

OFFSHORE WIND – SEABED ASSESSMENT QUERIES AND COMMENTS

1. Can you please provide the proposed route(s) and offshore area of interest in google earth kmz/kml or shapefile?

The potential export cable routes are uploaded. The area presented in the ITT is an indication of the area that fits the initial concept. Bidders should provide a cost offer to survey up to 15 km².

2. Are both potential cable routes shown in Figure 1 to be surveyed?

Only one of the cable routes will need to be surveyed. The RA will specify which one and will share an updated shapefile of the survey route before survey preparations begin. The RA invites bidders to propose the width of the survey corridor based on their experience. Further, if any obstacles to the proposed route are discovered during initial desktop studies, suitable amendments are expected to be proposed.

3. In Section 4 of the Bid Submission, Q3 states “a Statement of Financial Information Disclosure is below”. however, this document was not included in the ITT package, can you please provide the document?

A financial disclosure statement has been added to the ITT and can be found as an attachment on the website.

4. The timeline listed in the table callsout mobilization 4wks after contract, which would occur before the PEP, PMP, and HSSE reports. The preference is to mobilize once those documents are in place. Therefore we request that mobilization will occur directly before acquisition, and the mobilization and testing report will be completed once mobilization is completed (within 72 hrs), will this be acceptable?

This will be acceptable. The RA is flexible with respect to how bidders propose to conduct their surveys, provided that the objectives of the surveys are achieved.

5. Will an RA representative be required on the vessel during operations?

No, an RA representative will not be required on the vessel during operations.

6. Will the RA share a shapefile of the cable route and wind area, for more precise survey planning?

See answer to Q1.

7. **Protected species observers are not referenced in the ITT. Based on BOEM standards this survey would require observers to be on board to monitor operations. Are there specifications that should be considered for this?**

Obtaining information about protected species is a requirement. Bidders are invited to propose an arrangement that fulfills BOEM standards, so if observers are necessary, they should be included in the survey.

8. **The ITT states - "Collected samples from the seabed must be logged, tested, and analyzed following the relevant standards". Please clarify that samples are not to be taken as part of this particular scope.**

As per the ITT, bidders are required to propose a method for cross referencing the results from the seabed sediment classification. The RA's understanding is that this is typically carried out by using GRAB samples, but, if available, alternative approaches that can achieve this requirement are also acceptable.

9. **Please confirm the seabed assessment to be performed is for the Primary Site only and that no assessment of the Alternative Site is requested.**

Confirmed, only the primary site will be assessed.

10. **Is the intention to also assess and survey the proposed export cable route, and if so, which of the two alignments shown in Tender Figure 1?**

See answer to Q1.

11. **Both this tender and the Metocean tender include the same statements regarding work being envisaged to begin in Q1 2027. Please confirm that the RA wants both campaigns to occur simultaneously.**

There is no preference on both studies starting simultaneously. The timing is to be identified by the bidder. The timing of the seabed assessment may be subject to constraints such as whale migration season which is December to April.

12. **Can the RA provide an estimated number of site visits and hazard identification/risk assessment meetings envisioned in Section 3.4.1 so that all proposers are including the same number of meetings? Please also provide an indication if the RA prefers in-person meetings or virtual meetings.**

The RA cannot provide a number of meetings that will be required during survey preparation. Bidders should propose a schedule of engagements that would allow them to complete a thorough survey preparation.

13. **Does the RA have a model form of contract and insurance requirements it could provide for bidder review during the tender stage?**

The RA invites bidders to put forward a contract template to be reviewed by the RA.

14. Can a bidder not currently registered as a business in Bermuda bid on the work?

The tender is open to international companies. A work permit will be required for those companies which the RA would be responsible for acquiring.

15. With regards to the penetration of the multi-channel system, we understand that the target penetration is 100m; however, we would like to verify what sort of penetration is realistically expected or useful for project purposes. The sources that can be used—boomer and sparker—with a relatively short streamer length that is feasible to be used in this area do not leave much scope for multiple reduction deeper than ~40m in our opinion.

The most likely foundation type for the proposed offshore wind farm project is monopiles. In some instances monopiles are driven more than 40m into the seabed. Bidders are encouraged to consider what would be a survey depth that would allow potential developers to gain confidence that their project will be technically feasible. While the RA would consider proposals where the suggested 100m penetration is not met, the RA would seek to ensure that the highest possible confidence in the composition of the seabed is achieved.

16. Is the seabed assessment required over both cable routes, as well as the 15km² site ?

See answer to Q1.

17. If cable routes are required, can the RA give an indication of the corridor width they require ? If not, we will propose this based on our past experiences.

See answer to Q1.

18. Is there any assessment of landfall location(s) required ?

No assessment of the landfall location will be carried out as part of this project.

19. Can you advise of any tax implications of UK/US companies operating in Bermuda ?

The contract would be on a consultancy basis and not subject to Bermuda tax laws.

20. Are there any associated tariffs with operating in Bermuda ?

No, however a bond may be required on any equipment entering Bermuda.

21. Can you advise if the \$1.5 million budget for this work is fixed or is there any scope for additional budget if it is felt the full scope and any important value add additions is appropriate ?

The RA is looking for an adequate scope that would provide meaningful de-risking of the project so proposals that add value are welcome. However, the RA has set a budget limit of up to \$1.5m for this activity.