



PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW			
Department Office/Division/Program:	Marine Resources/Ecology and Environment/		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:	Kevin Staples/Amanda Webb		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:			
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 14,560.00	Advantage CT / <u>RQS</u> #:	13A 20230119000000000871
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	2/10/2023	Proposed End Date: 5/28/2023
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:	Nova Scotia Limited, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:	Spring tag and timed releases with associated hardware		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

Maine DMR received a 2 year SeaGrant award to research, in part, how spring tag and timed releases may impact commercial fishing behavior. To fulfill its intended research obligations, DMR needs to purchase this gear to outfit the project participants.

DMR must buy retrieval systems that fit this description and are able to be deployed throughout the northwestern Atlantic, especially the Gulf of Maine. This requires a depth rating of at least 300 meters. The ability to test these emergent gear retrieval systems is important for assessing their viability within commercial fixed gear fisheries and evaluating potential impacts to heterogenous fishing operations.

The need to test and evaluate this novel equipment is a direct result of needing to reduce the risk of fishing gear to protected species, including the North Atlantic right whale. Both systems reduce the risk of the traditional vertical line to these species by either weakening the standing line or removing it from the water column for a significant portion of the soak time between hauls. Providing options to fishermen is a key component to ensuring they are able to sustain high fishing effort within the parameters of protected species requirements.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

DMR would prefer to use those products offered by Nova Scotia Limited DBA Nova Robotics to satisfy the need for both spring tag and timed release gear retrieval systems. The justification for the spring tag release is straight forward: they are the only vendor who has produced such a mechanism, as far as DMR is aware. Nova Robotics and Sub Sea Sonics have each produced timed release products for sale. Sub Sea Sonics offers the TR-45 timer release that relies on galvanic link and is rated to 182 meters and the TR4RT timer release that utilizes a mechanical release mechanism, rated to 152 meters. The Nova Robotics timed release uses a mechanical release mechanism and is rated to 752 meters. DMR prefers those products that use a mechanical release because the galvanic links are an additional recurring cost to fishermen. In addition, Nova Robotics timed release meets DMR criteria for depth rating with 752 meters, which covers the entire Gulf of Maine with ease.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

DMR gathered 3 separate pricing for timed release systems and the 1 spring tag release system for 16 vessels.

Their quoted amounts came in at:

Sub Sea Sonics (TR45 Timer Release): \$26,240

Programmer: \$650 per vessel

TR45 Release: \$210 per vessel

Release Link (\$15 x 50 deployments): \$750 per vessel

<https://www.subseasonics.com/price-list>

Sub Sea Sonics (TR4RT Timer Release): \$4,800

TR4RT Timer Release: \$300 per vessel

<https://www.subseasonics.com/price-list>

Nova Scotia Limited DBA Nova Robotics Timed Release: \$8,000

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Timed Release: \$500 per vessel
Nova Scotia Limited DBA Nova Robotics Timed Release: \$3,200
 Timed Release: \$200 per vessel
Nova Robotics Fishing Gear Accessories: \$: 1,760
 Replacement Key: \$50 per vessel
 Net Bags: \$30 per vessel per system
Nova Robotics Total Order Shipping Estimate: \$1,600.00
 Shipping Estimate: \$50 per device

With this pricing in hand, it is clear that the Nova Robotics offerings are well within a fair pricing for this type of emergent technology. Their timed release is far below the advertised cost of the TR45, and slightly more than the TR4RT, with a housing design that is rated for far deeper depths. The Nova Robotics gear accessories are ready-made and reasonable options to address subsequent needs within this project regarding gear configuration and potential gear replacement and are included within their provided quote.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

There is an incredibly limited market for purchasing these emergent and relatively untested retrieval systems, which is the focus of the project for which this purpose is necessary. DMR will continue to monitor product development in this space for other suitable options for testing. DMR will still seek to require a 300 meter minimum depth rating for those devices and use the quotes gathered during this exercise as a baseline cost comparison. DMR has no preference for testing any of these types of devices, so long as these criteria are met.

However, it is unlikely that an additional purchase of these systems will be required for this particular project.

PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

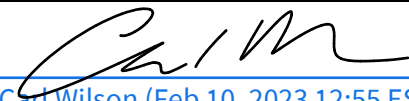
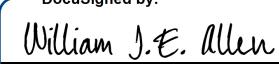
Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

No – If No, proceed to Part V.

PART V: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	 Carl Wilson (Feb 10, 2023 12:55 EST)		
Typed Name:	Click or tap here to enter text.	Date:	Feb 10, 2023
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  William J.E. Allen		
Typed Name:	william J.E. Allen	Date:	2/15/2023

NOI 0220230163 02/15/2023 - 02/21/2023


20230119.Nova RoboticsRQS_PJF

Final Audit Report

2023-02-10

Created:	2023-02-10
By:	Bethany Trussell (bethany.trussell@maine.gov)
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 Document created by Bethany Trussell (bethany.trussell@maine.gov)

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 Signer carl.wilson@maine.gov entered name at signing as Carl Wilson

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 Document e-signed by Carl Wilson (carl.wilson@maine.gov)

Signature Date: 2023-02-10 - 5:55:31 PM GMT - Time Source: server

 Agreement completed.

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