



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)  
Department A - COSME, H2020 SME and EMFF  
**Unit A3 - EMFF**

## **CALL FOR TENDERS**

**European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)**

**Thematic groups Geology, Seabed habitats, Physics and  
Chemistry**

**EASME/2019/OP/0003**

**TENDER SPECIFICATIONS**

EASME/EMFF/2018/1.3.1.8

***Open Procedure***

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EASME/2019/OP/0003

**European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)**

**Thematic groups Geology, Seabed habitats, Physics and Chemistry**

**1. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**1.1. INTRODUCTION**

The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (henceforth "EASME" or "the Contracting Authority")<sup>1</sup>, acting under the powers delegated by the European Commission (here below "the Commission" or "the EC"), is launching this invitation to tender for developing, maintaining and disseminating high resolution digital maps of the topography of the European seabed.

The present call for tenders is based on Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of The Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund<sup>2</sup> and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council. More specifically, it is based on the Commission Implementing Decision C(2017) 8146 final of 08.12.2017 concerning the adoption of the Work Programme for 2018 and the financing for the implementation of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund<sup>3</sup>.

**1.2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT**

A vision for the accessibility and interoperability of marine knowledge in 2020 was set out in the European Commission's 2012 Green Paper<sup>4</sup>:

*"...a seamless multi-resolution digital seabed map of European waters by 2020. It should be of the highest resolution possible, covering topography, geology, habitats and ecosystems. It should be accompanied by access to timely observations and information on the present and past physical, chemical and biological state of the overlying water column, by associated data on human activities, by their impact on the sea and by oceanographic forecasts. All this should be easily accessible, interoperable and free of restrictions on use. It should be nourished by a sustainable process that progressively improves its fitness for purpose and helps Member States maximise the potential of their marine observation, sampling and surveying programmes".*

Part of the effort so far has been achieved by a partnership of over a hundred and fifty organisations working through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)<sup>5</sup> - an initiative launched by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) as part of its Marine Knowledge 2020 strategy<sup>6</sup>. Under EMODnet, these organisations work together to assemble marine data from diverse sources and resources in order to make them more accessible and more interoperable. Part of

<sup>1</sup> EASME was set up by Commission Implementing Decision (2013/771/EU) of 17 December 2013 establishing the "Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized enterprises" and repealing Decisions 2004/20/EC and 2007/372/EC (OJ L 341 of 18.12.2013). EASME replaces and supersedes former Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI).

<sup>2</sup> Official Journal of the European Union, L 149/1, 20.5.2014.

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/annual-work-programme-grants-and-procurement\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/annual-work-programme-grants-and-procurement_en)

<sup>4</sup> Green Paper, Marine Knowledge 2020, from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting Brussels, 29 August 2012, COM(2012) 473 final.

<sup>5</sup> More information on the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet): <http://emodnet.eu/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/marine\\_knowledge\\_2020\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/marine_knowledge_2020_en)

their work involves building gateways to national, regional or thematic repositories and creating products based on these data.

The work involved in making the data interoperable and available was done by thematic groups, each of which were responsible for processing data on a particular theme. The work done by the thematic groups for geology<sup>7</sup>, seabed habitats<sup>8</sup>, physics<sup>9</sup> and chemistry<sup>10</sup> are particularly relevant for the work that is the subject of this call for tenders. The EMODnet central portal<sup>11</sup> provides information on the work of the thematic groups and delivers access to their data, metadata and data products. The contractors shall build on their work.

EMODnet is supported by a dedicated Secretariat<sup>12</sup>. It provides high-level coordination and technical support to guide the development of the EMODnet Central Portal, monitor the various EMODnet projects and disseminates their results. The main aim is to develop a more coherent, effective, efficient and fit for purpose EMODnet, and to stimulate its use by industry, policy and scientific data users.

The further development and maintenance of EMODnet will contribute to increasing productivity of those working on marine issues, stimulating innovation in the blue economy and reducing uncertainty in our knowledge of the behaviour of the sea by increasing the accessibility and interoperability of marine data as set out by the European Commission in 2010<sup>13</sup>. It is part of the EU's digital agenda and will be an essential contribution to the data and information sharing provisions in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>14</sup> and the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive.<sup>15</sup> It helps ensure the integrity of in-situ data used by the Copernicus programme<sup>16</sup>. Data from both EMODnet and Copernicus are distributed according to INSPIRE<sup>17</sup> protocols and are thus interoperable.

### **1.3. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

The general objective of this tender is to further develop an operational service where marine data is made interoperable and freely available and to further develop data products based on observations of the sea, providing free and open access to these data products and to the observations on which these data products were built.

EASME is launching an invitation to tender with a view to concluding four service contracts, one for each of the following thematic lots:

Lot 1 Geology

Lot 2 Seabed Habitats

Lot 3 Physics

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.emodnet-geology.eu/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.emodnet.eu/seabed-habitats>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.emodnet-physics.eu/Portal>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.emodnet.eu/chemistry>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.emodnet.eu/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.emodnet.eu/about-secretariat>

<sup>13</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - Marine Knowledge 2020, marine data and observation for smart and sustainable growth COM/2010/0461 final. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52010DC0461>

<sup>14</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm)

<sup>15</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014L0089&from=EN>

<sup>16</sup> Regulation (EU) No 377/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 911/2010

<sup>17</sup> Directive 2007/2/EC – see also <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

#### Lot 4 Chemistry

The specific objective of each being: to create and maintain an operational service providing free and open access to data products based on observations of the sea and access to the observations on which these data products were built.

This will require developing and maintaining:

1. a method common to all portals of access to data held in repositories;
2. products constructed from one or more data sources that provide users with information about the distribution of parameters in time and space;
3. procedures for machine-to-machine connections to data and data products;
4. a web portal allowing users to find, visualise and download data;
5. a help desk offering support to users;
6. coherence with efforts of regional sea conventions;
7. interoperability with data distributed by non-EU organisations;
8. a process to become compliant with the INSPIRE Directive<sup>18</sup>;
9. a process to monitor performance and deal with user feedback;

The service shall build on products and services developed by the previous EMODnet thematic groups (see footnotes 7-11 under section 1.2 above), aim for complete interoperability with services developed by other thematic groups and with the INSPIRE Directive<sup>19</sup> and be open to receive data provided through the EMODnet ingestion facility<sup>20</sup>.

Details are provided in the next sections.

#### **1.4. TASKS AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE**

##### **1.4.1. Tasks**

The following tasks apply to all thematic lots.

*Task 1: Develop a common method of access to data held in repositories:*

- Data can be held by the organisation collecting them, by national bodies such as National Oceanographic Data Centres charged with stewardship of data, by bodies responsible for a particular parameter such as phytoplankton distribution or by bodies with a mandate for a shared sea basin.
- In any case the data must be made interoperable such that all data of a particular type collected within a defined time and space window can be found, visualised and downloaded in a way that makes the physical location of the data invisible to a user and that allows data from different sources to be assembled without further processing

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<sup>18</sup> Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE). <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=OJ%3AL%3A2007%3A108%3ATOC>

<sup>19</sup> Directive 2007/2/EC – see also <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.emodnet-ingestion.eu/>

*Task 2: Construct products from one or more data sources that provide users with information about the distribution of parameters in time and space:*

- Products that provide users with information about the distribution of parameters in time and space shall be constructed from one or more data sources. These shall be made available free of charge and free of restrictions of use.

*Task 3: Develop procedures for machine-to-machine connections to data and data products:*

- Application programme interfaces such as web services shall be developed that allow metadata, data and data products to be accessed directly by applications running on other machines including computers and smartphones.

*Task 4: Maintain and further develop a thematic web portal (see below the technical requirements) allowing users to find, visualise and download data and promote the data and dataproducts of the portal*

- Based on the existing thematic web portals, contractors shall maintain and further develop their contents and functionalities so as to allow users to search for data and data products, to view them and to download them. The portals of the different thematic groups should ensure compliance with the common look and feel agreed for EMODnet (see the Central Portal for reference in footnote 11). The layout of the portals is discussed in the context of the EMODnet Steering Committee<sup>21</sup> and is monitored by the Secretariat.
- During the course of this project, the portals may need to move to a URL under the “europa.eu” domain. Please refer to [http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/basics/urls/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/basics/urls/index_en.htm) for more information on what this would entail. The move will only take place when it is requested by the Commission services.
- Efforts shall be made to promote the work done under the contract to all relevant stakeholders, and communicate on the results following the guidelines of the EMODnet Secretariat and the Steering Committee.

*Task 5: Ensure the involvement of regional sea conventions<sup>22</sup>:*

- Particular efforts shall be made to ensure maximum coherence with data delivery to and from regional sea conventions and the International Council for Exploration of the Sea<sup>23</sup>. This shall include covering of the travel and accommodation expenses for attending meetings or workshops of common interest. Any such expenses must be included in the financial offer, as no separate reimbursement will follow.

*Task 6: Install a process to monitor performance and deal with user feedback:*

- The usage of the service shall be closely monitored through indicators defined jointly by the contractors of the thematic lots themselves, the EMODnet secretariat and the services of the European Commission through the EMODnet Steering Committee. Feedback from users shall be monitored, analysed and answered rapidly.

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<sup>21</sup> The EMODnet Steering Committee currently consists of representatives from each of the following EMODnet partners: thematic groups, sea basin checkpoints, the data ingestion service, the Flanders Marine Institute, the EMODnet Secretariat, DG MARE and EASME. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to vary its composition based on the evolving nature of EMODnet. More information on the EMODnet partners and the EMODnet Steering Committee is available in the EMODnet Website: <http://www.emodnet.eu/>

<sup>22</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/international-cooperation/regional-sea-conventions/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/international-cooperation/regional-sea-conventions/index_en.htm)

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.ices.dk/Pages/default.aspx>

*Task 7: Operate a help desk offering support to users:*

- The help-desk shall offer telephone queries and an on-line chat service by means of a live operator available from 9:00 to 17:00 (Brussels time) from Monday to Friday. Contact by e-mail shall also be possible. The telephone service shall not be charged at premium rates and e-mails shall be answered within two working days. A record shall be kept of all contacts and the reaction to them.

#### **1.4.2. *Transition and Handover details at the end of the contract***

The contractor must provide an adequate overview of the state of play at the end of the contract and must guarantee its cooperation for transition meetings and handing over the products and services developed under this contract, as well as their management, in a progressive, secured and orderly manner to the contracting authority or any party designated by the contracting authority.

To this end, the contractor will undertake the necessary actions to safeguard the continuity of the products and services developed. Together with its final report, the contractor will provide the full list of pre-existing rights, if any, within the result of the contract and provide evidence on their acquisition, to ensure the full use of the results and any pre-existing material (if applicable), by the contracting authority.

In their offer, tenderers shall include a Legacy Strategy explaining how they will enable a smooth transition to EASME or to any party to be designated by EASME. This strategy must ensure that IT tools and databases are compatible with the EC's IT architecture and guidelines<sup>24</sup> and also refer to the transfer of Intellectual Property Rights (see Articles I.10 and II.13 of the draft service contract).

#### **1.4.3. *Geographical scope of the tasks***

The metadata, data and data products must cover:

- 1) Water column and seabed**
  - Complete coverage of the Baltic, Barents, Black, Mediterranean and North Seas;
  - Coverage of jurisdictional waters (including continental shelf and claimed extended continental shelf) of Member States and Norway for the North East Atlantic (Celtic Seas, Iberian Coast and Bay of Biscay, Macaronesia, Norwegian Sea);
  - Lot 1 Geology only - complete coverage of the Caspian Sea;
- 2) Coastline**
  - EU Member States + Norway and all Baltic countries;

Data and metadata from outside these areas may also be included provided that they respect the same standards, format and baseline.

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<sup>24</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/informatics/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/informatics/index_en.htm)



### **1.5. INPUT BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY**

Once the contract is signed, EASME will facilitate the contact with the previous contractors responsible for the respective thematic portals, to ensure that the handover of the products and services takes place.

During the period of contract execution and upon request of the contractor, EASME will provide letters of introduction to potential sources of data, explaining the context of requests for access and distribution.

### **1.6. GENERAL GUIDANCE ON METHODOLOGY**

In implementing this service, the following principles must be respected:

- (1) Data must be free of charge and free of restrictions of use, including in relation to pre-existing rights<sup>25</sup>;
- (2) Data and data products shall be accompanied by metadata covering at least:
  - (a) ownership;
  - (b) assessment of accuracy and precision;
  - (c) (for data products) indication of method used for their construction.
- (3) Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)-based standards<sup>26</sup> shall be used that:
  - are common to all EMODnet themes. These will be progressively developed through decisions of the EMODnet Steering Committee in which the Contractor for this service will be represented. Documentation to guide users of data shall be developed.
  - respect INSPIRE rules.
- (4) The base resolution of seabed products shall be 3 arc seconds.
- (5) The web portals must be operating within 3 months of the start date of these contracts. To begin with, they will offer products and services developed by previous EMODnet thematic groups and will progressively offer products and services developed under these contracts as they become available.

The EMODnet's Secretariat shall be the primary point of contact for the contractors for any request of a technical nature. Questions on specific strategies for reaching the action's objectives shall normally be discussed and answered at EMODnet Steering Committee meetings (which are usually held in Brussels or other European cities). In case of discrepant information, the contractor shall follow the instructions received from EASME being the contracting authority.

The contractor shall ensure methodological and visual consistency with the rest of EMODnet portals. Guidance in these regards will be provided by the EMODnet Secretariat and will be discussed at the EMODnet Steering Committee meetings.

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<sup>25</sup> Those responsible for making nautical charts may use the data and data products but the products themselves cannot be used for navigational purposes.

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.opengeospatial.org/>

### 1.7. PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

The project will deliver a web service providing data, metadata and data products through the thematic portal and machine-to-machine communication.

Performance will be measured by usage and user satisfaction. Typical measures include:

- (1) monthly page views;
- (2) most popular page in past month and past year;
- (3) number of data, and data products downloaded;
- (4) types of user downloading data (where known) – public, private, research;
- (5) databases connected to system;
- (6) data records in total and available for download without restriction of re-use;
- (7) providers.

Efforts are ongoing to harmonise as far as possible the reporting of indicators between the different thematic groups of EMODnet so these indicators may be adjusted. In any case the primary performance indicators are usage and user satisfaction.

#### 1.7.1. *Data and metadata to be made available*

##### (1) Lot 1 Geology

- multibeam and seismic surveys and borings

##### (2) Lot 2 Seabed Habitats

- ground truthing surveys

##### (3) Lot 3 Physics

Measurements from fixed and moving platforms but excluding those from orbiting satellites (these are covered by the Copernicus programme<sup>27</sup>).

- wave height and period
- temperature of the water column
- wind speed and direction
- salinity of the water column
- horizontal velocity of water column
- water clarity (light attenuation)
- changes in sea-level
- inflow from rivers<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> <http://www.copernicus.eu/>

- ice cover
- sound (noise)

#### **(4) Lot 4 Chemistry**

Measurements of concentration of chemicals in seawater, sediments and biota, particularly those relevant to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive or to global climate change:

- pesticides and biocides (such as DDT, HCB)
- antifoulants (such as TBT, TPT)
- pharmaceuticals (such as oxytetracycline)
- heavy metals (such as mercury, cadmium lead)
- hydrocarbons (such as anthracene, fluoroanthene)
- radionuclides (such as <sup>137</sup>Cs, <sup>239</sup>Pu)
- fertilisers (such as nitrogen (DIN, TN), phosphorus (DIP, TP))
- organic matter e.g. from sewers or mariculture (such as total carbon (TOC))
- chlorophyll
- silicates
- partial pressures of dissolved gases (such as oxygen, carbon dioxide)
- plastics (such as polyethelyne, polypropylene<sup>29</sup>)
- acidity (from pH, pCO<sub>2</sub>, Total Inorganic Carbon, alkalinity)
- marine litter<sup>30</sup> (collected on beaches, in fishermen's nets, or in specific surveys). This shall include macro-objects (nets, bottles etc.) as well as fragments and microparticles in water column, sediments and beaches
- microplastics
- nutrient loads (nitrogen and phosphorus) to regional seas by major rivers

##### **1.7.2. Quantity of primary data**

For all lots the tenderer must provide a table indicating the quantity of primary data available to the project. This will be assessed under award criterion (9) (see section 4.4). The table shall be prepared in digital format (Excel, Access) and delivered in electronic form as an annex to the technical offer. The form of the table is different for each lot. The columns of the table shall be as follows:

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<sup>28</sup> This is new compared to phase 2 of EMODnet.

<sup>29</sup> Metadata shall also include fragment size.

<sup>30</sup> This is new compared to phase 2 of EMODnet. The various efforts to collect marine litter shall be assembled and normalised to a common classification.

### 1) Lot 1 Geology

- (a) description of data set (survey, geological map, mineral resources)
- (b) area covered (NM<sup>2</sup>) or (for coastal data) length (km)

As a minimum the data shall include one geological map from each sea basin, one survey from each basin and mineral resources from at least three basins.

The mineral resource data shall be dynamically linked to the database of the data provider.

### 2) Lot 2 Seabed Habitats

These shall not be the modelled habitats produced as part of the tender. Rather they shall be maps from surveys.

- (c) description of habitat map or set of habitat maps
- (d) coverage

As a minimum the maps shall be from at least two providers.

### 3) Lot 3 Physics

- (e) description of data set (measuring station, ferry box etc.)
- (f) real time, archived or both
- (g) parameters measured

As a minimum data from all sea basins must be included and access to Argo float data<sup>31</sup> must be included.

### 4) Lot 4 Chemistry

- (h) Description of data set (measurement station, consolidated data set)
- (i) Parameters measured
- (j) Number of records

As a minimum the data shall include measurements from each sea basin.

#### 1.7.3. *Data products to be made available*

Previous versions of EMODnet have aimed for a common resolution across the whole of a sea basin. The aim now is to provide as fine detail as the underlying data permit. Thus, areas that have been surveyed extensively shall be at a higher resolution than those where no surveys have been made.

#### (1) Lot 1 Geology

- seabed substrate

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<sup>31</sup> <http://www.argo.ucsd.edu/>

- sediment accumulation rate
- sea-floor (bedrock) lithology
- sea-floor (bedrock) stratigraphy
- coastal behaviour
  - migration direction, rate and volume
  - resilience
- mineral occurrences (e.g. oil and gas, aggregates, metallic minerals)
- geological events and probabilities (e.g. earthquakes, submarine landslides, volcanic centres)
- reconstructions of the submerged landscapes of the European continental shelf at various time-frames (e.g. Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and older low sea-level stages), with particular focus on:
  1. Shorelines and coastal environments and deposits (lagoons, dunes, estuaries etc., marine terraces, beachrocks);
  2. Valleys and riverbeds, terraces and associated deposits;
  3. River-deltas and delta-clinoforms;
  4. Submerged water points, e.g. Submarine Groundwater Discharges (=submerged springs), and freshwater lakes;
  5. Thickness of Holocene deposits above LGM landscape;
  6. Flora and fauna on the submerged landscapes.
- A common classification process shall be adopted for all data.
- The resolution shall be at 1:100,000 all over but finer where the underlying data permit.

## **(2) Lot 2 Seabed Habitats**

The contractor shall provide:

- a base layer of modelled habitats at a scale of 1:100,000 or better for all sea basins using common EUNIS classification, taking into account the latest revisions
- access to the data products (energy, opacity, etc.) used to construct these modelled habitats
- a library of digital habitat maps from national and regional collections as well as from completed EU projects. Where feasible, collections shall be combined and harmonised into single layers.

## **(3) Lot 3 Physics**

The contractor shall develop:

- a smooth process to extract both near-real-time and archived data of a particular parameter with one single command
- a consolidated validated map layer of sea-level rise at the coast; both absolute and relative to the land. The map shall also include confidence/uncertainty estimates
- a consolidated dataset of river inflows to each sea-basin in terms of flow, temperature and sediments

## **(4) Lot 4 Chemistry**

The contractor shall allow users to find, view and download digital map layers allowing them to analyse changes over time and space. These shall include:

- concentration on beaches (in the case of litter), in the open water, sediments and on the coast
- special higher resolution efforts at river mouths

The chemicals chosen must reflect importance to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Digital layers of plastic or litter must be available after the first year.

### **1.7.4. Thematic portal**

The thematic portal must include:

- (1) a prominent summary of the data and data products available;
- (2) a digital map with panning and zooming facilities allowing users to view data, data products and metadata;
- (3) facilities for downloading data, metadata and data products;
- (4) ability to track usage;
- (5) instructions for reaching the help desk;
- (6) possibilities for users to provide feedback.

See also 2.1.3 for thematic portal features.

#### 1.7.5. *User identification*

The EMODnet steering committee will deliver guidelines for user identification that must be adopted by the contractor. These will include:

- (1) anonymous browsing;
- (2) a user identification system (MARINE ID) that is common for all EMODnet thematic groups ;
- (3) a common and unobtrusive way of identifying what downloaded data will be used for.

#### 1.8. **STARTING DATE OF THE CONTRACT AND DURATION**

It is expected that the contracts will be signed approximately in the second half of 2019.

The contracts shall enter into force on the date on which they are signed by the last contracting party. The duration of the tasks shall not exceed 24 months from that date. The execution of the tasks shall not start before the related contract has been signed or before the specific date specified in the related contract. Work will follow the timetable detailed below.

The respective contracts may be renewed once, for 24 additional months, depending on the future needs and on the budget availability.

#### 1.9. **VOLUME OF THE MARKET**

1.9.1 The maximum amount for the execution of all the tasks referred to in these tender specifications for all the lots of this call for tenders is **€ 4,672,000**, including all charges and expenses, and excluding any renewals.

The maximum amounts per lot are the following:

<b>Lot</b>	<b>theme</b>	<b>maximum amount for the lot</b>
1	Geology	€1,770,000
2	Seabed habitats	€552,000
3	Physics	€950,000
4	Chemistry	€1,400,000

No contract offer above the maximum amount for the lot will be considered.

1.9.2 The maximum amount for the possible renewal, for all lots, is **€ 4,672,000**, including all charges and expenses. The maximum amounts per lot are the same as the ones specified in section 1.9.1 above. No price quotation for the renewal above the maximum amount for the lot will be considered.

#### 1.10. **PLANNING, OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES**

The contractor must provide the required reports and other deliverables (EMODnet portals and data products) in accordance with the conditions of the draft service contract. When requested in the contract, the reports will accompany the invoices for payments. The time limits for the contracting authority to approve the interim and final reports and pay the related invoices are also specified in the draft contract.

Each report will be submitted in electronic format only, compatible with Word, in English.

#### **1.10.1. Progress reports**

Brief progress reports must be sent to EASME, DG MARE and the EMODnet Secretariat within 15 calendar days from the end of each quarter, as to coordinate with reports from the other thematic groups. These reports shall not exceed 15 pages. The aim is to identify main achievements and unexpected difficulties and to provide progress indicators.

EASME will provide comments on the progress reports, if any, **within 45 calendar days** from reception.

#### **1.10.2. Interim and final outputs and deliverables**

A. EMODnet interim and final reports will follow the template, designed by the EMODnet Secretariat, and provided by the contracting authority at the kick-off meeting. The template may be subject to modification and adaptation. The reports shall be brief but informative. Their current structure is the following:

- 1) Executive summary (maximum 750 words)
- 2) Introduction
- 3) Highlights of the reporting period
- 4) Summary of the work done
- 5) Challenges encountered during the reporting period
- 6) Allocation of project resources
- 7) Work package updates
- 8) User Feedback
- 9) Meetings held
- 10) Outreach and communication activities
- 11) Updates on Progress Indicators, including:
  - (1) Volume of data made available through the portal;
  - (2) Organisations supplying each type of data based on (formal) sharing agreements and broken down into country and organisation type (e.g. government, industry, science);
  - (3) Organisations that have been approached to supply data with no result, including type of data sought and reason why it has not been supplied;
  - (4) Organisations that have downloaded each data type;
  - (5) Volume of each type of data and of each data product downloaded from the portal;
  - (6) User statistics to determine the main pages utilised and to identify preferred user navigation routes;
  - (7) List of what the downloaded data has been used for (divided into categories e.g. Government planning, pollution assessment and (commercial) environmental assessment, etc.);



(8) List of web-services made available and user organisations connected through these web-services.

(12) Recommendations for follow-up actions by the EU.

Annex: Other documentation attached

List of abbreviations and acronyms

B. - The thematic portal shall be operational within 3 months of the start of the project and its performance progressively upgraded and fine-tuned over the duration of the contract.

C - Tools and guidelines for the handover of the service to the contracting authority or to any other body shall be put in place and ready to be provided to EASME together with the final report.

### **1.10.3. Timetable**

<b>Timetable (months/weeks/days)</b>	<b>Actions/Deliverables</b>
Reference date (T0)	Start date of the contract
Quarterly (15 January, 15 April, 15 July and 15 October)	Progress reports to EASME, DG MARE and EMODnet Secretariat
T0 + 3 months	EMODnet thematic portal(s) operational
T0 + 12 months	EMODnet Interim report Submission of the invoice for the interim payment
T0 + 24 months	EMODnet Final report Handover tools and guidelines Submission of the invoice for the final payment

## **2. CONTENT, STRUCTURE AND GRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE DELIVERABLES**

The contractor must deliver the reports and the web portal as indicated below, as to make them suitable for publication.

### **2.1. CONTENT**

#### **2.1.1. Interim and Final reports**

The interim and final report must follow the structure specified in section 1.10.2, and must also include:

- ✓ specific identifiers which must be incorporated on the cover page provided by the Contracting Authority;
- ✓ the following disclaimer:

- ✓ *“The information and views set out in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of EASME or of the Commission. Neither EASME, nor the Commission can guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither EASME, nor the Commission or any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.”*

### **2.1.2. Requirements for publication on Internet**

EASME is committed to making online information as accessible as possible to the largest possible number of users including those with visual, auditory, cognitive or physical disabilities, and those not having the latest technologies. EASME supports the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

For full details on the Commission policy on accessibility for information providers, see: [http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/standards/accessibility/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/standards/accessibility/index_en.htm)

The contractor must respect the W3C guidelines for accessible pdf documents as provided at: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>.

### **2.1.3. Thematic portal features**

The thematic portals shall respect the guidelines and policy mentioned under section 2.1.2 above. As mentioned in section 1.2 and 1.3, the work shall build on the current portals by the thematic groups. Coordination with both the EMODnet Secretariat and the contractors responsible for other EMODnet web portals is required, as to ensure maximum consistency amongst them.

The primary purpose of the portals is to provide a gateway to data, metadata and data products. The digital maps are necessary but they are not an end in themselves. They are to help users and provider understand the density of measurements, where there are data gaps and where the data are imprecise.

Necessary features of the portals are listed below:

#### **2.1.3.1. Signing in**

The objective is to achieve the minimum of formality when downloading data. Anonymous users shall be allowed maximum access. Where identification is required, the EMODnet user identification scheme, currently under development, must be used. Other identifications may be used only until the EMODnet identifier is finalised.

#### **2.1.3.2. Search**

It must allow the search of a time and space window (the space may be chosen through the digital map, through coordinates or by a sea-area).

#### **2.1.3.3. Viewing**

The dynamic map facility must allow the viewing within a specified time and space window of:

- (8) Measurement points
- (9) Values of data and data products within a specified time and space window
- (10) Quality of data

#### *2.1.3.4. Data extraction*

Data and data products must be extractable according to EMODnet and INSPIRE standards. They shall allow extraction of data for requested parameters from different data sources or surveys within one file.

#### *2.1.3.5. Coastal data*

All web portals, except the Seabed habitats web portal, must allow users to browse and download coastal data. This requires preparing a table where one of the columns is distance measured along the national baseline. A graphical representation should also be presented with labels indicating geographical features (e.g. towns, borders, river outlets). Small islands need not be covered.

#### *2.1.3.6. Machine-to-machine*

The web portals shall include instructions indicating how users can access data, meta-data and data products directly through machine-to-machine connections.

#### *2.1.3.7. Avoidance of duplication*

The web portals shall have a mechanism for signalling and avoiding duplicate data when extracting from multiple sources.

#### *2.1.3.8. User feedback*

Each web portal shall incorporate a form for user feedback. User questions and the answers to the questions should be made visible on the portal and through RSS so that they can be listed on the common EMODnet portal.

#### *2.1.3.9. Acceptance of further data*

The web portals shall accept offer of data from stakeholders and provide facilities for them to upload it. A log shall be kept of data provided in this way and published through the portal.

#### *2.1.3.10. Other facilities*

The web portals shall be set up as to facilitate the input of data from the EMODnet ingestion facility<sup>32</sup> as well as to facilitate Facebook users to add links to their pages.

### **2.1.4. Graphic requirements**

The contractor must deliver the web portal and all publishable deliverables in full compliance with the corporate visual identity of the European Commission, by applying the graphic rules set out in the European Commission's Visual Identity Manual, including its logo. The graphic rules, the Manual and further information are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual\\_identity/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/index_en.htm)

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<sup>32</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/node/3754>

### 3. INFORMATION ON TENDERING

#### 3.1. PARTICIPATION

Participation in this procurement procedure is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties, as well as to international organisations.

It is also open to all natural and legal persons established in a third country which has a special agreement with the Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement.<sup>33</sup>

States covered by the Plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement concluded within the World Trade Organisation are not included in this call for tenders as the Executive Agencies are not signatories of the Agreement.

In the case of a joint tender (see section 3.4), each member of the group must have access to this procurement procedure.



For British candidates or tenderers:

Please be aware that after the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the rules of access to EU procurement procedures of economic operators established in third countries will apply to candidates or tenderers from the UK depending on the outcome of the negotiations. In case such access is not provided by legal provisions in force candidates or tenderers from the UK could be rejected from the procurement procedure.

#### 3.2. CONTRACTUAL CONDITIONS

The tenderer should bear in mind the provisions of the draft contract which specifies the rights and obligations of the contractor, particularly those on payments, performance of the contract, confidentiality, and checks and audits.

#### 3.3. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW

The tender must comply with applicable environmental, social and labour law obligations established by Union law, national legislation, collective agreements or the international environmental, social and labour conventions listed in Annex X to Directive 2014/24/EU<sup>34</sup>.

Information about the environmental policy of EASME is provided in Annex 9 to these specifications.

<sup>33</sup> Third countries with a special agreement in the field of public procurement that have been given access to procurement procedures of the Union institutions, agencies and bodies regardless of the value of the purchase are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway and Liechtenstein and Serbia.

<sup>34</sup> Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65).

### **3.4. JOINT TENDERS**

A joint tender is a situation where a tender is submitted by a group of economic operators (natural or legal persons). Joint tenders may include subcontractors in addition to the members of the group.

In case of joint tender, all members of the group assume joint and several liability towards the Contracting Authority for the performance of the contract as a whole, i.e. both financial and operational liability. Nevertheless, tenderers must designate one of the economic operators as a single point of contact (the leader) for the Contracting Authority for administrative and financial aspects as well as operational management of the contract.

After the award, the Contracting Authority will sign the contract either with all members of the group, or with the leader on behalf of all members of the group, authorised by the other members via powers of attorney (see section 3.8).

### **3.5. SUB-CONTRACTING**

Subcontracting is the situation where a contract has been or is to be established between the contracting authority and a contractor/tenderer only and where the contractor or tenderer, in order to carry out that contract, enters into legal commitments with other entities for performing parts of the contract. The contracting authority has no direct legal commitment with the subcontractor(s). In practice, any third party involved in the contract implementation which has no legal link with the contracting authority but with the contractor will be considered as subcontractor (e.g. any other company which does not participate in the contract execution but provides financial capacity).

Subcontracting is permitted but the contractor will retain full liability towards the contracting authority for performance of the contract as a whole. The rules of access to EU public procurement (Section 3.1) do not apply to subcontractors.

Tenderers are required to name all subcontractors and to indicate which parts of the work will be subcontracted.

### **3.6. COSTS**

Tenderers themselves will bear the costs of drawing up their tenders and EASME will not be liable to pay any compensation if a tender is rejected or if it decides not to select any tender.

### **3.7. CONTENT OF THE TENDER**

- The tenders must be presented as follows:
- Part A: Identification of the tenderer (see Section 3.8)
- Part B: Non-exclusion (see Section 4.2)
- Part C: Selection (see Section 4.3)
- Part D: Technical offer (including Annex 6)

The technical offer must cover all aspects and tasks required in the tender specifications and provide all the information needed to apply the award criteria. Offers deviating from the requirements or not covering all minimum requirements may be rejected on the basis of non-compliance with the tender specifications and will not be evaluated.

For the appraisal, the written submission shall include a clear and detailed description of the organisation, human and technical resources and methodology proposed. The tenderers will provide a practical and detailed description of the human and technical resources and services proposed to achieve the objectives and results set out in Sections 1.3, 1.4, 1.6 and 1.7 above.

➤ **Part E: Financial offer (Annex 7)**

The price for the tender must be quoted in euro. Tenderers from countries outside the euro zone have to quote their prices in euro. The price quoted may not be revised in line with exchange rate movements. It is for the tenderer to bear the risks or the benefits deriving from any variation.

Prices must be quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, including VAT, as the European Union is exempt from such charges under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Union. The amount of VAT may be shown separately.

The quoted price must be a fixed amount which includes all charges (including travel and subsistence). Travel and subsistence expenses are not refundable separately.

A price must also be quoted to cover the tasks for the possible renewal (see above sections 1.8 and 1.9). The price quoted for the optional renewal of the contract will be taken into consideration when calculating the ranking of tenders (see Section 4.5).

### **3.8. IDENTIFICATION OF THE TENDERER**

The tender must include a cover letter (letter of submission of tender - Annex 2) presenting the name of the tenderer (including all entities in case of joint offer) and subcontractors, if applicable, and the name of the single point of contact (leader) in relation to this procedure.

In case of joint tender, the cover letter must be signed either by an authorised representative for each member, or by the leader authorised by the other members with powers of attorney (Annex 4). The signed powers of attorney must be included in the tender as well. Subcontractors that are identified in the tender must provide a letter of intent (Annex 5) signed by an authorised representative stating their willingness to provide the services presented in the tender and in line with the present tender specifications.

The tenderer (and each member of the group in case of joint tender) must declare whether it is a Small or Medium Size Enterprise in accordance with Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC<sup>35</sup>. This information is used for statistical purposes only.

In the course of this tender procedure the EU Validation Services may contact tenderers via the *Participant Register* and ask for supporting documents with respect to the legal existence and status. Please note that a request for supporting documents in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

Nevertheless, the Contracting Authority may ask, in the course of the procedure, for complementary supporting documents, other than those requested by the EU Validation Services. Such complementary documents may be asked so as to complete the checks on the compliance of successful entities with the selection criteria and/or to ensure that the entity is not in one of the exclusion situations referred to in this call for tenders.

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<sup>35</sup> OJ L 124/36, 20.5.2003

## 4. EVALUATION AND AWARD

### 4.1. EVALUATION STEPS

The evaluation is based solely on the information provided in the submitted tender. It involves the following:

- ✓ Verification of non-exclusion of tenderers on the basis of the exclusion criteria
- ✓ Selection of tenderers on the basis of selection criteria
- ✓ Verification of compliance with the minimum requirements set out in these tender specifications
- ✓ Evaluation of tenders on the basis of the award criteria

The contracting authority may reject abnormally low tenders, in particular if it established that the tenderer or a subcontractor does not comply with applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law.

The Contracting Authority will assess these criteria in no particular order. The successful tenderer must pass all criteria to be awarded the contract.

### 4.2. VERIFICATION OF NON-EXCLUSION

All tenderers must provide a declaration on honour (Annex 3), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed in that declaration on honour.

In case of joint tender, each member of the group must provide a declaration on honour signed by an authorised representative.

In case of subcontracting, all subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 10% of the value of the contract or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria must provide a declaration on honour signed by an authorised representative.

The contracting authority reserves the right to verify whether the successful tenderer is in one of the situations of exclusion by requiring the supporting documents listed in the declaration of honour.

The successful tenderer must provide the documents mentioned as supporting evidence in the declaration on honour before signature of the contract and within a deadline given by the contracting authority. This requirement applies to each member of the group in case of joint tender and to all subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 10% of the value of the contract or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

The obligation to submit supporting evidence does not apply to international organisations.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit the documentary evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure and provided the documents were issued not more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and are still valid at that date. In such cases, the tenderer must declare on its honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, indicate the reference of the procedure and confirm that that there has been no change in its situation.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit a specific document if the contracting authority can access the document in question on a national database free of charge. In this case, only the details of the national database and the corresponding link must be provided to the contracting authority.

#### **4.3. SELECTION CRITERIA**

Tenderers must prove their economic, financial, technical and professional capacity to carry out the work subject to this procurement procedure.

The tenderer may rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the Contracting Authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.

The tender must include the proportion of the contract that the tenderer intends to subcontract.

##### **4.3.1. Declaration and evidence**

The tenderers (and each member of the group in case of joint tender) and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria must provide the declaration on honour (see Annex 3), signed and dated by an authorised representative, stating that they fulfil the selection criteria applicable to them. In case of joint tender or subcontracting, the criteria applicable to the tenderer as a whole will be verified by combining the various declarations for a consolidated assessment.

This declaration is part of the declaration used for exclusion criteria (see Section 4.2) so only one declaration covering both aspects should be provided by each concerned entity.

The Contracting Authority will **evaluate selection criteria on the basis of the declarations on honour (Annex 3), and the information included in the tables in Annex 2.1 and Annex 2.2, fully completed**, as well as the evidence requested. Tenderers are required to provide the necessary evidence together with the tender. This requirement applies to each member of the group in case of joint tender and to subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

After contract award, the successful tenderer will be required to provide the necessary evidence before signature of the contract and within a deadline given by the Contracting Authority. This requirement applies to each member of the group in case of joint tender and to subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit the documentary evidence if it has already been submitted for another procurement procedure and provided the documents were issued not more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and are still valid at that date. In such cases, the tenderer must declare on its honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure, indicate the reference of the procedure and confirm that that there has been no change in its situation.

A tenderer (or a member of the group in case of joint tender, or a subcontractor) is not required to submit a specific document if the contracting authority can access the document in question on a national database free of charge. In this case, only the details of the national database and the corresponding link must be provided to the contracting authority.



#### **4.3.2. Legal and regulatory capacity**

- Not applicable.

#### **4.3.3. Economic and financial capacity criteria**

The tenderer must have the necessary economic and financial capacity to perform this contract until its end. In order to prove its capacity, the tenderer must comply with the following criterion:

Its average annual turnover for the last two years for which the accounts have been closed<sup>36</sup> shall amount to at least two times the volume of the market, per lot, for the initial 24 months, as specified in section 1.9.1 of these tender specifications; this criterion applies for each lot, to the tenderer as a whole, i.e. the combined capacity of all members of a group in case of a joint tender, and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil this criterion.

To this effect, the following should be provided with the tender in eSubmission from all tenderers and subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the combined capacity:

- ✓ **Statement of Turnover in accordance with Annex 2.1** of these tender specifications completed with the information requested.

For tenderers (including all members of the group) except subcontractors:

In the course of this tender procedure the EU Validation Services may contact tenderers via the *Participant Register* and ask for supporting documents with respect to their economic and financial capacity. Please note that a request for supporting documents in no way implies that the tenderer has been successful.

Nevertheless, the Contracting Authority may ask, in the course of the procedure, for complementary supporting documents, other than those requested by the EU Validation Services. Such complementary documents may be asked so as to complete the checks on the compliance of successful entities with the selection criteria.

For subcontractors:

**Subcontractors contributing to the combined financial and economic capacity of tenderers should submit with the tender the following documents in eSubmission:**

- ✓ Copy of the Profit and Loss accounts for the last two years for which the accounts have been closed from each concerned legal entity;  
  
Failing that,
- ✓ Appropriate statements from banks;  
  
or
- ✓ Evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance.

If, for some exceptional reason which the Contracting Authority considers justified, a tenderer is unable to provide one or other of the above documents, it may prove its economic and financial

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<sup>36</sup> In the case of joint tender or identified sub-contractors, the turnover must be provided for the same two years for all the partners/subcontractors.

capacity by any other document which the Contracting Authority considers appropriate. In any case, the Contracting Authority must at least be notified of the exceptional reason and its justification. EASME reserves the right to request any other document enabling it to verify the tenderer's economic and financial capacity.

#### 4.3.4. *Technical and professional capacity criteria and evidence*

**Tenders must provide in their tender the table in Annex 2.2** of these tender specifications, exhaustively completed with all the necessary information.

**The evidences mentioned below will be provided with the submitted offer.**

##### Criteria relating to tenderers:

Tenderers (in case of a joint tender the combined capacity of all members of the group and the subcontractors whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria) must comply with the criteria listed below.

The project references indicated below consist in a list of relevant services provided in the past three years, with the sums, dates and clients, public or private, accompanied where possible by statements issued by the clients.

Criteria	Evidence
✓ <i>Criterion 1: Ability to develop a common method of access to data held in repositories and ability to providing access to data and data products.</i>	✓ Evidence 1: the tenderer must provide references for at least 1 project involving development of services offering access to data or data products from at least three EU Member States, completed within last three years.
✓ <i>Criterion 2: Ability to construct data products from one or more data sources that provide users with information about the distribution of parameters in time and space, relevant to the lot.</i>	✓ Evidence 2: the tenderer must provide references to projects evidencing the development of at least two types of products - these could be map layers, time series or harmonised datasets from heterogeneous sources.
✓ <i>Criterion 3: Ability to develop machine-to-machine connections to data and data products.</i>	✓ Evidence 3: the tenderer must provide references to projects evidencing the development of at least one operational service offering machine-to-machine connections between marine data and user.
✓ <i>Criterion 4: Capacity to construct web portals for marine data.</i>	✓ Evidence 4: the tenderer must provide the web link and explain its experience in creating at least one portal offering searching, viewing, zooming and downloading of geo-referenced data (max. 1 page).
✓ <i>Criterion 5: Ability to ensure interoperability</i>	✓ Evidence 5: the tenderer must provide a

<i>with international standards.</i>	summary of work done for minimum 1 project to ensure interoperability of data with international standards (e.g. projects) (max. 1 page).
✓ <i>Criterion 6: Ability to provide user support and feedback.</i>	✓ Evidence 6: the tenderer must provide proof of experience for having completed at least one project in this field (web link, summary description, etc.) in handling user questions from at least one platform (max. 1 page).
✓ <i>Criterion 7: Capacity to obtain access to data and permission of owners.</i>	✓ Evidence 7: the tenderer must provide signed authorisations to use data (these authorisations should correspond to the data that will be made available for the project – see table referred to in section 4.4 (award criterion 9) <sup>37</sup>

Any tenderer with a professional conflict of interest will be rejected on the basis not fulfilling selection criteria for professional capacity.

#### 4.4. AWARD CRITERIA

The contract will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender, according to the 'best price-quality ratio' award method. The quality of the tender will be evaluated based on the following criteria. The maximum total quality score is 100 points.

Tenders that receive less than 65% of the maximum possible mark for the whole quality evaluation or less than 50% for one or more of the quality criteria will be eliminated and their final score will not be calculated. Tenders that do not reach the minimum quality levels will be rejected and will not be ranked.

The criteria for the assessment of the quality of the offers, and the maximum points for each criterion are outlined below.

Criteria	Points	To be assessed on the basis of:
1. <i>Appropriate approach for unrestricted and fast access to data in repositories</i>	6 points	Breakdown of tasks into work packages  For the distinctive tasks and work packages, clear description of :  • inputs
2. <i>Degree of facilitation of machine-to-machine communication.</i>	6 points	

<sup>37</sup> Unless data are available without any requirement to ask owner's permission; for instance on-line.

3. <i>Quality of the method of preparing data products.</i>	10 points (except for lot 2) 42 points (for lot 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>objectives</li> <li>method</li> <li>risks, including potential impact, level of impact and mitigation measures</li> <li>expected outcome</li> <li>the effort involved expressed as fraction of total project</li> <li>the composition of the proposed team</li> </ul>
4. <i>Degree to which contract builds on existing EMODnet structure.</i>	6 points	
5. <i>Quality of the method for evaluating interoperability with international standards and other EMODnet lots</i>	6 points	
6. <i>User-friendliness of web portal.</i>	6 points	
7. <i>Soundness of project management: proposed mechanisms to comply with project deadlines and assure quality of output</i>	10 points	
8. <i>Strength of guarantee of the continuity of the service.</i>	8 points	Legacy Strategy explaining how the tenderer will enable a smooth transition to EASME or a party to be designated by EASME
9. <i>Quantity of primary data contributed to the project</i>	42 points (except for lot 2) 10 points (for lot 2)	For all lots: a) data owner b) reference number c) sea basin  LOT-specific table – see section 1.7.2
<b>TOTAL</b>		100 points

#### 4.5. RANKING OF TENDERS

The contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender, i.e. the tender offering the best price-quality ratio determined in accordance with the formula below. A weight of 70/30 is given to quality and price.

The price used for the ranking of the tenders is the total price quoted under "C. Total price used for the assessment of the financial offer" in Annex 7 Price and breakdown of prices

score for tender X	=	$\frac{\text{cheapest price}}{\text{price of tender X}}$	*	100	*	price weighting (30%)	+	total quality score (out of 100) for all award criteria of tender X	*	quality criteria weighting (70%)
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For each lot, the tender ranked first after applying the formula will be awarded the contract.

#### **4.6. INFORMATION TO TENDERERS ON THE FINAL EVALUATION**

EASME will inform tenderers of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract or to recommence the procedure.

EASME will inform all rejected tenderers of the reasons for their rejection and all tenderers submitting an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the selected tender and the name of the successful tenderer.

However, certain information may be withheld where its release would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, or would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators, public or private, or might prejudice fair competition between them.

<b>5. ANNEXES</b>
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The following documents are annexed to these specifications and form an integral part of them:

Annex 1: Draft contract (for information)

Annex 2: Letter of submission of tender (to be filled in and signed by the tenderer)

- Annex 2.1. – Statement of turnover
- Annex 2.2. – Technical capacity

Annex 3: Declaration on honour (exclusion and selection criteria)

Annex 4: Power of attorney

Annex 5: Letter of intent for sub-contractors

Annex 6: Technical tender form

Annex 7: Financial offer (price and breakdown of costs)

Annex 8: Checklist for Submission

Annex 9: EASME's Environmental Policy