|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | RFA #: 202507101 |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Maine Governor’s Energy Office |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | August 11, 2025 |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | September 3, 2025 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | October 8, 2025, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time (**as amended**) |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | Proposals@maine.gov |
| **Unless specifically addressed below, all other provisions and clauses of the RFP remain unchanged.** |
| **DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES IN RFP:**1. The deadline has been extended to October 8, 2025, 11:59 pm local time.
2. Applicants are required to submit an additional spreadsheet, Appendix B, The Technical Assessment Form. The Submission Contents section has been updated to reflect this requirement
3. Awardees will be expected to execute a Maine IT Service Contract with a Non-Disclosure Agreement.
4. Part IV, Section C. Scoring Weights has been updated to include the Technical Assessment.
5. Appendix B, Technical Assessment Form has been added.
 |
| **REVISED LANGUAGE IN RFP:**1. All references to an Application Submission Deadline of September 17, 2025, are amended to October 8, 2025, no later than 11:59 pm local time.
2. Part III, C, 3. Submission Contents, is amended to read:

a. Application submissions must include the Applicant’s completed Application Form (found in Part V of the RFA) and all required information and attachments as stated in the form.b. The Application Form must be submitted as a single, typed, PDF file.c. The Technical Assessment Form (APPENDIX B) must be submitted as an excel spreadsheet file.d. Applicants are not to provide additional attachments beyond those specified in the RFA or Application Form for the purpose of extending their response. Materials not requested will not be considered part of the application and will not be evaluated.1. Part IV, E. Contract Administration and Conditions, is amended to read: ,
2. ~~The awarded Applicants will be required to execute a State of Maine Service Contract with the appropriate riders as determined by the issuing Department.~~ The awarded Applicants will be required to execute an [IT Service Contract (IT-SC) with Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/forms)including appropriate riders as determined by the issuing department. Bidders shall carefully review the IT-SC.

*All exceptions will be negotiated between the awarded Bidder(s) and the State. The State will not accept any proposed exceptions as part of this RFP process. The State is not obligated to accept, negotiate, or compromise of any proposed exceptions.* The complete set of standard State of Maine Service Contract documents, along with other forms and contract documents commonly used by the State, may be found on the Office of State Procurement Services’ website at the following link: [Office of [State Procurement Services Forms Page](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/forms).](https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/forms)1. Part IV, Section C. Scoring Weights is amended to read:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scoring Criteria** | **Points Available** |
| Eligibility  | Pass/Fail |
| Qualifications and Experience | 25 |
| Proposed Project and Technical Assessment | 40 |
| Budget | 25 |
| Cost Sharing | 10 |
| **Total Points**  | **100 points** |

1. APPENDIX B. Technical Assessment Form, has been added to the application requirements and is amended to read: ,

Applicants must complete the Technical Assessment Form embedded below: |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section B, Page 8 | As our technology is yet to be patented, would it be possible to maintain confidentiality until such a time as a patent is granted? |
| **Answer** |
|  If awarded, the State will work in conjunction with the Applicant during contract negotiations to determine the contract structure and outcomes. Intellectual property ownership will be discussed on a case-by-case basis during the contract negotiation phase if necessary. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section C, Page 8 | Please clarify eligibility. The first paragraph identifies “BlueTech companies” and the second paragraph identifies “BlueTech small business”. Is eligibility limited to only to companies that meet the definition of small business? |
| **Answer** |
| As defined in the acronym list on page 3 and the Eligibility Section Part I, C, page 8:*Research institutions, colleges, universities, BlueTech companies, government, and non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply for funding, access to the permitted Castine demonstration site, and sensor integration support.* A BlueTech company must be a small business:*A BlueTech small business must be a company with proprietary BlueTech to be deployed to inform responsible floating offshore wind and must meet the definition of a small business, as outlined by the* [*Defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Table of Size Standards*](https://www.sba.gov/document/support-table-size-standards)*.**For this RFA, a BlueTech small business must have innovative technology or monitoring approaches applicable to the listed priorities for informing responsible development of floating offshore wind.*  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **3** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section C, Page 8 | Are all grant recipients to be based in the United States? |
| **Answer** |
|  All applications that meet the goals, priorities, and requirements of the RFA will be considered. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **4** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section D, Page 9 | Is the total funding allocation of $380,000 divided equally across the five awards? |
| **Answer** |
|  As stated on Part I, Section D. Awards in the RFA, *GEO anticipates making up to five (5) awards totaling up to $380,000**and access to the fully permitted University of Maine FOSW test site in state waters.* In other words, GEO anticipates awarding up to 5 projects within an overall total of $380,000.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **5** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section D, Page 9 | Will the $380,000 be split among all the awards or is the amount $380,000 per award? |
| **Answer** |
| As stated in Part I, Section D. Awards in the RFA, *GEO anticipates making up to five (5) awards totaling up to $380,000**and access to the fully permitted University of Maine FOSW test site in state waters.* In other words, GEO anticipates awarding up to 5 projects within an overall total of $380,000.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **6** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part I, Section D, Page 9 | The section identifies “GEO anticipates making up to five (5) awards totaling up to $380,000…”Q: Can the total value of funding available for the funding opportunity be confirmed?Q: Is there a min/max value for each award that is expected to be funded? These details will help applicants appropriately develop and cost the projects associated with the RFA. |
| **Answer** |
| As stated in Part I, Section D. Awards, *GEO anticipates making up to five (5) awards totaling up to $380,000**and access to the fully permitted University of Maine FOSW test site in state waters.* In other words, GEO anticipates awarding 1- 5 projects within an overall total of $380,000. There is no minimum for each award. The maximum award is $380,000.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **7** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section A, Page 12 | Is there a description of the existing studies occurring at the turbine? |
| **Answer** |
| Existing studies include monitoring of the turbine, motions of floating platform, mooring line tensions, acoustic bat and camera bird monitoring to meet permit requirements, wind, waves, and current conditions. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **8** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Sections A and C, Pages 12-14 | Could you provide clarification on the timeline for project commencement after the RFA has been awarded? The definition for the University of Maine Demonstration Site says it is “deployed at the site through Fall 2026”, which is also repeated in Part II Section A; is this when the demonstrator turbine and floater will be in the water and fully commissioned? How long is the demonstrator intended to be operating? And how does this timeline fit with the start of the project(s) relating to this RFA (which are stated to “be integrated onto VolturnUS+ power and communication systems for one year”)? |
| **Answer** |
| Applicants should plan for RFA-funded projects for up to one year, depending on time necessary for contract negotiations. The demonstrator is in the water and is intended to be operating for up to one year.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **9** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 8 | Would it be possible to share schematics of the mooring system installed for the VolturnUS+ demonstrator? |
| **Answer** |
| It may be possible to share schematics of the mooring system installed once a project Site Access Agreement and Non-Disclosure Agreement are in place with the awarded Applicant(s).  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **10** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13 | If any of the aforementioned sensors/instrumentation is not already installed would the installation be undertaken by University of Maine personnel.  |
| **Answer** |
| Yes. As noted in Part II, Section B, University of Maine personnel will undertake simple installations through this funding.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **11** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13 | Is there a computer model (Orcaflex-OpenFAST) or similar available for the VolturnUS+ demonstrator? |
| **Answer** |
| A model has been developed. It may be available to share after a Site Access Agreement and Non-Disclosure Agreement is in place with the awarded Applicant(s).  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **12** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13  | What sensors are already deployed (or plan to be added prior to this project commencement) on the VolturnUS+ Demonstrator? This includes load pins or other load sensors on each mooring line, inclinometers or IMUs on mooring lines, strain gauges in the concrete or on the tower, GPS, accelerometers or IMUs on the platform or turbine? Will the data from these sensors be fully available to the successful applicants (in addition to any other sensor that may be deployed through the project by the successful applicant)? |
| **Answer** |
| UMaine is already deploying many sensors that include those mentioned above. Access to this data is possible under a Site Access Agreement with the awarded Applicant(s) with some limitations on public dissemination. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **13** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13 | Can equipment be mounted on the outside of the nacelle facing the blades? |
| **Answer** |
| Equipment may possibly be mounted on the outside of the nacelle, depending on exact location, weight, and access. The easiest place would be on the top of the nacelle. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **14** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13 | Can we use multiple small sensors acting together as a single unit that exceed the 1x1x1 foot dimensions? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes – depending on location and power requirements.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **15** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13 | Is there interest in testing an AUV technology for seafloor and benthic habitat assessment? The vehicle is more than 75 lbs but can be deployed via workboat. The trial would be for a fixed period, not ongoing throughout the year. |
| **Answer** |
| All applications that meet the goals, priorities, and requirements of the RFA will be considered.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **16** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13 | Please could you provide any details of any existing instrumentation already operational at the VolturnUS+ demonstrator. We are particularly interested in: load cells on the mooring lines, inclinometers on the mooring lines, motion reference units (measuring motions of the demonstrator), differential GPS, water current profiles, anemometers, wave riders, water temperature and PH levels. |
| **Answer** |
| UMaine is already deploying many sensors that include those mentioned above. Access to this data is possible under a Site Access Agreement with the awarded Applicant(s) with some limitations on public dissemination. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **17** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13 | Please could you provide details available telemetry links between various sensors/instrumentation mentioned above and onshore.  |
| **Answer** |
| As stated in Part II, Section B, an Ethernet connection is available. Alternatively, Applicants could acquire their own cell data hot spots.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **18** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section B, Page 13 | Will internet access be available? If yes, what options: ethernet, wifi, or cellular? |
| **Answer** |
| Please refer to Question 17. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **19** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section C, Page 14 | Is there any intellectual property transfer or will all IP be owned by the contractor? |
| **Answer** |
| If awarded, the State will work in conjunction with the Applicant during contract negotiations to determine the contract structure and outcomes. Intellectual property ownership will be discussed on a case-by-case basis during the contract negotiation phase if necessary.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **20** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section C, Page 14 | To budget for costs from the University of Maine for installation that may not be “simple”, what hourly rate can be used? |
| **Answer** |
|  The Department declines to answer.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **21** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section C, Page 14 | Is publication of final results and high level methodology sufficient, for example presentation or publication at conferences (in order to protect product IP), or do publications need to detail the methodology and all intermediate steps? |
| **Answer** |
| If awarded, the State will work in conjunction with the awarded Applicant(s) during contract negotiations to determine the contract structure and outcomes. Intellectual property ownership and publication details will be discussed on a case-by-case basis during the contract negotiation phase if necessary. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **22** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section D, Page 15 | Would platform sensor integration performed by the applicant, such as software and electrical development, be a valid use of funds.As an example, we would like to integrate a new sensor payload to our proprietary monitoring platform in the Fall to support a late winter/early spring deployment of the technology for this RFA. |
| **Answer** |
| All applications that meet the goals, priorities, and requirements of the RFA will be considered. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **23** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section D, Page 15 | If any of the aforementioned sensors / instrumentation is not already installed would the grant funding potentially cover the procurement of any required sensors? If any of the aforementioned sensors/instrumentation is not already installed would the University of Maine procure the required sensors out with the grant funding (i.e., free issue the sensors) |
| **Answer** |
| The sensors listed in the RFA are already installed. Additional sensors and installation costs must be included in the budget section in the Part V, Application Form. The University of Maine will not procure additional sensors with the grant funding.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **24** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section D, Page 15 | Would the grant cover such items as travel expenses? |
| **Answer** |
| Applicants should complete the budget table in Part V, Application, which includes a line for onshore transportation. Please see the [State travel policy](https://www.maine.gov/osc/travel) for more details. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **25** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part II, Section D, Page 15 | As our technology has yet to be patented would the grant funding cover such an application? |
| **Answer** |
| No. Patent application costs are not contemplated through this funding.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **26** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, C, Page 19 | The scoring criteria identifies Cost Sharing at 10 points in the Point Available criteria, however, there is no other reference to Cost Sharing. Q: Is Cost Sharing required as part of the project or will it just be considered as associated with receiving additional points if presented in the project? |
| **Answer** |
| Cost sharing is not required. Cost sharing is defined in the Budget section of the embedded Application Form document in the RFA, Part V. Applications appropriately documenting cost sharing will be considered eligible for up to 10 points of the overall 100 total points, as described in Part IV, C, Page 19.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **27** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, C, Page 19 | Beyond reasonableness, what specific criteria will be used to evaluate the 'Budget' for 25 points? For instance, is a lower overall cost viewed more favorably, or is the focus on cost-effectiveness and value? |
| **Answer** |
| As stated in Part IV, Page 19 and in Part V (Application Form), pages 8-9, the applicant may earn up to 25 points for the budget table and corresponding narrative. The evaluation team will use a consensus-based approach to determine the specific points awarded for the budget table and narrative provided by the applicant. The evaluation team will consider the project work and cost estimates are reasonable for the expected outcomes.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **28** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, Section C, Page 19 | Given the definition for Cost Share is quite broad and could be interpreted differently between applicants, is there any quantifiable measure for how the 10 Cost Share criteria points will be assigned, for example, dollar limits or preferences for specific types of Cost Share? |
| **Answer** |
| Cost sharing is defined in the Budget section of the embedded Application document in the RFA, Part V, page 8-9. Applications appropriately documenting cost share will be considered eligible for up to 10 points of the overall 100 total points, as described in Part IV, C, Page 19. There is no preference for the specific types of cost share, provided the proposed cost share meets the definition provided in Part V, Application, pages 8- 9. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **29** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, Section E, Page 20 | Is there room to work outside of the standard Service Contract by utilizing [our] terms for negotiating an agreement, if selected as an awardee?  |
| **Answer** |
| If awarded, the State will work in conjunction with the Applicant during contract negotiations to determine the contract structure and outcomes.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **30** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, Section E, Page 20 | Our entity cannot sign indemnification agreements.  |
| **Answer** |
| The specific indemnification agreements to be signed will be discussed with the awarded Applicant(s) as they pertain to the project proposed. As added to Part IV.E of the RFA through Amendment #1, All exceptions will be negotiated between the awarded Applicant(s) and the State. The State will not accept any proposed exceptions as part of this RFA process. The State is not obligated to accept, negotiate, or compromise on any proposed exceptions.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **31** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part IV, Section E, Page 20 | What are the conditions of IP ownership with respect to background IP and IP developed during the project? |
| **Answer** |
| If awarded, the State will work in conjunction with the Applicant during contract negotiations to determine the contract structure and outcomes. Intellectual property ownership will be discussed on a case-by-case basis during the contract negotiation phase if necessary. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **32** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Part V, Application, Page 4 | For deployments involving person portable sensor platforms (ex. <20lbs) and work conducted by UMaine technicians/vessel subcontractors, what specific safety qualifications are required for the applicant organization? |
| **Answer** |
| Safety qualifications are based on the scope of work. Please outline specific work packages for review and development of required trainings and qualifications if necessary. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **33** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| N/A | For this proposal, will the grantee be considered a contractor (providing specified services in support of a program) or a subrecipient (has its performance measured in relation to whether objectives of a federal program were met and has responsibility for programmatic decision making)? |
| **Answer** |
| The grantee would be considered a contractor.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **34** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| N/A | Is it possible that UK based companies can apply for this programme or would it have to be via a US based entity? |
| **Answer** |
| All applications that meet the goals, priorities, and requirements of the RFA will be considered. A UK based company may apply if they meet the eligibility requirements in the RFA.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **35** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| N/A | What information on the WTG, the platform and moorings are available and can be made available to the successful applicant? |
| **Answer** |
|  These data may be shared with a suitable non-disclosure agreement and site access agreement.  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **36** | **RFP Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| N/A | Can you please confirm if there are any local content requirements (within the State of Maine or the US)? We will be submitting via our US entity (State of Texas), but a significant amount of the remote engineering work may be undertaken in Australia and Germany. |
| **Answer** |
|  All applications that meet the goals, priorities, and requirements of the RFA will be considered. There are no specific local content requirements.  |