

**Marine Tech Exhibit  
Request for Proposal**

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| <b>Issuance Date:</b>                  | Thursday, August 20, 2020  |
| <b>Deadline for Questions:</b>         | Thursday, August 27, 2020  |
| <b>Deadline for Offers:</b>            | Friday, September 4, 2020  |
| <b>Description:</b>                    | Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's (TBNMS) Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC) in Alpena, Michigan is updating its public exhibits including a marine technology exhibit |
| <b>Point of Contact for Submission</b> | Chuck Bennett<br><a href="mailto:Chuck.Bennett@noaa.gov">Chuck.Bennett@noaa.gov</a><br>Phone: 989-884-6206   |

1.1 Introductions:

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) is soliciting proposals and quotes for the tasks in this Statement of Work. The contract for this work will be with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and all invoices must be addressed to:

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation  
8601 Georgia Ave #510  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

1.2 Background:

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's (TBNMS) Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC) in Alpena, Michigan public exhibits include a marine technology exhibit area featuring a video screen interactive game element that individual visitors play using a controller joystick to operate a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The custom designed game simulation is based on what an ROV pilot experiences while conducting work in the waters of TBNMS. Within the custom simulation, the visitor (pilot) is challenged to perform resource protection actions by piloting their ROV to search for and cut derelict lines/debris away from the historic shipwreck, *Norman*. Additional features include a split screen with a "birds-eye" view of the simulation for other visitors to watch the visitor (pilot) at work, and a separate sonar screen showing output from sensors on the simulated ROV.

The computer, controller, and three screens are mounted in a custom cabinet mounted to the wall of the exhibit area, surrounded by custom signage with directions on how to use the interactive ROV simulator experience and providing historic context for the shipwreck.

The main content of the exhibit is a custom interactive graphic simulation designed by a private company along with a custom designed CPU, software, graphic 3D animation simulation, and license for this exhibit element.

The exhibit has been in use at GLMHC for six years, and the simulator is in use 8+ hours daily by visitors.

1.3 Purpose:

The Marine Tech exhibit at TBNMS' Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, as described above, is non-functional and requires troubleshooting and an upgrade to be functioning with the features and specification outlined in Section 1.4: Performance Objectives.

#### 1.4 Performance Objectives:

- All deliverables will be shipped to TBNMS for NOAA staff to install in the exhibit cabinetry. Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 500 West Fletcher Street, Alpena, MI 49707
- Deliverable Schedule
  - TBNMS will conduct planning meetings with the vendor beginning within 21 business days of the award to discuss scenarios, artifacts, requirements, images, historical information and content.
  - TBNMS will provide materials discussed in the planning meetings within 4 weeks of the discussion.
  - Vendor will provide a first draft within 2 months of receiving the materials being provided by TBNMS.
  - TBNMS will review and submit edits within 3 weeks of receiving the first draft.
  - Vendor will provide a second draft within 1 month of receiving TBNMS edits to the first draft.
  - TBNMS will review and submit edits within 2 weeks of receiving the second draft.
  - Vendor will provide a final draft within 1 month of receiving TBNMS edits to the second draft.
  - Vendor will deliver exhibit components within 1 month of TBNMS accepting the final draft.
  - All work shall be completed within 9 months of the award.
- All components (hardware and software) must be fully functional for the exhibit to function normally.
- Computer must be able to connect to the internet via WiFi for remote support and maintenance.
- All components in the Marine Tech exhibit must be compatible with the existing three (3) monitors that use DVI ports.
- Joystick to maneuver the ROV in all scenarios included in this exhibit (described below) plus one spare joystick.
- Scenarios that a ROV pilot could choose from would include the ability for a split screen with the pilots screen and a "birds-eye" view of the simulation for other visitors to watch the visitor (pilot) at work, and a separate sonar screen showing output from sensors on the simulated ROV (3 screens total).
  - Scenario 1 interprets the *Titanic* as it relates to Thunder Bay via NOAA ONMS Maritime Heritage Program. Game simulation must be based on what a ROV pilot would actually experience while conducting work on the Titanic.
  - Scenario 2 interprets the shipwreck *Norman* in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary at the minimal level of what is currently in the exhibit.
  - Optional: 3<sup>rd</sup> scenario would be optional and should be broken out separately in the proposal and quote. The optional 3<sup>rd</sup> scenario would be of another TBNMS shipwreck, or another shipwreck site at an Office of National Marine Sanctuary site (e.g. *Monitor*), and include realistic animation based on the archaeological and historic record and real-world ROV use scenarios. Game simulation must be based on what a ROV pilot would actually experience while conducting work on the site of the scenario ship.
- TBNMS staff will work with the developers to ensure the scenarios are based on actual real world ROV pilot training and adhere to Sanctuary resource protection mission (e.g. any artifact recovery should reflect permitted activity, for example: grain sample from *Windiate* shipwreck). TBNMS staff will have final approval of scenarios.
- TBNMS staff will provide images, artifacts, historical information and content for the scenarios to be fabricated around.
- Annual support and maintenance of 10 hours to be conducted remotely.

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1.5 Period of Performance:

The Contractor is to complete all work and ship deliverables within 9 months of contract award.

1.6 IT Security Requirements

The contractor will not be accessing U.S. government computers or IT systems for this effort. The contractor will not be accessing any information that is not within the public domain for this effort.

The contractor will not be processing, transmitting or storing privileged access information (i.e., non-public) in carrying out the tasks of this contract.

1.7 Point of Contacts:

**National Marine Sanctuary Foundation**

Deanna Balistreri

[Deanna@marinesanctuary.org](mailto:Deanna@marinesanctuary.org)

Phone: 301-608-3040

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Technical**

Chuck Bennett

[Chuck.Bennett@noaa.gov](mailto:Chuck.Bennett@noaa.gov)

Phone: 989-884-6206

**Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary**

Mary Tagliareni

[Mary.Tagliareni@noaa.gov](mailto:Mary.Tagliareni@noaa.gov)

Phone: 989-884-6203

1.8 General Disclaimers:

This is a Request for Proposals only. Issuance of this RFP does not in any way obligate the Foundation or NOAA to make an award or pay for costs incurred by potential offerors in the preparation and submission of an offer. In addition:

- a) The Foundation may cancel RFP and not award;
- b) The Foundation may reject any or all responses received;
- c) Issuance of RFP does not constitute award commitment by The Foundation;
- d) The Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow RFP instructions;
- e) The Foundation will not compensate offerors for response to RFP;
- f) The Foundation reserves the right to issue award based on initial evaluation of offers without further discussion;
- g) The Foundation may negotiate with short-listed offerors for their best and final offer;
- h) The Foundation reserves the right to order additional quantities or units with the selected offeror;

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- i) The Foundation may reissue the solicitation or issue formal amendments revising the original RFP specifications and evaluation criteria before or after receipt of proposals;
- j) The Foundation may modify the specifications without issuing a formal notice to all offerors when the revisions are immaterial to the scope of the RFP;
- k) The Foundation may choose to award only part of the activities in the RFP, or issue multiple awards based on multiple RFP activities;
- l) The Foundation reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition;
- m) The Foundation will contact all offerors to confirm contact person, address, and that the bid was submitted for this RFP;

#### 1.9 Eligibility:

By submitting an offer in response to this RFP, the offeror certifies that it and its principal officers are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise considered ineligible for an award by the U.S. Government. The Foundation will not award a contract to any firm that is debarred, suspended, or considered to be ineligible by the U.S. Government.

## **Section 2: Instructions to Offerors**

### 2.1 Offer Deadline and Protocol:

Offers must be received no later than 5:00 pm, Eastern Time, on Friday, September 4, 2020. Offers must be submitted by email to [Chuck.Bennett@noaa.gov](mailto:Chuck.Bennett@noaa.gov).

### 2.2 Questions:

Questions regarding the technical or administrative requirements of this RFP may be submitted no later than 5:00 pm, Eastern Time, on Thursday, August 27, 2020 by email to Chuck Bennett at [Chuck.Bennett@noaa.gov](mailto:Chuck.Bennett@noaa.gov). Questions must be submitted in writing; phone calls will not be accepted. Questions and requests for clarification—and the responses thereto—the Foundation believes may be of interest to other offerors will be circulated to all RFP recipients who have indicated an interest in bidding.

Only the written answers issued by the Foundation will be considered official and carry weight in the RFP process and subsequent evaluation. Any verbal information received from employees or any other entity should not be considered as an official response to any questions regarding this RFP.

### 2.3 Evaluation and Award:

The award will be to the responsible offeror whose quotation results in the best value to the Foundation, considering both price and non-price factors. All evaluation factors other than cost or price, when combined, are significantly more important than cost or price. The following factors will be used to evaluate proposals:

1. **Technical Approach and Capability.** The offeror's approach to performing contract requirements and its capability to successfully perform the contract will be evaluated. The contractor shall provide:
  - a) Demonstrated capability to develop scenarios as outlined in the Statement of Work to the specifications in the Statement of Work, including any software requirements to ensure the operation of the exhibit.
  - b) Ability to provide hardware that meets the requirements in the Statement of Work for the exhibit to function.
  - c) Yearly remote maintenance to ensure a fully functioning working exhibit.

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2. Past Performance. The offeror's past performance on related contracts will be evaluated to determine, as appropriate, successful performance of contract requirements, quality and timeliness of delivery of goods and services, cost management, communications between contracting parties, proactive management and customer satisfaction. Provide a list of at least two but no more than three contacts, including phone numbers, of past performance references that you have successfully accomplished services similar to size and scope of those listed in the statement of work.

#### 2.4 Proposal and Quote

All Offers must remain valid for no less than 45 calendar days after the offer deadline.

Please include the following in the offer:

- Company Name:
- Company POC and title:
- Company Address:
- Company Website and email:
- Company Phone Number:
- Company DUNS Number:
- Company Tax ID Number:

Please refer to the requirements in Section 1.4 to fill in the following table:

| Line Items | Deliverable   | Price |
|------------|---|-------|
| Base       | Hardware- Customized computer required to run scenarios                                   |       |
| Base       | Joystick compatible with hardware and scenarios,<br>Quantity- 2                           |       |
| Base       | Scenario 1- <i>Titanic</i>  |       |
| Base       | Scenario 2- <i>Norman</i>   |       |
| Option     | Scenario 3- Additional wreck  |       |
| Base       | Annual support and maintenance of 10 hours to be conducted remotely. Year 1               |       |
| Option     | Annual support and maintenance of 10 hours to be conducted remotely. Year 2               |       |
| Option     | Annual support and maintenance of 10 hours to be conducted remotely. Year 3               |       |
| Option     | Annual support and maintenance of 10 hours to be conducted remotely. Year 4               |       |
| Base       | Taxes or fees (NMSF is a non-profit and in some states may qualify for tax exempt status) |       |
| Base       | Shipping  |       |



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**Past Experience on Similar Projects:**

Please list two contacts for references from organizations/individuals for which the offeror has successfully performed similar work

**Certification of Conflict of Interests or appearances of impropriety with any potential representatives of NOAA or The Foundation:**

By submitting a proposal, the applicant is stating that they have no conflicts of interest or appearances of impropriety with any of the representatives of NOAA or The Foundation. If this status should change, the applicant must disclose any situation which creates a conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety.

If the applicant has a conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety, they will disclose via the following table:

| Individual/Entity Name: | Nature of Relationship: | Brief Description of COI |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
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|                         |                         |                          |