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To whom it may  
Concern,

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Your ref:

Our ref: **TCA 3/7/750**

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Last reviewed 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Sirs

## **TENDER FOR CONTRACT FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY SERVICES IN UK AND EUROPEAN WATERS**

We have received questions for the above-mentioned tender, and to ensure that all tenderers have access to the same information, we have copied the questions and our answers to you:

### **Question 1**

Are the shape files available for the new 2018 ITT?

Response

Each Hydrographic Instruction contains a section detailing the area to be surveyed. This includes a coordinates table with latitude and longitude points provided in the geographic ETRS89 coordinate system. These coordinates can be used to create GIS shapefiles where desired.

### **Question 2**

Para 8.6 – SBES deliverables – Is this for Lot 3 surveys only or additional to MBES data in Lots 1 & 2?

P12 of the specs (section 4.12 to 4.22) mentions SBES as being part of Lot 3 activities but SBES is again mentioned on p25 (Section 8.6) as being a deliverable for “each HI”.

Response

I can confirm that the single-beam (SBES) requirement only applies to Lot 3.

As part of Lot 3 there is the potential for some SBES works. Where required, the specific SBES details will be described in the Lot 3 Hydrographic Instructions when issued.

### **Question 3**

When looking at the price schedule there is no place dedicated to a mob and demob charge. It is understood that the respective HIs will be contracted en bloc but how would the MCA like to see the mob and demob allocated, simply for example linearly added to each HI from one respective year/block?

Response

The inclusive price for each HI should include mobilisation and demobilisation. Each HI will be awarded separately not 'en bloc'. We may of course award several HIs in parallel but separately. Where the supplier considers cost savings could be made e.g. by pairing 2 adjacent HIs which would therefore result in efficiencies and reduce the mob and demob costs this should be identified on the price schedule.

### **Question 4**

Would the MCA approve data acquisition by means of ASV/USV if the sensors will be all fitted and aligned according to the stipulated specifications?

Response

Suppliers are required to demonstrate how they will fully meet the technical requirements as specified in the CHP Survey Specification. If supplier wishes to propose innovative solutions (e.g. equipment or survey platform) they must fully evidence ability and capability of delivering the required deliverables in accordance with all aspects of the CHP Survey Specification, detailing any mitigation measures and methodology that may be required.

### **Question 5**

Is there an opportunity to extend the current deadline for receipt of tenders?

Response

MCA is not looking to extend the deadline for receipt of tenders as the period for tender preparation is sufficient and reasonable.

### **Question 6**

Will MCA / UKHO provide electronic charts for the survey areas to be priced to aid survey design and planning?

Response

Electronic charts will only be provided on award of the specific HIs, and therefore will not be provided at this stage.

### **Question 7**

In the UK\_CHP\_Survey\_Specification\_2018 section 8.5 and 8.6 the proposed data deliverable format is only specified as a Caris HIPS project in their proprietary format HDCS. Is it possible to also deliver multibeam and singlebeam data in other formats, namely GSF file format or QPS Qimera, Hypack or Eiva projects?

Response

The MCA actively considered alternative, 'open' file formats, and there was extensive consultation with UKHO regarding available technical options and formats.

In order for the UKHO to continue to undertake the full, robust level of validation of CHP data on behalf of the MCA, the UKHO reviewed the available formats. Subject to technical and financial criteria, the UKHO stated the specified format of the deliverable as a CARIS HIPS project, and the MCA were required to accept the UKHO position.

Data may be collected and processed using any suitable software, however the format of the deliverable is as specified.

### **Question 8**

Can you confirm Licensing / Permitting costs for all HI areas are to be included in the project costings supplied by contractors.

If this is the case then please can you confirm these rates to be included for each of the HI areas and also that there is agreement between MCA and relevant bodies that these rates will be held for the duration of the CHP contract (up to 5 years).

Alternatively will there be a mechanism for contractors to recover additional costs should these licenses / permits increase in cost during the CHP contract?

Response

The costs associated with obtaining the necessary licences for each HI are to be included in the project costings supplied by the contractors.

Currently, a number of the relevant bodies are reviewing their licence application process and costs. Therefore, the MCA are unable to provide the rates for obtaining the necessary licences, nor have formal arrangements with the relevant bodies that these costs will be fixed for the duration of the contract period.

Contractors should state the cost for obtaining the necessary licence for each HI. If costs are higher than those stated or increase during the contract period the MCA will provide a mechanism for the Contractor to recover these additional costs

### **Question 9**

In the *Instructions for Tenderers v2* document under point 31 it is requested that details shall be provided on the approx. weather standby time for each vessel for each of the given survey areas.

On what statistical basis do you want the weather down time to be calculated? Can you provide weather statistics for each of the survey areas or are there statistics openly available?

Response

Contractors are required to calculate and provide an approx. weather standby for each vessel for each of the given survey areas, based on their survey methodology and experience.

### **Question 10**

On p.11 of document *UK\_CHP\_Survey\_Specification\_2018*, it is requested that water column data shall be logged for further analysis during all wreck investigation lines. Here, you further specify that it should be imported into the final CARIS HIPS data structure.

Does this mean CARIS HIPS is the preferred data acquisition/processing software not only for WCD but also for MBES data? Or does the MCA accept other software packages such as QINSy and FMMidwater?

Response

See Q7

### **Question 11**

p.23 7.13: Is there a specific protocol to be followed regarding the seabed sampling? Is there specific/preferred equipment to be used? How much sediment is required to be sampled at each location?

Response

The requirement as stated in 7.13 outlines the minimum sampling regime. The Contractor will provide evidence and information, based on their survey methodology and experience, regarding how they intend to meet the requirement for seabed sampling to determine the nature of the seabed (e.g. number and spatial distribution of samples, volumes of samples, etc.). There is no specified protocol or methodology for seabed sampling.

### **Question 12**

p.23 7.14: Is there a specific timeframe after which the seabed samples have to be forwarded to the British Geological Survey?

Response

There is no specified timeframe for delivery of seabed samples to BGS, however there is an expectation that samples will be forwarded to BGS within a reasonable timeframe following sample collection and completion of associated analysis.

**Question 13**

p.23 7.15: Can you supply the H575 form for reference?

Response

Yes, see document in attachments.

**Question 14**

Can the MCA release the RRS (Lot 3) survey areas as part of this tendering process? It is presumed that the current contractor will have them and as such some further information would be beneficial to aid competitive tendering of this lot

Response

The specific HIs for Lot 3 Routine Resurvey will be provided following contract award.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Skeats MCIPS  
MCA Procurement Team