**OVERVIEW**

NERC’s National Oceanography Centre have a requirement for Argo Floats to sample the North and South Atlantic Oceans. The procurement will consist of up to 35 floats. All floats will measure Conductivity, Temperature and Depth.

Some of the floats will be upper ocean (2000 metres) floats that will also measure dissolved oxygen and seawater pH.

Some of the floats will be Deep Argo floats. Of these deep floats, some are required to measure dissolved oxygen.

Some of the deep floats are required to measure full ocean depth in the subtropical South Atlantic, and must therefore have a depth capability of 6000 metres.

In view of the need for a number of varying technical specifications to include the required depth of operation, the addition of sensors, and the capacity to measure dissolved oxygen, the requirement will be purchased across four tender procedures which will consist of the following:

* Floats capable of diving to at least 2000 metres, with dissolved oxygen and pH sensors.
* Floats capable of diving to at least 4000 metres, with CTD sensors only (no oxygen).
* Floats capable of diving to at least 4000 metres, with CTD and dissolved oxygen sensors.
* Floats capable of diving up to 6000 metres, with CTD and dissolved oxygen sensors.

The funding is available only in the 2016/17 UK financial year and delivery is required by the end of the financial year.

* Depth capability up to 6000m
* 2-way Iridium communications
* The ability to update mission parameters during float lifetime (i.e. park depth, max descent depth, time at park, vertical sampling)
* The floats shall be fitted with:
	+ CTD: SeaBird61
	+ Oxygen: Aanderaa Optode or SeaBird Optical Dissolved Oxygen sensors