

Market Consultation

Proof of concept of sargassum management via testing circular reuse approaches, strengthening business cases and processing recommendations for planning of scaling.

Organisation: The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (**in Dutch: Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland, RVO**) supports private and public organizations with funding, international business partners, knowledge, and regulations.

More information about RVO can be found on: www.rvo.nl and <http://english.rvo.nl/>.

Purpose of the notification

The purpose of the market consultation is to assess interest by expert teams, organisations (including private, public, and NGO sector entities) being able to contribute to the development of a proof of concept (POC) for a circular approach to sargassum management. This needs to take place by testing circular reuse approaches, strengthening relevant business cases and processing recommendations for planning of scaling-up.

Extent and duration

The project will run from the end of June 2021 until 1 October 2021.

Background

Sargassum is a seaweed that periodically affects the Caribbean, including the Dutch islands and coastal areas of Mexico in large quantities, this phenomena negatively impacts the coral reefs, sea grass placing vulnerabilities in the natural coastal defense protecting this Hurrican-prone area, the coastal ecosystems, and socio economic livelihoods of local communities. Hence the impact of Sargassum arrivals which result in beach deterioration have become a critical issue. Furthermore, the brown algae contain high amounts of Sulphur, which is released together with nutrients, heavy metals and excessive organic material, during the rotting process which takes place after sargassum hits the beaches with significant and long lasting environmental impacts on the coast. In addition, strong odor pollution, disruptive of local communities and other negative effects.

Budget indication

Maximum budget is € 57.851 (excluding Dutch VAT)

Purpose of the project

The processing of Sargassum is still in a pioneering stage, in which different technologies, approaches, and methodologies are still under early development, and more experience in this needs to be gained. In Mexico two local enterprises stand out in the advancement of their processing approaches and business milestones, yet processes still experience lack of efficiency. Expertise is sought to improve the processing aspect and to determine the business as a viable concept for replication elsewhere.

Goals and deliverables

A detailed proof-of-concept of sargassum management report, it's logistical aspects, detailed methodology and recommendations for scaling-up. A Terms of Reference is available upon expression of interest.

Required skills/experiency

The experts, preferred to present themselves in the form of a multidisciplinary consortium, must meet the following requirements:

- Experience in sargassum valorisation processes
- Experience in extracting high-value components from sargassum
- Being able to translate process improvements towards business opportunities
- Being able to demonstrate and circular business case

- Being able to define recommendations for scaling-up and replicability

Application

Based on the market consultation, RVO can decide to start a procurement procedure. Interested companies/consultants can be invited to this procedure. Your response to this market consultation does not mean you have the right to be invited to this procurement procedure.

When multiple companies/consultants respond, there can be a random supplier selection.

If you are interested in this procurement procedure you can send an e-mail to Sophie van Bochove, Consultant Operational Procurement at Sophie.vanbochove@rvo.nl.

You do not have to send documents; only add your company details and address.

The deadline for responding to this notification is set at **31 May 2021 12.00u CEST**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophie van Bochove', written over a faint circular stamp.

Sophie van Bochove
Consultant Operational Procurement