



CALL FOR TENDERS

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

(2019-1.3.1.9 & 2020-1.3.1.11)

EASME/2020/OP/0006

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS

Open Procedure

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1. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1.1. INTRODUCTION

The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (henceforth "EASME" or "the Contracting Authority")¹, acting under the powers delegated by the European Commission (referred to below as "the Commission" or "the EC"), is launching this invitation to tender with a view to concluding seven service contracts for further development and maintenance of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)².

1.2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT

EMODnet is a long-term marine initiative dedicated to facilitating the discovery and access to marine data and data products representing the following seven main themes: bathymetry, biology, chemistry, geology, human activities, physics, and seabed habitats. For each of these themes, EMODnet has created a gateway to a range of data archives. The purpose of this tender is to further the development of these seven EMODnet thematic areas. A Steering Committee and a Technical Working Group³ have been established to guide the development of the EMODnet services.

This 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 Fund⁴ 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 Decisions C(2018) 8395 final of 13 December 2018 and C(2019) 8977 final of 17 December 2019 on the financing of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the adoption of the work programmes for 2019 and 2020 respectively⁵.

A vision for the accessibility and interoperability of marine knowledge in 2020 was set out in the European Commission's 2012 Green Paper⁶:

"...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".

¹ 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).

² More information on the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) on <http://emodnet.eu/>

³ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/602>

⁴ Official Journal of the European Union, L 149/1, 20.5.2014.

⁵ C(2018) 8395 final, item 1.3.1.9 European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), C(2019) 8977 final, item 3.1.11 European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet), https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/annual-work-programme-grants-and-procurement_en

⁶ Green Paper, Marine Knowledge 2020, from seabed mapping to ocean forecasting Brussels, 29 August 2012, COM(2012) 473 final.

This target has now been achieved through a partnership of over a hundred and fifty organisations working through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet). This is an initiative launched by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) as part of its Marine Knowledge 2020 strategy⁷. Under EMODnet, these organisations joined forces to assemble marine data from diverse sources and resources in order to make them more accessible and more interoperable. Most of the effort went on building gateways to national, regional or thematic repositories and creating products based on these data.

The work involved in making the data accessible, interoperable and available was done through thematic groups, each of which were responsible for processing data on a particular theme. These themes are bathymetry⁸, biology⁹, chemistry¹⁰, geology¹¹, human activities¹², physics¹³, and seabed habitats¹⁴. The subject of the present call focuses on further developments for these themes. The contractors shall build on the work previously achieved by the thematic groups. All services and products previously delivered will be handed over at the start of the contract following a process similar to the one described in section 1.4.2.

A dedicated secretariat¹⁵ monitors the output of the EMODnet thematic groups and provides technical support to a central portal,¹⁶ which provides information on the work of the thematic groups and directs users to their data, metadata and data products. The aim is to develop a more coherent, effective, efficient, integrated and fit for purpose EMODnet, and to stimulate its use **by industry, policy and scientific data users**.

A data ingestion¹⁷ facility became operational in 2016. This helps organisations or individuals holding data to submit them to EMODnet for safe-keeping and dissemination.

EMODnet is part of the EU's digital agenda and builds on INSPIRE¹⁸ and OGC standards¹⁹ which allows users to find, view and download data and products using standard protocols. The use of these protocols means that users can obtain the data and products not only through EMODnet portals but also through applications on other platforms that gather them through machine to machine communication.

Since 2016, annual reports²⁰ have been published that describe EMODnet progress.

The 2020 target having been achieved, the project will now move into a new phase. The basic objectives remain the same. It will continue to 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 data²¹. It will continue to be an essential contribution to the data and information

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/marine_knowledge_2020_en

⁸ <https://www.emodnet-bathymetry.eu/>

⁹ <https://www.emodnet-biology.eu/>

¹⁰ <http://www.emodnet.eu/chemistry>

¹¹ <https://www.emodnet-geology.eu/>

¹² <https://www.emodnet-humanactivities.eu/>

¹³ <http://www.emodnet-physics.eu/Portal>

¹⁴ <http://www.emodnet.eu/seabed-habitats>

¹⁵ <http://www.emodnet.eu/about-secretariat>

¹⁶ <http://www.emodnet.eu/>

¹⁷ <https://www.emodnet-ingestion.eu/>

¹⁸ Directive 2007/2/EC – see also <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

¹⁹ <http://www.opengeospatial.org/>

²⁰ <https://www.emodnet.eu/annual-reports>

²¹ 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>

sharing provisions in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive²² and the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive.²³ It will continue to provide additional sources of in-situ data to the Copernicus programme²⁴. A memorandum of understanding between DG MARE and DG GROW in 2019 consolidated cooperation and interoperability between the two initiatives for the physics and chemistry. Data from both EMODnet and Copernicus are distributed according to INSPIRE²⁵ protocols and are thus interoperable. Engagement with regional sea conventions and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea²⁶ (ICES) will continue.

The basic structure of EMODnet will be maintained. There will continue to be seven thematic groups, an ingestion facility and a secretariat, but further steps towards providing a seamless fit-for-purpose service will include:

- a single portal for finding, viewing and downloading data. The thematic groups will continue to be responsible for providing free and unrestricted access to data, for building data products, for providing access to the products and for curating the data and data products made available to users. However, six months after start of contract, all data access will be done through the central portal.
- full automation of performance indicators where possible;
- higher resolution seabed maps and other data products;
- further attention to the land sea-interface;
- support to implementation of Water Framework Directive for coastal zones and nature directives;
- support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- support the implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive;
- support to priorities of Green Deal insofar as they deal with marine issues – e.g. decarbonisation, biodiversity, etc.;
- further integration with work done in seas around continents other than Europe;
- inclusion of fishing effort as well as vessel density;
- classification of marine protected areas by level of protection, as well as definition and classification of “spatial protection measures”;
- Inclusion of desalination plants.

1.3. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this tender is to further develop an operational service whereby marine data and data products built with common standards can be found, viewed and downloaded in a way that is **free of charge and free of restrictions of use**.

EASME wishes to enter into a series of seven service contracts, one for each of the following thematic lots:

- lot 1 bathymetry
- lot 2 geology
- lot 3 seabed habitats
- lot 4 physics
- lot 5 chemistry

²² http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm

²³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014L0089&from=EN>

²⁴ 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

²⁵ Directive 2007/2/EC – see also <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

²⁶ <https://www.ices.dk/Pages/default.aspx>

- lot 6 biology
- lot 7 human activities

The specific objective of each lot is to contribute to the operational service by maintaining and enhancing services for the parameters under their responsibility.

Within the course of this contract, existing thematic portals will be phased out upon request from the Contracting Authority (websites will be maintained until specific notification and guidance will be provided) and from that point, access to data will be centralized through the EMODnet central portal.

1.4. TASKS AND GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The contractor of each lot is required to :

1. maintaining and improving a method of access to data held in repositories, common to all thematic lots;
2. constructing products from one or more data sources that provide users with information about the distribution and quality of parameters in time and space;
3. maintaining and improving procedures for machine-to-machine connections for all data and data products while ensuring a common approach along the different lots;
4. interacting with the administrators of the EMODnet central portal to ensure that the data and data products can be found, viewed and downloaded with ease from that central portal;
5. providing content for a reserved space for each thematic group within the EMODnet central portal;
6. ensuring coherence with efforts of regional sea conventions and other relevant local actors;
7. engaging with EU reporting mechanisms (e.g. through participation in working groups TG-DATA);
8. exploiting opportunities for interoperability with data distributed by non-EU organisations;
9. actively participating in the INSPIRE Directive²⁷ and Digital Earth²⁸ processes and ensuring compliance;
10. monitoring quality and performance and dealing with user feedback through a help desk service;
11. Maintaining continuity with the thematic portals for a maximum of six months from the start of the contract.

The service shall build on products and services developed by the previous EMODnet thematic groups, aim for complete interoperability with services developed by other thematic groups while following the INSPIRE Directive²⁹ as well as be open to receive data provided through the EMODnet ingestion facility³⁰. The service shall facilitate the accessibility of all data and data products (existing and new) through EU Open Data initiatives such as the Open Data Portal³¹, the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC³²) and others.

²⁷ 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>

²⁸ Commission Communication "The European Green Deal" COM(2019) 640 final

²⁹ Directive 2007/2/EC – see also <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

³⁰ <https://www.emodnet-ingestion.eu/>

³¹ <https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/home>

³² <https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/index.cfm?pg=open-science-cloud>

In order to facilitate technological harmonization across all lots, new technological developments (e.g. cloud) shall be implemented only after thorough discussion/review at the Technical Working Group or Steering Committee and validation by the Contracting Authority. The Contracting Authority may also decide to impose solutions whenever needed, in order to achieve the required technological harmonisation and the transfer to a single EMODnet entry point. Mandatory technical guidelines and realistic timelines would be provided to the contractors, which will be implemented in the specified time, as part of this contract.

1.4.1. Tasks

The following tasks apply **to all thematic lots**.

Task 1: maintain and improve 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 the user and that allows data from different sources to be assembled without further processing;
- Develop a plan for streamlining data holdings, including through Cloud technologies. The plan and solutions for streamlining data holdings should allow data, metadata and data products to be found, visualised and downloaded through a unified approach. The plan will be discussed in EMODnet's Steering Committee and will be validated through the Contracting Authority. Technical guidelines will be provided to the contractors, which will be implemented under a specified timeframe.

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

- Maintain users' requirements for new products and develop a common decision-making process for new product development so that new products are fit for purpose and used by a critical mass of beneficiaries;
- 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 found, viewed and downloaded by applications running on other machines including computers and smartphones. The plan and solutions for machine-to-machine communication will be common between the portals and will be dictated through a unified approach. The plan will be discussed in EMODnet's Steering Committee and will be validated through the Contracting Authority. Mandatory technical guidelines will be provided to the contractors, which will be implemented in the specified time.

Task 4: Contribute data, data products and content to a central portal that allows users to find, view and download data and data products:

- Ensure that meta-data are discoverable easily by the central portal for cataloguing and INSPIRE services;

- Ensure that data and data products can be discovered, viewed, downloaded and accessed by the central portal;
- Participate in regular meetings of a technical working group to ensure coherence with the other thematic groups.

Task 5: Contributing content to dedicated spaces in Central Portal:

- Particular efforts shall be made to animate these spaces and create a thematic community. The space shall include at a minimum summaries of meetings, quarterly progress reports, blogs, use cases and list of partners. Specific advice on how to manage the content shall be provided by the Secretariat. The thematic group will have access rights that allow them to modify the content.

Task 6: Ensure the involvement of regional sea conventions³³:

- 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 Sea³⁴.

Task 7: Contribute to the implementation of EU legislation and broader initiatives for open data

- Initiate conversations and collaborations with other relevant EU initiatives and parties, analysing and disseminating data on coasts, aiming at establishing seamless data provision between coastal land and sea;
- Help EU Member States fulfil reporting obligations (e.g. through engagement with TG-DATA, Member States Expert Group on Spatial Planning), actively participating in the INSPIRE Directive and ensuring compliance;
- Maintain compatibility with European Open Data Portal, EOSC, Digital Earth or other EU wide initiatives.

Task 8: Monitor quality/performance and deal with user feedback:

- The usage of the service shall be closely monitored through common indicators defined jointly by the contractor of the thematic lot, the EMODnet secretariat and the services of the European Commission through the EMODnet Steering Committee;
- Each portal shall facilitate the creation/maintenance of a centralized catalogue of products updated at least twice a year depending on new developments;
- Feedback from users shall be monitored, analysed and users contacted within 2 working days;
- 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.

Task 9: Maintain the existing thematic web portal for a maximum of six months from the start of the projects

³³ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/international-cooperation/regional-sea-conventions/index_en.htm

³⁴ <http://www.ices.dk/Pages/default.aspx>

- The thematic portals shall be phased out within six months of the start of the contract and all services accessed through the central portal.

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 European Commission's information technology architecture and guidelines³⁵ 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 for the water column, seabed and coastline as follows:

- 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, the United Kingdom (UK) and Norway for the North East Atlantic (Celtic Seas, Iberian Coast and Bay of Biscay, Macaronesia, Norwegian Sea, Caribbean Sea);
- For Lot 2 Geology and Lot 3 Seabed Habitats only - complete coverage of the Caspian Sea;

The dataset 'Europe's seas' published by the EEA³⁶ should be taken as reference in regards to the use of boundaries between marine regions as far as the Marine Strategy Framework is concerned.

Thematic groups are strongly encouraged to include data and data products from outside these areas. The data and data products must be free of restrictions of use and interoperable with European data and data products.

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.

³⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/informatics/index_en.htm

³⁶ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/europe-seas>

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 rights³⁷;
- (2) Data and data products shall be accompanied by metadata covering at least:
 - (a) ownership;
 - (b) assessment of accuracy and precision according to pre-existing standards in the marine field;
 - (c) indication of method used for their measurement or construction.
- (3) Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)-based standards³⁸ shall be used that:
 - (a) are common to all thematic groups. These will be progressively developed through decisions of DG-MARE guided by the EMODnet Steering Committee in which the Contractor for this service will be represented. Documentation to guide users of data shall be developed.
 - (b) respect INSPIRE rules: Services or functionalities covered by INSPIRE shall be compliant with specifications of the INSPIRE Directive and conformant with INSPIRE technical guidelines and good practices. If conformance with technical guidelines is shown to be incompatible with the quality of the services/functionalities required, the data or information providers and relevant stakeholders (including the INSPIRE community) shall come to an agreement of standards or implementation practices that can guarantee interoperability between the different services/platforms.
- (4) The services 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 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 discrepancies in information, the contractor shall follow the instructions received from EASME being the contracting authority.

The contractor shall ensure methodological 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. The progress of the contractor in issues of technical coherence will be monitored closely through quarterly progress reports (see section 1.10.2). A timely adaptation will be considered as a prerequisite for the successful completion of the contract.

³⁷ Those responsible for making nautical charts may use the data and data products but the products themselves cannot be used for navigational purposes.

³⁸ <http://www.opengeospatial.org/>

1.6.1. *Data and metadata to be made available*

Overall the strategy shall not be to maintain all these data within one database but to provide access to them.

lot 1	bathymetry	surveys (side beam, multibeam)
lot 2	geology	multibeam, seismic and boring surveys
lot 3	seabed habitats	<p>benthic surveys (to validate current broad scale habitats and to provide a description of the associated biological communities)</p> <p>essential fish habitats in three regional seas</p> <p>coastal wetlands classified by type</p>
lot 4	physics	<p>measurements from fixed and moving platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – changes in sea-level – horizontal velocity of water column – ice cover – inflow from rivers – salinity of the water column – underwater sound (noise) – temperature of the water column – water clarity (light attenuation) – wave height and period – wind speed and direction
lot 5	chemistry	<p>measurements of concentration of chemicals in seawater, sediments and biota, particularly those relevant to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Water Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive or to global climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – acidity (from pH, pCO₂, Total Inorganic Carbon, alkalinity) – antifoulants (such as TBT, TPT) – chlorophyll – fertilisers (such as nitrogen (DIN, TN), phosphorus (DIP, TP)) – heavy metals (such as mercury, cadmium lead) – hydrocarbons (such as anthracene, fluoroanthene) – marine litter³⁹ (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 (nitrates, phosphorus, others if available) to regional seas by major rivers (combined with river flows), whenever possible – organic matter e.g. from sewers or mari-culture (such as total carbon (TOC))

³⁹ The various efforts to collect marine litter shall be assembled and normalised to a common classification.

- partial pressures of dissolved gases (such as oxygen, carbon dioxide)
- pesticides and biocides (such as DDT, HCB)
- pharmaceuticals (such as oxytetracycline)
- plastics (such as polyethelyne, polypropylene⁴⁰)
- radionuclides (such as 137Cs, 239Pu)
- silicates

lot 6 biology

Observations of marine species: it shall include information on long-term trends and distribution of the following species groups:

- phytoplankton
- zooplankton
- angiosperms
- macro-algae
- invertebrate bottom fauna
- birds (surface observation at sea and coastal nesting)
- mammals
- reptiles
- fish (commercial exploited species, sharks, rays)

The service shall provide free access to all the data and metadata obtained within the EurOBIS⁴¹ and WORMS⁴² databases and at least three other separately managed databases. The service shall be predisposed to provide access to data from fisheries surveys should these data become available.

Lot 7 human activities

Data on ongoing or past human activities that take place on the sea shall be made available and include activities that could have an influence on the marine environment or how other activities are conducted or managed. Attributes may include geographical coordinates, changes in time, intensity of activity and:

- aggregate extraction gravel extracted per year, area of activity
- aquaculture species of fish, shellfish and algae, production tonnage per year, method of cultivation, area
(including freshwater)
- cultural heritage prehistoric and historic settlements etc.
- desalination plants Output of fresh water
- dredging status (years operational), purpose (e.g. navigational)

⁴⁰ Metadata shall also include fragment size.

⁴¹ <http://www.eurobis.org/>

⁴² <http://www.marinespecies.org/>

– fisheries effort	Days per km ² and kW-days per km ² on at least an annual basis
– fisheries zones	ICES and FAO nomenclature
– military zones	activity, type, duration, noise
– oil and gas exploration and extraction	area, status (exploration, exploitation), type of hydrocarbon, activity (drilling, pumping, etc.)
– ports	area, traffic, waste collected
– ocean energy facility	area, type (tide, wave, thermal gradient, etc.), status (planned, under construction, operational), power
– pipelines and cables	types of cable or pipeline, capacity (special attention to connectors from wind farms to shore)
– protected areas	legal basis for protection, management measures, species protected, level of protection (no-take etc.)
– waste disposal (solids, including dredge material, dumped munitions, marine constructions)	status (years operational)
– spatial planning zones	state of plan (e.g. in force, in preparation), type of activity (e.g. aquaculture, offshore wind energy), type of use (e.g. Priority Sea Use, Reserved Sea Use, Allowed Sea Use, Restricted Sea Use, Forbidden Sea Use)
– wind-farms	number of turbines, generation capacity, status (planned, under construction, operational), annual electrical output, (fixed, floating)

1.6.2. *Quantity of primary data*

For all lots the tenderer must provide a table indicating the quantity of primary data available to the project. The tenderer will have to assess what is already available through each lot and in what level (free access, restrictions of use), explain if they will manage to maintain it and demonstrate the additions that will be made available. They may be linked dynamically to up-

to-date resources maintained by the data owner but the contractor must have permission to make them publicly available.

The table shall be prepared in digital format (Excel, Access or similar) 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 all include a reference number and data owner. In addition:

- lot 1 bathymetry**
 - description of data set (type of survey, digital terrain model etc.)
 - area covered (NM²)
 - sea basin

- lot 2 geology**
 - description of data set (survey, geological map, mineral resources)
 - area covered (NM²) or (for coastal data) length (km)
 - sea basin

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.

- lot 3 seabed habitats**

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

 - description of habitat map or set of habitat maps
 - coverage
 - sea basin

- lot 4 physics**
 - description of data set (measuring station, ferry box, survey etc.)
 - real time, archived or both
 - parameters measured

- lot 5 chemistry**
 - description of data set (measurement station, consolidated data set)
 - parameters measured
 - number of records

- lot 6 biology**
 - description of data set (survey, database and more when available)
 - taxa covered
 - number of records

- Lot 7 human activities**
 - description and source(s) of dataset

1.6.3. *Data products to be made available*

Previous service contracts of EMODnet have aimed for a common resolution across the whole of a sea basin.

The aim under this call for tender 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.

- lot 1 bathymetry** A multi-resolution digital terrain model of European seas with a base resolution of 3 arc seconds or higher
 - and higher resolution (down to ¼ arc seconds) where the underlying data permit it. Contiguous high resolution areas should be joined into

single products so that users can select, view and download all or part of the product

- A best-estimate digital coastline related to the GRS80 ellipsoid shall be set up including:
 - mean sea level
 - highest astronomical tide level
 - lowest astronomical tide level
 - level of the hydrographic vertical datum
 - legal baseline
 - indications of most appropriate technique for future mapping
 - intertidal area
- The metadata shall include:
 - ownership
 - assessment of accuracy and precision
 - links to data used to construct the data
 - indication of method used for their construction

lot 2 geology

- seabed
 - substrate
 - sediment accumulation rate and erosion rate;
 - (bedrock) lithology
 - (bedrock) stratigraphy
- coastal behaviour
 - migration direction, rate and volume
 - morphology
 - 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:
 - Shorelines and coastal environments and deposits (lagoons, dunes, estuaries etc., marine terraces, beachrocks);
 - Valleys and riverbeds, terraces and associated deposits;
 - River-deltas and delta-clinoforms;
 - Submerged water points, e.g. Submarine Groundwater Discharges (=submerged springs), and freshwater lakes;
 - Thickness of Holocene deposits above LGM landscape;
 - 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.

Efforts shall be made to ensure compatibility with terrestrial efforts at the sea-land interface

lot 3 seabed habitats

- 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.

- lot 4 physics**
- 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 in-situ 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.

lot 5 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 in water, sediment and biota. In the case of marine litter, amount (macro-litter) or concentration (micro-litter) in the coastline, water column and seabed;
- special higher resolution efforts and mass flows at river mouths.

The chemicals chosen must reflect importance to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive.

- lot 6 biology**
- digital map layers allowing analysis of changes in species abundance and extent over time and space. The layers shall include those where data from more than one survey have been included and those from where data more than one data source (eg. OBIS and WORMS) have been included;
 - species migration routes including timing and duration, particularly those that might be affected by construction or deployment of new coastal or offshore infrastructure. Seabirds and cetaceans are of particular interest.

- Lot 7 human activities**
- digital map layers showing
 - the average number of vessels of certain type (cargo, passenger, fishing etc.) in a given period within a grid cell;
 - fishing effort (days and MW-days) per gear type.

1.6.4. Information for central portal

The thematic group must provide:

1. metadata, data and data products through web services
2. content for space on central portal including summaries of meetings, quarterly progress reports (see section 1.10.1), use cases, list of partners.

1.6.5. User identification

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

- anonymous browsing;
- a user identification system to be defined by EASME that is common for all EMODnet thematic groups;
- a common and unobtrusive way of identifying what downloaded data will be used for.

1.7. PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

The following lists the expected results in concise and approximate terms, so as to give a general idea of what will be requested from the contractor.

The project will deliver a web service providing data, metadata and data products through the central portal and machine-to-machine communication. During the project, the contractor will cooperate with the EMODnet Secretariat in automating the process of performance data gathering and making the performance data publicly available. This will reduce the effort involved in preparing and communicating the indicators.

Performance will be measured by usage of the marine data access services, technical monitoring of the services and user satisfaction. Typical (but not exhaustive) measures include:

1. monthly and annual 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 – public, private, research;
5. databases connected to system;
6. data records in total and available for download without restriction of re-use;
7. response time, downtime;
8. providers.

The EMODnet Secretariat manages the list of the indicators and may refine/modify that list during the course of the contract based on needs. The Secretariat is also running regularly satisfaction surveys.

Efforts are ongoing to automate as far as possible the reporting of indicators and these may be adjusted in light of feasibility. Primary performance indicators are usage and user satisfaction.

1.8. STARTING DATE OF THE CONTRACT AND DURATION

It is expected that the contracts under this call for tender are signed prior to the expiry of the current service contracts, namely:

Lot	theme	Planned Starting date for the lot		
1	bathymetry	20	December	2020
2	geology	25	September	2021
3	seabed habitats	25	September	2021
4	physics	23	August	2021
5	chemistry	3	October	2021
6	biology	19	April	2021
7	human activities	3	March	2021

Each contract shall enter into force immediately after the expiration of the current related project. Should both parties not have signed by that date the contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is 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 specific date specified in the contract or before the related contract has been signed. The work will follow the timetable detailed below.

The contract for each lot may be renewed once, for a period of 24 additional months, depending on the future needs and on the budget availability.

1.9. VALUE OF THE MARKET

The maximum amount for the execution of all the tasks referred to in each lot of this call for tenders is €12,926,267, including all charges and expenses, and excluding any renewals.

The maximum amounts per lot are the following:

Lot	theme	maximum amount for the lot
1	bathymetry	€2,800,000
2	geology	€2,420,000
3	seabed habitats	€1,370,000
4	physics	€1,050,000
5	chemistry	€2,250,000
6	biology	€1,500,633
7	human activities	€1,535,634

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

The maximum amount for the possible renewal, for all contracts, is €12,926,267 including all charges and expenses. The maximum amounts per lot are the same as the ones specified 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 deliverables in accordance with the conditions of the draft service contract. When requested in the contract, the deliverables will accompany the request for payments.

Documents will be submitted in English in an electronic format compatible with Microsoft Word. No paper copies are required.

1.10.1. Quarterly Progress Report

Brief progress reports must be sent to the Contracting Authority 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. The template is designed by the EMODnet Secretariat and provided by EASME. The template may be subject to modification and adaptation in agreement with EASME.

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 EASME. The template may be subject to modification and adaptation in agreement with EASME. The reports shall be brief but informative and will be published. Their current structure is the following:

1. Publishable Executive summary (maximum 750 words, final report only – not interim report);

2. Introduction;
3. Highlights of the reporting period⁴³;
4. Summary of the work done during the reporting period;
5. Challenges encountered during the reporting period;
6. Allocation of project resources;
7. Meetings held;
8. Task updates;
9. User Feedback;
10. Outreach and communication activities;
11. Updates on Progress Indicators:
 - (a) Volume of data made available through the portal;
 - (b) Organisations supplying each type of data based on (formal) sharing agreements and broken down into country and organisation type (e.g. government, industry, science);
 - (c) Organisations that have been approached to supply data with no result, including type of data sought and reason why it has not been supplied;
 - (d) Volume of each type of data and of each data product downloaded from the portal;
 - (e) Organisations that have downloaded each data type;
 - (f) User statistics to determine the main pages utilised and to identify preferred user navigation routes;
 - (g) List of what the downloaded data has been used for (divided into categories e.g. Government planning, pollution assessment and (commercial) environmental assessment, etc.);
 - (h) List of user bodies connected through web services.
12. Additional User Statistics;
13. Recommendations for follow-up actions by the EU.

Annex: Other documentation attached List of abbreviations and acronyms

- B. The web-services allowing finding, viewing and downloading must be running within 3 months of the start of the project.
- 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.

Timetable (months/weeks/days)	Actions/Deliverables
Reference date (T0)	Start date of the contract
Quarterly (Synchronized schedule over the lots. Deadlines are 15 January, 15	Quarterly Progress reports to EASME

⁴³ Reporting period is first 12 months for the interim report and the whole 24 months for the final report.

April, 15 July and 15 October)	
T0 + 3 months	All data and products available through the central portal
T0 + 6 months	Thematic portal phased out
T0 + 12 months	Submission of the Interim report Submission of interim request for payment (50%)
T0 + 24 months (end of the contract)	Submission of the Final report and deliverables, including: Tools and guidelines for the handover List of pre-existing rights Submission of the request for payment of the balance

2. CONTENT, STRUCTURE AND GRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE DELIVERABLES

The contractor must deliver the interim and final reports as indicated below.

2.1. CONTENT

2.1.1. *Interim and Final report*

The interim and final reports 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 W3C.

For full details on the Commission policy on accessibility for information providers, see: http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/standards/accessibility/index_en.htm

For the publishable versions of the study, abstract and executive summary, 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 providers understanding the density of measurements, where there are data gaps and where the data are imprecise. Necessary features of the portals are listed below:

- ✓ 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.

✓ 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).

✓ Viewing

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

- i. Measurement points
- ii. Values of data and data products within a specified time and space window
- iii. Quality of data

2.1.4. Graphic Requirements

The contractor must deliver 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

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.⁴⁴

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.

⁴⁴ 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, , Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway and Serbia.

 For UK tenderers:

Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement* on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK residents and entities are therefore eligible to participate under this call.

* Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community

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/EU⁴⁵.

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

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.

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). Examples of subcontractors include contractors' suppliers or free-lance experts. In practice, any third party involved in the contract implementation which has no legal

⁴⁵ 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).

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 identify subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 10% or whose capacity is necessary to fulfil the selection criteria (see Section 4.2).

Tenderers are also required to provide **a list of all subcontractors** (Annex 5.3) and to indicate which parts of the work will be subcontracted.

During contract performance, the change of any subcontractor or any additional subcontracting will be subject to prior written approval of the Contracting Authority.

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, resources and methodology proposed. The tenderers will provide a practical and detailed description of the resources and services proposed to achieve the objectives and results set out in Sections 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6 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). That price must be consistent with the prices quoted for same tasks under the initial contract. In particular, the price quote must be transparent in showing clearly the use of the same units and unit prices in the pricing of the tasks concerned by the renewal, and proportional to the activities involved. 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 identified 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 5.1) 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/EC⁴⁶. 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.

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

⁴⁶ OJ L 124/36, 20.5.2003

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, subcontractors whose share of the contract is above 10% 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% 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.

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 (Annex 5.2).

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 and the evidence where requested. .

After contract award, the successful tenderer might be required to provide additional 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.

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 financial years for which the accounts have been closed shall amount to at least two times the estimated annual contract value of the lot, as specified under section 1.9 of these tender specification.

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 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. The Contracting Authority 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 evidence mentioned below must be provided with the tender.

Criteria relating to tenderers:

Tenderers (in case of a joint tender the combined capacity of all members of the group and identified subcontractors) 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 description of the services provided, the sums, dates, names of subcontractors and/or consortium members and their roles, clients, public or private.

Criteria relating to tenderers	Evidence
✓ 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.	✓ Evidence 1: the tenderer must provide proof of experience in development of services offering access to data or data products from at least three EU Member States in at least one operational service.
✓ Criterion 2: Ability to construct data products	✓ Evidence 2: the tenderer must provide

Criteria relating to tenderers	Evidence
from one or more data sources that provide users with information about the distribution of parameters in time and space, relevant to the lot.	proof of experience in the development of at least two types of products - these could be map layers or time series or harmonised datasets from heterogeneous sources in the last three years.
✓ Criterion 3: Ability to develop machine-to-machine connections to data and data products.	✓ Evidence 3: the tenderer must provide proof of development of at least one operational service offering machine-to-machine connections between marine data and user.
✓ Criterion 4: Ability to ensure interoperability with international partners and knowledge of international standards.	✓ Evidence 4: the tenderer must provide a summary of relevant work done (e.g. projects) (maximum one page) in the last three years. These must highlight how interoperability with at least one international partner (non-EU country or international organisation) has been sought and how at least one international standard has been used.
✓ Criterion 5: Ability to provide user support and feedback.	✓ Evidence 5: the tenderer must provide proof of experience in handling user questions from at least one platform in the last three years.
✓ Criterion 6: Capacity to obtain access to data and permission of owners.	✓ Evidence 6: the tenderer must provide at least three 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 8) ⁴⁷

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 contracts will be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tenders, according to the 'best price-quality ratio' award method. The quality of the tenders 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 any 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.

⁴⁷ Unless data are available without any requirement to ask owner's permission; for instance on-line.

Quality award Criteria	Maximum possible mark	Assessment for each criterion carried out also on the basis of the following:
(1) Appropriate approach for unrestricted and fast access to data in repositories	6 points	<p>For the distinctive tasks , clear description of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inputs • objectives • method • specific risks, including potential impact, level of impact and mitigation measures • expected outcome • the effort involved expressed as fraction of total project • the composition and organisation of the proposed team • Gantt chart
(2) Degree of facilitation of machine-to-machine communication.	6 points	
(3) Quality of the method of preparing data products.	18 points (except for lot 3 habitats) 40 points (for lot 3)	
(4) Degree to which contract builds on existing EMODnet structure.	6 points	
(5) Quality of the method for evaluating interoperability with international partners	6 points	
(6) Soundness of project management: proposed mechanisms to comply with project deadlines and assure quality of output	10 points	
(7) Strength of guarantee of the continuity of the service.	8 points	

(8)	Quantity of primary data contributed to the project.	40 points (except for lot 3 habitats) 18 points (for lot 3)	For all lots: a) data owner b) reference number c) sea basin LOT-specific table – see below
<i>TOTAL</i>		100 points	

In order to assess criterion (8) for all lots the tenderer must provide a table indicating the quantity of primary data available to the project. The table shall be prepared in digital format (Excel, Access) and delivered in electronic form –The form of the table is different for each lot. The columns of the table are defined in section 1.6.2 “Quantity of primary data”

4.5. RANKING OF TENDERS

The contract will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender per lot, 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 costs”.

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.

5. ANNEXES

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 5.1: Letter of intent for sub-contractors

Annex 5.2: Letter of intent for third parties

Annex 5.3: List of subcontractors

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