



### **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: \$165,000-\$240,000  
Duration (for Services or Professional Services – limited to four years): through June 30 , 2026
  
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). Likewise, the ASPEN Systems continues to support NMT in management of the systems 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 additional GPU Node and two additional standard compute nodes. In detail, this process will involve sourcing and designing the nodes to be consistent existing hardware and system architecture, purchasing the nodes, and installing them to include one additional GPU node two and standard compute nodes. Additional purchased and installed items will include related infiniband networking equipment connecting the 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:

This purchase requires detailed knowledge of the NMT HPC system architecture, current efforts to prepare the system for campus-wide deployment, requirements for working in the NMT data center and rack system layout, recent GPU node purchases within the last 3-6 months, long-term plans for system expansion, and the underlying ASPEN Systems cluster management software (ACME) used for system-wide administration. NMT is actively working with ASPEN Systems on all of these elements in a detailed capacity, and this purchase falls directly within the scope of these collaborative activities.

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 and standard compute 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 systems 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 and standard compute nodes) lies within their integration into an existing high performance computing systems 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 vendors proprietary cluster management software, 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 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 of vendors were reviewed during that process; ASPEN Systems produced the most competitive proposal.

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, PI



02.09.2026

Review: Purchasing Services: Lisa Majkowski, Director



02.09.2026

Website Posting Date: 02/09/2026

Posting Expiration Date: 03/12/2026

Protested (Yes/No):

Approval: Delilah A. Walsh

Vice President of Administration and Finance



Delilah Walsh (Feb 9, 2026 10:21:33 MST)

09-Feb-2026

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