



## **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

### **Hay River Harbour Restoration Project - Marine Dredging Services**



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## **1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

### **1.1. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **Response Submission Deadline**

Expressions of Interest response deadline:

Expressions of Interest responses (the “Response”) must be received prior to 15:00 local time on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (the “Response Submission Deadline”).

#### **Response Submission Methods**

Responses may be submitted using the following methods:

##### **a) The GNWT Contract Event Opportunities Website**

Responses will be accepted through the Contract Event Opportunities website under the following conditions:

- the Response is received prior to the Response Submission Deadline specified and is uploaded through the Contract Event Opportunities website;
- the Response should be submitted in Portable Document Format (PDF), unless otherwise specified by the GNWT;
- the Response does not exceed 100 megabytes in size; and
- the GNWT shall not accept liability for any claim, demand, or other action for any reason whatsoever, including where an uploading process is interrupted, a Response is not received in its entirety, is illegible in whole or in part, or which is uploaded to an incorrect event or website.

##### **b) Facsimile**

Responses will be accepted by facsimile transmission under the following conditions:

- the Response is received in its entirety prior to the Response Submission Deadline at the following facsimile number: 867-920-4112
- the Respondent acknowledges that the GNWT cannot guarantee the confidentiality of information contained in a Response sent by facsimile transmission.
- a cover page that includes the Respondent’s name, procurement Event ID (6596), the title, and the number of pages; and
- The GNWT will not be liable for any claim, demand or actions for any damages whatsoever should a facsimile transmission be interrupted, not received in its entirety, received after the specified submission deadline,

received by any other facsimile unit other than that stated herein, or for any other reason.

**c) Email**

Responses will be accepted through the following email addresses:

- [psstendershayriver@gov.nt.ca](mailto:psstendershayriver@gov.nt.ca)

The Response must be received prior to the Response Submission Deadline.

**Enquiries During the Solicitation Period**

All questions or enquiries (“Enquiries”) concerning this Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) must be in writing and be submitted no later than five (5) days prior to the Response Submission Deadline and be directed to the following (the “Contact Person”):

Attention: Contract Administrator

Address: Government of the Northwest Territories  
Department of Finance  
Procurement Shared Services  
201 - 76 Capital Drive  
B&R Rowe Building, 2nd Floor  
Hay River, NT X0E 1G2

Phone: (867) 874-7003

Facsimile: (867) 920-4112

Email: [psstendershayriver@gov.nt.ca](mailto:psstendershayriver@gov.nt.ca)

Respondents may only rely on written communication from the Contact Person. Information offered from sources other than the Contact Person with regard to this RFEI is not official, may be inaccurate, and should not be relied on in any way, by any person for any purpose.

**1.2. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- a) This is strictly a non-binding, information gathering process. It is intended solely to assess interest and capacity in the private sector and to form the basis for possible future competitive procurement processes. No contract will be awarded as a result of this RFEI.
- b) The GNWT has the right to cancel this RFEI at any time and/or choose not to proceed with any further competitive procurement processes for the services outlined herein.
- c) The GNWT is not liable for any costs associated with the preparation of a response to this RFEI.
- d) The Response and accompanying documentation submitted by a Respondent will not be returned.

- e) All information, including documents, submitted to the GNWT are in the custody and control of the GNWT and thus subject to the protection and disclosure provisions of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This Act allows any person a right of access to the records in the custody or under the control of a public body subject to limited and specific exemptions.
- f) Respondents, and their respective directors, officers, employees, consultants, agents, advisors, and representatives will not engage in any form of political or other lobbying whatsoever in relation to this RFEI.

Further, no such person (other than expressly contemplated by this RFEI) will attempt to communicate in relation to this RFEI directly or indirectly, with any representative of the GNWT (including any Minister or Deputy Minister, any member of the Executive Council, or any Member of the Legislative Assembly), or any director, officer, employee, agent, advisor, consultant, or representative of any of the foregoing, as applicable, for any purpose whatsoever.

In the event of any lobbying or communication in contravention of this section by any Respondent, or their respective directors, officers, employees, consultants, agents, advisors, or representatives, the GNWT in its discretion may at any time, but will not be required to, reject the Response submitted by that Respondent without further consideration, and prohibit the Respondent from involvement in any future procurement processes relating to the services outlined herein.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Northwest Territories (“GNWT”), Department of Infrastructure, is requesting (non-binding) expressions of interest from businesses that are interested in, and have the operational and financial capacity, to provide harbour restoration (marine dredging) services at the Hay River Harbour of the Northwest Territories of Canada.

The proposed approach is for a General Contractor to manage and execute all aspects of a mechanical dredging operation, including dredging and soil management, employing excavators, loaders, trucks, and other equipment as necessary, managing all sub-contractors including but not limited to bathymetry surveys and environmental monitoring, complying with all authorizations for the project, and coordinating and utilizing marine assets to be provided and operated by Marine Transportation Services Division (“MTS”) for the project, including up to 6 barges, and a harbour tug as required.

The intent of this RFEI is to determine the interest, experience, and capacity within the industry and determine feasibility to move forward with a formal procurement process that would include a Request for Proposals. It is envisioned that a contractor would be selected, and contract awarded by mid July 2023 and dredging must commence within 2 weeks of contract award, as the dredging window as provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is between July 16<sup>th</sup> – September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Outside of this time frame, we cannot carry out dredging operations.



MTS Shipyard, Hay River, Northwest Territories

### **3. BACKGROUND**

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is interested in securing a contractor to provide mechanical dredging services and sediment management at the Hay River harbour navigation channel. The GNWT is prepared to provide the General Contractor with select government-owned marine assets to facilitate the provision of such services.

#### **3.1. CONTEXT**

In the Northwest Territories (NWT), bulk fuel, construction materials and essential goods to the Great Slave Lake, Mackenzie River and Arctic coast communities are transported on waterways each ice-free season by tugboat and barge. Via marine mode, communities are supplied, and civil construction, resource projects and commercial activities throughout the NWT and neighboring Territories are supported.

In the past, dredging operations at the Hay River Harbour navigation channel were conducted by the Government of Canada using a suction dredge with a cutter head, and sediment was deposited off-shore. Operations stopped in 1997 when the Government of Canada terminated its federal dredging program. Natural sedimentation has continued in the river, and based on recent bathymetry data and water levels dropping from a 3-yr high cycle, the navigable channel may be impassable in 2023. The GNWT-INF is therefore pursuing an emergency program for the summer of 2023, to reinstate a 30m wide and 2.4m deep channel.

GNWT is currently pursuing applicable authorizations to carry out this work, including a Type B Water License from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB), a Dept of Fisheries and Oceans Request for Review, and a Transport Canada Minor Works Order. The authorizations will reflect the dredging of the emergency channel by mechanical means (e.g. excavator from a barge), with sediment stockpiling and passive dewatering at multiple properties on shore.

*The longer-term plan will be to restore the full navigable design width, under a separate project, authorizations, and procurement, at a future date.*

### 3.2. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

Should the GNWT determine that there is sufficient interest to proceed with a formal procurement process, the following schedule is expected:

Task/Activity	Start	End
RFEI solicitation period	April 3, 2023	April 28, 2023
Review of RFEI responses	May 1, 2023	May 26, 2023
Release of RFP	June 2, 2023	
Site visits (if requested)/ Pre-selection Meeting	June 12, 2023	June 13, 2023
RFP closes	June 30, 2023	
Proposal evaluations	July 3, 2023	July 7, 2023
Contract award <i>*dependent on receipt of Type B WL</i>	July 14, 2023	

## 4. OBJECTIVE

It is the intention of the GNWT that safe and reliable marine delivery of bulk fuel and deck cargo to NWT communities be maintained. The purpose of the project is to restore the navigability of the channel for multiple users, including marine freight tug and barges, commercial fishing vessels, coast guard ships, recreational users, and Aboriginal and Treaty rights users.

It is important that in providing this essential service to residents and businesses in the Northwest Territories that the operation continues to foster the development of an NWT-based marine and shipyard workforce. Residents in the Northwest Territories have a long history of involvement in the marine industry and can provide a wealth of experience in delivering marine transportation services within this type of operating environment.

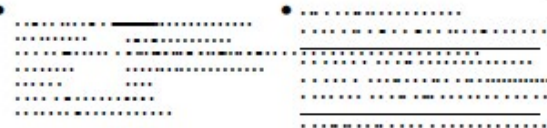
## 5. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The proposed Hay River Harbour Restoration (the Project) involves mechanical removal and temporary on-land storage of sand and silt from the bed of the Hay River. The project area is within the navigation channel of the Hay River, which is frequented by commercial, industrial, and private vessels. Please refer to the maps which illustrate the areas of dredging, and the proposed stockpiling properties. Dredging will occur within the allowable timing windows identified by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, from July 16 to September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.





■ Dredging Areas  
 Temporary Soil Storage



Dredging scope will cover both area A and Area B as indicated below.

- Dredge Area A includes the shipping lane entrance from the Great Slave Lake into the Hay River Harbour. Area A will be dredged to a width of 30 meters and



depth of 2.4 meters. This will involve removing approximately 16,000 m<sup>3</sup> of sandy material.

- Dredge Area B includes the three fingers of the East Channel, where approximately 68,000 m<sup>3</sup> of silty sand material will be removed.

The General Contractor is to manage and execute all aspects of the mechanical dredging operation, including dredging and soil management, employing excavators, loaders, trucks and other equipment as necessary, managing all sub-contractors including but not limited to bathymetry surveyors and environmental monitors, complying with all authorizations for the project, and coordinating and utilizing select marine assets to be provided and operated by MTS for the project, including up to 6 barges and a harbour tug as required.

In the RFP, the bidders will be asked to propose their approach and methodology to complete the work based off the construction specifications and terms and conditions of the authorizations. The GNWT has conducted an internal review, to inform scope and the project authorization applications, and offer the following for information purposes only. In your evaluation of this project, consider:

- dredging in both Area A and Area B concurrently, to maximize production within the available time window.
- using two barges in each location: each area would have one barge with the excavator and the other as a receiving barge.
- operating a loader on the receiving barge to manage the sediment to minimize the excavator repositioning.
- operating long-arm excavators for on-water dredging.
- The receiving barges will need to be lined at the perimeter with engineered fabric to control the dewatering. Once the barge is full, it would be shuttled to the MTS property for unloading and sediment transfer to the various properties approved for stockpiling.
- Managing the handling and placement of dredgeate from barge to properties, with organized stockpile placement, sampled and geo-referenced to where it was removed from the river.
- operator experience for safe and regulatory compliant on-water work. Due to the criticality of completing this project within the limited time available, preference will be given to contractors that can demonstrate recent successful, safe and compliant completion of similar projects, with specific demonstrated experience of proposed key personnel. Consider partnerships or staff secondments from experienced companies.
- project requirements for daily bathymetry surveys to inform/measure progress, erosion and turbidity controls, environmental monitors for water and soil quality monitoring and to satisfy WL requirements, etc.
- insurance and health and safety requirements for on-water work.



Hay River MTS Shipyard

## 6. RESPONSE GUIDELINES

Respondents are requested to provide a concise and focused response to this RFEI. Responses are requested in the following format:

- a) Name of the key contact person, including telephone number and email address.
- b) Brief company, team, or joint-venture profile.
- c) A statement indicating the proponent's understanding of the requirements and its ability to provide the required services and participating in a formal procurement process.
- d) Identification and discussion of any key factors that the respondent recommends the GNWT consider for a potential formal procurement process to select a contractor to deliver the required services.
- e) Any other information that the respondent considers important to the nature of this RFEI.

Respondents should not provide any pricing information, or any specific information about their approach or methodology to deliver the services contemplated herein. This RFEI will not be used to evaluate, rank, shortlist, or select a contractor; it is strictly an information gathering exercise.

If subsequent competitive procurement opportunities are issued, the GNWT will endeavor to advise all businesses that responded to this RFEI. However, all respondents are also advised to monitor the GNWT Contract Event Opportunities website, where all public procurement opportunities are posted. <https://contracts.fin.gov.nt.ca/>