

# Architectural competition - Prequalification

## 1.1 Content and introduction to this document

This document summarizes the headlines regarding the Architectural competition about *The Whale*. The selected architects, who will participate in the Architectural competition, will receive more information in the competition brief. The invitation to prequalify for the competition and accompanying annexes are published on Mercell.no. Links to the invitation are also published on the website of The National Association of Norwegian Architects, and in TED (the common European database for public Tender).

*The Whale* is a project initiated by a private organization, the shareholding company The Whale AS, and is therefore not obliged to follow the European Procurement rules. The announcement in TED is solely made to make this competition known publicly.

## 1.2 About the project

The board of The Whale AS is pleased to invite interested architectural teams to submit applications to prequalify for participation in an international competition for the design of the new building for *The Whale* in one of the most spectacular locations in Andenes, Norway. *The Whale* will be a lively and welcoming place for visitors and local people, businesses and researchers. *The Whale* is unique; it is not a natural history museum, nor a science center, an art gallery, or a nature-based visitor center, but a place that takes the best elements from places like these and integrates them into something new.

At the edge of the ocean, with a panoramic view of the Arctic Sea, the new building will become a major new attraction in Northern Norway, potentially even an attraction of even wider significance. Andenes is one of the best places in the world to experience whales and each year welcomes more than 50.000 visitors from all over the world. *The Whale* will highlight the status of the area as a leading destination for people interested in whales and nature. A visit to *The Whale* will be an unforgettable part of a stay on Andøya. A place that augments the monumental experience of the nature and the landscape.

The ambitions for *The Whale* are high. The aim is to become a "World Class attraction"; combining high quality architecture with the highest standards in displays and exhibitions and knowledge about whales and their environment.

*The Whale* is initiated and planned by The Whale AS, a local shareholding company established in 2018. The owners are the Adolfsen Group, A.H.Holding AS, Eidissen Consult, Andøy Municipality, Andøy Reiseliv, Whale Safari AS and Sea Safari Andenes AS. The chairman of the board is Benn Eidissen.

Whale watching in Norway was established in Andenes in 1988 and has since grown to become a major tourist attraction and local pride. *The Whale* is a vision to create a new attraction to visitors and local residents, a place to experience and learn about whales and their environment, a place to gather, meet other people, enjoy the scenery and experience different cultural events.

The mission for *The Whale* emphasizes that visitors become part of an ambitious goal to protect the marine environment and its wildlife - whales in particular. The philosophy of *The Whale* is that this is better achieved through a powerful and poignant experience than through more traditional learning-oriented museum exhibitions. *The Whale* also promotes meetings, discussion and dialogue between visitors, local residents and businesses, scientists and students.

### **The Whale as a visitor experience**

The experience at *The Whale* starts before the visitor enters the building. The landscape outside is part of the experience and art, play-scapes, the natural rock formations and the sea sets the frame for what goes on inside.

Inside *The Whale* – in the indoor exhibitions - visitors will meet the fascinating stories of whales – whale biology, whale behavior, whale distribution, whale evolution etc. and through the exhibitions explore the underlying theme of man's

relation to whales – how are we related through evolution? How do we value and worship whales? How have we hunted and persecuted whales? How do we study whales? How are whales depicted in literature and art?

In many parts of the World people share a deep fascination of whales. Their immense size is part of this fascination and their very different lifestyle than other mammals, in the oceans below the surface is another key to our attraction. Maybe more than anything we become fascinated by the fact that they are mammals like us and that we in them recognize traits and behaviors that are characteristic of ourselves; like how we care for our young, how we communicate and interact with others, how we play, learn and remember.

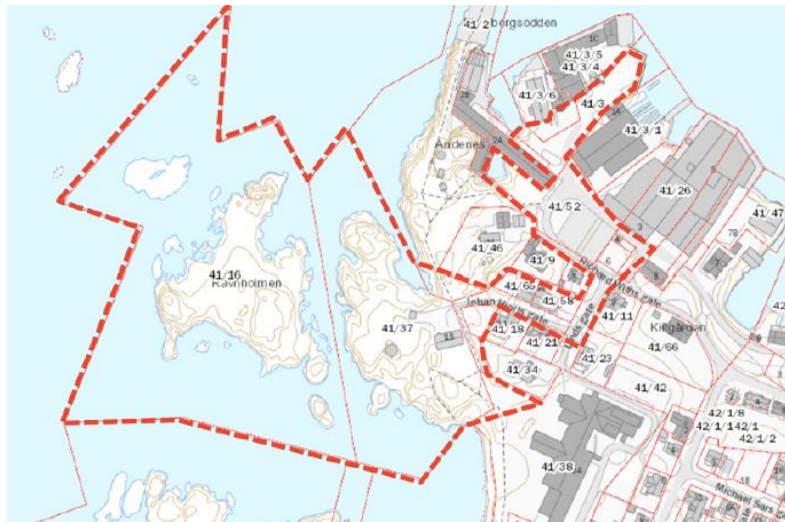
### The site



The view from the site (Photo: H. Strager)



Map of Norway with Andenes



Map of building site. The site are the areas with numbers 41/16 and 41/ 37 (Asplan Viak))



Photo of light house from the building site (Photo: S. Bergvik)



Photo of building from the light house (Photo: Asplan Viak)

The competition area is situated at the rocky coast on the western side of Andenes, next to the lighthouse – a prominent and beloved building in the town. Just outside the area is an archipelago with small rocky skerries giving the shore some shelter and protection from the Arctic Sea that stretches all the way from Andenes to Greenland. To the south the jagged mountains of Andøya and the other islands in Vesterålen adorn the horizon. The view is spectacular.

The site faces the north-west and is an excellent place to enjoy the midnight sun in the summer and the northern lights in the winter.

The site is within walking distance of the main street in Andenes and the harbor where the different whale watching companies are located. A foot path extends from the sandy beach south of the site, past the light house and to the end of a long pier north of the site. The path overlays a historic railroad track which was used in the construction of the long breakwater.

More information about the project, the site, visitor profiles and the content of *The Whale* will be available in the competition brief.

### 1.3 The Assignment

The purpose of the competition is to design a new building with excellent spaces for exhibitions and visitors and prepare an overall plan for the area around the building. The building is to approximately 4500 m<sup>2</sup>. Four design teams will be prequalified for the limited architectural competition. The outside is to be treated as a space for exhibitions – as well as the inside – and the treatment of the landscape is part of the competition. The installation of art, sculptures and playscapes outside and inside the building are not part of the competition, but the design team will be asked to cooperate closely with the exhibition teams.

It is important that *The Whale* contributes to a sustainable development of tourism in Northern Norway. *The Whale* must take the lead in the field of sustainability and sustainable measures must be embedded in the design, in the choice of materials and in the construction as well as in the operation and maintenance of the building. We want a place that is energy-saving and environmentally friendly; built with energy, climate and the environment in mind.

### 1.4 Fee

The fee for the design proposals is NOK 250,000, excluding VAT, for proposals meeting the conditions of competition. Costs that the participants may have in connection with the participation for the prequalification are to be covered by the participants and not the client. The client reserves the right to use ideas and elements of all submitted proposals on the condition that one of the participants is selected as designer for the building.

The fee will be paid when a winner has been selected. Should the project not be realized the winner will be recompensed for the work done for the client after the deadline of the proposal.

### 1.5 Contract

The client expects to contract the winning team of the competition as the designer for the building. The client also expects to contract an engineering company to oversee the structural design of the project. The client expects the winning architectural company to be in charge of the project management for the programming phase. The client expects that the final design and engineering, as well as the execution of the project, will be made in a call for tender for a turnkey contract. The winner of the competition and the engineering team selected by the client will hereafter most likely be advisors to the turnkey contract.

### 1.6 Economy of the project

It should be possible to realize the project within a budgetary framework of NOK 200 mio. inclusive of VAT. The budgetary framework does not include the exhibitions. A majority of the funding for the building is already in place and it is expected that the project will be fully financed before June 2020.

## 2.1 Time schedule

1. Launch of architectural competition Friday Competition brief will be available for the selected teams.	June 14 <sup>th</sup> 2019.
2. Site visit and kick-off in Andenes for selected teams	June 24 <sup>th</sup> 2019
3. Deadline for questions to the competition	September 13 <sup>th</sup> 2019
4. Deadline for design proposals	October 1 <sup>st</sup> 2019.
5. Announcement of winner	December 9 <sup>th</sup> 2019
6. Contract with winning company	December 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2019
7. Tender validite deadline	February 29 <sup>th</sup> 2020
8. Selection of engineering company	December 2019
9. Building programme and design	January-May 2020
10. Project proposal	June-September 2020
11. Tender for turnkey-project	October-November 2020
12. Main project, design and engineering	December 2020-April 2021
13. Construction	May 2021-January 2023
14. Opening	February 2024.

Dates may be subject to changes

## 3.1 Criteria for the selection of teams

The following skills and competencies are important and will be the criteria in the selection process to be prequalified for the competition (the order of the criteria is random):

- Skills in architecture for cultural buildings, museum and visitor centers
- Skills in landscape design.
- Site-specific architecture integrated and in harmony with surrounding nature and landscape
- Architecture of comparable size, complexity and scale as *The Whale* – around 4500 m<sup>2</sup>
- Composition of team
- Understanding of and approach to the assignment

## 3.2 Questions and answers for the prequalification process

Questions about the prequalification process or the project should be asked via Mercell.no no later than Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019 at 14.00.

Answers will be published on Mercell.no together with anonymized questions.

## 3.3 Submitting the application for the prequalification

The application should be uploaded digital via Mercell.com, Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 at 12.00

## 3.4 Application material

The application material should consist of:

1. Contact information for the applicant: Company name, address, company registration number, phone number, email address, name of contact person and website address.
2. Audited annual accounts for the last three years as well as number of employees.
3. A selection of references relevant to the project with a maximum of 5 references – no more than 5 years old. The reference projects should include projects that are similar in scope and scale to the Whale. Each reference project should include the name of the client, the name of the projects, contact information, the function of the building, and the architects/designers involved from the architect design company and the applicants' role in the project.

4. Composition of team: Lead architect, and information regarding any chosen sub-consultancies.
5. A description of how the team understand and will approach the assignment, maximum 2 pages.

### 3.5 Evaluation of application material

Applicants will be valuated based on the submitted material and criteria listed in 3.1. The client will select four teams of architects that are judged to have the most relevant competencies and references for the project. After the competition participants have been selected and accepted their participation formally, the other prequalification participants will receive a brief note about the decision. Individual explanations for the selection will not be given to neither the selected teams or the teams not selected.

### 4.1 Language

The competition is anonymous. Depending on the nationality of the selected teams the language of the competition is either English or Norwegian.

Application to be prequalified must be submitted in one of or a combination of the following languages: Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

The winner must collaborate with a Norwegian partner if the winner is from another country than Norway to ensure sufficient knowledge of Norwegian building regulations and procedures. The name of the Norwegian partner must be stated in the submitted proposal. The Norwegian partner must be approved by the client.

### 5.1 Assessment criteria for the design proposal

The evaluation of the competition proposal is based on the following criteria:

- The building's value as an attraction in its' own right.
- Functionality of the building
- The connection and relationship to the surrounding landscape
- Sustainability

### 5.2 Jury for the design proposal

The National Association of Norwegian Architects (NAL) will act as competition secretary during the design competition. The assessment panel, the jury, consists of members from the board of *The Whale* and two independent architects appointed by NAL. The board may appoint special advisors as well as additional jurors to the panel.