

05 August 2024

Subject: Request for Quotations for the Provision of Consultancy Services for the Preparation of a Study on the readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low Sulphur Fuels or Alternative Fuels

Dear Sir/Madam

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is a Regional Activity Centre established within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, with a view to coordinating the activities of the Mediterranean coastal States related to the implementation of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the "2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol") to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the "Barcelona Convention"). The Centre is based in Malta, hosted by the Maltese Government, and is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with UNEP/MAP.

REMPEC would like to procure the Consultancy Services for the Preparation of a Study on the readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low Sulphur Fuels or Alternative Fuels. The duration of the contract shall be until 20 December 2024. Details of requirements are as per the attached Request for Quotations.

You are invited to submit your quote as per the attached Request for Quotations to procurement@rempec.org, by not later than **Friday, 30 August 2024 – midnight (Malta local time or UTC+2 hour)**. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered. All prices submitted are to be exclusive of VAT.

Questions regarding this Request for Quotations should be addressed to procurement@rempec.org by not later than **Wednesday, 14 August 2024 – 5 p.m. (Malta local time or UTC+2 hour)**. REMPEC will reply to any request for additional information in strict compliance with the equal treatment principle. Provided that they have reached REMPEC before the abovementioned deadline, requests will be answered by e-mail.

The REMPEC Procurement Selection Committee will open the bids and proceed with the selection of the 'lowest-priced, technically acceptable offer' and will communicate the results in due time.

Yours sincerely,



Ivan Sammut
Head of Office
REMPEC



REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES
FOR THE PREPARATION OF A STUDY ON THE READINESS OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION TO RESPOND TO MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS
INVOLVING LOW SULPHUR FUELS OR ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Issued by: Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

RfQ: REM_Quote 14/2024

Issue Date: 05 August 2024

Submission Date and Time: 30 August 2024 – midnight (Malta local time or UTC+2 hour)

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SECTION A: INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Response to this Request for Quotations (RfQ) is to be submitted on procurement@rempec.org. All submissions will be dealt with in strictest confidence.
- 2 This RfQ will be awarded based on the 'lowest-priced, technically acceptable offer' evaluation methodology.

SECTION B: GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose

3 The purpose of this RfQ is for the provision of consultancy services for the preparation of a Study on the readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low Sulphur Fuels or Alternative Fuels.

Beneficiary

4 The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is a Regional Activity Centre established within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, with a view to coordinating the activities of the Mediterranean coastal States related to the implementation of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the “2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol”) to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the “Barcelona Convention”). The Centre is based in Malta, hosted by the Maltese Government, and is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with UNEP/MAP.

5 The beneficiary, being REMPEC, is the point of contact for this RfQ. Any communications at tendering stage shall be made on procurement@rempec.org.

6 Any clarification questions are to reach REMPEC by not later than 14 August 2024 at 1700hrs. (Malta local time or UTC+2 hour). Clarifications requests are to be sent on procurement@rempec.org.

Scope and Terms & Conditions

Scope

7 The objective of this RfQ is to obtain competitive quotations from qualified and eligible companies for providing consultancy services for the preparation of a Study on the readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low Sulphur Fuels or Alternative Fuels, in accordance with the enclosed Terms of Reference (the “Terms of Reference”).

Terms & Conditions

8 In submitting a quotation, the bidder accepts in full and without restriction the requirements of this RfQ including the Terms of Reference and the IMO General Terms and Conditions as the sole basis of this tender process, and waives his own conditions of sale, whatever they may be.

SECTION C: DETAILS OF INFORMATION REQUESTED

Specific Project Overview

9 Technical specifications, including Background, Objectives, Assignment, Geographical scope of the assignment, Reporting, and Schedule, are as set out in the Terms of Reference.

10 Bidder should submit a technical proposal that offers a solution to the requirements specified in the Terms of Reference.

11 Bidder should also submit a financial proposal indicating all costs that the bidder will charge in carrying out the technical proposal.

Project deliverables

12 The successful bidder is expected to produce the following deliverables:

Title	Detailed description
Draft kick-off Meeting summary and workplan	as per paragraph 11.2 of the Terms of Reference
Draft Study	as per paragraph 11.3 of the Terms of Reference
Revised draft Study, together with draft executive summary and set of draft recommendations, as well as draft roadmap and action plan	as per paragraph 11.4 of the Terms of Reference
Final draft Study, together with revised draft executive summary, set of revised draft recommendations, revised draft roadmap and action plan, as well as draft policy brief	as per paragraph 11.5 of the Terms of Reference
PowerPoint presentation	as per paragraph 11.6 of the Terms of Reference

Company profile

13 The company must demonstrate:

- .1 a minimum of three (3) years' experience in providing consulting services in the area of environmental sciences, marine science, marine biology, maritime technology, pollution preparedness and response or closely related field; and
- .2 a minimum of two (2) qualified personnel to provide the services, and ability to provide an equally qualified consultant, in case a replacement is required during the implementation of the Assignment. The Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of the qualified personnel shall be submitted accordingly.

Personnel qualification

14 The proposed personnel must have:

- .1 a university degree in environmental sciences, marine science, marine biology, maritime technology or other closely related field;
- .2 a minimum of five (5) years' experience in delivering technical projects related to marine pollution preparedness and response;
- .3 at least three (3) years' experience in research and analytical work associated with the implementation of the OPRC Convention;
- .4 strong technical skills related to: emissions from ships, biodiversity, ship energy efficiency, carbon intensity reduction measures, energy efficiency, pollution preparedness and response – at least three (3) previous assignments;
- .5 skills related to the use of analytical tools as well as the review of research and other materials; and
- .6 excellent communication and presentation skills.

Other

The technical proposal must include a Project Execution Plan

The technical proposal must include a Risk Management Plan

SECTION D: FINANCIAL BID FORM

FINANCIAL BID

Quotation Title Request for Quotations for the provision of consultancy services for the preparation of a Study on the readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low Sulphur Fuels or Alternative Fuels

Reference Number REM_Quote 14/2024

Item No.	Description	Detailed Items to be provided	Total Cost of Service Provided	Total including Taxes/Charges, other Duties & Discounts <u>BUT</u> Exclusive of VAT (Delivered Duty Paid – DDP) €
1	Consultancy services for the preparation of a Study on the readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low Sulphur Fuels or Alternative Fuels	As detailed in Section C on page 5 of this RfQ.		
GRAND TOTAL INCLUDING TAXES/CHARGES, OTHER DUTIES & DISCOUNTS BUT EXCLUSIVE OF VAT (DELIVERED DUTY PAID-DDP) €				

**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR
THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR
THE PREPARATION OF A STUDY ON THE READINESS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
REGION TO RESPOND TO MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS INVOLVING LOW
SULPHUR FUELS OR ALTERNATIVE FUELS**

Activity No. 1.4.2. Support the ratification and effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, facilitating the entry into effect of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOX ECA), and explore the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NOX ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI

Voluntary contribution from the Italian Ministry for Environment and Energy Security

WBS Element No: XB/0143-01-02-10-04-2240

Background

1 The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) is a Regional Activity Centre established within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, with a view to coordinating the activities of the Mediterranean coastal States related to the implementation of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (the “2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol”) to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the “Barcelona Convention”). The Centre is based in Malta, hosted by the Maltese Government, and is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with UNEP/MAP.

2 COP 22¹ adopted Decision IG.25/14 on the Designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides (Med SO_x ECA) pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

3 Subsequently, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs) as well as the Member States of the European Union and the European Commission, submitted the joint and coordinated proposal on the designation of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO_x ECA) on 4 February 2022 to the 78th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 78) (London, UK, 6-10 June 2022), which endorsed the proposal and approved the related draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI.

4 The 79th Session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) (London, UK, 12-16 December 2022) adopted the amendments to MARPOL Annex VI concerning the Med SO_x ECA, with an expected date of entry into effective application on 1 May 2025.

5 COP 22 also urged the CPs to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI, as soon as possible, if they have not yet done so, at least by the date of entering into force of the Med SO_x ECA, to the extent possible, and requested the Secretariat (REMPEC) to provide technical support for the implementation of this Decision, in synergy with IMO, and other relevant stakeholders, through technical cooperation and capacity-building activities, including financial support and resource mobilisation activities.

6 Moreover, the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, 13-15 June 2023) called upon the Secretariat (REMPEC) to provide support for the consistent implementation of the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Med SO_x ECA during the biennium 2024-2025.

7 Finally, COP 23² agreed to include the following activity in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025³:

- support provided for the consistent implementation of the 0.10% sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO_x ECA).

8 The entry into effective implementation of the Med SO_x ECA, will bring along new challenges to Mediterranean coastal States, in relation to emergency response. With the aim of assisting littoral States in the Mediterranean Sea to assessing and encouraging continued development in oil spill response readiness and preparedness, REMPEC assisted, between 2020 and 2023, 18 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, out of 21, in undertaking a formal assessment of their respective national oil spill response preparedness and consequent National Implementation Plan of identified areas of improvement of spill response preparedness and readiness.

9 To this effect, a consultancy is envisaged to support REMPEC with its efforts towards providing support for the consistent implementation of the 0.10% Sulphur limit under MARPOL Annex VI in the Med SO_x ECA with the preparation of a Study on the readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low Sulphur Fuels or Alternative Fuels.

Objectives

10 The principal objective of this consultancy will be to prepare a Study on the readiness of the Mediterranean Region to Respond to Marine Pollution Incidents Involving Low Sulphur Fuels or Alternative Fuels, (hereinafter referred to as "the Study") aimed at:

- .1 evaluate the current state of emergency response preparedness in the Mediterranean;
- .2 identifying and examining any strengths, weaknesses and gaps in existing emergency response mechanisms and protocols;
- .3 identifying and understanding the risks, current best practices, policies and lessons learned from other Emission Control Areas (ECAs) regions and/or countries; and

- .4 providing recommendations on strategies and policy interventions to be considered for implementation in the Mediterranean Sea basin, including a possible plan of action of the process to be followed to further assess the feasibility for implementing such recommendations.

Assignment

11 For the completion of this consultancy, which shall not exceed **seventy (70)** working days in total, the Consultant shall:

- .1 attend a kick-off Meeting to be held through videoconference, within **three (3) working days** from the signing of the contract, to discuss the content of the reference documents to be analysed, the scope of the assignment, as well as to collect all required information for the completion of this consultancy and to agree on the method of work and communication channel;
- .2 draft a brief summary of the kick-off Meeting reflecting the main outcomes of the meeting, and prepare a workplan for the completion of this consultancy;
- .3 prepare, in consultation with REMPEC, a draft Study, which shall include:
 - .1 a compilation of policy and regulatory frameworks adopted by Contracting Parties and in other regions/countries, international conventions, as well as industry standards related to accidental release to marine environment of low sulphur fuel or alternative fuels, taking into consideration ongoing discussions at IMO;
 - .2 a review of existing literature, reports, and data on the properties of these fuels and environmental implications, particularly in the Mediterranean region, including their behaviour when released in the sea;
 - .3 a compilation of best practices and innovative solutions for the implementation of response measure that can be applied to response to accidental release to marine environment of the concerned fuel, including an evaluation of their effectiveness;
 - .5 an evaluation of the preparedness and response in each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention, taking into consideration recent assessments, and identifying the gaps that may exist; and
 - .4 an overview and assessment of the actions, regulatory framework, incentive schemes and other relevant mechanisms that may be implemented in the Mediterranean region.
- .4 prepare, in consultation with REMPEC, a revised draft Study, taking into account the feedback and comments provided by REMPEC on the draft Study referred to in paragraph 11.3 above, which shall include:
 - .1 a draft executive summary detailing the study findings; and

- .2 a set of draft recommendations tailored to the Mediterranean context, taking into account the specific challenges and opportunities in the region; and
 - .3 a draft roadmap and action plan for addressing the challenges identified, with timelines, taking into account capacity-building, technical assistance, and financial support needs.
- .5 prepare, in consultation with REMPEC, a final draft Study, taking into account the feedback and comments provided by REMPEC on the revised draft Study referred to in paragraph 11.4 above, which shall include:
- .1 a revised draft executive summary;
 - .2 a set of revised draft recommendations;
 - .3 a revised draft roadmap and action plan; and
 - .4 a draft policy brief highlighting actionable recommendations for policymakers and industry stakeholders.
- .6 prepare, in consultation with REMPEC, a PowerPoint presentation summarising the key outcomes of the final draft Study referred to in paragraph 11.5 above, for dissemination to CPs, including relevant stakeholders.

Geographical scope of the assignment

- 12 The Consultant will primarily perform the assignment from office/home.

Reporting

- 13 The Consultant shall:
- .1 prepare and submit to REMPEC, not later than **three (3) working days** after the date of the kick-off Meeting, the draft kick-off Meeting summary and the workplan referred to in paragraph 11.2 above;
 - .2 prepare and submit to REMPEC, not later than **18 October 2024**, the draft Study referred to in paragraph 11.3 above;
 - .3 prepare and submit to REMPEC, not later than **15 November 2024**, the revised draft Study, together with the draft executive summary and the set of draft recommendations, as well as the draft roadmap and action plan, referred to in paragraph 11.4 above;
 - .4 prepare and submit to REMPEC, not later than **13 December 2024**, the following documents:
 - .1 the final draft Study, together with the revised draft executive summary, the set of revised draft recommendations, the revised draft roadmap and action plan, as well as the draft policy brief, referred to in paragraph 11.5 above; and

.2 the PowerPoint presentation referred to in paragraph 1111.6 above.

14 All documents produced by the Consultant shall be prepared using the Established Guidelines for the preparation of reports on seminars, symposia, courses, workshops, and similar events, provided in Annex II to the “REMPEC Consultant Booklet” unless instructed otherwise by REMPEC (i.e. specific document template(s) to be provided by REMPEC) and shall be drafted in English, formatted according to REMPEC requirements, as well as provided in electronic format using software compatible with Microsoft Office.

15 The following disclaimer shall appear in all documents prepared by the Consultant:

“This activity is financed by the voluntary contribution from the Italian Ministry for Environment and Energy Security (MAES) and is implemented by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The views expressed in this document are those of the Consultant and are not attributed in any way to the United Nations (UN), the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), IMO or REMPEC.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the UN Secretariat, UNEP/MAP, IMO or REMPEC, concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.”

Schedule

16 The work and tasks set out in the present document shall be completed by **20 December 2024**. The contract will be terminated following the submission by the Consultant of the final draft Study and the PowerPoint presentation referred to above, as well as the subsequent certification by REMPEC that the performance of the duties and the work carried out are satisfactory.

17 Within that timeframe, the Consultant shall organise his/her work in the best possible manner and ensure the successful completion of the consultancy.
