



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: | Environmental Protection/Environmental Assessment/Marine Unit | | |
| Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator: | Angela Brewer | | |
| (If applicable) Department Reference #: | | | |
| Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant) | \$ 13,500.50 | Advantage CT / RQS #: | 06A 20220505*2780 |
| CONTRACT | Proposed Start Date: | 5/15/2022 | Proposed End Date: 10/31/2022 |
| 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: | Nearview, LLC, Portsmouth, NH 03801 | | |
| Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant: | Acquisition of high resolution, multispectral imagery and derivation of geospatial data products from information collected by an Uncrewed Aerial System (UAS) within Chandler Bay. | | |

| 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.

Eelgrass is a sensitive indicator of nutrient pollution in estuarine and marine waters, and mapping of this resource is needed in the Chandler Bay area to address existing distribution prior to a new wastewater discharge from the Kingfish Maine finfish aquaculture facility in Jonesport. Mapping of eelgrass requires a unique combination of season, tide, weather and water column conditions as well as specific camera sensors. Aerial surveys of intermediate scale (along several miles of coastline) for eelgrass inventory are efficiently completed from small plane and most effectively by drone, with improved eelgrass detection based on use of GIS tools to classify spectral signature.

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

Intermittently from 2014-2019, the Department contracted a small plane pilot with specific experience acquiring low tide imagery for the purpose of eelgrass mapping. As of 2019, this independent contractor is no longer available for such surveys, and no known individual with comparable experience, low billing rate, and knowledge of GIS-based classification is available. In 2018, in partnership with the Marine Unit and under competitive contract to the Maine Department of Marine Resources(DMR) (RFP# 201803032), Nearview consultant, Dr. Stefan Claesson, completed a comparative methods study in Casco Bay to enable eelgrass mapping using a drone. Dr. Claesson additionally completed an intermediate scale survey in the Belfast area in 2019 under contract for the Marine Unit, for the purpose of enabling eelgrass delineation. The 2018 and 2019 surveys identified challenges with visualization of eelgrass in deeper water, and Dr. Claesson has since acquired a specialized camera designed for deeper water penetration to improve survey accuracy and reduce field verification costs. Through lessons learned with the 2018 and 2019 surveys, Dr. Claesson is uniquely qualified and can most efficiently and cost effectively acquire aerial imagery to enable eelgrass mapping at the scale required by the Marine Unit. Additionally, Dr. Claesson is immediately equipped with the information and equipment required to complete the work on restricted time windows and specific environmental conditions.

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

Nearview, LLC was the successful bidder in a competitive RFP process issued by the DMR in 2018 (referenced above and see RFP# 201803032). This RFP sought a contractor to utilize UAS (drone technology) within the coastal zone, along shoreline lengths of similar sizes to that proposed for the Nearview Service Contract, and using similar equipment, methods and deliverables. Of the seven bidders that submitted proposals for RFP# 201803032, Nearview received the median score in the "Section III: Cost Proposal" portion of the review team's "RFP/Proposal Master Score Sheet". Of the seven bidders with the capability of completing the services requested as part of this BP37WCB, Nearview's costs are determined to be average and therefore, fair and reasonable. Negotiated costs for the 2022 survey work are anticipated to be in line with the fair and reasonable rates reflected in the 2018 competitive process, and the contracted work for the Marine Unit in 2019.

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

Remote sensing technology for mapping of submerged seagrass in turbid waters remains early in development. As Dr. Claesson determines survey efficiency with the new camera sensor package for the waters of Chandler Bay, the contents of the technical memorandum can be made publicly available to inform future competitive contracts using appropriate technology.


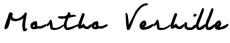
PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

| |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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): |  | | |
| Typed Name: | Melanie Loyzim | Date: | May 16, 2022 |
| Signature of DAFS Procurement Official: |  <small>DocuSigned by: 891CE7A1493D45B</small> | | |
| Typed Name: | Martha verhille | Date: | 5/18/2022 |