

QUALIFYING DOCUMENTATION
TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIVE BIDDING

*Acquisition of Seabed Massive Sulfide Data in the
Norwegian Sea*
(Ref. 2021/102)

**Company qualification in a two staged negotiated procedure cf. the Public Procurement Act and
the Regulations relating to public procurement part I and III**

Submission deadline: 09 March 2021

12:00 noon local time (Norway)



**NORWEGIAN PETROLEUM
DIRECTORATE**

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2 General description

2.1 About the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate

The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) is a governmental specialist directorate and administrative body established in 1972.

The paramount objective of the NPD is to contribute to creating the greatest possible values for society from the oil and gas activities by means of prudent resource management based on safety, emergency preparedness and safeguarding of the external environment.

For more information about NPD, visit our website www.npd.no.

2.2 Scope of procurement

2.2.1 Background

The marine acquisition campaign described here is part of NPD's program for mapping the deep sea mineral resources of the Norwegian continental shelf. The data acquisition program will be administered by the NPD, funded through the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy.

2.2.2 General description

The NPD intends to acquire a variety of geophysical data that may be used in the exploration for volcanic massive sulphide deposits in the seabed of the Knipovich Spreading Ridge in the Norwegian Sea. The data should be acquired using 3 or more AUVs mounted with these specified sensors:

- spontaneous potential data (SP)
- high resolution multi-beam bathymetry (preferably of Synthetic Aperture Sonar)
- back scatter data
- grav/mag
- geochemical sensors, including pH, metan, turbidity, ORP
- sub-bottom profiler (SBP)
- temperature

Possible ways for combining these data with acquisition of Electromagnetic data (CSEM/MMT) would also be of interest. AUV sensor acquiring Induced Polarity (IP) may also be of interest. Minimum 2 of the AUVs shall acquire data simultaneously.

In addition, geological samples are to be collected in areas of special interest. Samples shall be collected by use of ROV. The ROV should be able to capture still images and videos of high resolution. Acquisition of water column data should also be part of the program.

The water depth of the survey area varies in general between 2400 and 3500 meters, with some peaks up to 1500 meters.

The AUV-data are planned to be acquired along a set of semi regional survey lines in the central rift valley and rift shoulders of the Knipovich Ridge (se Figure 1). The aim of the survey is to enhance the data base for mineral exploration in general, and to investigate how different data sets may be integrated to better identify possible sulphide mineral deposits.

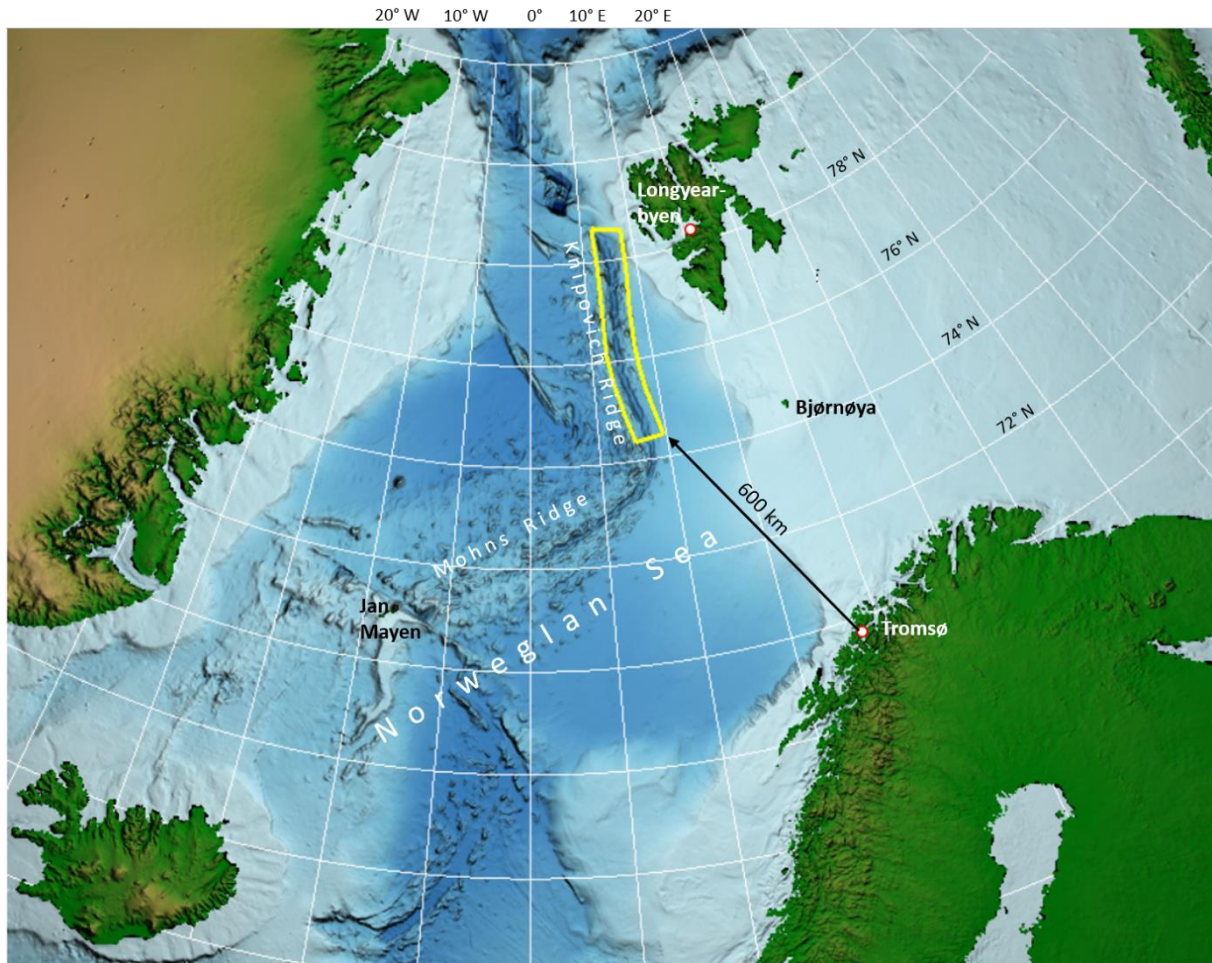


Figure 1 Regional overview map. Area of data acquisition are the axial parts of the Knipovich Ridge indicated by yellow box.

2.2.3 Timing

The survey is expected to be approximately one month and shall be completed in the period July - September 2021.

2.2.4 Processing

Processing of all data types shall be in accordance with industry standards.

2.2.5 Data delivery and final products

The contractor shall deliver

- all raw, measured, pre-processed and final processed data
- all captured images and videos
- generated maps of topography and sensor-images
- AUV and ROV tracks

A comprehensive field report shall be delivered two months after demobilization. The field report shall include following appendixes:

- break down of time consumption
- onboard QC and calibration of acquired data
- detailed documentation of AUV operations
- ROV dive report

2.2.6 Client's representative

NPD will have a representative on board for quality control and daily reporting to NPD.

NPD also reserves the option to send representative(s) to participate in the operations on board.

2.2.7 Time schedule for procurement process

The anticipated time schedule is:

1. Deadline for requests to participate – 09 March 2021 at 12.00 (noon) (fixed)
2. Selection among qualified participants – Mid March 2021
3. The selected participants receive the tender document (which includes further information about the scope of work, award criteria, the NPD contract terms) – Mid March 2021
4. Deadline for submitting a tender - Mid April 2021
5. NPD selects companies for negotiation - Late April 2021
6. Negotiations – Early May 2021
7. Selection of contractor – Late May 2021
8. Signing of contract- Early June 2021

2.2.8 Reservations

The project is fully subject to funding and approval from the Norwegian National Assembly ("Stortinget") and the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy. The NPD therefore reserves the right to stop the bidding process or declare it null and void or reduce the volume of the program due to budgetary and other unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the NPD.

2.2.9 Tendering costs

Tenderer shall cover all the costs of preparing and submitting the request for participation.

2.3 Public announcement

Tender competition is announced in the Merccell-database, DOFFIN-database and in the TED-database.

3 Competition rules

3.1 Procedure

NPD's procurement is regulated by the Norwegian Public Procurement Act of 16 July 1999 no 69 with amendments, and the Norwegian Public Procurement Regulation of 1 January 2017 sections I and III, with amendments.

The procedure is a two staged negotiated procedure with publication of a contract notice, cf. the Norwegian Public Procurement Regulations § 13-2 c). This means that the competition will be conducted as a two-stage process.

The first stage is a prequalification stage based on this qualifying document. All companies wanting to participate in the tender must deliver a written request for participation in accordance with this qualifying document. The requests for participation shall be submitted to NPD within the submission deadline on the front page of this document. Tenders shall not be submitted at this stage. The requests for participation must include all the requested documentation, cf. section 6.2.

The second stage is initiated when NPD has evaluated the requests for participation in relation to the qualification requirements, cf. section 5. Then the tender documents will be distributed to the qualified/selected participants. The participants shall then prepare, make and submit their tenders based on the tender documents.

3.2 Communication during the qualification process and tender process

All communication during the process shall be routed via the Merccell-portal, www.merccell.no. This is to assure that all communication will be logged. When you are logged on to the competition, choose the flag marked "Communication", click on the symbol "New message". Enter the information to the NPD and then click. The NPD will then receive your message. If the question regards all bidders, the NPD will answer the enquiry anonymously by giving the answer as additional information. Additional information is available under the flag "Enquiry", then the flag "Additional information". You will also receive an e-mail with a link to the additional information.

4 Qualification requirements

Bidders must fulfil these conditions to be eligible for participation in the competition.

4.1 General requirements

Requirement	Documents required
Circumstances regarding the bidder's tax remittances shall be in order (this only applies to Norwegian companies).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tax certificate (requirement for Norwegian bidders)• VAT certificate (requirement for Norwegian bidders) <p>More information: http://www.skatteetaten.no/no/Alt-om/Skatteattest/</p>

4.2 Company registration

Requirement	Documents required
The bidder shall be registered in the “The Register of Business Enterprises” in Brønnøysund or registration in a trade register or the like as set out in the laws of the country of registration of the bidder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of company registration Certificate or similar.

4.3 Financial strength

Requirement	Documents required
The tenderer must have financial strength sufficient for performing the specified services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of company annual accounts or extracts thereof for the last three years, with notes from an authorised public accountant. NPD may accept any other documentation that confirms financial strength.

4.4 Experience

4.4 Experience	Documents required
The tenderer must have relevant experience from similar assignments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement from the tenderer indicating the company’s experience from relevant/similar assignments, including overview of relevant Track Record

5 Selection of tenderers

Access to the second stage is limited, as the NPD will limit the number of participants based on the qualification requirements. Only the best qualified participants in the first stage will be invited to submit a tender in the second stage. If more than five companies register for participation, NPD will

select at least the three best qualified based on the following qualification requirement: “Relevant experience from relevant/similar assignments”, cf. section 4.4. These providers will receive the tender documents and be allowed to submit their tenders in the second stage.

In the second stage, after the deadline for submitting a tender, NPD will negotiate with qualified tenderers. If more than three tenderers qualify for the second stage, NPD will choose which three tenderers to negotiate with after an evaluation of the tenders based on the award criteria as they will be presented in the tender documents.

6 Submission and disposition of request for qualification

6.1 Submission of tender

All requests for qualification shall be submitted electronically via the Mercell portal, www.mercell.no by the tender deadline. Requests delivered after the deadline will not be accepted. (The system does not permit tenders to be sent electronically via Mercell after the tender deadline.)

If you are not a Mercell customer, or you have questions regarding how the application functions, e.g. how to submit a tender, please contact Mercell Support at telf +47 21 01 88 60, or by e-mail to support@mercell.com. It is recommended to submit the request for qualification in adequate time before the deadline. A minimum of 2 hours before the deadline is suggested. Be aware that the deadline is in local (Norwegian) time.

If NPD should provide additional information that results in you wanting to change your qualification request before the deadline, you can access your request, open it, make the necessary changes and send it again right up to the deadline. The last submitted will be regarded as the final one.

The tender requires an electronic signature when it is submitted. When sending the tender electronically, an electronic signature will be requested to confirm that you are the actual bidder who has submitted the tender. An electronic signature can be obtained at www.commfides.com, www.buypass.no or www.bankid.no.

We would like to remind you that it can take some days to acquire an electronic signature, and therefore recommend that this process be initiated as soon as possible.

6.2 Disposition of request for qualification

The request for qualification shall be enunciated in English or Norwegian and as in this disposition:

File name	Contents
Qualification requirements	Documents are to be enclosed in the step Qualification requirements when you submit the request for qualification in Mercell.
K01 - Tax certificate	Cf section 4.1 in this qualifying documentation
K02 - VAT certificate	Cf section 4.1 in this qualifying documentation
K03 - Company registration certificate	Cf section 4.2 in this qualifying documentation
K04 - Financial statement	Cf section 4.3 in this qualifying documentation
K05 - Experience	Cf section 4.4 in this qualifying documentation
DOC01 – Cover page	Signed by a responsible/liable representative for the bidder. Name and contact information of the bidder.