

Rules of the call for application

Supply of buoyancy modules for the Nautille

N°251000139

Application reception deadline : July 24 2025 at 12h00 (Paris Time)

IFREMER

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29280 Plouzané

Procedure with negotiation in accordance with article L2124-3 of the French code of public procurement

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1. Ifremer presentation

Ifremer is a state-owned industrial and commercial organisation under the joint direction of the French Research, Agriculture and Fishing, Equipment, Transport and Housing, and Environment ministries.

Its goals are to:

- Know, assess and promote ocean resources and help make them sustainable,
- Improve surveillance and protection, change forecasting practices and maritime preservation methods,
- Foster maritime business development.

To achieve the above goals, Ifremer focuses on the following:

- Research,
- Public interest expertise - coastline surveillance and seafood health safety,
- Providing resources - ocean-going fleet and technological development,
- Outsourcing to companies and publicising activities.

A few Ifremer figures:

- 1,500 people, 2,000 including subsidiaries and partner laboratories,
- Approx. €213m annual budget (excluding internal transactions),
- 30 locations in mainland and overseas France.

Ifremer is responsible for the French Oceanographic Fleet since 2018. The French Oceanographic Fleet comprises several surface vessels (4 deep-sea vessels, 2 mid-shore vessels and 5 coastal vessels), manned and autonomous underwater vehicles, and underwater systems (marine seismic equipment, coring systems...).

2. Presentation of the project

The purpose of this contract is the supply of buoyancy modules for the Nautile. The document « Requirement for Nautile Buoyancy replacement » outlines the technical requirement.

3. Tender framework

3.1. Tender purpose

The purpose of this contract is to supply buoyancy modules for the Nautile.

3.2. Justification to use the negotiation procedure

In accordance with Article R. 2124-3 of the French Public Procurement Code, a negotiated procedure may be used when the contracting authority's needs cannot be met without adapting readily available solutions. The subject of this procurement is not an off-the-shelf product. The required supply must be specifically developed to meet the technical specifications defined by the contracting authority.

The negotiated procedure is a formal and regulated public procurement process under European and French procurement rules.

3.3. Allotment

Article L2113-11 of the French Public Procurement Code provides that a single contract may be awarded when "dividing the contract into separate lots is likely to restrict competition or may render the execution of the services technically difficult or financially more costly." The present contract cannot be divided into lots without making the execution of the services technically difficult or financially costly.

The contract is therefore not divided into lots.

3.4. Variants

Variants are prohibited.

3.5. Groupment

The contract will be awarded to:

- an individual firm,
- or a business consortium.

Applicants firms may be grouped as joint and several liability consortia or as joint-liability consortia.

For the firms presenting their application as a group:

- One consortium firm will be named consortium representative on the binding contract,
- For joint-liability consortia, the representative must be jointly and severally liable,
- For joint and several liability consortia, the binding contract shall be a single document stating the total contract value and all services the consortium has to jointly perform,
- Applications and bids shall be presented by all consortium firms, or by the representative with required authority to represent the consortium at this stage. One firm cannot represent more than one consortium.
- Bids shall be signed by all consortium firms, or by the representative with required authority to represent the consortium at this stage (representative power of attorney).

Possibility of submitting several tenders for the public contract(s) by acting at the same time:

- As Individual bidders and members of one or more consortia: **NO**
- As Members of several consortia: **YES**

3.6. Subcontracting

The candidate must indicate all known subcontractors at the time of submitting their bid using the DC4 form provided by Ifremer.

Each subcontractor must complete a DC4 form. The candidate must also specify the services (and their amounts) for which subcontracting is planned, as well as the name and role of the subcontractors, except when the amount is less than €600 including tax.

It is possible to submit multiple bids for the public contract(s) acting as a subcontractor: yes.

4. Terms of contract

4.1. Type of contract

The contract subject to this consultation is a supply contract.

4.2. CPV classification

The main classification in accordance with the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) is: 34515000-0 Floating structures.

4.3. CCAG

This contract will be governed by the 30 March 2021 CCAG/MI that approves general administrative clauses applying to industrial public contracts.

4.4. Form of the contract

This contract is a multi-award framework agreement with purchase orders, in accordance with Articles L2125-1 and R2162-3 of the French Public Procurement Code. The number of framework agreement holders is set at **3 (three)**.

The framework agreement includes the following work packages:

- Item 10 : Material pre-qualification
- Item 20 : Matériel supply for qualification
- Item 30 : Material qualification
- Item 40 : Material supply
- Item 50: Manufacturing and delivery of buoyancy modules
- Item 60: Unit of work – Technical expertise

Item 10 will be ordered for all awarded contractors. The allocation and award modalities for the other item will be specified during the tender phase.

4.5. Amount of the framework agreement

In accordance with Article R2162-4 of the French Public Procurement Code, the framework agreement is awarded with the following minimum and maximum amounts:

Minimum amount: €0 (excluding VAT)

Maximum amount over the total duration of the contract: [(Item 10 summed for all contractors) [(Item 20 summed for all contractors) + (The highest price for item 30 from any two of the three candidate) + (Item 40 value from the highest of the 3 contractors) + (Item 50 value from the highest of the 3 contractors)] increased by 15%

4.6. Duration of the framework

The contract is awarded for a duration of 48 months starting from its notification date.

4.7. Optional additional services

This contract does not include any optional additional services.

5. Conduct of the competitive procedure with negotiations

The procedure takes place in two phases:

- Initially, an application phase,
- Secondly, an offer phase.

5.1. Application Phase

Ifremer reviews applications and selects those to participate in the bidding phase.

Ifremer excludes:

- Applications submitted late,
- Applicants not allowed to bid,
- Bids not following specified formalities,
- Applicants failing to meet participating conditions set by the contracting authority or failing to produce necessary documents, evidence, additional documents or explanations required by the contracting authority.

Number of bidders selected for the tender is FOUR (4). Should there be too few bidders, the number may be reduced. A single bidder may be sufficient to commence bidding. Bidders not selected will receive notification of the decision.

5.2. Bidding Phase

The selected candidates will be simultaneously invited, in writing, to participate in the tender phase.

The invitation to participate in the tender phase will include at least the letter of invitation to submit an initial proposal, or any document specifying, where applicable, the terms of this document, and in particular:

- The reference number of the public procurement notice;
- The date and location of the tender phase;
- Where applicable, the deadline for requesting additional information;
- The Special Technical Specifications (CCTP);
- The Special Administrative Terms and Conditions (CCAP).

Candidates will have at least **30 calendar days** from the invitation to submit their initial offer. Any additional information relating to the Special Technical Specifications will be sent

exclusively via the PLACE platform (www.marches-publics.gouv.fr) to candidates who request it.

Ifremer reserves the right to award the contract based on the initial offers without entering into negotiations. However, if Ifremer decides to conduct negotiations, they will be carried out under the following conditions:

- All candidates will be consulted and interviewed under conditions of strict equality.
- Ifremer may ask each candidate admitted to the tender phase to supplement, clarify, or even modify their proposal.
- In this regard, it is specified that:
 - During the negotiation(s), the joint procurement with the selected candidates on the content of their offer as well as on all aspects of the contract, whether functional, technical, methodological, legal or financial, with the exception of the minimum requirements and the selection criteria for the offers.
 - Ifremer will not communicate to the other candidates any confidential solutions or information communicated as such by a candidate within the framework of the discussion, without the agreement of the latter (it will be up to the candidates to specify the elements of their proposal that are confidential);
 - Negotiations will be conducted in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment of candidates and respect for industrial and commercial confidentiality.
 - Meetings are planned between each remaining candidate and Ifremer during the tender phase. Candidates will be informed of the arrangements for these discussions in the invitation to participate in the tender phase.
 - Subsequent exchanges will take place via the PLACE e-procurement platform (www.marches-publics.gouv.fr).

Ifremer reserves the right to reduce the number of tenders submitted by candidates participating in the negotiations, by applying the tender selection method set out in Article 9 below.

For each new submission of tenders, candidates not invited to participate in the next round will be informed by Ifremer. The invitation to submit intermediate offer will include, at a minimum, the deadline (date and time) for receipt of the offers, the address to which they must be sent, and the requirement that they be written in French or in English.

Once the contracting authority considers that the negotiation has been concluded, the coordinator will inform the candidates who have participated in all phases of the negotiation. The invitation to submit the final offer will include, at a minimum, the deadline (date and time) for receipt of the offers, the address to which they must be sent, and the requirement that they be written in French or in English. These final offers must include all elements required and necessary for the conclusion of the contract.

6. Consultation file – application phase

6.1. Composition of the consultation file

The consultation file consists of the following documents:

- Rules of the call for applications (RCA) in French with an English translation,
- Requirement for Nautilic Buoyancy replacement,
- Appendix 1: DC1 in French and English
- Appendix 2: Response framework, in French and English,
- Appendix 3: Sworn statement, in French and English,

For documents provided in French and in English, only French version shall be deemed authentic before the courts.

Tenderers may submit their application proposals in English or French.

6.2. How to receive the consultation file and to submit your bid – application phase

Applicants must use the website:

<https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/>

Via the website, applicants may:

- Download the consultation file, the tender purpose, accept website access and use conditions (technical requirements, etc)
- Put questions to the contracting authority about the consultation file prior to bid submission,
- Respond to consultation by email.

Hard copy applications are prohibited.

Bidders must submit ELECTRONIC BIDS VIA "PLACE", THE ONLINE GOVERNMENT PURCHASING PLATFORM.

Once the bid is uploaded to the website, a message informs the sender of successful receipt, which is confirmed by email (sent to provided email address) including record of receipt time and date (for future reference).

In the absence of a successful receipt message or email confirmation, then the bid has not reached the contracting authority. Bidders must ensure emails the platform sends do not end up in their spam folders.

File presentation and format

Accepted formats: .pdf, .docx, .xlsx, .ppt, .odt, .ods, .odp, and image formats: .jpg, .png and html documents.

Bidders must not use active code in replies, such as:

Executable formats: .exe, .com, .scr, etc. ; Macros, ActiveX, Applets, scripts, etc.

Time stamping

All files sent by email are time stamped. All files submitted post deadline are inadmissible. Time required to upload files is subject to the bidder's internet speed and document size. For example, it takes one minute to upload a 1 Mb file with 128 Kbps bandwidth.

Antivirus

Files from bidders must be virus-free. Receipt of contaminated files will render bids inadmissible unless a backup copy has been sent too. In this case, the backup copy shall be opened. If a virus is detected, the file will be considered as never received and the bidder is informed using the provided identification data. If the bidder *did* send the backup copy pursuant to conditions laid out in the following paragraph, this will be opened instead of the uploaded file.

Authorised backup copy

Pursuant to Article R2132-11 of the French code of public Public Procurement, the bidder, in addition to uploading a bid to the online platform, may also send physically a backup electronic copy (on a CD-ROM, DVS-ROM, Flash drive etc) or a paper copy.

IFREMER shall receive backup copies prior to deadlines indicated in the publicity material and on the cover page hereto.

Physical backup copies are placed in sealed envelopes clearly labelled "Backup Copy" AS WELL AS the following:

Backup copies shall be posted via recorded delivery with acknowledgement of receipt to the following address:

IFREMER
DAJF/Cellule Marchés
Application - Maintenance and upgrade works of the research vessel RV *Pourquoi Pas*
1625 route Sainte-Anne
CS10070
29280 PLOUZANE

Backup copies, received prior to bid submission deadline, will be opened if the emailed bid:

- contained any malware or viruses,
- is received post deadline, unless the buyer has tangible evidence that the file (bid or offer) had started to upload prior to deadline and if the backup copy has arrived prior to deadline,
- could not be opened by the buyer.

6.3. Participation conditions

The candidate does not fall under any of the cases mentioned in Articles L.2141-1 to L.2141-5 and L.2141-7 to L.2141-11 of the French Public Procurement Code. The candidate complies with the obligations of the Labour Code as defined in Articles L.5212-1 to L.5212-11.

Pursuant to Article L.2153-1 of the French code of Public Procurement, **all bidders must come from GPA States (Government Procurement Agreement),**

6.4. Conflict of interest

The candidate for the contract undertakes to inform Ifremer of any situation that may give rise to a conflict of interest. This includes any situation in which a person involved in the conduct of the procurement procedure, or who may influence its outcome, has—directly or indirectly—a financial, economic, or any other personal interest that could compromise their impartiality or independence in the context of the procurement procedure.

6.5. Signatures

Only an authorised person may sign documents requiring the bidder's signature.

Said person must be:

- the bidder's legal representative,
- or any other individual with power of attorney assigned by the bidder's legal representative

7. Application content

Applications must be submitted in French or English.

The candidate (joint contractor/subcontractor) is required to provide the following documents:

Applicant situation :	Documents to fil
1- Duly completed DC1 form (bidder application and named co-contractor representative) available at: https://www.economie.gouv.fr/daj/formulaires-declaration-du-candidat , or equivalent.	Appendix 1
2- Proof of the signatory's authority or a delegation of power identifying the signatory by a person authorized to commit the company. In the case of a consortium, the lead partner must provide proof of authorization to commit the consortium . These documents are not mandatory at the application phase. But they must be submitted when the contract is awarded.	To be provided by the candidate
3- Sworn statement to sign	Appendix 2
4- Copy of any court rulings in the event of court-ordered administration or equivalent legal proceedings abroad,	To be provided by the candidate
5- Overall presentation of the firm	Appendix 3, tab 1
Human resources:	
1- The distribution of the candidate's staff and the significance of managerial personnel.	Appendix 3, tab 2
Technical resources:	
1- Supply chain management and monitoring systems that the candidate may implement during the execution of the public contract.	Appendix 3, tab 3

<p>2- Description of the technical equipment (tools, machinery, and installations), and the company's research and development capabilities. Quality assurance measures employed by the candidate to guarantee product quality.</p>	<p>Appendix 3, tab 3</p>
<p>Quality of supplies:</p>	
<p>1- Description, technical data sheet and photograph of supplies</p>	<p>Appendix 3, tab 4</p>
<p>2- Certificates issued by official institutes or services responsible for quality control and authorized to attest to the conformity of supplies by reference to certain technical specifications. However, other evidence of equivalent quality assurance measures provided by applicants shall be accepted, if they do not have access to such certificates or have no possibility of obtaining them within the time limits set.</p>	<p>Appendix 3, tab 4</p>
<p>References:</p>	
<p>1- A list of verifiable references (amount, date, public or private client) for services similar to the present contract carried out by the candidate and its co-contractors/subcontractors during the past 5 years. In the absence of references within the last 5 years, Ifremer may consider older references from the candidate.</p>	<p>Appendix 3, tab 5</p>
<p>Financial capacity :</p>	
<p>1- Revenue, EBITDA, EBIT, net profit</p>	<p>Appendix 3, tab 1</p>
<p>2- Professional liability insurance certificate. If possible, specify the periods of coverage, deductibles and coverage limits.</p>	<p>Appendix 3, tab 1</p>

The members of the consortium and the subcontractors must also provide information on their financial, professional and technical capacities.

European single document

Bidders may apply using an ESPD (European single procurement document) form. Those who do so, pursuant to Article R2143-4 of the French code of Public Procurement, may use the French government "ESPD Service" available at <https://dume.chorus-pro.gouv.fr>

Information available online

Pursuant to provisions of Article R2143-13 of the French code of Public Procurement, bidders are not obliged to supply supporting documentation and evidence the contracting authority can obtain online from available data managed by an official organisation or an online storage platform, provided the application file includes all necessary details how to view the system or platform and access thereto is free of charge.

Conditions for assessing a grouped application

To demonstrate its professional, technical, or financial capacities, a company may submit its application as part of a consortium with other companies (legal entities or sole proprietorships) or resort to subcontracting. The assessment of the professional, technical, and financial capacities of the consortium members is made collectively: it is not required that each company possesses all the skills necessary for the execution of the contract. However, in such cases, each company forming the consortium must provide all the documents and information related to the application as requested in the notice and the present consultation rules. The same applies in the case of subcontracting.

Régularization of applications

Pursuant to Article R2144-1 to R2144-7 of the French code of Public Procurement, Ifremer reserves the right to require bidders involved to complete applications within a reasonable timeframe that shall be the same for all bidders.

8. Application selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the application file (all the documents requested in Article 7 above) that they will submit with their application.

In order to select the 4 candidates admitted to submit an offer, Ifremer will analyse the applications and establish a ranking on the basis of the following application selection criteria:

Critères	Maximum score	Appendix 3
1- Human resources, rated based on the relevance of the information provided.	4	Tab 2
2- Technical resources, rated based on the relevance of the information provided.	4	Tab 3
3- Quality of the supplies, rated based on the relevance of the information provided.	5	Tab 4
4- References, rated based on the relevance of the information provided.	5	Tab 5
5- Financial capacity, rated based on the relevance of the information provided.	2	Tab 1
Total	20	

Number of bidders selected for the tender is FOUR (4). Should there be too few bidders, the number may be reduced. A single bidder may be sufficient to commence bidding. Bidders not selected will receive notification of the decision.

In the event of a tie in scores, Ifremer will select the candidate with the highest score on the reference criterion.

9. Bidder selection criteria

Ifremer will award the contract to the most advantageous offer, based on the following weighted criteria :

- Cost: 40%;
- Technical compliance: 50%
- CSR – social and environmental quality for the present contract: 10%

Full assessment criteria are detailed in the consultation file, which will be made available post application phase.

At the end of the selection procedure, three (3) bids will be selected. In the event of insufficient supply or regular supply, the number of holders may be reduced, only one offer may be accepted. In the event of a tie in scores, Ifremer will select the candidate with the highest score on the technical criterion.

10. Confidentiality

Applicants shall not use Ifremer information for any other purpose than their bids. They shall not disclose Ifremer information and documents and shall not communicate with any other person/firm than Ifremer without Ifremer's prior consent thereto.

11. Further details

Only trivial questions will be answered by telephone. The online platform must be used for more important questions regarding technical or administrative matters.

Contact for further details:

<https://www.marches-publics.gouv.fr/>

Candidates are required to submit their requests no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the deadline for the submission of tenders. A response will be provided to all companies that have downloaded the consultation file no later than five (5) calendar days before the aforementioned deadline.

In the event of any difficulties accessing the platform, candidates may contact Ifremer's Procurement Unit at the following address: cellule.marche@ifremer.fr

12. Provisional timeline

Publish notice of public call for bids	24/06/2025
Submit applications	24/07/2025
Select applicants	September 2025
Send selected applicants invitations to participate in the bidding phase	September 2025
Send of DCE including technical specifications.	September 2025

Initial offer receipt deadline	October 2025
Negotiations	October – November – December 2025
Submit final offer	January 2025
Award contract	March – April 2025

This schedule is not final and will be subject to change.

13. Appendices

Appendix 1 : DC1 in French and English

Appendix 2 : Sworn statement, in French and English,

Appendix 3: Response framework, in French and English,