Notice of Intent to Sole Source

Posting Date: 10/6/2026

Francis Marion University seeks to sole-source the procurement of the Niche prospect resource system.

Intent to Sole Source:

The Enrollment department requires a multi-faceted prospect resource system that allows for high school students to be identified as Francis Marion University prospects based upon their interests, identifies Francis Marion University as a candidate for prospects higher education objectives, and allow for direct admission of those students via the prospect resource system eliminating extra steps for students to successfully enroll at the university.

The university's ongoing use of Niche tools is critical to the university's ongoing enrollment requirements. An immediate change of tools could temporarily result in surrendering interest from prospects from which Niche directly identified the prospect. While a change in systems may eventually allow for benefits from targeting interested prospective students, there would be a gap in this interest between the expiration of Niche, and the live transition of prospect interest to a new system. This period of replaced prospects, and gap in potential direct admission of prospects poses a detrimental risk to the university in meeting enrollment requirements.

The university is continuing to investigate updated and different prospect resourcing methods and systems, and may solicit for updated prospect resourcing services in the future.

The price for sole sourced service from Niche is $138,366.80.

Company Specifics:

Niche.com Inc.
PO Box 392796
Pittsburgh, PA 15251

Contact Person for this Intent to Sole Source:

Paul MacDonald – Assistant Vice President for Contractual Services
Email: pmacdonald@fmarion.edu
http://www.fmarion.edu/about/solicitationsawards/

Contact deadline: October 14, 2026 11:59 pm EST

Unless additional pertinent information is forthcoming, Award will be posted at the following physical address and website address on October 15, 2026:

Francis Marion University
Purchasing Office
Stokes Administration Building, Room 102
4822 East Palmetto Street
Florence, SC 29506
www.fmarion.edu/about/solicitationsawards

If you are aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of the contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in Section 11-35-4210. To protest a solicitation, you must submit a protest within fifteen days of the date the applicable solicitation document is issued. To protest an award, you must (i) submit notice of your intent to protest within seven business days of the date the award notice is posted, and (ii) submit your actual protest within fifteen days of the date the award 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. See clause entitled "Protest-CPO". 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.
PROTEST – CPO ADDRESS – MMO: Any protest must be addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer, Materials Management Office, and submitted in writing
(a) by email to protest-mmo@mmo.sc.gov,
(b) by facsimile at 803-737-0639, or
(c) by post or delivery to:

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICE
1333 MAIN STREET, SUITE 700
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29201