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To whom it may
Concern,

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Your ref:

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

First issued 20th March 2018

Last reviewed 10th 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 (updated 10/04 with further explanation)

Multibeam and singlebeam bathymetry data may be collected and processed using any suitable software, to enable and encourage innovation and efficiency.

In order to maintain the integrity of the CHP it is essential that the CHP data receive a full, robust level of validation. Currently, there is a requirement for the format of the deliverable to be fully imported into the UKHO's CARIS-based work stream to enable the UKHO to appraise the data on behalf of the MCA.

The MCA actively considered alternative 'open' file formats, and there was extensive consultation with UKHO regarding available technical options and formats. The available bathymetric survey data formats were reviewed and compatibility with the CARIS-based work stream was assessed.

Following technical assessments, the only acceptable deliverable is a Caris HIPS project in HDCS format.

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 (updated 10/04 with further explanation)

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. 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.

Therefore, Contractors should state the estimated cost for obtaining the necessary licence for each HI. If actual costs are higher or lower than those stated, or increase during the contract period, the MCA may provide a mechanism for the Contractor or MCA to recover the difference between estimated and actual 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 (updated 10/04 with further explanation)

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. Weather statistics for each of the proposed survey areas are not available.

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 (updated 10/04 with further explanation)

Water Column Data and multibeam bathymetry data may be collected and processed using any suitable software, to enable and encourage innovation and efficiency.

The only specification requirement is for the WCD to be imported in the final Caris HIPS data structure.

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.

Question 15

it appears that there is no column available in the pricing schedule v4 for Lot 1, yr. 2 HI 1597?

Response

This has been incorporated into Pricing Schedule v5

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Skeats', followed by a comma.

Richard Skeats MCIPS
MCA Procurement Team