REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
No. DLN182122I

CONSTRUCTION OF THE REGIONAL CLASS RESEARCH VESSEL(S)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DUE DATE AND TIME:
May 31ST, 2016 (3:00 PM, PT)

OSU Procurement, Contracts and Materials Management Offices are open from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Offices are closed during the 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm lunch hour.

SUBMITTAL LOCATIONS:
Hard Copy:
Oregon State University
Procurement, Contracts and Materials Management
644 SW 13th Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon 97333

Electronic Copy:
http://bid.oregonstate.edu/rcrv
I. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Issue Date: May 2, 2016
Teleconference: May 19, 2016 (10:00 am, PT)
Due Date and Time: May 31, 2016 (3:00 pm, PT)

CONFERENCE:

A teleconference (audio only) will be held on May 19, 2016 at 10:00 am PT. The call-in number for the teleconference is 541-737-8725. The teleconference ID number is 36933, followed by the # sign. The purpose of the teleconference will be for potential respondents to ask questions and gain clarifications regarding this Request for Information document only. Attendance at this teleconference is optional and is not a mandatory requirement for responding to this Request for Information or any subsequent Request for Proposals.

II. ISSUING OFFICE AND CONTACT

ISSUING OFFICE:

The Procurement, Contracts and Materials Management (PCMM) department of Oregon State University (OSU) is the issuing office and is the sole point of contact for this Request for Information. Address all concerns or questions pertaining to this Request for Information to the Administrative Contact identified below:

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT:

Name: Deanne Lahaie-Noll
Title: Procurement Contract Officer
Telephone: (541) 737-1150
Fax: (541) 737-2170
E-Mail: deanne.lahaie-noll@oregonstate.edu
Address: Oregon State University
Procurement and Contract Services
644 SW 13th Avenue
Corvallis, Oregon 97333

III. INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION:

This is a Request for Information (RFI), issued by Oregon State University (OSU) Procurement Contracts and Materials Management (PCMM). The purpose of this RFI is to gain the following information regarding the potential construction and delivery of Regional Class Research Vessels (RCRVS):

a. A measure of industry interest in constructing the RCRV(s); identification of shipyards to receive the RCRV Request for Proposals.

b. Facility requirements to construct the RCRV(s) including capabilities and capacity.

c. Industry comments regarding the RCRV shipyard Sample Contract structure and provisions. OSU is interested in suggested contract improvements offering mutual benefit to both OSU and the potential contractor. In addition to a general review of the Sample Contract terms, OSU is particularly interested...
in receiving comment on performance and payment bonding requirements and contract retainage requirements.

d. Feedback and suggested improvements regarding the draft solicitation schedule for a potential RCRV formal competitive RFP.

e. Industry comments regarding the RCRV Design Summary Report, draft RCRV Contract Specifications and provided preliminary Contract Drawings. OSU is interested in concerns regarding vessel constructability and construction schedule.

OSU is under no obligation to consider or incorporate information provided in response to this RFI and may do so at its sole discretion and consistent with applicable laws.

The RCRV(s) will be Federally funded via a Cooperative Agreement with OSU and owned by the National Science Foundation (NSF) after contract delivery to OSU. At this time, NSF has approved OSU to proceed with the competitive selection of a United States (US) shipyard to construct and deliver up to two RCRVs.

OSU anticipates contracting for the construction of one RCRV and will reserve the right to exercise options to contract for additional RCRV(s) in the future, as Federal funding is received.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY:
Founded in 1868, Oregon State University is a comprehensive, research-extensive, public university located in Corvallis. OSU is one of only two American universities to hold the Land Grant, Sea Grant, Space Grant and Sun Grant designations. OSU is also the only Oregon institution to hold the Carnegie Foundation's top ranking for research universities, a recognition of the depth and quality of OSU's graduate education and research programs.

Through its centers, institutes, Extension offices and Experiment Stations, OSU has a presence in almost every one of Oregon's 36 counties, including its main campus in Corvallis, the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport and OSU-Cascades Campus in Bend. OSU offers undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees through 12 academic colleges enrolling more than 26,000 students from every county in Oregon, every state in the country and more than 90 nations.

BACKGROUND:
OSU has entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to procure up to two Regional Class Research Vessels funded by the NSF through its Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction program. The RCRV program is using the Design-Bid-Build method of project delivery and, therefore, OSU is responsible for the development of a design specification package, selection of a shipyard via a formal competitive process, and administration of a firm fixed price RCRV shipyard construction contract. Upon OSU completion of construction and delivery to OSU, the RCRVs will be owned by NSF and will function as part of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) fleet for academic research.

As part of the UNOLS fleet, the RCRVs will offer modern well-equipped facilities for essential ocean research in coastal regions of the United States, and will at times conduct work internationally. Over an anticipated 35–40 year lifecycle they will serve as cost-effective platforms for multi-disciplinary ocean observations, sampling and process studies, as platforms for training future scientists, engineers, and educators, and for information sharing and public outreach about the basic sciences as well as national security and coastal community development and socioeconomics. Accordingly, the fundamental functional requirements for the RCRV Class are effectiveness, efficiency, sea kindliness characteristics that will enhance scientific missions, and habitability.

More information can be found on line at: http://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/ships/rcrv/
RCRV Principal Design Characteristics and Highlights:
The RCRV shall be a modern mono-hull research vessel, with integrated diesel-electric propulsion capable of
general-purpose interdisciplinary oceanographic research in areas from coastal bays and estuaries to and
beyond the continental shelf. The vessel shall be capable of operating on any ocean worldwide, in a regional
research capacity. Vessel particulars:

- Length Overall: 193 ft.
- Beam: 41 ft.
- Draft: 12.5 ft.
- Payload: Mission Payload 66 long tons including laboratory and oceanographic wire loadout
- Expected combined crew and embarked science party of up to 33 (including 4 person berthing van)
- Speed: Calm water cruising speed of 12.0 knots
- Endurance: At least 21 days
- Range: 5,400+ nm @ 12 knots (calm water)
- Twin azimuthing Z drives and twin bow thrusters for Dynamic Positioning and maneuvering
- Integrated shallow and deep water acoustic multibeam bottom mapping and sub-bottom profiling systems
- Large aft Deck for operational flexibility: three 20 ft. laboratory vans, plus adequate remaining deck space
  for multidisciplinary operations
- High bandwidth satellite communications for worldwide operations
- Acoustically quiet
- Energy efficient

RCRV Mission Characteristics:
The RCRV will operate in coastal regions worldwide, will make open ocean transits, and may operate in light
first-year ice and call into ports which occasionally experience some ice, thus requiring Ice Class classification
C0. Areas of study from a multipurpose RCRV span from the atmosphere, through the water column, into the
seafloor below, and from coastal shores and river mouths to over the continental slope and adjacent abyssal
plain.

The vessel shall be capable of high performance station-keeping, thus requiring Dynamic Positioning
classification DPS-1. The vessel’s underwater radiated noise will be minimized through treatments and vibration
dampening making it acoustically quiet under most general oceanographic operating scenarios. The vessel shall
be fuel-efficient and have minimal impacts on the natural environment (“Green”), as economically practicable,
while meeting the operational goals and regulatory requirements for the vessel.

The vessel shall be capable of performing the following tasks:

- Sampling and data collection of surface, mid-water, and sea floor parameters using modern scientific
  laboratories and instrumentation, including portable laboratory vans
- Acoustic multibeam bottom mapping and sub-bottom profiling
- Launch and recovery of scientific packages, both tethered and autonomous using state-of-the-art handling
  systems
- Handling, monitoring, and servicing of remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) (appropriate for vessel size) and
  autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs)
- Deployment and recovery of unmanned aerial systems (UASs) and weather balloons
- Deployment and recovery of moorings and coring equipment (appropriate for vessel size)
- Deployment and recovery of small craft (appropriate for vessel size), including autonomous surface vehicles
  (ASVs)
- Deployment and recovery of free-floating instruments
Full-time, high speed satellite connectivity for communications, internet access and data transfer including telepresence between researchers afloat and researchers, students and the general public ashore

Precise navigation, station-keeping and track-line maneuvering to support deep sea and coastal operations

Long periods of operation on-station or at low speeds for towing and bathymetric surveys

Providing access to the sea for scientific personnel with visual, hearing or mobility limitations within the limitations of regulatory and other requirements.

COMPETITIVE PROCESS:

OSU anticipates using a Request for Proposals (RFP) formal competitive process to select a single US shipyard to construct the RCRV(s). Response to this RFI is not required to participate in the anticipated RFP. OSU intends to employ a best value procurement process in selecting a shipyard. A best value procurement process allows OSU to consider qualitative factors in addition to price or cost.

OSU anticipates that the RCRV RFP process will involve two competitive stages. Stage 1 of the RFP would be the submittal, evaluation and scoring of Proposer qualifications and technical Proposals. Technical Proposals would include but not be limited to descriptions of facilities, construction history, business history, financial capabilities, management practices, engineering and component subcontracting, including named single source vendors, and schedule to construct the RCRV. OSU would score the Proposals based upon specified evaluation criteria. Stage 1 would conclude with OSU’s identification of the competitive range of qualified Proposers for the construction of the RCRV.

During Stage 2 of the RFP, OSU anticipates issuing a Request for Cost Proposals (RCP) to the selected competitive range of qualified Proposers, as determined by Stage 1. The RCP would request pricing for the construction and delivery of individual vessels. The individual vessel pricing would remain valid for specified time periods, beginning with the period from the due date for Cost Proposals to contract execution. This initial pricing period would be followed by consecutive annual pricing periods four years into the future. The pricing periods provide segments of time when specified pricing options remain valid and available for OSU to exercise.

In addition to requesting pricing for vessel construction and delivery, OSU also anticipates requesting pricing for related services and materials as contract options. These contract options would be proposed as price listings and would also be valid for specified time periods, up to seven years into the future. OSU anticipates examples of the Contract Line Items Numbers (CLINs) for related services and materials may include: insurance spares, science and regional outfit items, ceremonies, and display models. OSU also anticipates requesting fixed composite rates for professional, administrative and manufacturing hourly labor rates to be charged for specified change orders, and rates for OSU caused delays, and post-delivery pier-side facility costs.

OSU would score Cost Proposals for pricing evaluations based upon quantitative formulas presented within the RCP. OSU anticipates the pricing evaluations will include both price comparisons and a price realism analysis. To facilitate the first price comparison scoring, OSU anticipates developing a two-vessel build scenario that will be based upon then current funding information. The two-vessel scenario would indicate which pricing periods would be scored for the price comparison evaluation. OSU’s two-vessel scenario would not be available to potential Proposers prior to the RFP Stage 2 closing date to encourage competitive pricing across all pricing periods. The two-vessel scenario would be applied by OSU to all Stage 2 Responsive Cost Proposals for price comparison evaluation purposes only and would include vessel construction and delivery, along with related services and materials options. OSU also anticipates applying price comparisons for composite rates, rates for OSU caused delays and post-delivery pier-side facility costs. OSU anticipates scoring price realism by comparing Proposer’s pricing for the first vessel, not including options, to an OSU detailed cost estimate. OSU
OSU anticipates calculating a total Stage 2 score based upon scores from both the price comparison and the price realism evaluations for each Responsive Cost Proposal, pursuant to the RCP.

OSU also anticipates evaluating the Responsive Cost Proposal’s Vessel 1 delivery date as a pass or fail criterion. OSU anticipates comparing the Proposer Vessel 1 delivery date to a required not to exceed delivery time of 40 months from the Contract Notice to Proceed effective date.

OSU anticipates that the scores from RFP Stage 1 and Stage 2 would be combined and a total final score determined for each Proposal. OSU intends to perform a best value analysis of the final combined evaluation results. OSU anticipates selecting the highest scoring Responsive, Responsible Proposer, providing the best value to OSU.

The anticipated schedule for this formal procurement process is to start mid-August of 2016, and culminate with the contract execution by June 16, 2017. The anticipated solicitation process, including timeframes for each step, is attached as Exhibit A, for review and comment.

SAMPLE CONTRACT

As the RCRV project currently involves a funding-dependent multiple vessel build, OSU anticipates a staggered and overlapping vessel build scenario and not a simultaneous vessel build-start scenario. To accommodate possible RCRV project funding constraints, OSU anticipates requesting firm fixed pricing for the construction and delivery of an initial individual vessel and pricing for related services and materials, as well as additional vessel(s) as options. As discussed above in the Competitive Process Section, the pricing would remain valid and available for OSU to exercise during specified pricing periods.

The vessel pricing would be provided by Proposers for CLINs in each pricing period. Some of the CLINs would be specified as options. OSU intends to contract for the construction and delivery of the number of vessels initially funded and if only one vessel is initially funded, then OSU would reserve the right to exercise options to contract for the additional vessel(s), as funding is received. Proposers would be encouraged to propose optional pricing incentives or discounts for multiple vessels or for the purchase of long lead materials for future vessels. OSU also intends to reserve the right to exercise options to contract for priced related services and materials described above in the Competitive Process Section.

A Sample Contract that illustrates the form of agreement to be used to contract for the construction and delivery of the RCRV and related service and materials options would be part of the RFP. A Sample Contract is attached as Exhibit B, for review and comment. Although comments are encouraged, please note that many of the terms and conditions included in the Sample Contract are terms required by the NSF Cooperative Agreement or applicable laws, Standards or Policies that will not be deleted or modified. Proposers would have an opportunity to take exceptions to certain terms and conditions of the Sample Contract in the RFP. Note, that if the NSF RCRV funding profile is revised, such as an increase or decrease in the number of vessels funded, the Sample Contract may also be revised to accommodate funding changes.

CONTRACTOR RISK MITIGATION

The Sample Contract statement of work indicates numerous aspects of the Sample Contract that are intended to reduce risk to the contractor. While not all inclusive, the most critical of these aspects are:

- The majority of RCRV Contract Drawings have been preliminarily reviewed by ABS. The RCRV Contract Drawings include aspects that are needed to meet the requirements for ABS Ice Class C0, DPS1, ACCU, and NiBS notations.
- The Sample Contract includes a design verification and transfer process for the contractor to work jointly with OSU to review the RCRV contract design for errors or omissions. The contract design review process is intended to occur immediately after the notice to proceed date, with provisions to identify and incorporate corrections or improvements into the RCRV contract design, in accordance with Section 4 of the Sample Contract.
Risk for meeting requirements for the vessel's speed, endurance, seakeeping, and science mission is borne by OSU, provided the contractor constructs the RCRV in accordance with the executed RCRV Contract.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the RCRV Principal Design Characteristics and RCRV Mission Characteristics listed above, the following Exhibits are attached for review and comment:

- Exhibit C - RCRV Design Summary Report
- Exhibit D - Draft Contract Specifications
- Exhibit E - Selected Preliminary Contract Drawings including:
  - E1 - General Arrangement
  - E2 - Lines Plan
  - E3 - Machinery Arrangement
  - E4 - Overboard Handling Systems

OSU notes the hull form and the sonar suite are two areas (in addition to others) that make the RCRV vessel unique.

V. SUBMITTALS

Respondents are requested to submit the following in response to this RFI:

a. Submit 2 copies (1 hard copy and 1 electronic copy) of your response; RFI’s responses may be submitted via the following method(s):
   1. Electronic copy (native or searchable PDF format, scanned pages are limited to signature pages only). The electronic copy must be uploaded to the OSU secure site specified at http://bid.oregonstate.edu/rcrv. Respondents must visit this site and register. After registering, Respondents will receive an invitation via email with a link to a secure folder. Instructions will specify how the Respondent can upload submittal files. It is highly recommended that the Respondent registers in a timely manner and also confirms receipt of the RFI response with the Administrative Contact prior to the RFI Due Date and Time.
   2. Hard copy in a sealed package or envelope dropped off in person or delivered to the submittal location listed on the RFI cover sheet. The package or envelope should be sent to the attention of the Administrative Contact. It is highly recommended that the Respondent confirms receipt of the RFI response with the Administrative Contact prior to the RFI Due Date and Time.

b. State your shipyard’s interest in constructing the RCRVs and receiving the Request for Proposals (RFP).

c. Describe the requirements including capabilities and capacity for a shipyard facility to construct the RCRV.

d. Provide comments and suggested improvements regarding the Sample Contract structure and provisions. Include comments regarding provisions that are vague, ambiguous or may substantially limit or impact participation of your shipyard in the RFP process.

e. Identify any sections of the Contract Specifications or selected Contract Drawings that are unclear as to intent or provide conflicting requirements.

f. Provide a general estimate of the construction time for the first RCRV in your shipyard.

g. Provide feedback and suggested improvements regarding the draft solicitation schedule for a potential RCRV formal competitive RFP.

Responses to this RFI are requested by the Due Date and Time indicated in the Schedule of Events. Responses must be sent to the submittal locations identified on the cover page of this RFI. OSU has sole discretion in accepting and/or reviewing responses to this RFI.

Information gathered in this process may be incorporated in a Request for Proposal (RFP), however responses to this RFI will not be considered during the anticipated RFP evaluation and scoring process. OSU may modify or revise the anticipated RFP content and process described in this RFI. Any resulting RFP will be openly
competitive and therefore RFI responses should not be exclusive or restrict competition. This RFI will not result in a qualified pool or shortlist of shipyards for a future competitive procurement, and any future competitive procurement for the RCRV will be advertised and fully open to the public. Response to this RFI is not a requirement for participation in any resulting RFP. This RFI does not obligate OSU to issue an RFP nor to include information submitted by respondents.

A contract will not be issued directly from this RFI, nor will issuance or acceptance of submittals or subsequent conversations bind OSU into any type of contractual obligation or relationship.

The documents and Exhibits presented for consideration under this RFI are “Draft” documents and although OSU has received NSF approval to proceed with the competitive selection process for the RCRV project, OSU has not yet received NSF approval to obligate associated RCRV construction funds. Respondents are exclusively responsible for their own costs associated with responding to this RFI.
EXHIBIT A

Solicitation Process for RCRV Request for Proposals

**Stage 1** (Request for Qualifications and Technical Proposals)

- OSU issues Request for Proposal (RFP)
  - Stage 1 - Request for Qualifications and Technical Proposals
  - Pre-proposal Conference
    - 2 weeks after RFP is released
  - Evaluation and Recommendation for Competitive Range of Qualified Proposers
    - 7 weeks after RFP release
  - NSF Review and Consent to Competitive Range of Qualified Proposers
    - 7 days
  - Issue Notification of Competitive Range Selection

**Stage 1 Complete**

Solicitation Process for RCRV Request for Proposals

**Stage 2** (Request for Cost Proposals 'RCP')

- Competitive Range of Proposers Progress to Stage 2
  - OSU Issues RCP to Competitive Range of Qualified Proposers
  - Evaluation and Recommendation for Best Value Selection & Preliminary Contract Negotiations
    - 7 weeks after RCP close
  - NSF Review and Consent to OSU's Shipyard Selection for Contract Award: 4 Weeks
  - Issue Contingent Notice of Intent to Award the Contract

- Official Award of Contract
  - (Subject to NSF Approval to Obligate Construction Funds)
  - Execute Contract

- Request for Clarifications
  - Deadline
  - 4 weeks after RCP release

- Proposers submit Cost Proposals
  - 8 weeks after RCP release

- 7 Calendar Day Protest Period

**Key**

- Proposer Activity
- OSU Activity