

Algemene informatie

Aanbesteding: Fish Finder
Aanbestedende Dienst: Stichting Nederlandse Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Instituten (NWO-I)
Referentie: 092526
Toelichting:
-

Vraag en antwoord

Ref.nr.
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Onderwerp:
Section/Article 2.1.1

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority provide the available specifications for the buoy(s) and subsea frame(s), including dimensions, mounting space and points, weight limits, connectors, power supply, transducer orientation, stability requirements and hydrodynamic constraints? If these are not yet final, could the current design assumptions and tolerances be shared?

Antwoord:

Buoys and frames are designed and built in-house by NIOZ and are not part of the Assignment. NIOZ will adapt its frame to the offered instrument, not the other way around. Tenderers are therefore asked to provide in their offer the interface information of the instrument: dimensions, weight in air and in water, mounting points, connectors and transducer orientation options. The instruments must be fully self-contained (own battery and data storage); the buoy/frame provides no power or data connection.

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Onderwerp:
Section/Article 2.1.1

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify the expected deployment depth range and maximum required operating depth? For example, should the systems be rated to 100 m, in addition to meeting the stated requirement of ≥ 40 m?

Antwoord:

The instruments will be mounted on a submerged buoy approx. 20 m above the seafloor. Water depth at the location is 40–50 m. A depth rating beyond 50 m is therefore not required.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 2.1.1

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority indicate the intended deployment locations or areas and the relevant conditions at each location, including water depth, bathymetry, currents, tides, wave exposure, turbidity, salinity, temperature, fishing and shipping activity, and biofouling?

Antwoord:

The instruments will be deployed on a submerged buoy approx. 20 m below the sea surface in the Dutch North Sea. Fishing is not permitted in the area. Mounting on the buoy frame is done by NIOZ. The instrument only needs to withstand regular North Sea conditions: salinity 32–35 PSU, water temperature 3–20 °C, and biofouling over a 6-month deployment (see biofouling requirement).

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 5.6

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority explain why the previous procurement procedure was discontinued, what relevant changes have since been made, and whether the underlying causes have been resolved? If the reasons cannot be disclosed, could the residual risk of the current

procedure also being discontinued be classified as low, medium or high, with a brief explanation?

Antwoord:

The previous procurement was discontinued because the offer included frames, deployment and offshore support, which NIOZ does not intend to procure. NIOZ only intends to buy the instruments; frames/buoys and deployment are developed and carried out in-house. This has been clarified in the current procedure, and with this clarification NIOZ considers the risk of discontinuation low.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 7.2

Vraag:

Although mounting, deployment and recovery are outside the scope, would Contractor personnel be permitted to attend integration and/or deployment to provide technical support and verify installation and commissioning?

Antwoord:

Attendance is permitted, but is not required and not foreseen in the budget. NIOZ only intends to buy the instruments and technical support for the instruments themselves (including advice on integration into the buoy after the order has been placed). Mounting, deployment and recovery remain the responsibility of NIOZ.

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Onderwerp:
Section/Article 7.2

Vraag:

If such attendance is permitted or desired, could it be offered and priced as an optional service?

Antwoord:

Yes, it may be offered as a separately priced optional service. NIOZ cannot guarantee that the option will be taken up; this depends on the remaining project budget. Optional services will not be included in the evaluation of the instrument offer.

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Onderwerp:
Section/Article 7.2

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority indicate the expected dates for final interface specifications, design review, FAT, delivery, integration, SAT/commissioning, deployment, the first operational check and initial recovery?

Antwoord:

The only contractual milestone for the Contractor is the delivery of the instruments by 1 May 2027 (see Descriptive Document). The Contractor shall provide the interface specifications of the instruments with its offer (or at the latest at order confirmation). There is no frame design review with the Contractor. Integration, deployment, the first operational check and recovery are carried out by NIOZ and are not part of the Assignment; no dates are therefore required from the Contractor.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 1.3 / 3.1.4 / 7.2

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify what is included in "complete system", "final delivery" and "commissioning", and which activities must be completed and accepted by 1 May 2027?

Antwoord:

"Complete system" = a fully functional, self-contained instrument including transceiver, transducers, pressure housing, batteries, data storage, cables/connectors, configuration and data-processing software, and documentation/manuals. "Final delivery" = delivery of the complete systems at NIOZ premises. "Commissioning" = a functional check of each instrument on delivery (power-up, configuration according to the requirements, test ping, data download), not an offshore commissioning. Delivery of the complete systems and this functional check must be completed by 1 May 2027.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 2.1.1 / 7.2

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority confirm whether delays caused solely by late availability of the buoy, frame, vessel, permits, site information or other Client-provided resources would be excluded from Contractor default?

Antwoord:

Confirmed. NIOZ and its project partners are responsible for the buoys, frames, vessels, permits and site information. The Contractor is only responsible for meeting the delivery deadline of the instruments. Delays in these Client-provided resources cannot lead to Contractor default.

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10**Onderwerp:**

Section/Article 7.2

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify which party will arrange the vessel and which assumptions Tenderers should use for vessel availability and weather windows?

Antwoord:

NIOZ and its project partners arrange the vessels and will deploy the instruments several times; vessels will vary depending on availability and other work in the area. Tenderers do not need to make any assumptions on vessel availability or weather windows, as the Contractor is not involved in deployment.

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11**Onderwerp:**

Section/Article 2.1.1 / 7.2

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify the contractual consequences if deployment after delivery is delayed by weather, permits, vessel availability, or readiness of the buoy or frame?

Antwoord:

None for the Contractor. Deployment is the responsibility of NIOZ. The Contractor is only responsible for the delivery of the instruments; delays in deployment after delivery have no contractual consequences for the Contractor.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 2.1.1

Vraag:

Is there a minimum required range resolution within each ping, for example 10 cm or 1 cm range bins?

Antwoord:

No fixed minimum is set; the highest available range resolution is preferred.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 2.1.1

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority indicate the expected maximum measurement range per ping for the upward-looking and downward-looking configurations?

Antwoord:

The instruments are mounted approx. 20 m above the seafloor in 40–50 m water depth. The expected maximum range is therefore approx. 20–25 m upward-looking (to the surface) and approx. 20–30 m downward-looking (to the seafloor). A usable range of at least 30 m per ping is sufficient.

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Onderwerp:

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Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority quantify, in centimetres, the intended size ranges for "small-bodied" and "large-bodied" fish?

Antwoord:

Indicatively: small-bodied fish approx. 5–20 cm (e.g. sprat, herring, gobies, juveniles); large-bodied fish approx. 20–100 cm (e.g. cod, whiting, seabass).

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 2.1.1 / 7.2

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify the required classification level for "estimate species composition", such as species, species groups or size classes, and how this capability will be assessed and accepted?

Antwoord:

Classification and analysis of the data are done by NIOZ. The Contractor is not required to deliver species identification. The instrument must deliver data that enable this analysis (e.g. wideband frequency response and target strength of individual targets), allowing classification into species groups and size classes. This capability is assessed on the technical specifications in the offer, not on classification results.

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Section/Article 2.1.1 / 7.2

Vraag:

Would the Contracting Authority require access to data summaries or status reports during the six-month deployment? If so, what content, frequency and delivery method would be expected?

Antwoord:

No. The instruments operate autonomously; data are retrieved by NIOZ after recovery. No data summaries or status reports from the Contractor are required during deployment.

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Section/Article 2.1.1 / 7.2

Vraag:

Will an acoustic modem or other communication link be available or required for seabed-mounted systems? If so, could the applicable interface and performance requirements be clarified?

Antwoord:

No. All instruments are buoy-mounted and no acoustic modem or other communication link is required, there is no shore connection or surface buoy.

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Section/Article 2.1.1 / 7.2

Vraag:

Will a communication link be available for buoy-mounted systems? If so, could the available infrastructure, interface, bandwidth, coverage and power supply be clarified?

Antwoord:

No. No communication link or power supply is available on the buoy, and none is required. The instruments must operate fully autonomously (own power and data storage).

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Section/Article 2.1.1

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify which party will be responsible for the permits, approvals and notifications required for deployment, operation and recovery?

Antwoord:

NIOZ and its project partners are responsible for all permits, approvals and notifications.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 2.1.1

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify which party will bear the risk of damage, loss or incorrect installation during mounting, onboard handling, deployment and recovery?

Antwoord:

NIOZ buys the instruments and carries out mounting, handling, deployment and recovery itself. Any damage or loss during these activities is at the risk of NIOZ.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 2.1.1

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify how loss or damage caused by anchoring, fishing, shipping, extreme weather, vandalism, or failure of the buoy or frame will be allocated?

Antwoord:

NIOZ buys the instruments. Any loss or damage caused by anchoring, fishing, shipping, extreme weather, vandalism or failure of the buoy/frame is at the risk of NIOZ. This does not affect the Contractor's warranty for defects of the instruments themselves.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 7.2

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify the acceptance procedure after integration and commissioning, including the required tests or results and the acceptance period?

Antwoord:

Acceptance concerns the instruments only, upon delivery: a functional check of each instrument (power-up, configuration according to the requirements, test ping and data download) together with delivery of the documentation. Integration and deployment at sea are not part of the acceptance.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 7.2

Vraag:

If a fault, poor data quality, battery issue or storage issue occurs during deployment, could the Contracting Authority clarify who would decide on early recovery and who would bear the related costs and risks?

Antwoord:

This is an inherent risk of field campaigns. As there is no real-time reporting to shore, any issues will only become apparent after recovery; the decision on recovery lies with NIOZ, at NIOZ's cost.

Contractor and Contracting Authority will work together at delivery (configuration, battery and storage settings) to minimise this risk. If an instrument turns out to be defective, this falls under the Contractor's warranty; otherwise there are no related costs for the Contractor.

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Onderwerp:

Section/Article 7.2

Vraag:

Could the Contracting Authority clarify, for each quality criterion, the distinguishing characteristics of the ratings "Satisfactory", "Good" and "Excellent"?

Antwoord:

"Rating Satisfactory:

The Tender meets all requirements and expectations set out for the criterion. The plan/solution is clear, realistic, and viable, with sufficient detail and acceptable risk management. It fully addresses the assignment without significant omissions or identified weaknesses, but does not provide distinctive added value beyond standard compliance.

Rating Good:

The Tender fully meets all requirements and demonstrates clear, demonstrable added value. The proposal is thoroughly elaborated, highly plausible, and backed by robust evidence, practical operational depth, or proactive risk mitigation tailored to the rifHerstel XL context. Minor points of improvement may exist, but they do not affect the overall high standard.

Rating Excellent:

The Tender significantly exceeds expectations across all evaluation elements of the criterion. The solution/approach is comprehensive, highly convincing, and provides superior technical performance, operational robustness, or contingency handling with maximum certainty for NIOZ. Potential project risks are addressed in an exemplary and integral manner."

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