

Response to Pre-bid queries of participants from various firms/agencies/companies on Expression of Interest (EOI) for “Deployment of Deep-Sea Moorings in the Indian Ocean Mid-Ocean ridges (CIR & SWIR)”  
Ref. No.: NCPOR/10/2024

Tender’s Clarification / Comment	NCPOR Response
<b>I. Firm 1</b>	
1- Although NCPOR is responsible for damage/loss of instruments due to third-party vandalism, please clarify who will be responsible for troubleshooting/replacement of damaged/lost instrument	As per the published EOI, the vendor is responsible for troubleshooting/replacing damaged/lost instruments except for vandalism.
2- Please clarify the basis for confirming the instrument as faulty as it may take up to few weeks before the manufacturer confirms the issue.	The vendor should be responsible for deploying all instruments in operational condition without any fault until the retrieval and transfer of all data to NCPOR Data policy and penalty clause will be mentioned in the final Tender Document.
3- Please clarify the timeline for rectification after the instrument becomes technically faulty.	NCPOR cannot give any extended period for the rectification of instruments. Once the time frame is fixed, there should not be any fault in the functioning of the instruments.
4- Please clarify who would be liable for Insurance of the instruments	The insurance clause will be mentioned in the Tender document.
5- What is the criteria for data acceptance? Does NCPOR anticipate redundancy instruments to maximise data returns?	NCPOR must receive a complete data set from all sensors without any missing data. It is the vendor's responsibility to ensure this is delivered in the best possible manner.
6- Could NCPOR please provide data related to subsea volcanic activity, the temperature data near seabed (preferably CTD/SVP cast data) and seabed characteristics?	The available data shall be provided.

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<p>7- Kindly provide the Vessel details that will be used for the operations – LOA, BOA, equipment onboard, ROV, deck space, accommodation, port of mobilisation, etc.</p> <p>Please note that Fugro will need to audit/vet the vessel prior to operations.</p>	<p>These details shall be given once the vessel is finalised.</p>
<p>8- Please clarify the Warranty requirements for the instruments.</p>	<p>Minimum three years warranty for all instruments.</p>
<p>9- Kindly note that it is not recommended to use Radar on the buoy for wave measurements, considering various factors that could affect the readings.</p> <p>Fugro Seawatch buoy has been validated and extensively used for wave measurements globally by using its internal wave sensor.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>In the tender document, the Radar type will be replaced with “ Wave inertial sensor”.</p> <p>NCPOR is very much concerned about the quality of the data once it is handed over by the vendors during the retrieval of the instrument till the end of the project.</p>
<p>10- We understand that the H2O requirement is related to sensitivity. Could NCPOR kindly elaborate on this measurement required in the scope?</p>	<p>As the Infrared Gas Analyzer (IRGA) is an optical instrument, there is a cross-sensitivity of CO2 measurement due to an increase in the humidity content. Hence, the cross-sensitivity or direct sensitivity of H2O on CO2 measurements should be limited to the values mentioned.</p>
<p>11- Please clarify who will be responsible for ownership of equipment in general and confirm the timeline for the handover of the instruments' ownership to NCPOR.</p>	<p>NCPOR will be the owner of all instruments. The vendor must hand over all instruments after completing all stages of the mooring operations, including the retrieval of instruments and data related to this project.</p>
<p>12- Kindly confirm if Customs duty waiver is available for the purchase of instruments on behalf of NCPOR or otherwise.</p>	<p>The waiver shall be mentioned in the tender document.</p>
<p>13- Confirm the commercial model for the operational period and post-project return of equipment. That is, does NCPOR want contractor to purchase the new set of equipment set, manage the</p>	<p>Vendor should purchase new instruments for NCPOR mooring (should not use any old sensors if they have) and return to NCPOR after</p>

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deployment/recovery and return equipment to NCPOR post-deployment?	retrieval from mooring. All these sensors should be sent for calibration to OEM before handover to NCPOR.
14- Scope of work requires a 12-month deployment. Fugro is keen to ensure the best data returns for the measurement period to generate value. Can NCPOR confirm that the vessel would be available after six months for a service visit of both moorings?	NCPOR cannot provide a vessel for the service visit. Vessel shall be provided only for deployment and retrieval of mooring.
15- We understand that due to power constraints, NCPOR and Contractor will need to agree sub surface sensors sampling regime that allows for 1-year deployment.	The optimum interval of data acquisition shall be discussed in the later stage.
16- Is data QC, analysis and reporting required?	Yes QC is required. The data processing will be carried out at NCPOR. However, a training of data processing, if required, may be provided to the NCPOR scientists by OEM.
17- While Data QC is a standard offering as part of Fugro services, the sediment traps will collect samples that need to be analysed in a laboratory. Does NCPOR want the contractor to analyse this in the contractor lab or would NCPOR prefer these sediment trap samples be sent to NCPOR post-recovery?	NCPOR will do the analysis; hence, the vendor may send the samples to NCPOR.
18- Can we propose sensors that meet the overall aims of the project but don't meet the specific technical specifications?	No, the instruments should be as per the specific technical specifications mentioned in the request for EOI.
<b>II. Firm 2</b>	
19- Please specify if the sensors should have individual data storing capabilities or use induction cable to store the data in a single data logger. (3. Technical Specifications)	The sensors in the surface mooring may be integrated to the data logger along with AWS and Eddy covariance whereas only AWS and wave data should be transmitted in real-time. In addition to this, all the sensors in the surface and subsurface mooring should have individual data storage.

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<p>20- Kindly define “similar projects”, does this mean deployment of depth of 1500m or more is one deployment enough or number of deployments. Does vendor have to show similar sensors deployed/ sediment trap?</p>	<p>We are fine with vendors having experience with a number of deployments with similar sensors in the deep ocean minimum of 1500m or more.</p>
<p>21- Please clarify if the value indicated are cumulative (or) each order should have the value indicated.</p>	<p>Each order should have the value specified.</p>
<p>22- Relaxation on the points c 7 d in section 4 under eligibility criteria in page no. 28</p>	<p>Noted. The relaxation is applicable for this EOI. The same may or may not be considered for the final Tender Document.</p>
<p><b>III. Firm 3</b></p>	
<p>23- The tender reflect that the bidder should have an average annual financial turnover of Rs. 9 Cr or more during the last three years ending March 31, 2024; and the bidding companies should be earning profit at least during two (02) years in the last three (03) years.</p> <p>We have 20+ yrs of experiences in the marine and oceanographic field extending professional support to our esteemed customers including NCPOR, and our associate partners in this bid Comorin Oceanics has mooring expert who has decades (25+ years) of experience having worked with prestigious oceanographic laboratory in India. Samhitha Marine, as an entity was established in April 2017 and we are growing Year over Year with excellent growth rate (&gt;70% YoY and last year it was 200% plus growth). We request NCPOR to consider an average financial turnover of 5 Cr instead of 9 Cr as specified in the EOI, this will enable us to comply and offer competitive proposal.</p>	<p>The Eligibility criteria pertaining to average financial turnover has been revised as 5 cr.</p> <p>The relaxation is applicable only for this EOI. The same may or may not be considered for the final Tender Document.</p>

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<p>24- The bidder (OEM/SI) should have experience in a similar nature of work in the last seven years, ending the previous day of the last date of submission of the bid/EOI. Out of which two works of value Rs 15 Cr or three works of value of Rs 12 Cr. Work Completion Certificate/ Experience certificate/ongoing along with the Purchase Orders/Work orders as a reference to be enclosed in this regard.</p> <p>We believe this statement shall be considered the other way.</p> <p>We request NCPOR to consider two works aggregating to 9 Cr, or three works aggregating to 11 Cr for complying with this requirement.</p> <p>Similar nature of work shall include supply of any underwater equipment to customers in India including any services in oceanographic deployment etc.</p>	<p>Considering the request, the cost of the work order of two works of 15 Cr for each has been revised as two works of 4 Cr for each.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Three works of 3 Cr each.</p> <p>The relaxation is applicable only for this EOI. The same may or may not be considered in the final Tender Document.</p> <p>Only the supply of equipment is not acceptable. The company should have experience in the implementation of mooring in the deep ocean at a depth of a minimum of 1500m or more.</p>
<p>25- Should NCPOR have any historical data like bathymetry, geomorphology, current, temperature taken around the site / location; this would help in working out the type and kind of mooring parameters.</p>	<p>Yes, we shall provide the available data.</p>
<p>26- NCPOR mooring sensor spread is: Surface mooring (0m – 1500m) Sub-surface mooring (3500m–4000m)</p>	<p>We require the information only at those depths mentioned in the request for EOI</p>

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<p>The space between 1501m to 3499m will not have any sensors, please confirm; and or if any modifications would be preferred.</p>	
<p>27- Please list the optional sensors that NCPOR is looking for; so we shall quote suitably and also make provision in the mooring line.</p>	<p>The list of sensors and instruments provided in the published request for EOI (3. Technical specification) may please be considered.</p>
<p>28- We believe real time data through Iridium should be acceptable for NCPOR; please confirm.</p>	<p>Transmission through iridium is acceptable for NCPOR.</p>
<p>29- We, as a vendor will be procuring the instruments (sensors) as per the specification and requirement of NCPOR. We shall check all the instruments prior to deployment of the instruments (mooring) in concurrence with NCPOR team. Any loss of data due to instrument failure in the field subsequently directly or due to the vulnerable and dynamics of ocean environment cannot be imposed on the vendor and on their responsibility. There is no way we can do any periodical check or maintain the systems on the mooring after the deployment. Any failure may be due to various reasons and ocean dynamics and conditions which are beyond the limits of control by vendor. This point needs to be discussed in detail for absolute clarity.</p>	<p>NCPOR is not responsible for an instrument's failure due to its technical issues except vandalism.</p>
<p>30- To ensure commonality, NCPOR may provide with the make and model of the sensors / instruments as required; so, every bidder quotes the right product and has a common approach - technically and commercially (from sensor perspective).</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>IV. Firm 4</b></p>	
<p>31- Is NCPOR interested in alternative technologies such as profilers in place of proposed deep-sea moorings</p>	<p>At present NCPOR would like to go with the proposed mooring as published in EOI</p>