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PROCUREMENT DOCUMENT

**For open procedure over
Economic Area (EEA)-threshold
for procurement of**

**Platforms and sensors for extension of the “Lofoten-
Vesterålen Cabled Ocean Observatory” (LoVe)**

Case No. 2017/361



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Attachment No.	Attached documents	Included in the procurement documents
Attachment 1A	Contract frontpage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attachment 1B	Contract with exhibits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attachment 2	Tender letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attachment 3	Declaration of commitment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attachment 4	Statement regarding wages and working conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attachment 5	Reference form	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. ABBREVIATIONS AND EXPRESSIONS

The following abbreviations, names and expressions are used in the documents:

Abbreviation	Explanation	Notes
Procurement Act	Norwegian Public Procurement Act of 17 June 2016, No. 73	
Public Procurement Regulations	Norwegian Public Procurement Regulations of 12 August 2016 No. 974	
Offl.	Norwegian Freedom of	

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	Information Act of 19 May 2006, No. 16	
FVL	Norwegian Public Administration Act of 10 February 1967, No. 9	
ESPD	European Single Procurement Document	ESPD is a self-declaration form used in public procurement procedures by public buyers and businesses in the EU/ EEC.
DOFFIN	Database for Public Procurement	Norwegian database of public procurements
TED	Tenders Electronic Daily	European database of public procurements
Merccell		IMR uses the Merccell tender management tool to manage this procedure.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 About the Contracting Authority

The Institute of Marine Research (hereinafter IMR) is a national, advisory research institute, owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. The Institute performs research and gives advice related to marine ecosystems and aquaculture. IMR is the largest marine research institution in Norway, has a highly qualified scientific staff, high-tech research field-stations and laboratories, and possess several research vessels. The Institute has its main office in Bergen and has a total of over 750 employees.

For more information, please visit our website; www.imr.no.

3.2 Background

LoVe originates from the Norwegian Ocean Observatory Network (NOON) and spurred by a Statoil/IMR initiative for a first node, financed by Statoil and deployed

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in Vesterålen in 2013 (<http://love.statoil.com/>)

LoVe is a cabled infrastructure in an ecological, geological, oceanographic and economic hotspot that supports basic scientific research as well as responds to pressing societal and commercial challenges. The project aims at preparing the ground for a next generation infrastructure of a permanent interactive presence in the ocean, supporting sustainable monitoring and management of the marine environment. This includes understanding of ecosystems, marine resources, bio-geological and chemical processes, with emphasize on impact of global climate change. LoVe will also in the future contribute to development of early warning systems for geo-hazards and will be a test bed for new technologies.

The technology is based on Norwegian subsea expertise developed for the petroleum industry, secured by the industry partnership (NCE Subsea and Statoil ASA). LoVe has further 8 scientific partners covering expertise within geology, chemistry, ecology, fisheries, oceanography, modeling and technology. In 2014 the Norwegian Fishermen's Association expanded the consortium, which is expected to become a melting pot of competence and generator of novel ideas due to the broadness and complementarity of the expertise. The infrastructure and data will be available to the research community, secured by cooperation with another established infrastructure project (NMDC).

LoVe will support data and model prediction of the High North's physical, chemical, geological and biological environment including its fisheries resources and thus satisfy societal and political requirements set for the governance of marine assets of the High North. LoVe will serve as an example for development of Norway's next generation monitoring system. A strong international science and technology network will secure long term efficient development of LoVe.

The Research Council of Norway has funded the extension of the “Lofoten-Vesterålen Cabled Ocean Observatory” through the “National Financing Initiative for Research Infrastructure”, with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) as project owner.

The funding covers the extension of an existing infrastructure, operated by IMR and Statoil, consisting of a land station (Myre, Norway, 68.81 latitude, 14.57 longitude, decimal degrees) supplying power (3kV) and communication / optical fibers through a 23 km subsea umbilical to a subsea distribution unit (SDU, 240m depth, 68.91 latitude, 14.27 longitude, decimal degrees).

The subsea distribution units terminate the fiber and transform and deliver 220V

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power and data communication to sensor platforms (Hola, 230m) through wet-mateable subsea connectors.

This document gives a general description of the procurement. Detailed specifications are given in Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit E: Specification.

The contract will be awarded to the economically most advantageous tender, cf. chapter 4 below.

3.3 Scope of the contract

The existing infrastructure will now be extended with Nodes 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 (Node 6 is an option).

The backbone power and communication system of the extension will be manufactured and deployed by Subsea 7 in 2017. The backbone will include Subsea Distribution Units (SDUs) at Nodes 1, 2 and 3.

The present tender invitation is to supply and install the sensor platforms. Specifically it includes:

- A set of sensors, varying between nodes.
- A sensor platform for each node, to host the sensors.
- Power and communication connections to the backbone system.
- Onshore storage of sensor data.

The sensor platforms must be installed and working no later than by the end of August 2018.

See Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit E: Specification for a detailed specification of the Contract Object.

3.4 Budget for the procurement

The extension is financed by the Research Council of Norway (RCN), together with in-kind contributions from partners in the LoVe consortium.

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The budget is limited to about 35 mill NOK for the platforms and sensors.

Furthermore there is a budget limited to about 10 mill NOK for service and maintenance the next 5 years.

3.5 Splitting up deliverables

It will not be possible to apply for delivery of only parts of the contract, although the use of subcontractors is allowed.

3.6 Use of Subcontractors

When using subcontractors, or any resources belonging to other companies, the following applies, according to Public Procurement Regulations § 16-10 :

- a) The tenderer must describe how he will exercise control over the resources belonging to subcontractors. Furthermore, the tenderer must document that he actually disposes of the resources offered by subcontractors, by written agreement, binding statement or similar, cf. Attachment 4: Declaration of commitment.
IMR will hold the tenderer accountable for all services and products delivered by the tenderer's subcontractors in the same manner and against the same standards as services and products provided by the tenderer himself.
- b) IMR reserves the right to approve or disapprove the tenderers choice of subcontractors. Any economical compensation claims or expenses incurred in such a process are to be carried by the tenderer.
- c) A short description of each subcontractor's organization, company form and owner structure, in addition to the name of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Manager to be included.
- d) Subcontractors shall be listed in Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit H Subcontractors.
- e) Where the tenderer relies on the capacities of other entities, the tenderer must submit an electronic self-declaration form, European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) from the subcontractor. The self-declaration form must be submitted together with the tender to show that the supplier is meeting the qualification criteria and that there are no reasons for exclusion. See section 5 in this document for further information.

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3.7 Procurement announcement

This procurement is announced in DOFFIN (www.doffin.no), TED (www.ted.europa.eu) and in Mercell (www.mercell.com).

4. THE PROCEDURE

4.1 Laws and regulations

IMR will conduct the procurement in accordance with *The Norwegian Public Procurement Act* and corresponding regulations on public procurement, part I and III- as an Open Procedure (*Åpen anbudskonkurranse*) over European Economic Area (EEA)- threshold.

An open procedure implies that the procurement process is a one step process, which means that both the qualification of the tenderers and the award of the contract will take place at the same stage of the process.

In an open procedure the tender may not be modified after the tender deadline or be changed through negotiations. If anything is unclear in the tenders, the contracting authority has the opportunity to provide clarification, provided that the ambiguous parts do not mean that the tender must be rejected according to the Norwegian Public Procurement Regulations.

If the tender appears to contain errors, ambiguities or omissions, the contracting authority can ask the tenderers to provide and/or clarify these things within a short additional deadline. However, supplemental information/clarification should not result in improving the terms of the tender because this would be contrary to the general prohibition against negotiating.

4.2 Changes to the tender specifications

If necessary, IMR can make minor corrections, additions or changes to the tender specifications prior to the tender deadline. These types of corrections, additions or changes will be sent to everyone who has registered interest in the tender competition in Mercell. If the competition is revised, it must be shown as a new version of the competition.

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4.3 Communication and providing information

Confirmation of participation in the competition must be done electronically in Mercell. Click on the tab 'Make bid' and then click the button 'I want to make bid' or 'I do not want to make bid.' This is only meant to be an indicator for the contracting authority of the number of tenders that can be expected, and it is not binding.

All communication in this process must take place via the Mercell portal so that it can be logged. If tenderers have questions about the procedure or discover errors in the tender documents, these concerns should be communicated via Mercell. Select the "Communication" tab.. Then click at the "new message"-icon and write your message. Then click the "Send" icon. The contracting authority will then receive the message.

If the contracting authority receives messages that affect all tenderers, the questions will be anonymised, answered and made available to all suppliers who have expressed interest in the procedure. The communication system in Mercell will also be used by the contracting authority when making changes to the documents. In terms of additional information, this is displayed via the "Communication" tab in the Mercell portal.

All communication and documentation regarding this procurement shall be in English and/or Norwegian.

4.4 Deadline for questions regarding the tender document

Deadline for questions regarding the procurement documents is stated in Mercell.

All questions have to be in writing and in English or Norwegian.

All questions and other communication shall be sent via the Mercell portal as described above.

4.5 Deviations by the supplier

Deviations are permitted if they are not significant. Tenders that contain significant deviations from the procurement documents will be rejected. Significant deviations are defined as:

- Reservations/deviations from the requirements.



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- Extensive reservations/deviations contract terms
- Reservations and/or deviations that cannot be calculated in terms of cost
- Requirements to use own (supplier's) delivery and/or sales terms
- Lack of acceptance of the contracting authority's terms such as delivery terms, payment terms, etc.
- Several minor reservations/deviations that when treated as a whole may be considered as significant
- Reservations and/or deviations that prevent the contracting authority from being able to compare the tender with other tenders

Deviations must be specified in the tender letter and be precisely and clearly described so that the customer can estimate the costs for them without contacting the tenderer. In evaluating the tenders, reservations and/or deviations may result in additional costs being added to the tender price.

It is recommended that tenderers pose clarifying questions instead of claiming reservations. Be advised that there is a deadline for asking questions.

4.6 Alternative tenders

Alternative tenders will be accepted in the sense that more than one solution may be proposed for point-to-point communication between Node 4 and Node 5 and – if Node 6 is included – between Node 2 and Node 6. See section 2.6 of Exhibit E: Customer requirement specification.

The price of each alternative must be clearly stated, including installation and maintenance costs, such that the life cycle costs of the total LoVe system are clear for each alternative (see section 7.1 Award criteria 1). Similarly, the quality of each alternative must be clearly explained (section 7.1 Award criteria 2). Procedures for installation and maintenance are important aspects of both life cycle costs and quality.

4.7 Cancelling the competition

The contracting authority reserves the right to cancel the tender procedure or reject all tenders in the competition in case there are reasonable grounds. Reservation is made regarding sufficient budget coverage for the implementation of the procurement.

4.8 Costs for participating in the competition

Suppliers must bear all the costs of participating in the competition.

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4.9 Public access to the competition documents

The contracting authority will keep the procurement protocol and tenders in the competition shielded from public view until the contractor is chosen. Thereafter, only the information in the tenders that is considered trade secrets or personal information subject to confidentiality, is exempt from public viewing.

The contracting authority will complete an independent assessment of the existing documents when determining the required level of access. Public access to the tenders is allowed according to the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act, the Norwegian Public Administration Act and the Norwegian Public Procurement Regulations.

The Freedom of Information Act does not require consent to be obtained to provide access.

4.10 Bidder's conference

A bidder's Conference will take place on the 30th of May 2017 at 9:00/9 am (Local Time Bergen, Norway) on video conference.

For joining the conference, please use this Skype link:

<p>Join Skype Meeting</p> <p>Trouble Joining? Try Skype Web App</p> <p>Help</p>

During the bidder's conference it will be given a short presentation of the specification of the platforms, the sensors and the installation. Furthermore, information regarding competition regulations, legal and formal requirements regarding the tender, the content of the tender and the delivery of the tender will be given.

A written report from the bidder's conference will be published on Mercell/ Doffin / TED.

4.11 Bidders expenses

Any expenses that the tenderers have for the development, delivery and follow up of the tender and the procurement process will not be compensated by the contracting authority.

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Participation in the tender process will not in any way oblige the contracting authority to enter into a contract with any of the tenderers, or give the contracting authority any economical obligation as a result of the procurement process itself.

5. QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

5.1 ESPD

European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) is a self-declaration of the tenderer's financial status, abilities and suitability for a public procurement procedure. It is used as a preliminary evidence of fulfilment of the conditions required in public procurement procedures across the EU. The ESPD is to be filled out in Mercell.

Prior to awarding the contract, the selected supplier will be asked to provide updated proof of documentation.

Where the tenderer relies on the capacities of other entities, the tenderer must submit the information required in the ESPD for the subcontractor(s) as well.

Tenderers may be excluded from the procedure if the information in the ESPD is seriously misrepresented, withheld or cannot be complemented with supporting documents, cf. *regulations on public procurement* § 24-2.

References must be filled out in attachment 5 – Reference form.

6. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

In Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit E: Specification, the contracting authority's requirements to the items to be procured (the Contract Object) are clearly specified. If the offered products do not meet some of the requirements with priority A, this must be specified in the Tender letter, cf. Attachment 2. The deviations from the specification should be precise and unambiguous and should be described in such a detail that the contracting authority can assess the deviations without contacting the tenderer.

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6.1 Specification

The Customer requirement specifications are stated as part of the contract with Exhibits, and are found in Exhibit E, cf. Attachment 1b: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit E: Specification.

6.2 Description of the requirements

The different requirements stated in Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit E: Specifications have different priorities.

Priority A. Absolute requirements that must be fulfilled. Tenders that do not fulfill all the absolute requirements will be rejected cf. *regulations on public procurement* § 24-8.

Priority B. Important requirements that should be fulfilled, but are not an absolute requirement. Answers will be of great importance for the evaluation of the tender, cf. section 4.1 Award criteria below.

7. THE DECISION

7.1 Award criteria

The contract will be awarded the tenderer which has delivered the tender with the best price-quality ratio, according to the below specified award criteria. The tenderers which fulfil the requirements stated in the ESPD (cf. section 5), and Priority A requirements stated in Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit E: Specification, will get their tenders evaluated on the basis of the below stated award criteria with corresponding weights.

The award criteria with corresponding weights are:

Award criteria	Weight
1. Cost	60 %
2. Quality	40%
Sum	100%

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Award criteria 1 – Cost:

In this award criterion the tenderers shall state the total cost for the system the first five years, as stated in Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract, Exhibit E: Specification.

The price will cover all the following costs:

- **Platforms and sensors:**
A fixed price for the platforms with sensors in accordance with the technical- and functional specifications in this tender, cf. Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract, Exhibit E: Specification.
- **Deployment and installation:**
Prices for the delivery and installation of the platforms with instruments, deployed and tested on site.
- **Maintenance cost the first cycle:**
Fixed price for maintenance cost for the system, including spare parts, during the first cycle. This first cycle will last until the system is retrieved, maintained and redeployed, at the earliest after one year. After this cycle the contracting authority will pay for spare parts.
- **Maintenance cost after the first cycle:**
Estimated maintenance cost for the system after the first maintenance cycle, for the first five years after signing of the delivery protocol, based on documentation on how, and how often the system must be maintained. All costs must be included, except use of items disposed by IMR, with operation area relevant for LoVe, as described in Exhibit G: Company Provided Items and Services.
- **Licences/updates:**
Eventual costs for license(s), updates, etc.
- **Cost for a service agreement:**
The tenderer shall propose a service plan. All service and maintenance shall be done by the contractor in the first cycle, until the system is maintained and redeployed after minimum one year. The whole service agreement or parts of it shall thereafter be automatically renewed for a term of one (1) year at a time,

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unless the Company terminates the whole Agreement or part of it by giving three (3) months' notice prior to the renewal date. If not terminated by the Company, the total term of the Agreement will be a minimum five (5) years. The Contractor may terminate the Agreement after 5 years by giving twelve (12) months' notice prior to the renewal date.

- **Options:**

Included in the contract are also separate options for procurement and installation of the items specified in Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract, Exhibit E: Specification, sections 2.4 and 2.8 and Exhibit B, section 2.6.

The tenderers are to state the price for the procurement and installation of the above mentioned options individually and separately from the fixed price for the other equipment.

IMR estimates that there is a 30 % probability for each of the options to be redeemed after contract signing. Thus, 30 % of the stated price for each of the optional equipment will be added to the fixed price during evaluation of the tender under Award Criteria 1 - Price.

All prices shall be given in Norwegian kroner (NOK) in Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit B - Compensation.

Award criteria 2 - Quality:

In this award criterion the quality of the offered items is to be evaluated, beyond those quality aspects stated as priority A requirements in Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit E – Specification. Tenders that do not meet these absolute (mandatory) requirements will be rejected.

Quality will be evaluated by considering sub-criteria, listed in order of decreasing importance as follows:

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- Quality and robustness/reliability: The tenderers are to document quality and reliability of the installation in an operational phase by e.g. providing user reference or similar.
- Maintenance-friendliness and flexibility of the technology: The tenderers are to describe how maintenance can be carried out: Flexibility of what kind of vessels that are possible to use for the different operations (size of vessel, specification of winches). Flexibility of what ROVs or other solutions that are necessary, and including how to connect/disconnect instrument platforms.
- Performance above minimum: Fulfilment of requirements priority B, cf. Attachment 1: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05, Exhibit E: Specification
- Quality/credibility of the tenderer's own assessment of the performance of the offered wireless communication.
- Extension possibilities: The tenderers are to describe flexibility; possibilities for adding additional equipment and sensors to the offered instrument platforms.

The tenderers have an independent responsibility to document each of the award criteria stated above.

7.2 Rejection

IMR reserves the right to cancel the competition (the tender procedure) or reject all tenders in the competition in case there are reasonable grounds, cf. regulations on public procurement § 22-1.

Reservation is made regarding sufficient budget coverage for the implementation of the procurement.

5.3 Contract award notice

Decision on the award of the contract will be noticed in writing, to all tenderers, cf. regulations on public procurement § 22-3.



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8. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TENDER

8.1 Documents to be submitted

The following documentation must be included with the tender:

No.	Requirements/criteria	Documentation
a.	Tender letter	The tender letter must be filled out.
b.	Award criteria 1 - Cost	Filled out Exhibit B - Compensation.
c.	Award criteria 2 - Quality	Filled out Exhibit E: Customer requirement specification
d.	Declaration of commitment	When using subcontractors, or any resources belonging to other companies, the tenderer must document that he actually disposes of the resources offered by subcontractors, by written agreement, binding statement or similar, cf. Attachment 3: Statement of commitment.
e.	Wages and conditions of work	Filled out Attachment 4 - Declaration regarding wages and working conditions
f.	Reference form	Filled out Attachment 5 – Reference form
g.	Relevant annexes	

8.2 Tender submission

The tender must be delivered via Merzell. Questions about how to use Merzell should be directed to Merzell Support.

- Telephone: +47 21 01 88 60

- email: support@merzell.com

It is recommended to submit the tender well in advance of the deadline. It is possible

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to change the tender until the tender deadline expires. The last tender submitted will be considered to be the final tender.

8.3 Validity and price format

The tender must be valid at least three – 3 – months after the deadline for delivery of tenders.

All prices shall be given in NOK.

8.4 Contract and Special Conditions

A contract will be signed with one - 1 – supplier. cf. Attachment 1b: Norwegian Subsea Contract NSC 05 w/Exhibits.