



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
**JIMMY PATRONIS**  
STATE OF FLORIDA

February 6, 2025

Mr. Elon Musk  
U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20006

Dear Mr. Musk:

As Chief Financial Officer for the State of Florida, I cannot fully express how important the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is to our country.

To support your mission, I strongly recommend that DOGE audit censorship grants to universities, specifically through the U.S. Department of Defense and government entities that partner with USAID, such as the National Science Foundation. **Narrowing queries with certain keywords will prove highly fruitful; for example, "misinformation," "disinformation," "narrative," "undesirable content,"** to name a few.

In September, I issued records requests to public universities in Florida inquiring about the use of taxpayer money for NewsGuard Technologies, Inc.; Global Disinformation Index; Global Engagement Center; and Graphika Technologies, Inc.

Although I have yet to receive responses for each records request, one response was revealing. It showed a purchasing order from the University of Central Florida (UCF) for a \$13,500 NewsGuard subscription that was used for a larger U.S. Department of Defense project, specifically for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA.

The purchasing order came with a NewsGuard licensing agreement that listed the specific name of the research project, which matched the name of a \$500,000 DARPA award at the University's College of Engineering and Computer Science. The purchasing order also indicated that the NewsGuard subscription was needed to fulfill "DoD objectives" regarding a DARPA program that addressed so-called "misinformation" and "disinformation" across traditional media and social media.

A separate records response from the University of Florida showed an invoice for a \$7,500 NewsGuard subscription, with an accompanying licensing agreement claiming to "help consumers distinguish legitimate news and information websites from those that provide unreliable or false information."

While these two examples may seem small, they are clear indications of larger concerns. I strongly believe that an audit of federal grants to universities using the above keywords will reveal millions of dollars in taxpayer-funded censorship research. President Trump has said, "If we don't have free speech, then we don't have a free country." He is absolutely right, and I urge DOGE to continue its work on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Patronis".

Jimmy Patronis  
Chief Financial Officer

Attachments

c: Raymond Rodrigues, Chancellor of the Florida State University System



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA**

12424 Research Pkwy, Suite 355  
Orlando, FL 32826-3249  
United States

**Purchase Order**

Purchase Order Number	PO-UCF-00005284
Purchase Order Date	09/23/2022
Purchase Order Type	Services
Requested Delivery Date	
Payment Terms	Net 30
Payment Type	ACH
Buyer	
Phone Number	+1 (407)
Email	
Tax Exempt ID	85-8012703010C-9

Page 1 of 2

<b>Supplier:</b>
NewsGuard Technologies 25 West 52nd Street New York, NY 10019 United States of America

<b>Ship To:</b>
The University of Central Florida Board of Trustees 12800 PEGASUS DR. ORLANDO, FL 32816-0000 United States of America (407) 823-

<b>Comments:</b>

<b>Deliver To:</b>

<b>Bill To:</b>
The University of Central Florida Board of Trustees 12800 PEGASUS DR. ORLANDO, FL 32816-0000 United States of America

	Total Lines Amount	Total Tax Amount	Total PO Amount
	13,500.00	0.00	13,500.00
Shipping Terms	Shipping Method	Shipping Instruction	
FOB Destination	Best		

This procurement is subject to the General Provisions and Certifications for Government Contracts a copy of which is available at the following link: <https://procurement.ucf.edu/general-procedures/>

UCF's acceptance of and payment for Vendor's goods and/or services is hereby expressly made conditional on Vendor's assent to UCF's standard Purchase Order terms found at: <http://procurement.ucf.edu> ("UCF Standard Terms") and all of Vendor's terms are hereby rejected, except as otherwise noted in the UCF Standard Terms. Any language reviewed and approved by the UCF General Counsel's Office prevails over conflicting terms in UCF's Standard Terms.

**Authorized Signature**



12424 Research Pkwy, Suite 355  
 Orlando, FL 32826-3249  
 United States

Purchase Order

Purchase Order Number	PO-UCF-00005284
Purchase Order Date	09/23/2022
Purchase Order Type	Services
Requested Delivery Date	
Payment Terms	Net 30
Payment Type	ACH
Buyer	
Phone Number	+1 (407) [REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Tax Exempt ID	85-8012703010C-9

Service Lines					
Line Number	Description	Start Date	End Date	Due Date	Amount
1	<p>NewsGuard Quote/Agreement to provide DARPA Modeling Influence Pathways (MIPs) project data source. The data source provides a trustworthiness rating for about 1000 news sources. Fully Executed agreement in Cobblestone #32294. Department decided to go with NewsGuard as the price we negotiated was \$13,500. When we started discussions with NewsGuard, they provided a pricing sheet for government/academic uses with pricing at \$18,000. This pricing was based on the funding source of the research, which in our case was DARPA. After some discussion and negotiation, NewsGuard agreed to reduce their price from 18,000 to \$13,500 or a 25% reduction due to our compelling use case for using their product. The price sheet for outside non-academic users is \$25,000.</p> <p>NewsGuard has a unique methodology that required years of testing, fine-tuning and investing in methods to provide a highly reliable way to score news source trustworthiness. The pricing seemed like a fair value given that if we were to initiate a similar effort to staff and conduct such a score, there would be a high multiple of 10 or 100x the cost above. The ability to buy this value-added service outright accelerates our efforts to use this data as a foundational piece of gaining our ability to explore influence pathways for the DoD objectives. This cost for a one-year license for using their service seemed to be fair and cost effective given our project budget.</p>	09/22/2022	09/22/2023		13,500.00

Purchase Order		
Date	Purchase Order	Revision No.
Oct 8, 2020	2100835249	0
Contact	[REDACTED]	
Email	[REDACTED]	
Phone	[REDACTED]	

**Supplier Information**

Supplier Name: NewsGuard Technologies Inc  
 Address: 25 W 52nd St 15th Floor  
 New York, New York 10019 United States

**Ship To Information**

Attn: [REDACTED]  
 Room/Area: [REDACTED]  
 1885 STADIUM RD  
 GAINESVILLE, FL 32611  
 United States

**Reference and Delivery Information**

Quote number  
 Customer Number  
 Freight Terms: DES  
 Destination-Freight Included  
 Requested Delivery/Due Date

**Bill To Information**

Attn: [REDACTED]

Line No.	Product Description	Catalog No.	Size / Packaging	Unit Price	Quantity	Ext. Price
1 of 1	provide one year of continual access to their full data feed of reliability ratings, descriptive metadata, and Nutrition Label reviews for 5800 news and information sites		1/EA	7,500.00 USD	1 EA	7,500.00 USD
	<u>ADDITIONAL INFO</u>					
	UOM		1/EA			
	Estimated Cost/Fee per unit (not to exceed)			7,500.00		
	Service End Date				9/28/2021	

Governing terms can be found at UF Procurement Services website: <http://www.purchasing.ufl.edu/vendors/po.asp> Total **7,500.00 USD**

**Attachments for Supplier**

Attachments for supplier

Signed NewsGuard,...

Header	001	UF Phonebook and Invoicing Info	The University of Florida Electronic Phonebook can be found online at <a href="http://phonebook.ufl.edu/">http://phonebook.ufl.edu/</a> .  For payment, invoices to the University of Florida should be emailed, one invoice per email, as a .pdf or .tif attachment to <a href="mailto:UFLinvoices@edmgroupp.com">UFLinvoices@edmgroupp.com</a> or mailed to UF Accounts Payable, PO Box 3357, Scranton, PA 18505 or by fax to 1-570-496-5411.
	003	Terms and Conditions	Terms and Conditions are available at <a href="https://procurement.ufl.edu">https://procurement.ufl.edu</a> An Equal Opportunity Institution.
	13	Right to Terminate	The University of Florida reserves the right to terminate this order, in whole or part, upon giving thirty (30) days prior written notice to the seller.