September 15, 2020

Dear Valued Supplier,

We, the undersigned Big Ten Academic Alliance member institutions, are committed to actively managing security risks for technology solutions used to carry out our academic missions and to protecting sensitive data used throughout daily operations.

Our information security staff have joined together to develop a shared approach to assessing the security risks of cloud-based software applications. We partnered with Riskonnect to create a collaborative technology platform that will enable you to respond to a standard set of questions designed to clarify how your application mitigates important security risks.

We understand that there are other question sets and approaches to this important compliance function. However, this platform will be used for the independent assessment of technologies being licensed by our institutions. This platform has several important advantages:

- Responses to questions will be shared with key staff at the participating Big Ten universities, thereby reducing redundant questionnaires for your company to complete in order to do business with each of our schools.
- Streamlining the review process leads to a more efficient and economical due diligence effort for everyone involved.
- Information you provide is protected based on a shared confidentiality agreement between participating universities.

It is increasingly important to keep sensitive information secure through best-practice efficient approaches that make it possible to rapidly procure vital technologies. We ask that you join with us in embracing the use of this platform so that we can all realize the benefits of this important collaboration.

Electing not to complete the question set or to address follow up responses may impact our ability to license your product in a timely manner or preclude its procurement altogether.
For more information about this Collaborative Shared Assessment Platform, please visit

Sincerely,

Nathan Andridge
Senior Director - Procure to Pay Services
The Ohio State University

Antony Burger
Director of Procurement Services
University of Michigan

R. Duane Elmore
Director of Procurement Services
The Pennsylvania State University

Mark A Fehlberg
Executive Director, Procurement Services
University of Chicago

Brad Henson
Director of Purchasing
University of Illinois

James S. Konrad
Executive Director, Proc. & Pay. Services
Northwestern University

Sara Luther
Interim Director of Procurement
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Nimish Patel
Assoc. Vice President – Procurement, CPO
Rutgers University

Lori Voss
Director of Purchasing Services
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Kimberly Watson
Assoc. VP for Proc. & Strategic Sourcing
University of Maryland