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# TENDER DOCUMENT

*Acquisition of  
Seabed Massive Sulphide Data  
in the Norwegian Sea*

*Ref. no 2022/1465*

Negotiated procedure cf. the Public Procurement Act and the Regulations relating to public procurement part I and III

*Submission deadline: 30 January 2023 (tentative)*

*12:00 noon local time (Norway)*



**NORWEGIAN PETROLEUM  
DIRECTORATE**

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## 2 General description

### 2.1 About the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate

The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) is a governmental specialist directorate and administrative body established in 1972.

The paramount objective of the NPD is to contribute to creating the greatest possible values for society from the oil and gas activities by means of prudent resource management based on safety, emergency preparedness and safeguarding of the external environment.

For more information about NPD, visit our website [www.npd.no](http://www.npd.no).

### 2.2 Scope of procurement

The NPD intends to acquire a variety of geophysical data that may be used in the exploration for volcanic massive sulphide deposits in the seabed of the Knipovich Spreading Ridge in the Norwegian Sea. The data should be acquired using 3 or more AUVs mounted with these specified sensors:

- spontaneous potential data (SP)
- high resolution multi-beam bathymetry (preferably of Synthetic Aperture Sonar)
- back scatter data
- self compensating magnetometer
- high resolution gravimeter
- geochemical sensors, including pH, Methane, turbidity, ORP
- sub-bottom profiler (SBP)
- temperature
- ADCP
- still image camera

Possible ways for combining these data with acquisition of Electromagnetic data (CSEM/MMT) would also be of interest. AUV sensor acquiring Induced Polarity (IP) may also be of interest. All three AUVs must be fully operational during the cruise and tested as part of the mobilization. As a minimum 2 of the AUVs shall acquire data simultaneously.

Acquisition of water column data should also be part of the program.

The water depth of the survey area varies in general between 2400 and 3500 meters, with some peaks up to 1500 meters.

The AUVs shall have more than 40 hours operational capacity. Replacement battery and hard disc shall be available for each AUV-dive for rapid replacement between AUV-missions.

The AUV-data are planned to be acquired along a set of semi regional survey lines in the central rift valley and rift shoulders of the Knipovich Ridge between 74.3955 N and 78.6492 (se Figure 1 in Qualifying documentation).

The aim of the survey is to enhance the data base for mineral exploration in general, and to investigate how different data sets may be integrated to better identify possible sulphide mineral deposits.

The expected total operation time (mobilization - demobilization) is about one month, and mobilization/demobilization will probably take place in Tromsø.

For further information of the assignment, we refer to Appendix 1.

### **2.3 Financial**

The estimated total cost range is NOK 35 000 000 - 37 000 000 ex. VAT. The project is subject to funding from the Norwegian Government. NPD therefore reserves the right to stop the bidding process or declare it null and void or reduce the volume of the programme due to budgetary reasons or unforeseen circumstances outside NPD's control.

### **2.4 Public announcement**

Tender competition is announced in the Merccell database, DOFFIN-database and in the TED database.

### **2.5 Alternative tenders etc**

It is not allowed to submit alternative tenders or tenders on parts of the assignment.

### **2.6 Confidentiality**

The bidders are required to prevent others from gaining access to or knowledge of the information in this document and its appendices, regarding technical matters, devices, procedures or operations and business relationships or other that for competitive reasons can be important to keep confidential, cf. Regulations regarding public procurement § 3-6, cf. The Public Administration Act § 13.

## **3 Competition rules**

### **3.1 Procedure**

Negotiated, ref the Norwegian regulations relating to public procurement, § 13-2 (1) c and § 20-4 (2). After the deadline for submitting a tender in the first phase of the procedure, NPD will negotiate with the bidders, (cf. Public Procurement Regulation's § 23-7( 2) (negotiations in phases)). The negotiations will take place at the NPD's offices in Stavanger or via video conference. Negotiation language(s) will be Norwegian or English.

### **3.2 After the negotiations**

The bidders participating on the negotiation, are allowed to submit a revised tender within a deadline set by the NPD. The revised tender is considered as the final bid from the bidder.

### **3.3 Confidentiality**

The supplier and its employees are required to prevent others from gaining access to or knowledge of information regarding technical devices and procedures or operations and business relationships that for competitive reasons can be important to keep secret, cf. Regulations regarding public procurement § 7-4, cf. § 13 in the Norwegian Public Administration Act. See also Annex 2 – General Conditions of Contract section 22.

### 3.4 Sub-Contractors/suppliers

When use of sub-contractors, supplier NPD recommend that the supplier attach a declaration from the subcontractor(s) documenting that the supplier has possession of the offered resources from the subcontractor(s). The declaration must be signed by person(s) who has/have right to sign for or otherwise has/have the power to commit the sub-contractor.

### 3.5 Reservations and non-conformity

If the supplier has reservations regarding parts of the tender documentation, required specifications, contract or other tender documents, it shall be clearly stated in the bid. Any reservations must be specified, including consequences for performance, prices or other conditions.

The same applies to non-conformity. Reservations and non-conformities shall be stated precisely and unambiguously. They shall be stated in the bid letter in such a manner that the contractor can evaluate them without it being necessary to contact the supplier, cf. Section 24-8 of the Regulations regarding public procurement. Substantial reservations, and reservations or non-conformities that can result in uncertainty regarding evaluation of the bid compared to other bids, will result in the bid being disallowed, cf. Section 24-8 of the Regulations regarding public procurement.



If the supplier's reference to standardized terms of delivery, or something similar, deviates from existing tender or contract provisions, it will be regarded as a reservation.

The supplier cannot make any reservation against the contract section 26, Wage and Working Conditions – Prohibition against Social Dumping. This is a statutory requirement that NPD must include in their contracts. Any reservation or non-conformity to this contract section will result in the bid being disallowed.

### 3.6 Abidance

The bidder must abide by his tender until three months after the submission deadline.

### 3.7 Communication during the tender process

All communication during the process shall be routed via the Merzell-portal, [www.merzell.no](http://www.merzell.no). This is to assure that all communication will be logged. When you are logged on to the competition, chose the flag marked "Communication", click on the symbol  "New message". Enter the information to the NPD and then click . The NPD will then receive your message. If the question regards all bidders, the NPD will answer the inquiry anonymously by giving the answer as additional information. Additional information is available under the flag "Enquiry", then the flag "Additional information". You will also receive an e-mail with a link to the additional information.

## 4 Award criteria

Only tenders that are submitted by qualified bidders and that meet the requirements and specifications given in the tender document with annexes will be considered.

NPD will choose the most economically advantageous tender, based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Weight	Documents required
<b>5.1 Prices, cf.pts.2.1-2.7 in Appendix 1</b>	25 %	We refer to the information in appendix 1 regarding how prices shall be stated.
<b>5.2 Total package of acquisition tools, cf.pt. 1.2. in Appendix 1</b>	35 %	Specification and track record of tools, and a description of their operation and data to be acquired.
<b>5.3 Knowledge-based understanding of the assignment and plan for performance of the acquisition</b>	30 %	Detailed description of how the work is proposed to be performed, including risk assessment.
<b>4.4 Optional relevant acquisition methods</b>	10 %	Description and specification of possible additional tools and methods that the bidder may offer as relevant to include in the project.

## 5 Submission and disposition of tender

### 5.1 Submission of tender

All tenders shall be submitted electronically via the Mercell portal, [www.mercell.no](http://www.mercell.no) by the tender deadline. Tenders delivered after the deadline will not be accepted. (The system does not permit tenders to be sent electronically via Mercell after the tender deadline.)

If you are not a Mercell customer, or you have questions regarding how the application functions, e.g. how to submit a tender, please contact Mercell Support at tel +47 21 01 88 60, or by e-mail to [support@mercell.com](mailto:support@mercell.com). It is recommended to submit the tender in adequate time before the deadline. A minimum of one day before the deadline is recommended.

If the authority should provide additional information that results in you wanting to change your tender before the deadline, you can access your offer, open it, make the necessary changes and send it again right up to the deadline. The last submitted tender will be regarded as the final one.

The tender requires an electronic signature when it is submitted. When sending the tender electronically, an electronic signature will be requested to confirm that you are the actual bidder who has submitted the tender. An electronic signature can be obtained at [www.commfides.com](http://www.commfides.com), [www.buypass.no](http://www.buypass.no) or [www.bankid.no](http://www.bankid.no).

We would like to remind you that it can take some days to acquire an electronic signature, and therefore recommend that this process be initiated as soon as possible.

## 5.2 Disposition of tender

The tender shall be enunciated in English and as in this disposition:

Documents required	Documents are to be enclosed under the tab Dokumenter/Documents when you submit the tender in Mercell.
<b>DOC01 – Cover page</b>	Signed by a responsible/liable representative for the bidder. Confirmation that the NPD's contract terms are accepted, ref. Appendix 2. Reservations with reference to specific contract clauses must be quoted with alternative proposals. Name and contact information of the bidder.
<b>DOC02 – Prices</b>	See award criterion 5.1 and appendix 1
<b>DOC03 – Total package of acquisition tools</b>	See award criterion 5.2 and appendix 1
<b>DOC04 – Knowledge-based understanding of the assignment and plan for performance of the acquisition</b>	See award criterion 5.3 and appendix 1.
<b>DOC05 - Optional relevant acquisition methods</b>	See award criterion 5.4 and appendix 1.

## 6 Appendices

### 6.1 Appendix 1 - Scope of work

Appendix 1 is enclosed in a separate PDF-file.

### 6.2 Appendix 2 – Contract terms

Appendix 2 is enclosed in a separate PDF-file.