

**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/Bureau of Marine Science/Marine Mammal Research	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Kevin Staples/DMR HQ Finance	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		N/A	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 152,000.00	Advantage <u>CT</u> / RQS #:	13A 20240416000000002856
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	4/1/2024	Proposed End Date: 3/31/2027
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:		Ashored Innovations Inc, Bedford, Nova Scotia	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Provide technical expertise and equipment necessary for fulfilling external grant obligations related to the testing and assessment gear location technology	

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

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

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 3 year grant award (NFWF ID 0303.24.081541) from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to compare the performance of various fishing gear location technologies. This funded work outlines collaborative testing with fishermen and multiple manufacturers of acoustic geolocation technology to accomplish project goals. The proposed work specifically engages with the Vendor and their technology, seeking to compare its performance against traditional marking methods including a surface buoy and location on a chart plotter. The grant budget assigns the funds in the contract for the purchase and transfer of their equipment to DMR, including the acoustic geolocation transponder and transceiver units; personnel costs (including salary, fringe, and indirect) required for the training of DMR staff and participating fishermen; and costs covering personnel travel related to the funded project.

Without this contract and the services provided, DMR would not be able to execute the proposed work outlined in the funded grant.

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

The Vendor was selected for this work as a co-PI on the NFWF grant ID 0303.24.081541, along with 4 other acoustic geolocation manufacturers. These manufacturers provide products of different levels sophistication and costs, and the relative performance of these systems will be tested through this research. All of these manufacturers, including the Vendor, have existing systems which have been deployed into the ocean environment and do not require further development to do so. These vendors have also been involved in federal and state efforts to improve the performance of their technology within commercial fishing contexts, which is the purpose of this grant-funded research.

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

The costs associated with this contract are outlined into equipment and personnel costs within the NFWF project award. The equipment costs were quoted by the Vendor and standard for all prospective buyers. At one point these costs were advertised on the Vendor website to the public (at last check, there were no prices listed). The personnel costs were calculated using input from all project partners, surveying the total financial need to make trips to train and test gear, in addition to any time spent altering products in response to this project. All of the participating manufacturers, including the Vendor, are allotted the same sum to cover these costs over the duration of the project.

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

There is no plan for future competition for goods or services related to this project. Once the grant is complete, the need will cease. If there is a separate need to procure acoustic gear location equipment for testing or use outside of grant funding, DMR will utilize the RFP process.

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

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

Yes, ARPA funds (025) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.

No – If No, proceed to Part V.



PART V: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI); PURCHASES BY THE STATE

Does the requesting Department signatory understand and acknowledge Maine's COI Statute?

Yes, the requesting Department signatory understands and acknowledges Title 17, Chapter 101, §3104.

PART VI: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:	Patrick Keliher, Commissioner	Date:	4/19/24
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by:  41C2BA36FAF44CD...		
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date:	4/23/2024