REQUEST FOR QUOTATION
(THIS IS NOT AN ORDER)

THIS RFQ ☐ IS ☒ IS NOT A SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE

1. REQUEST NUMBER	2. DATE ISSUED	3. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQUEST NUMBER	4. CERT. FOR NAT. DEF. UNDER BDSA REG. 2 AND/OR DMS REG. 1	RATING
140M0126Q0033	06/22/2026			

5a. ISSUED BY BOEM-HQ
45600 Woodland Road, VAE-AMD
Sterling VA 20166-9216

6. DELIVER BY *(Date)*: Multiple

7. DELIVERY: ☒ FOB DESTINATION ☐ OTHER *(See Schedule)*

5b. FOR INFORMATION CALL *(NO COLLECT CALLS)*

NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER	
	AREA CODE	NUMBER
Michelle Potter	703	787-1007

8. TO:

a. NAME	b. COMPANY

c. STREET ADDRESS

d. CITY	e. STATE	f. ZIP CODE

9. DESTINATION

a. NAME OF CONSIGNEE

b. STREET ADDRESS

c. CITY

d. STATE	e. ZIP CODE

10. PLEASE FURNISH QUOTATIONS TO THE ISSUING OFFICE IN BLOCK 5a ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS *(Date)*: 07/10/2026 1700 ED

IMPORTANT: This is a request for information and quotations furnished are not offers. If you are unable to quote, please so indicate on this form and return it to the address in Block 5a. This request does not commit the Government to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the submission of this quotation or to contract for supplies or service. Supplies are of domestic origin unless otherwise indicated by quoter. Any representations and/or certifications attached to this Request for Quotation must be completed by the quoter.

11. SCHEDULE *(Include applicable Federal, State and local taxes)*

ITEM NUMBER (a)	SUPPLIES/SERVICES (b)	QUANTITY (c)	UNIT (d)	UNIT PRICE (e)	AMOUNT (f)
	This RFQ is being issued by the United States (U.S.) Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Acquisition and Property Management, BSEE/BOEM Programs. The purpose of this RFQ is to obtain competitive quotations in response to the Government's Requirement for PC-26-01A, Pacific Deepwater Investigations, Research, and Technology (PAC-DIRT) Study.				

12. DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT	a. 10 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	b. 20 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	c. 30 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	d. CALENDAR DAYS	
				NUMBER	PERCENTAGE

NOTE: Additional provisions and representations ☐ are ☐ are not attached.

13. NAME AND ADDRESS OF QUOTER			14. SIGNATURE OF PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN QUOTATION	15. DATE OF QUOTATION
a. NAME OF QUOTER				
b. STREET ADDRESS			16. SIGNER	
			a. NAME *(Type or print)*	b. TELEPHONE
c. COUNTY				AREA CODE
d. CITY	e. STATE	f. ZIP CODE	c. TITLE *(Type or print)*	NUMBER

COMBINED SYNOPSIS AND SOLICITATION:

This is a Combined Synopsis and Solicitation for commercial items prepared under the authority of, and in accordance with the format of, the FAR Part 12 – Acquisition of Commercial Products and Commercial Services as specified in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Overhaul, including RFO 12.202(b)(1), and is supplemented with additional information included in this notice. This notice constitutes the only solicitation; quotations are being requested, and a written solicitation document will not be issued.

This solicitation is a Request for Quotations (RFQ). This RFQ is an Unrestricted Competitive Solicitation.

The Product Service Code B510 – Studies & Analyses Environmental Assessments, is applicable to the Government's Requirements. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code 541620 – Environmental Consulting Services, with a small business size standard of $19 million, is applicable to the Government's Requirements.

This RFQ is being issued by the United States (U.S.) Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Acquisition and Property Management, BSEE/BOEM Programs. The purpose of this RFQ is to obtain competitive quotations in response to the Government's Requirement for PC-26-01A, Pacific Deepwater Investigations, Research, and Technology (PAC-DIRT) Study. As result of this RFQ, the Government anticipates awarding and issuing a single Firm Fixed Price Purchase Order to satisfy the Government's Requirements. The estimated period of performance for this requirement is award through 18 months.

The place of performance for the anticipated order will be at the vendor's facility. Quotes are due to be received at the time and place identified in Section 4 of the RFQ.

POC:
Michelle Potter
Contracting Officer
Department of Interior
Acquisition Management Division, Acquisition Operations Branch,
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166.

Questions must be emailed to Michelle Potter at email address: michelle_potter@ios.doi.gov.

SECTION 1
PRICING

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

This acquisition is being conducted in accordance with FAR Part 12 – Acquisition of Commercial Products and Commercial Services as specified in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Overhaul. Under this Request for Quote (RFQ), the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Acquisition and Property Management, BSEE/BOEM Programs anticipates awarding a firm fixed price (FFP) type purchase order for the services detailed in the Statement of Work (SOW). The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for this acquisition is 541620, *Environmental Consulting Services* with small business size standard of $19 million.

1.2 CONTRACT LINE ITEM/PRICING

The specific details and descriptions of the **Contract Line Item Numbers (CLIN)** is described as follows: (* = The Quoter is required to fill-in its pricing where yellow-highlighted as part of its price quotation):

CLIN	DESCRIPTION	Total FFP
00010:	PAC-DIRT Study in accordance with Section 2: SOW This is a FFP CLIN.	*$

1.3 PARTIAL DELIVERY PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

The following Partial Delivery Payment Schedule is for the Firm-Fixed-Price portion of this requirement as specified under CLIN 00010. Payment shall be made upon Contractor delivery and Government acceptance of the following deliverables: (* = The Quoter is required to fill in the deliverables and the payment amount):

Payment	Milestone/Deliverable	FFP Payment
Base Year		
1	Deliverable 1*	*$
2	Deliverable 2*	*$
3	Deliverable 3*	*$

SECTION 2
STATEMENT OF WORK
FOR
PC-26-01A, Pacific Deepwater Investigations, Research, and Technology (PAC-DIRT)

2.1 PURPOSE

Recent directives, such as Executive Orders 14285 (*Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources*) and 14154 (*Unleashing American Energy*), and Secretarial Order 3417 (*Addressing the National Energy Emergency*), have identified seabed mineral resources as a top priority. Development of these resources will require environmental analyses at multiple stages throughout the process, such as leasing and any subsequent plan approvals. One potential impact of seabed mining is the introduction of suspended sediment and discharges, which has been highlighted as a topic of concern by public comment periods.

The purpose of this project is to increase understanding of how environmental factors influence the spatial and temporal distribution of sediment plumes, both on the seafloor and within the water column. Planned field efforts in the region yielded sediment samples that could be analyzed to predict plume behavior. Anticipated outcomes will be better understanding of plume dynamics, resulting turbidity and discharges, and when and where particles may settle.

2.2 BACKGROUND

Under "traditional" technologies, seabed mining of polymetallic nodules may generate two sediment plumes: one created by the landing and movement of a collector vehicle on the seafloor (collector or benthic plume), and one created by the discharge of sediment and water after removing ore-bearing materials (dewatering or midwater plume). Both plumes have three main phases: discharge (i.e., from the vehicle wake or midwater release), buoyancy-driven spread, and passive transport (Peacock & Ouillon 2023). Sediment composition, particle behavior (Gillard et al. 2019), local currents, local bathymetry, and discharge depth (midwater) can influence these phases through complex interactions. Subsequently, these sediment plumes can impact biological communities, both on the seafloor and in the water column. Sediment plumes could impact water column communities by clogging suspension feeders (Stenvers et al. 2023), diluting organic matter, disrupting microbial processes (Orcutt et al. 2020), and introducing light and noise (Drazen et al. 2020). It has been estimated that 50% of deep-sea species can be affected by less than one order of magnitude increase (van der Grient & Drazen 2023). Responses can range from changes in behavior, feeding, growth, reproduction, physiology, stress, and mortality.

Upcoming expeditions to the Central and Western Pacific may provide low-cost opportunities to collect data and samples to support this study. For example, characterization of oceanographic parameters, such as bathymetry (via multibeam echosounder) and currents (via acoustic doppler current profiler), could support understanding of plume ignition and propagation (Munoz-Royo et al. 2022, Gazis et al. 2025). Physical sediment samples could be analyzed in the laboratory for sediment composition and particle behavior (e.g., flocculation). These data could be integrated to provide a regional understanding of the potential impacts from mining-generated sediment

plumes. As more site-specific data are collected, they can be used to refine models and interpretations.

2.3 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Task 1: Overall Project Planning and Management
The Recipient shall follow a *Study Plan* for this study that shall include a Project Manager (PM) with sufficient authority to serve as the Contract Administrator and point-of-contact with BOEM, and to provide leadership to the project team. The *Study Plan* must include a section discussing the Data Management Plan for this study, which shall include Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures and also procedures to ensure that all data sources used are clearly documented with metadata. The PM shall ultimately be responsible for all deliverables, budget control, quality assurance for all products, compliance, and adherence with the schedule of the study and shall ensure that all personnel work synergistically and cooperatively to achieve the goals and objectives of the study. The Recipient shall coordinate the execution of all tasks in the study and shall adhere to the *Study Plan*, pursuant to modifications agreed to by BOEM. This project requires regular interactions with BOEM to ensure that these research efforts will best meet BOEM's needs and inform future NEPA analysis. Correspondence includes emails and phone conferences as issues and problems arise that require BOEM's feedback and input. The PM shall ensure that deliverables shall be compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. The following deliverables are associated with Task 1:

- Post-Award Meeting Agenda and Draft Study Plan
- Post-Award Meeting Summary and Final Study Plan
- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Quarterly Progress Meetings and Meeting Summaries
- Correspondence
- Photographic Work Documentation
- Data Submission
- List of Purchased Equipment

Task 2: Sediment Analyses
Modeling experiments have shown that sediment plume behavior is highly sensitive to sediment properties such as the grain size distribution (Ouillon et al. 2022a,b), as settling velocities vary quadratically with the particle diameter. It is therefore paramount to measure basic sediment properties in areas under consideration for critical minerals leasing, as those sediment properties are expected to differ from the sediment in the 2021 Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone collector field trials (Gazis et al. 2025).
The Recipient will coordinate with federal partner research cruises to the Pacific to obtain sediment samples. Federal partners have agreed to sub-sample the upper ~5 cm of sediment from a box core or push core and measure some basic sediment properties. Federal partners have also agreed to ship sediment samples to the Recipient for further laboratory analyses to characterize the samples for sediment plume modeling. Key sediment properties may include:

- Grain size distribution
- Tendency to form flocs (e.g., Gillard et al. 2019)

- Particle settling velocities

Task 3: Sediment Plume Modeling

The Recipient shall use regional oceanographic and bathymetric data, and data on sediment properties from Task 2, to model sediment plume behavior. A series of modeling experiments will be conducted, for both benthic and midwater sediment plumes in the context of seabed mineral extraction. During the Period of Performance, additional data may become available and incorporated into the model, if reasonable. Modeling results shall include, at a minimum, horizontal and vertical footprints, sediment concentrations at varying distances from the disturbance site, and settling rates and times.

The Recipient shall utilize observations of bathymetry, ocean stratification, and currents from the partner cruises to initialize the model experiments. The cruises will conduct multibeam seafloor mapping, but it is not yet certain whether they will collect comprehensive hydrographic observations. If observations of ocean stratification and currents are not available, then the modeling experiments may need to be somewhat idealized.

The goals of the modeling experiments are to explore the behavior of benthic and midwater sediment plumes initialized with the appropriate sediment properties (Task 2) and oceanographic background conditions; and identify key uncertainties, which can help inform future observational efforts. In addition to providing scientific information on sediment plume behavior that is valuable in its own right, this work will aid BOEM environmental analyses.

Field studies have indicated that critical minerals mining operations create plumes with large enough sediment concentrations to alter the fluid buoyancy and trigger turbidity currents (Munoz-Royo et al. 2022, Gazis et al. 2025, Ouillon et al. 2025). A non-hydrostatic model may be necessary for the Recipient to resolve the near-field, buoyancy driven phase of the sediment plume (Peacock and Ouillon 2023), particularly for the case of benthic plumes, where bathymetric slopes can help sustain turbidity currents for hundreds of meters or longer (Gazis et al. 2025).

The settling time scale is much longer for mid-depth sediment plumes, due to the greater distance to the seafloor (Munoz-Royo et al. 2021, Ouillon et al. 2022a). Therefore, sediment may be transported horizontally over greater distances than for benthic plumes, and the Recipient may need to use ocean general circulation model fields (currents, temperature/salinity, etc.) to estimate the far-field sediment transport.

Detailed results shall be incorporated into the *Final Report* and *Technical Summary*, including model uncertainties and how to narrow those uncertainties in the future. The *Final Report* should also include interpretation of results, including how oceanographic (e.g. slope, current, water column features) and operational factors (e.g. discharge depth, vehicle speed) may influence plume behavior.

Task 4: Synthesize Information

The purpose of this task is to summarize and analyze the information and activities completed in previous tasks in a way that meets the overarching objective of the study and addresses research questions so that it is useful for decision-makers and stakeholders. These synthesis activities will occur throughout the study and culminate in a *Final Report* that shall be made available to the public except for the portions that may contain confidential information. Confidential information should be clearly marked and submitted at the same time as the *Draft and Final Reports*, but as discrete components.

The following deliverables are associated with Task 4:

- Draft Final Report including Draft Technical Summary
- Final Report including Technical Summary
- Journal Publication(s) and/or Oral Presentation(s)
- Final Oral Presentation
- Scientific Communication Products

2.4 MEETINGS, REPORTS, AND OTHER DELIVERABLES

Post-Award Meeting Agenda and Draft Study Plan

The Recipient will hold a *Post-Award Meeting* (PAM) via a video or hybrid in-person/video conference call within one month after Award begins on a date and time that is mutually agreeable to BOEM and the Recipient. The purpose of the PAM is to discuss roles, responsibilities, working relationships, major milestones, and task order deliverables. The Recipient will provide a *Meeting Agenda* and a *Draft Study Plan* one week prior to the *PAM* to allow for review by all key team members involved. The *Draft Study Plan* shall specify details concerning schedule, work assignments, project methodology, project management, and communications so that transparency, monitoring, and substantial government involvement by BOEM is enhanced.

Quarterly Progress Reports

Submit *Quarterly Progress Reports* within one week of the end of the quarter of the fiscal year to the CO, PO, and ESPR as email or email attachment. The *Quarterly Progress Reports* will include:

- A summary of work accomplished, and overall progress made in each task of the Agreement which shall include a list of datasets prepared, scientific presentations given (including a pdf submission of any presentation), and scientific manuscripts prepared and/or submitted for publication
- A summary of any significant problems encountered during the preceding three months, including an assessment of their probable impact on the Recipient's performance and statements of corrective actions taken or proposed
- A summary of any major technical findings and interpretations during the preceding three months
- A list of any meetings held or other contacts made in connection with the Agreement during the preceding three months, including a brief summary which outlines the subject, participants, date, location, and outcome of each such contact or meeting
- A summary of major work activities scheduled for the next three months
- A summary of any questions or problems regarding the Recipient's work requiring discussion or resolution with BOEM

Quarterly Progress Meetings and Meeting Summaries

Meeting invitations will be distributed to the PO, ESPR, and PI, and other key project team members as mutually agreed upon between the PO and the PI. The CO may also attend *Quarterly Progress Meetings* if desired. Meetings shall discuss *Quarterly Progress Reports* and be an opportunity where BOEM can provide real time direction or re-direction on data analysis

(that is within the purpose and scope of the study) based on early results and discuss other matters that may be important to the progress of the study. Within three days after each Meeting, the Recipient will send a *Meeting Summary* to CO, PO, and ESPR that summarizes key discussion points. Additional *Progress Meetings* beyond those planned on a quarterly basis may be scheduled as needed.

Draft Final Report Including Draft Technical Summary
The Recipient shall prepare a draft *Final Report* including a draft *Technical Summary* according to schedule in Table 1 using clear, concise writing at a level suitable to a technical audience familiar with the various facets of the marine sciences and offshore development. A table of contents shall be agreed upon between the PM and PO prior to preparation. The *Final Report* shall contain an Executive Summary section that highlights the major points of the research, and describe any results, conclusions, or recommendations from the research relevant to BOEM's mission and information needs.

A draft *Final Report* shall be submitted to the PO and ESPR for review before preparation of the final document, by the end of the Period of Performance of the Agreement. Within thirty days after BOEM has received the draft *Final Report*, BOEM will review the document for accuracy and scientific validity and will provide the Recipient with written comments based on the review. Upon reviewing BOEM comments on this material, the Recipient shall correct all omissions or deficiencies resulting from nonconformance to the Agreement. The Recipient shall also make additions, revisions, or corrections relating to data interpretation, judgments, or recommendations that have been mutually agreed upon with BOEM. If the Recipient does not agree with BOEM findings, discussions shall be held with the PO and ESPR to resolve the disagreements. When all issues have been resolved, the Recipient shall submit a written response to the PO and ESPR as to how the Recipient will address the findings in the final material submitted. This response shall be submitted within seven days of the date BOEM's written comments were received. BOEM will then have seven days to either approve or disapprove the response.

The Recipient shall not provide copies of the draft or *Final Reports*, nor any subsequent revisions prepared during the review process, nor data contained within, nor any portions thereof, to any parties not specifically designated in Table 1 prior to final acceptance by BOEM of the *Final Report*. If a need arises to do so, the PM must obtain the written approval of the CO.
The *Technical Summary* summarizes the key points of the *Final Report* and should conform to the template provided by BOEM. It should restate the purpose of the study, highlight the major points of the research, and describe any results, conclusions, or recommendations from the research relevant to BOEM's mission and information needs. The *Technical Summary* shall also include a map of the study area. It should include enough information so the reader can understand what is discussed in the *Final Report*, without having to read it.
The Contractor shall acknowledge Federal sponsorship in the draft and final reports by placing the following statement on the disclaimer page of both reports: "Study concept, oversight, and funding were provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Environmental Studies Program, Washington, D.C. under Contract Number ___."

Final Report including Technical Summary

The *Final Report* including *Technical Summary* is due within 90 days of the end of the agreement. The *Final Report* shall be submitted The Recipient shall submit the report in a single MS Word file (docx) and an Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf) file.
All Draft and *Final Reports* must include the following language: "This report has been technically reviewed by BOEM, and it has been approved for publication. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use."

Final Report Specifications and Data Delivery

- **General**. Using the acquired data, analytical results, and conclusions from the study, the Recipient shall evaluate the acquired information, interpret the results, and generate tables and graphics as needed to fulfill the study objectives.
- **Report specifications and BOEM report number.** The Recipient will synthesize the evaluated information into a report that meets the objectives of this study. This report will be submitted to BOEM and contain a unique BOEM numbered identifier. This report will conform to the Environmental Studies Program (ESP) Report Specifications: http://www.boem.gov/Environmental-Studies-Program-Report-Specifications/.
- **Geographic data**. Where applicable, geographic data will be delivered in geodatabases (compatible with the most recent version of ArcGIS) on an external hard drive or other media acceptable to both parties. At a minimum, the geodatabases will include feature classes (shapefiles) for the detection data and grids (rasters) displaying the results of analyses and models. All detection feature classes will be in the WGS_1984 Geographic Coordinate System. For areas displayed, rasters will be created in an appropriate Cartesian Coordinate System agreed upon by BOEM and the Recipient, and will likely be UTM zones 4, 5, 9, 10, or 11. All geographic data products will be adequately described with detailed metadata conforming to either Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata, or the International Organization for Standards (ISO) Geographic Information – Metadata Standard 19115. Metadata will include detailed explanation of how the data were collected and analyzed
- **Study footprint**. A study footprint that geographically references the study area will be delivered. The footprint should be developed in accordance with BOEM's ESP Data and Information Specifications and ESP Study Footprint Guidance (https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-studies/esp-study-footprint-guidance).
- **Data and image delivery to BOEM**. All data and images will be submitted to BOEM on an external hard drive or other media acceptable to both parties.

ESPIS Data Deliverable Requirements

- Final Report and Technical Summary: The copies of the narratives of study results in both the MS Word and Adobe Acrobat (PDF/A) formats, without any password protections, following the ESP Report Specifications.
- Study Footprint: The geographic information that enables the refereeing of the study using a GIS, following the study footprint specifications.
- Study Footprint Metadata: The scientific attribution information required to enhance discoverability of the study in the ESPIS system and third-party sites (such as data.gov), following the study footprint metadata specifications.

- Study Map: The study area map embedded in the Final Report and Technical Summary that depicts the study footprint and that is cited in the study footprint metadata.
- Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata for each scientific dataset: The scientific, technical, and administrative information for each coherent unit of scientific data, including the physical medium, file information, volume, and access URL, when applicable.
- Copy of related publications: The manuscripts of scholarly publications and conference presentations for research funded by this Agreement for free and unlimited use by BOEM staff, which may take the form of a full-text, final, pre-publication copy of the related publication in cases that the publisher enforces pay for access or copyright restrictions.
- Bibliographic information for related publications: The information on each related publication needed for formatting CSE [Council of Science Editors] bibliographies using the name-date system.

Correspondence

All correspondence pertaining to this contract prepared by the PI shall be electronic and include BOEM recipients as mutually agreed in the *Post-Award Meeting*. Correspondence pertaining to the deliverables shall be sent according to the schedule in Section 2.4.1. All correspondence shall be clearly marked with the contract number on the first page.

Photographic Work Documentation

Performance of work during some tasks will be documented through photography and may include videography. The quality of the images and video shall be good to very good and shall be free of copyright restrictions and suitable for BOEM's use in printed material and Microsoft (MS) PowerPoint (ppt) presentations, or for duplication. The submitted images or video shall be identified by task, location, date, subject matter, photographer, and include the names of people that are clearly depicted. The documentation shall be considered part of the *Final Report*

Data Submission

Concurrent with submission of the *draft Final Report*, the recipient shall submit all databases, metadata, and other information relevant to the analyses conducted in the *draft Final Report*, and sensitive or confidential data shall be clearly marked.

Data Management

All data (including shipboard data, raw datasets, processed datasets, and associated metadata) from this study will be delivered to BOEM and shared at a specific public repository (e.g., National Center for Environmental Information).

Metadata records shall conform to the Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata (ISO 19115-1) or to any format that supersedes it as determined by the FGDC. Profiles and extensions to the standard that have been endorsed by the FGDC shall be used if they are applicable to the data or data products. The metadata records shall contain any and all elements, including those that are considered optional, wherever applicable to the data or data product. The metadata record shall contain sufficient detail to ensure the data or data product can be fully understood for future use and for posterity. The metadata records shall be delivered free of errors in both content and format. The metadata and records will be subject to review and approval prior to final acceptance by the Government.

Except as otherwise provided in the terms and conditions of the agreement, the PI is free to copyright any books, publications, or other copyrightable materials developed in the course of or under a Federal agreement, but BOEM shall reserve a royalty-free, non-exclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, the works for Government purposes.

Journal Publication(s) and/or Oral Presentation(s)
The Recipient shall require of all investigators that all manuscripts intended to be published in journals, and all abstracts or summaries prepared for oral and/or poster presentations, based on this study be submitted to BOEM for courtesy review and comment prior to submittal to the journal or conference authority. All such publications and oral (and/or poster) presentations shall contain an acknowledgement of support from BOEM under this Contract. Example text may be "Study concept, oversight, and funding were provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Environmental Studies Program, Washington, D.C., under Contract Number ___."
An acknowledgement page shall be incorporated into the PowerPoint slides for oral presentations. Publication of scientific results in peer-reviewed journals is strongly encouraged. PowerPoint and poster presentations shall include BOEM's logo that the PO will provide upon request.

Final Oral Presentation
The PI will provide an oral presentation to BOEM personnel about the study results.

Scientific Communication Products
Recipient shall work with the PO, ESPR, and BOEM's Public Affairs Officer (PAO) to generate the following scientific outreach products: (1) a webpage for BOEM Ocean Science News (https://www.boem.gov/newsroom/ocean-science/ocean-science-news); (2) a Note to Stakeholders – BOEM Quarterly Reports (https://www.boem.gov/newsroom/news-items?news_type=13); (3) one DOI NewsWave media product (cover article, news release, Feature, or science news described in https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/newswave-guidelines-for-submission-2022.pdf). These *Scientific Communication Products* shall be completed two weeks before the end of the Period of Performance.
At the time of a significant scientific publication during or after the Award Period of Performance, Recipient shall work with BOEM's PAO and the PO to generate a mutually agreed upon Press Release that recognizes BOEM's contribution to the published work.

List of Purchased Equipment
If applicable, the Recipient shall submit a list of purchased equipment and provide a statement that equipment was purchased in accordance with 2 CFR 200.318–326 and managed in accordance with 2 CFR 200.313.

References
Drazen JC, Smith CR, Gjerde KM, Haddock SHD, Carter GS, Choy CA, Clark MR, Dutrieux P, Goetze E, Hauton C, Hatta M, Koslow JA, Leitner AB, Pacini A, Perelman JN, Peacock T, Sutton TT, Watling L, and H Yamamoto. 2020. Midwater ecosystems must be

considered when evaluating environmental risks of deep-sea mining, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 117 (30) 17455-17460, https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2011914117.

Gazis IZ, de Stigter H, Mohrmann J, Heger K, Diaz M, Gillard B, Baeye M, Veloso-Alarcón ME, Purkiani K, Haeckel M, Vink A, Thomsen L, and J Greinert. 2025. Monitoring benthic plumes, sediment redeposition and seafloor imprints caused by deep-sea polymetallic nodule mining. Nature Communications. 16:1229. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-56311-0

Gillard B, Purkiani K, Chatzievangelou D, Vink A, Iversen MH, and L Thomsen. 2019. Physical and hydrodynamic properties of deep sea mining-generated, abyssal sediment plumes in the Clarion Clipperton Fracture Zone (eastern-central Pacific). Elem Sci Anth, 7:5. https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.343.

Muñoz-Royo C et al. 2021. Extent of impact of deep-sea nodule mining midwater plumes is influenced by sediment loading, turbulence and thresholds. Nature Communications. 2. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-021-00213-8

Muñoz-Royo C, Ouillon R, El Mousadik S, Alford MH, and T Peacock. 2022. An in situ study of abyssal turbidity-current sediment plumes generated by a deep seabed polymetallic nodule mining preprototype collector vehicle. Science Advances, 8(38). DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.abn1219.

Orcutt BN, Bradley JA, Brazelton WJ, Estes ER, Goordial JM, Huber JA, Jones RM, Mahmoudi N, Marlow JJ, Murdock S, and M Pachiadaki. 2020. Impacts of deep-sea mining on microbial ecosystem services. *Limnology and Oceanography* 65.7: 1489-1510.

Ouillon R, Munoz-Royo C, Alford MH, Peacock T. 2022a. Advection-diffusion-settling of deep-sea mining sediment plumes. Part 1: Midwater plumes. Flow. 2. https://doi.org/10.1017/flo.2022.20

Ouillon R, Munoz-Royo C, Alford MH, Peacock T. 2022b. Advection-diffusion-settling of deep-sea mining sediment plumes. Part 2: Collector plumes. Flow. 2. https://doi.org/10.1017/flo.2022.19

Ouillon R, Munoz-Royo C, El Mousadik S, Peacock T. 2025. A near field study of sediment plumes for a pre-prototype nodule collector trial in the abyssal Pacific Ocean. Deep Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers. 225. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2025.104595

Peacock T and R Ouillon. 2023. The Fluid Mechanics of Deep-Sea Mining. Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech. 55:403–30. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-fluid-031822010257.

Stenvers VL, Hauss H, Bayer T, Havermans C, Hentschel U, Schmittman L, Sweetman AK, and HJT Hoving. 2023. Experimental mining plumes and ocean warming trigger stress in a deep pelagic jellyfish. Nature Communications 14(7352). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-43023-6.

van der Grient JMA, Drazen JC. 2023. Evaluating deep-sea communities' susceptibility to mining plumes using shallow-water data. Science of the Total Environment. 852(158162). http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.158162.

2.4.1 SCHEDULE AND DISTRIBUTION OF DELIVERABLES AND MEETINGS

Item number	Deliverable	Distribution	Due Date

1	Post-Award Meeting, Meeting Agenda, and Draft Study Plan	One (1) electronic copy to each of the following: Contracting Officer (CO), Contracting Officer's Representative (COR), Environmental Studies Program Representative (ESPR), and all other participants in the meeting	Within 1 month of award Draft Study Plan and Meeting Agenda due 1 week before Post-Award Meeting
2	Post-Award Meeting Summary and Final Study Plan	CO, COR, ESPR – one (1) electronic copy	Within 1 week after Post-Award Meeting
3	Correspondence	CO, COR, ESPR – one (1) electronic copy	As necessary
4	Quarterly Progress Reports	CO, COR, ESPR – one (1) electronic copy	Within 1 week of the end of each quarter
5	Quarterly Progress Meetings and Meeting Summaries	CO, COR, ESPR – one (1) electronic copy	Within 1 week of the end of each quarter; additional meetings may be scheduled as needed Meeting Summaries due within 3 days after the meeting
6	Draft Final Report including Draft Technical Summary	CO, COR, ESPR – one (1) electronic copy using BOEM MS Word template	Due on the date the agreement expires
7	Final Report including Technical Summary	CO, COR, ESPR, DES Chief – one (1) electronic copy	Within 90 days of the end of the Period of Performance

8	Photographic Work Documentation	COR, ESPR – using format agreed upon between Recipient and BOEM	Concurrent with Final Report, or earlier
9	Data Submission	COR, ESPR – using format agreed upon between Recipient and BOEM	Concurrent with Final Report, or earlier
10	Electronic copies of Abstracts, Journal Publication(s), Posters, Outreach Materials, and Oral Presentation(s)	COR, ESPR – one (1) electronic copy	Draft versions for courtesy review prior to submission to the publisher, conference, or presented to the public; Final versions (if different) within 1 week of publication or completion
11	Final Oral Presentation	COR, ESPR – one (1) electronic copy	Within 1 month before the end of the Period of Performance
12	Scientific Communication Products	COR, ESPR, Public Affairs Officer – one (1) electronic copy	Two (2) weeks before the end of the Period of Performance Scientific Publication(s) Press Release(s): As needed
13	List of Purchased Equipment, if applicable	CO, COR, ESPR – one (1) electronic copy	Concurrent with Final Report, or earlier

2.4.2 ADDRESSES FOR DELIVERABLES

Contracting Officer (CO)
Michelle Potter
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Acquisition Management Division
45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166
Email: michelle_potter@ios.doi.gov

Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)
TBD
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Environmental Studies Program Representative (ESPR)
TBD
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Environmental Programs
45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166

2.5 SECTION 508

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (found at 29 U.S.C. 794d) requires access to and use of information by individuals with disabilities. The Recipient must ensure that all deliverables, such as electronic reports (e.g., PDF files) to be placed on the web (either on the agency's web server or the company's), video footage, or other electronic data to be distributed, are subject to Section 508 guidelines. Simplified, this means that PDF files need to be formatted so that they are "readable" by assistive technology devices such as screen readers. Video footage must be closed captioned. HTML, PDF, or word processor files must be accessible.

SECTION 3
GENERAL PURCHASE ORDER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

3.1 SCOPE

An FFP type Purchase Order shall be issued under the authority of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for PC-26-01A, Pacific Deepwater Investigations, Research, and Technology (PAC-DIRT) Study.

3.2 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance is award through 18 months.

3.3 PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

The place of performance is the contractor facility.

3.4 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Copies of all correspondence shall be provided at the addresses below:

3.4.1 Contracting Officer: The Contracting Officer (CO) for this effort is as follows:

Michelle Potter
U.S. Department of the Interior
45600 Woodland Road, Mailstop VAE-AMD
Sterling, VA 20166
Phone Number: 703-787-1007
Email: michelle_potter@ios.doi.gov

3.4.2 Contracting Officer's Representative (COR): The COR for this effort is as follows:

TBD
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Phone Number: TBD
Email: TBD

3.4.3 Environmental Studies Program Representative (ESPR): The ESPR for this effort is as follows:

TBD
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Office of Environmental Programs
45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166

3.5 INVOICING REQUIREMENT

Contractors shall invoice as firm fixed price tasks that are completed in accordance with the payments table in section 1.3 of this document.

3.5.1 ELECTRONIC INVOICING AND PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS – INVOICE PROCESSING PLATFORM (IPP) (FEB 2021)

Payment requests must be submitted electronically through the U. S. Department of the Treasury's Invoice Processing Platform System (IPP).

"Payment request" means any request for contract financing payment or invoice payment by the Contractor. To constitute a proper invoice, the payment request must comply with the requirements identified in the applicable Prompt Payment clause included in the contract, or the clause 52.212-4 Contract Terms and Conditions - Commercial Products and Commercial Services included in commercial contracts. The IPP website address is: https://www.ipp.gov.

Under this Order, the following documents are required to be submitted as an attachment to the IPP invoice:
Documentation required by FAR 32.905(b)

The Contractor must use the IPP website to register access and use IPP for submitting requests for payment. The Contractor Government Business Point of Contact (as listed in SAM) will receive enrollment instructions via email from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRBSTL) within 3 - 5 business days of the contract award date. Contractor assistance with enrollment can be obtained by contacting the IPP Production Helpdesk via email IPPCustomerSupport@fiscal.treasury.gov or phone (866) 973-3131.

If the Contractor is unable to comply with the requirement to use IPP for submitting invoices for payment, the Contractor must submit a waiver request in writing to the Contracting Officer with its proposal or quotation.

3.6 CONTRACTORS QUOTE

The Contractor’s quote may be incorporated by reference into the purchase order. Any inconsistencies or in event of a conflict between terms and conditions of the purchase order and the contractor’s quote shall be resolved by giving precedence to the terms and conditions of the purchase order.

3.7 DIAR 1452.201-70 AUTHORITIES AND DELEGATIONS (SEP 2011)

(a) The Contracting Officer is the only individual authorized to enter into or terminate this contract, modify any term or condition of this contract, waive any requirement of this contract, or accept nonconforming work.

(b) The Contracting Officer will designate a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) at time of award. The COR will be responsible for technical monitoring of the contractor's performance and deliveries. The COR will be appointed in writing, and a copy of the appointment will be furnished to the Contractor. Changes to this delegation will be made by written changes to the existing appointment or by issuance of a new appointment.

(c) The COR is not authorized to perform, formally or informally, any of the following actions:

(1) Promise, award, agree to award, or execute any contract, contract modification, or notice of intent that changes or may change this contract;
(2) Waive or agree to modification of the delivery schedule;
(3) Make any final decision on any contract matter subject to the Disputes Clause;
(4) Terminate, for any reason, the Contractor's right to proceed;
(5) Obligate in any way, the payment of money by the Government.

(d) The Contractor shall comply with the written or oral direction of the Contracting Officer or authorized representative(s) acting within the scope and authority of the appointment memorandum. The Contractor need not proceed with direction that it considers to have been issued without proper authority. The Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer in writing, with as much detail as possible, when the COR has taken an action or has issued direction (written or oral) that the Contractor considers to exceed the COR's appointment, within 3 days of the occurrence. Unless otherwise provided in this contract, the Contractor assumes all costs, risks, liabilities, and consequences of performing any work it is directed to perform that falls within any of the categories defined in paragraph (c) prior to receipt of the Contracting Officer's response issued under paragraph (e) of this clause.

(e) The Contracting Officer shall respond in writing within 30 days to any notice made under paragraph (d) of this clause. A failure of the parties to agree upon the nature of a direction, or upon the contract action to be taken with respect thereto, shall be subject to the provisions of the Disputes clause of this contract.

(f) The Contractor shall provide copies of all correspondence to the Contracting Officer and the COR.

(g) Any action(s) taken by the Contractor, in response to any direction given by any person acting on behalf of the Government or any Government official other than the Contracting Officer or the COR acting within his or her appointment, shall be at the Contractor's risk.

3.8 PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

3.8.1 Key Personnel

Certain skilled experienced professional and/or technical personnel are essential for accomplishing the work to be performed. These individuals are defined as "Key Personnel" and are those persons whose resumes were submitted and identified by the Contractor as "Key Personnel". The following individuals are considered to be essential to the work being performed under this order:

Name	**Position**
***	Project Manager

(To be completed by Contractor and submitted as part of the Quotation)

3.8.2 Contractor Project Manager

The Contractor shall be responsible for managing and overseeing the activities of all Contractor personnel, as well as subcontractor efforts used in performance of this contract. The Contractor's management responsibilities shall include all the activities necessary to ensure the accomplishment of timely and effective support, performed in accordance with the requirements contained herein.

The Contractor shall provide a Project Manager (PM) to facilitate Government-Contractor communications. The PM shall be the primary technical and managerial interface between the Contractor and CO and COR. The contractor's Project Manager shall meet with the COR as necessary to maintain satisfactory performance and to resolve other issues pertaining to the contract. A mutual effort shall be made at these meetings to resolve any and all identified problems. Written minutes of the meetings shall be prepared by the contractor and signed by the contractor's designated PM.

3.9 CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

In accordance with FAR 52.252-2, this solicitation incorporates one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. The Contractor shall comply with these clauses unless the circumstances do not apply.

Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The full text of a clause may be accessed electronically at https://www.acquisition.gov/far/and https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul.

Clause	**Title**	**Date**
52-203-12	Limitation on Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions	JUN 2020
52.203-17	Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights	NOV 2023
52.203-19	Prohibition on Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements	JAN 2017
52.204-7	System for Award Management (Deviation)	MAR 2026
52.204-13	System for Award Management Maintenance	OCT 2018

52.204-19	Incorporation by Reference of Representations and Certifications	DEC 2014
52.209-6	Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting With Contractors Debarred, Suspended, Proposed for Debarment, or Voluntarily Excluded (Deviation)	MAY 2026
52.209-10	Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic (Deviation)	MAY 2026
52.212-4	Contract Terms and Conditions- Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Deviation)	MAY 2026
52.217-2	Cancellation Under Multiyear Contracts	OCT 1997
52.222-19	Child Labor-Cooperation with Authorities and Remedies	MAR 2026
52.222-36	Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities	JUN 2020
52.232-40	Providing Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors	MAR 2023
52.222-3	Convict Labor (Deviation)	May 2026
52.222-35	Equal Opportunity for Veterans	JUN 2020
52.222-50	Combating Trafficking in Persons (Deviation)	May 2026
52.223-23	Sustainable Products and Services (Deviation)	May 2026
52.232-33	Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer – System for Award Management	OCT 2018
52.233-3	Protest After Award	SEP 2016
52.233-4	Applicable Law for Breach of Contract Claim	OCT 2004
52.242-15	Stop Work Order	AUG 1989
52.232-40	Providing Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors,	MAR 2023
52.240-91	Security Prohibitions and Exclusions (Deviation)	MAY 2026
52.222-90	Addressing DEI Discrimination by Federal Contractors	APR 2026
52.252-6	Authorized Deviations in Clauses	NOV 2020

3.10 CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY FULL TEXT:

3.10.1 FAR 52.217-8 OPTION TO EXTEND SERVICES (NOV 1999)

The Government may require continued performance of any services within the limits and at the rates specified in the contract. These rates may be adjusted only as a result of revisions to prevailing labor rates provided by the Secretary of Labor. The option provision may be exercised more than once, but the total extension of performance hereunder shall not exceed 6 months. The Contracting Officer may exercise the option by written notice to the Contractor within two days of the end of a period of performance.

3.11 CANCELLATION CEILING

This is a multiyear contract. Consistent with FAR 17.106-1(c), the identified startup, nonrecurring, and other amortized costs for this contract are TBD at Award. There is no cancellation ceiling for the first 12 months of the period of performance as they are not subject to cancellation. Should this contract be cancelled as of the start of the 13th month of the period of performance, the contract will be subject to a cancellation ceiling of TBD at Award.

3.12 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

(a) It is the policy of the Department of the Interior to avoid contract awards which could result in or create conflicts of interest, whether actual or apparent. Such a situation could occur in the instance when the contractor or any subcontractors or teaming arrangement partners have business, financial, real property, mineral rights, or other interests, as well as professional activities that create conflicting roles which could potentially bias a contractor's judgment or result in unfair competitive advantage to the contractor, and thus impede the government's objective to obtain an impartial, technically sound and objective performance of this contract.

(b) Any proposal submitted in response to this request for proposals must identify any actual or potential conflict of interest described in paragraph (a) and include a Conflict of Interest Mitigation Plan if the contractor believes such persons or entities are indispensable to its proposal. The Government's approval of any proposed Conflict of Interest Mitigation Plan shall be at the sole discretion of the Contracting Officer.

(c) Absent a written approval of a Conflict of Interest Mitigation Plan from the Contracting Officer, the Contractor, or any of its officers, representatives, employees, sub-contractors, or teaming arrangement members, shall not be involved in any situation during the performance of this contract which may result in conflicts as contemplated in paragraph (a) above. Failure to comply with this provision may be cause for termination for default.

(d) The contractor shall disclose, upon discovery, any interest which may develop after contract award that may result in a conflict as contemplated in paragraph (a) above. Failure to comply with this provision may be cause for termination of this award for default.

(e) The contractor shall include this clause, including this paragraph in all subcontracts and consultant agreements; however, subcontractors and consultants shall be directed to send any mitigation plan to the contractor who shall then inform the Contracting Officer.

(f) The contractor, its employees, subcontractors and teaming arrangement partners, shall not engage in any communication regarding any aspect of performance of this contract with any person or entity described in paragraph (a) above without express permission from the Contracting Officer. Failure to comply with this provision may be cause for termination of this award for default.

SECTION 4
QUOTATION PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

NOTICE: ***The failure to submit any of the information requested in this RFQ may lead to the rejection of your quotation without further consideration.***

4.1 SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding this RFQ must be delivered Michelle Potter at michelle_potter@ios.doi.gov **no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on June 30, 2026**. Please be advised that the Government reserves the right to transmit those questions and answers of a common interest to all prospective Quoters. *PHONE CALLS ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.*

4.2 QUOTATION DUE DATE

Quotations submitted in response to this RFQ shall be received by the due date and time established herein via email to michelle_potter@ios.doi.gov with subject title, "140M0126Q0033, PAC-DIRT."

Quotations shall be submitted **no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time, on July 10, 2026, to be considered for award.** Please be advised that it is the quoter's responsibility to ensure the Government receives your submission on or before the specified due date. Any submissions received after the date and time specified herein will NOT be considered for award. Additionally, any and all technical issues must be resolved prior to the submission due date to ensure timely delivery by the quoter. *PHONE CALLS ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED*.

4.3 QUOTATION INSTRUCTIONS

Quotes must be submitted in two separate volumes: 1) Price Volume and 2) Technical Volume in accordance with the instructions contained in this solicitation. Both Price and Technical volumes must be submitted in Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, and/or Microsoft Excel.

The failure to submit any of the information requested in this RFQ may lead to the rejection of your quotation without further discussion.

This RFQ in no way obligates the Government to issue or award orders. The Government will not be responsible for any costs incurred by responding to this RFQ or subsequent orders. You may participate by submitting your response in accordance with the instructions contained herein.

4.3.1 Price Volume

4.3.1.1 General Requirements: Your price portion shall be a separate volume from the written portion of your technical submission. The quoter shall quote a pricing structure in accordance with the proposed technical solution. Quotations shall include a statement that the quoter's quotation is valid for a minimum of sixty (60) calendar days from the date of submission. Your quote shall provide the pricing/rates to meet the requirements of the RFQ. Your price portion must clearly identify your basis of pricing and a cumulative summary of pricing to include the total proposed for this contract. Your quote shall include a filled-in copy of the table found in section 1.3 of this Request for Quote.

4.3.1.2 Solicitation Amendments: If amendments are issued under this RFQ, the Quoter must complete and sign the SF 30 document and include it in the price volume. Only the SF 30 form must be returned; amendment continuation pages and attachments to the amendments need not be returned.

4.3.2 Technical Volume:

The Technical Volume must address topics and requirements specified in the Statement of Work (SOW) as instructed below.

The Technical volume is limited to 12 pages, not including the title pages, the table of contents, and Past Performance/Experience forms. Any pages in excess of those specified will not be evaluated. No material may be incorporated by reference to circumvent the page limitation. Your submission must use black 12-point font, single-spaced, white 8.5 x 11 inch paper. Page margins must be one inch at the top, bottom, and each side. Headers, footers, and page numbering may be outside the 1-inch margin, but not less than a .5 inch margin. Headers, footers tables/figures and page numbering may be in 10-point or 12-point font.

In order for the submission to be evaluated strictly on the merit of the technical quotation, no cost or pricing information shall be included in the Technical Volume.

4.3.2.1 Scientific and Technical Personnel

The Offeror shall present, in a matrix table format, the professional degrees and length of experience of each team member (prime and subcontractors) proposed for this RFQ. The Offeror also shall briefly describe the relevant responsibilities of each team member (prime and subcontractors) as it involves implementation of the tasks. A curriculum vitae/resume shall be provided for everyone identified as key personnel. The Offeror's key personnel resumes shall identify the education and experience on similar
projects demonstrate their technical ability, experience, and commitment to perform the work, and the appropriateness of each person's skills for the specific tasks.

The time commitments for all designated Key Personnel indicating their obligations for other projects during the performance of this proposed task order will be examined to ensure appropriate availability is provided.

The Offeror shall provide a named Project Manager who will serve as the main point of contact.
The Project Manager's resume should demonstrate the extent to which they are vested with sufficient authority to ensure the timely, efficient, and competent accomplishment of all work required under the
task order.

4.3.2.2 Understanding and Technical Approach

(a) The Offeror shall demonstrate how they will meet the tasks, objectives, and deliverables outlined in the Statement of Work (SOW). The Offeror shall demonstrate that they can produce a useful project within the constraints of the accepted budget and period of performance that can be used by BOEM. Each Offeror is expected to propose a plan describing how best to achieve the objectives.

(b) Discuss potential challenges in the various aspects of the project, including potential problems in the collection of information, and any mitigation strategies and proposed solutions.

4.3.2.3 Project Management

The Contractor shall establish and document in a PMP a procedure for completing and monitoring all aspects of the Scope of Work (SOW) requirements. The Offeror shall submit the draft PMP with their quotation. The PMP should be straightforward, easy to follow, and should clearly and concisely describe project responsibilities and personnel, any proposed subcontracting arrangements and/or Contractor Teaming Arrangements, communication and coordination, record keeping, and scheduling of all tasks, subtasks, meetings, and deliverables. Provide a PMP that demonstrates your plan will meet the deliverables schedule outlined in the SOW.

The plan shall include a discussion of the following topics:
(a) Personnel Management: The plan shall designate a Project Manager who, in addition to having a relevant topic background, is capable and is vested with sufficient authority to ensure the timely, efficient, and competent accomplishment of all work required under this contract. The Project Manager's technical and managerial capability shall be evident through his/her experience and leadership in relevant efforts that are comparable to the requirements of SOW. The quotation should demonstrate adequate staff to support the Program Manager in the administrative, logistic, and financial tasks, and to complete the work with an appropriate labor mix within the time limits of the task order.

(b) Project Management: The plan shall discuss procedures for managing the project, criteria for assuring quality and acceptability of the deliverables, the schedule and coordination of this project. The plan shall also discuss plans for ensuring successful completion of individual tasks on time, on budget, and of the highest quality. The following shall be included:

1. A matrix showing labor hours by task of all professional and support personnel who would be assigned a role in performing this project (matrix row and column totals must be provided; cost data should not be shown). The Offeror shall provide a chart indicating time commitments for all

designated Key Personnel indicating their obligations for other projects during the projected Period of Performance of this proposed project.
2. A program schedule plan such as PERT (Performance Evaluation and Review Technique), Gantt, etc. This plan should concisely and accurately portray the critical areas of effort, identify significant milestones of the proposed effort, and provide a schedule for the timely completion, review, and feedback of each milestone.

3. Discussion of quality control processes and how they will be implemented to ensure high quality products both from a technical and presentation (e.g., editing of text) perspective.

4.3.2.4 Past Performance

(a) Offerors shall provide information on at least three, but no more than five, previous Government contracts it performed recently (in-progress or completed within the last three years) that are relevant to the requirements of this solicitation. If the Offeror has not had three Government contracts within the last three years, it may submit information on relevant Government subcontracts and/or commercial contracts instead. Relevant past performance is performance which is similar in terms of size, scope and complexity to the requirements of this solicitation. Offerors who describe similar contracts and subcontracts to this solicitation should provide: (1) a detailed explanation demonstrating the similarity of the contracts to the requirements of this solicitation; (2) a detailed description of the work performed for the contract; (3) the role performed, including whether the Offeror acted as a prime Contractor or a Subcontractor; and (4) points of contact for the Contractor's customer. Offerors may also submit past performance information regarding predecessor companies, key personnel who have performed under relevant contracts, and Subcontractors that will perform major or critical aspects of the requirement as a past performance submission(s).

(b) Offerors shall submit this information with their offer in the format at Attachment 1 (Past Performance Reference Information). Failure to submit the completed attachment shall be considered certification that the Contractor has no past performance for similar services for the Government to evaluate.

The Government reserves the right to consider other relevant past performance information and does not assume the duty to cure any problems it finds in the information provided by the Offeror – the burden of providing thorough and/or complete past performance information remains with the Offeror.

4.4 PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY FULL TEXT: The following FAR provisions as required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation are attached hereto in full text and required to be returned with the quote submission.

4.4.1 FAR 52.252-5 – AUTHORIZED DEVIATIONS IN PROVISIONS (APR 1984)

(a) The use in this solicitation of any Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR Chapter 1) provision with an authorized deviation is indicated by the addition of "(DEVIATION)" after the date of the provision.

(b) The use in this solicitation of any Department of the Interior Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR Chapter 14) provision with an authorized deviation is indicated by the addition of "(DEVIATION)" after the name of the regulation.

4.4.2 DIAR 1452.215-71 – Use and Disclosure of Proposal Information—Department of the Interior (APR 1984)

(a) Definitions. For the purposes of this provision and the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), the following terms shall have the meaning set forth below:

(1) "Trade Secret" means an unpatented, secret, commercially valuable plan, appliance, formula, or process, which is used for making, preparing, compounding, treating or processing articles or materials which are trade commodities.

(2) "Confidential commercial or financial information" means any business information (other than trade secrets) which is exempt from the mandatory disclosure requirement of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. Exemptions from mandatory disclosure which may be applicable to business information contained in proposals include exemption (4), which covers "commercial and financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential," and exemption (9), which covers "geological and geophysical information, including maps, concerning wells."

(b) If the Quoter, or its subcontractor(s), believes that the proposal contains trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, (5 U.S.C. 552), the cover page of each copy of the proposal shall be marked with the following legend:

"The information specifically identified on pages _____ of this proposal constitutes trade secrets or confidential commercial and financial information which the Quoter believes to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. The Quoter requests that this information not be disclosed to the public, except as may be required by law. The Quoter also requests that this information not be used in whole or part by the government for any purpose other than to evaluate the proposal, except that if a contract is awarded to the Quoter as a result of or in connection with the submission of the proposal, the Government shall have the right to use the information to the extent provided in the contract."

(c) The Quoter shall also specifically identify trade secret information and confidential commercial and financial information on the pages of the proposal on which it appears and shall mark each such page with the following legend:

"This page contains trade secrets or confidential commercial and financial information which the Quoter believes to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act and which is subject to the legend contained on the cover page of this proposal."

(d) Information in a proposal identified by an Quoter as trade secret information or confidential commercial and financial information shall be used by the Government only for the purpose of evaluating the proposal, except that (i) if a contract is awarded to the Quoter as a result of or in connection with submission of the proposal, the Government shall have the right to use the information as provided in the contract, and (ii) if the same information is obtained from another source without restriction it may be used without restriction.
(e) If a request under the Freedom of Information Act seeks access to information in a proposal identified as trade secret information or confidential commercial and financial information, full consideration will be given to the Quoter's view that the information constitutes trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information. The Quoter will also be promptly notified of the request and given an opportunity to provide additional evidence and argument in support of its position, unless administratively unfeasible to do so. If it is determined that information claimed by the Quoter to be trade secret information or confidential commercial or financial information is not exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, the Quoter will be notified of this determination prior to disclosure of the information.

(f) The Government assumes no liability for the disclosure or use of information contained in a proposal if not marked in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this provision. If a request under the Freedom of Information Act is made for information in a proposal not marked in accordance with paragraphs (b) and (c) of this provision, the Quoter concerned shall be promptly notified of the request and given an opportunity to provide its position to the Government. However, failure of an Quoter to mark information contained in a proposal as trade secret information or confidential commercial or financial information will be treated by the Government as evidence that the information is not exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, absent a showing that the failure to mark was due to unusual or extenuating circumstances, such as a showing that the Quoter had intended to mark, but that markings were omitted from the Quoter's proposal due to clerical error.

4.4.3 DIAR 1452.233-2 – Service of Protest Department of the Interior (JUL 1996) (DEVIATION)

(a) Protests, as defined in section 31.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that are filed directly with an agency, and copies of any protests that are filed with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), shall be served on the Contracting Officer (addressed as follows) by obtaining written and dated acknowledgment of receipt from:

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Acquisition Operations Branch
45600 Woodland Road, Mailstop VAE-AMD
Sterling, VA 20166
Attn: Michelle Potter, Contracting Officer

(b) The copy of any protest shall be received in the office designated above within one day of filing a protest with the GAO.

(c) A copy of the protest served on the Contracting Officer shall be simultaneously furnished by the protester to the Department of the Interior Assistant Solicitor, Acquisitions and Intellectual Property, 1849 C Street, NW, Room 6511, Washington, DC 20240.

4.5 FAR 52.252-1 – PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:

This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The Quoter is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the Quoter and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions, the Quoter may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Also, the full text of a solicitation provision may be accessed electronically at this address: www.acquisition.gov/far and https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul.

Provision	Title	Date
52.203-18	Prohibition on Contracting with Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements—Representation	JAN 2017
52.204-22	Alternative Line Item Proposal	JAN 2017
52.209-2	Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations-Representation	NOV 2025
52.209-11	Representation by Corporations Regarding Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under any Federal Law	NOV 2025
52.212-1	Instructions to Offerors—Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Deviation)	Mar 2026
52.219-1	Small Business Program Representations	FEB 2024
52-252-5	Authorized Deviations in Provisions	NOV 2020
52.240-90	Security Prohibitions and Exclusions and Certifications (Deviation)	MAR 2026

SECTION 5
EVALUATION OF QUOTATIONS

5.1 GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Quotations shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions contained in Section 4 of this RFQ. The technical submission will be evaluated separately from the price submission. Each submission will be evaluated against the evaluation factors and sub-factors listed below.

5.2 BASIS FOR AWARD

Award shall be made to the responsible Quoter whose quote, in conforming to this Request for Quote, provides an overall best value to the Government, technical and all other evaluation factors, and price considered. Since it may be in the best interest of the Government to consider award to other than the lowest priced Quoter, or other than the highest technically rated Quoter, the Government will use a tradeoff source selection approach to determine the quotation that represents the best overall value to the Government. The Government's objective is to obtain the highest technical quality considered necessary to achieve the project objectives, with a reasonable price. *Technical and other evaluation factors are more important than price*. Quotations will be evaluated based on information submitted in the Price and Technical quotations.

The Government reserves the right not to make an award as a result of this competition if, in the opinion of the Government, none of the submissions would provide satisfactory performance at a price that is considered fair and reasonable and/or economically feasible or if agreement between the Government and Quoter on the terms and conditions cannot be reached within the timeframe established by the Contracting Officer.

5.3 TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following evaluation criteria will be utilized in order to evaluate each technical quotation. . Factors A, B, C, and D are of equal importance.

Factor A: Scientific and Technical Personnel
Factor B: Understanding, Planning and Technical Approach
Factor C: Project Management
Factor D: Past Performance

Factor A: Scientific and Technical Personnel

This factor covers the qualifications of key and other personnel proposed to perform the work and the amount of effort estimated for each person. This evaluation is based on education, professional credentials, and experience of proposed key personnel on similar projects, in related fields; appropriateness of each person's skills for the specific tasks; and adequacy of the proposed level

of effort estimated for each task. In addition to understanding how seabed mining-generated sediment plumes may behave, demonstration of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities related to fluid dynamics, physical oceanography, and deep-sea sediments will be essential. The Project Manager must have previous experience managing three (3) or more projects that: involve modeling of physical processes and analysis of sediment characteristics; and are meaningfully related to sediment plume dynamics, both on the seafloor and within the water column, and/or critical minerals activities. Key personnel that form the research team must have notable experience in physical oceanography and seabed mining impacts, and this experience must be demonstrated by scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals or reports funded or commissioned by governments or stakeholders to critical minerals activities. The technical personnel who will be responsible for the organization of information and the production of documents, and other deliverables will be evaluated. Assessment factors will be their qualifications, the relevance of their qualifications to their assigned task, and their estimated level of effort. Similar projects may include similarity in topic, dollar value, workload, duration, and complexity.

Factor B: Understanding and Technical Approach

This factor will be evaluated by rating the Contractor's approach in accomplishing each of the tasks identified in the SOW. The Contractor must demonstrate understanding of the scope, goals, and objectives of the work required and the applicability and clarity of the overall scientific and technical approach for addressing BOEM needs. Special attention will be given to evaluating proposed deliverables and how well they may assist BOEM environmental analyses. Creativity and thoroughness are desired. The Contractor must detail how each of the research questions and tasks in Section 2 will be performed and the appropriateness of all proposed methodologies and analyses.

Factor C: Project Management

The Contractor's staffing, scheduling, logistics, and data management plans for each task will be evaluated for their effectiveness in committing personnel and resources to provide high-quality products within the time frames set-forth in Section 2. This evaluation will consider the personnel and resources assigned to complete each individual task and deliverable. Also evaluated will be the Contractor's proposed procedure for internal and external communication to ensure that data collection is appropriate and timely, and that problems are identified early. This procedure will be evaluated on how well it identifies anticipated problems, reports progress, describes approaches for solving anticipated problems, and ensures effective communication among contract management, personnel, and the COR.

Factor D: Past Performance

The Contractor's past performance in completing similar projects, adhering to schedules and budgets, instituting effective cost controls, and delivering quality products will be considered. The degree of comparability of past project; the number of projects, complexity, and funding level of past project will also be considered. Subcontracts and partners will also be evaluated. The quality of cooperation between organization, staff, and key personnel and the client will be considered.

5.4 PRICE EVALUATION

The Government will evaluate the quoted prices for reasonableness by comparing the Quoter's quoted prices with commercial list prices as well as utilizing other price analysis techniques.

5.5 AWARD WITHOUT COMMUNICATIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS

The Government reserves the right to award without communications or clarifications, so it is in the best interest of each Contractor to include their most favorable terms in the initial submission. However, the Government reserves the right to conduct communications or clarification and to permit Contractors to revise their submissions.

This statement is not to be construed to mean that the Government is obligated to communicate with every Quoter (note that FAR Part 15 procedures do not apply to FAR 12, therefore formal discussions are not applicable). A Quoter may be eliminated from consideration without further communication if its technical and/or price volume are not among those Quoters considered most advantageous to the Government based on a best value determination.

Any exceptions or deviations by the Contractor to the terms and conditions stated in this RFQ for inclusion in the resulting award may make the Quote unacceptable for award with or without communications or clarifications.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment	Descriptions	Pages
1	Past Performance/Past Experience Form	3

ATTACHMENT 1
PAST EXPERIENCE/PAST PERFORMANCE REFERENCE INFORMATION FORM

1. Complete name of Government agency, commercial firm, or other organization	
2. Complete address	
3. Contract number or other reference	4. Date of contract
5. Date work was begun	6. Date work was completed
7. Estimated contract price	8. Final amount invoiced or amount invoiced to date
9a. Technical point of contact (name, title, address, telephone no. and email address)	9b. Contracting or purchasing point of contact (name, title, address, telephone no. and email address)
10. Location of work (country, state or province, county, city)	

11. Description of contract work (Describe the nature and scope of the experience and provide an explanation of how the work is the same or similar to the work required by the MMS). Attach an explanation of any performance problems or other conflicts with the customer. Use a continuation sheet, if necessary.)	
12. Current status of contract (choose one):	
Work continuing, on schedule	Terminated for convenience
Work continuing, behind schedule	Terminated for default
Work completed, no further action pending or underway	Other (explain)
Work completed, routine administrative action pending or underway	
Work completed, claims negotiations pending or underway	
Work completed, litigation pending or underway	

Instructions for Completing the Experience/Reference Information Sheet

Item 1. Insert the complete name the Government Agency, commercial firm or other organization for whom the work was performed.

Item 2. Insert the customer's complete address, including both post office box and street addresses, if applicable.

Item 3. Insert any contract number or other contract reference used by the customer.

Item 4 Insert the date on which the contract came into existence.

Item 5 Insert the date on which you started to perform the work.

Item 6. Insert the date on which the customer agreed that the work was satisfactorily completed. If work is ongoing insert the date of contract expiration.

Item 7 Insert the total estimated contract price or value.

Item 8 Insert the final sum of all invoices, or the sum of all invoices to date.

Item 9a. Insert the name, title, address, telephone no., and email address (if available) of the program or project manager or other customer technical representative who is most familiar with the quality of your work under the contract.

Item 9b. Insert the name, title, address, telephone no., and email address (if available) of the contracting officer, purchasing agent, or other customer contracting or purchasing representative who is most familiar with your work under the contract.

Item 10. Insert the location(s) where the work was performed.

Item 11. Describe the nature and scope of the work. The objective is to show how the work that you did or are doing is similar in nature and scope to the work that is to be performed under the contract contemplated by the request for quotations. Describe any unusual circumstances of performance or problems that may be relevant to the work that is to be performed. Tell your side of the story of any conflicts with the customer concerning which they may make adverse remarks about your performance. Describe any actions that you have taken to take to correct any shortcomings in your performance.