes to be consistent with existing hardware and system architecture, purchasing the nodes, and installing them within the existing NMT HPC system utilizing the ACME cluster management software framework. Additional purchased and installed items will include related InfiniBand networking equipment connecting new nodes to the broader system. The prospective vendor will test the nodes prior to shipping, perform an onsite

installation of the equipment, and then provision the nodes with their custom cluster management software (ACME), which is used by the entire HPC system.

4. Detailed explanation of criteria developed for this purchase:

The department is not seeking generic GPU nodes or related hardware alone. The requirement is for GPU nodes, related server and networking components, installation, provisioning, configuration, testing, and integration into the existing New Mexico Tech HPC environment designed, installed, supported, and managed through ASPEN Systems' proprietary ACME cluster management software. Because the existing system architecture, software environment, warranty framework, and planned summer 2026 rack relocation are under ASPEN Systems' support and management, procurement from another vendor would not provide the required end to end integration, continuity of warranty, or compatibility assurance without requiring ASPEN Systems' proprietary involvement. For these reasons, ASPEN Systems is the only source capable of providing the complete required solution.

5. Provide a detailed, sufficient explanation of the reasons, qualifications or unique capabilities of the prospective vendor that make that prospective vendor the one source for providing the items of tangible property, services, or professional services:

This purchase will expand the existing NMT HPC center to include additional GPU nodes, and potentially additional file server and login nodes towards supporting optimized use of the GPU nodes. The prospective vendor (ASPEN Systems) designed, installed, and will continue to support management of the system and training for NMT staff over the system lifespan. The prospective vendor has also recently purchased additional GPU nodes for installation in the HPC system, and is under contract to move the system to new racks within the NMT data center during summer 2026. The NMT HPC system uses the proprietary ASPEN Systems cluster management software package ACME (Aspen Cluster Management Environment), and as part of the purchase the vendor will ensure the new nodes are installed, provisioned, and operating to specification within this environment.

6. Provide a detailed, sufficient explanation of how the items of tangible property, services, or professional services is/are unique and how this uniqueness is substantially related to the intended purpose of the department/grant:

The uniqueness of the requested items (GPU, file server, and login nodes) lies within their integration into an existing high performance computing system that was designed, installed, and continues to be co-managed by ASPEN Systems. The added components need to be fully compatible with the existing system, integrated with the vendor's proprietary cluster management software (ACME), and installed when the vendor will fulfill an existing contract to move the existing HPC system to new rack space. The new nodes will also be placed within the existing system warranty framework provided by the vendor.

7. Please provide a narrative description of the department's due diligence in determining a basis for the procurement. Include:

ASPEN systems was selected for the initial design and installation of the New Mexico Tech High-Performance System through an RFP. Five vendors were reviewed during that process; ASPEN Systems produced the most competitive proposal. Following the initial design and installation of the system, NMT has continued to work with ASPEN systems on system hardware expansion, system hardware and software configuration for advanced scientific computing applications, technical system administration support and troubleshooting, and targeted training on their proprietary cluster management software (ACME). Given these factors and that the existing system architecture, software environment, warranty framework, and planned summer 2026 rack relocation are under ASPEN Systems' support and management, procurement from another vendor would not provide the required end to end integration, continuity of warranty, or compatibility assurance without requiring ASPEN Systems' proprietary involvement. For these reasons, ASPEN Systems is the only source capable of providing the complete required solution.

I certify I have performed thorough and diligent research and analysis to determine that ASPEN Systems is the only source capable of providing the required nodes. I understand that violations of the New Mexico Procurement Code (Chapter 13, Article 1 NMSA 1978) can carry severe penalties. I affirm that the information provided in this Sole Source Determination is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name, Title:

John Naliboff, Associate Professor

AdobeSign/Date



June 9, 2026

Review: Purchasing Services (Name, Title): Meradeth Montoya
Associate Director of Purchasing

Website Posting Date: 06/12/2026

Posting Expiration Date: 07/12/2026

Protested (Yes/No):

Approval: Delilah A. Walsh
Vice President of Administration and Finance

AdobeSign/Date

Meradeth Montoya
6.12.26

AdobeSign/Date

Delilah A. Walsh

12-Jun-2026

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