



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT SERVICES
STATE OF MAINE

PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Office of State 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 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:		Cheyenne Adams	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		DEP_EelgrassModel_Spring2025	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 7,749.46	Advantage CT / RQS #:	RQS #20250530*1818
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:		Proposed End Date:
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:	2/1/2025	Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:	2/28/2027	Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Vendor: Planet Labs PBC, 645 Harrison St, 4 th floor, San Francisco, CA 94104 Grantor: The Nature Conservancy, 14 Maine St., Suite 401, Brunswick, ME 04011 Grantee: Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Environmental Assessment, Marine Unit, Marine Vegetation Mapping Program	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Provision of archival <10-meter resolution satellite imagery for portions of the Maine coast	

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 checked="" 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.

This purchase is part of a project in collaboration with GMRI, in which GMRI was awarded \$167,424 from the Maine Coastal and Marine Climate Fund (MCMCF) to develop an automated seagrass classification algorithm, hindcast seagrass distribution statewide, and develop a habitat suitability index for seagrass in Maine. The MCMCF funding covers GMRI staff time and resources, but does not enable the purchase of commercial satellite imagery. The Nature Conservancy provided an additional \$10,000 in support of this project to enable the purchase of the Planet Labs satellite imagery. Satellite imagery will be purchased and distributed to GMRI for a portion of the Maine coast, which will be used in training the automated seagrass classification algorithm. Ultimately, the algorithm will be shared with DEP and, if successful, applied to coastwide Planet Imagery that is available to DEP at no cost through the federal Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition (CSDA) Program, but which cannot be distributed to GMRI for algorithm development.

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

The high-resolution satellite imagery provided by Planet Labs is unique in its historical archive of ~daily imagery of the entirety of the Maine coast since 2009, which enables hindcasting of seagrass distribution with sufficient accuracy relative to free, lower resolution satellite imagery and sufficient coverage relative to tasked high-resolution satellite imagery, as provided by other commercial satellite imagery vendors. Therefore, a grant from The Nature Conservancy was sought (and awarded) to enable the purchase of Planet Labs satellite imagery, specifically.

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

The negotiated rates are on par with commercial satellite imagery from other vendors, although provide a data product that is not available from those vendors. The cost of satellite imagery is considerably less than the cost of traditional aerial imagery acquired via fixed wing aircraft, which is currently used for seagrass mapping by the State. The use of satellite imagery could replace the purchase of traditional aerial imagery in the future, should this project prove a success.

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

If, in the future, the State possesses the technical ability (e.g., successful automated seagrass classification algorithm) to transition from the use of traditional aerial imagery to high-resolution

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

satellite imagery, Planet Labs imagery can be obtained at no cost through the federal CSDA program. However, should the State wish to purchase commercial satellite imagery that cannot be obtained via the CSDA program, an RFP would be released to select the vendor based on a competitive 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); CONTRACT WITH THE STATE

Maine law contains Conflict of Interest statutes directed to State Departments, State Officers, and Employees Generally under MRS [Title 5, §18](#) and [§18-A](#), in harmony with MRS [Title 17, §3104](#).

☒ The requesting department signatory understands and acknowledges Maine's Conflict of Interest statutes.

PART VI: APPROVALS

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting
Department's Commissioner
(or designee):

David R. Madore for Melanie Loyzim

Typed Name: Melanie Loyzim

Date: 06/10/2025

Signature of DAFS
Procurement Official:

DocuSigned by:

Michael McNeil

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Typed Name: Michael McNeil

Date: 6/11/2025

NOI 0620250553 6/11-6/17