

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

## FOR SERVICES

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Digital Earth Pacific: Explorer Development</b>
<b>Nature of the services</b>	Consultancy to Support Pacific Community (SPC) in Enhancement of Digital Earth Pacific (DEP) Computing Ecosystem
<b>Location:</b>	[Remote]
<b>Date of issue:</b>	20/09/2022
<b>Closing Date:</b>	1/11/2022
<b>SPC Reference:</b>	RFP22-4240-PRO

## Contents

<b>PART 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 ABOUT THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)	3
1.2 SPC'S PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES	3
1.3 SPC'S REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) PROCESS	3
<b>PART 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 BACKGROUND	4
2.2 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS	4
2.3 CLARIFICATIONS	4
2.4 EVALUATION	5
2.5 CONTRACT AWARD	5
2.6 KEY DATES	5
2.7 LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE	6
2.8 COMPLAINTS PROCESS	7
<b>PART 3: TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PART 4: PROPOSAL EVALUATION MATRIX</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>PART 5: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ANNEX 1: BIDDER'S LETTER OF APPLICATION</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ANNEX 2: CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>ANNEX 3: INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIDDER AND DUE DILIGENCE</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ANNEX 4: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>ANNEX 5: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM</b>	<b>23</b>

## Part 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 About the Pacific Community (SPC)

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organisation of the Pacific region, established by treaty in 1947 with the signing of the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Commission (the Canberra Agreement).

SPC has our headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia and has regional offices in Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu, as well as an office in France. SPC works across the Pacific and has staff in nearly all of our Pacific Island Country and Territory members.

SPC works for the well-being of Pacific people through the effective and innovative application of science and knowledge and is guided by a deep understanding of Pacific Island contexts and cultures. Our unique organisation covers more than 20 sectors and is renowned for knowledge and innovation in such areas as fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience and conservation of plant genetic resources for food security.

For more information about SPC and the work that we do, please visit our website: <https://www.spc.int/>.

### 1.2 SPC's procurement activities

SPC's procurement activities are guided by the principles of high ethical standards, value for money, open competition and social and environmental responsibility and are carried out under our Procurement Policy.

SPC's *Procurement Policy* provides the framework for ensuring that SPC obtains the best value for its purchases, in terms of both cost and quality; demonstrates financial probity and accountability to its members and development partners; manages and prevents the potential for conflicts of interest; reduces its environmental impact and manages any other risks.

At SPC, all procurement follows the same main steps: planning; statement of needs; requisition; solicitation; evaluation; award; receipt; and payment. Different procedures apply depending on the value of the goods, services and works to be procured.

For further information or enquiries about SPC's procurement activities, please visit the procurement pages on our website: <https://www.spc.int/procurement> or email: [procurement@spc.int](mailto:procurement@spc.int).

### 1.3 SPC's Request for Proposal (RFP) Process

At SPC, procurement valued at more than EUR 45,000 must be advertised through a Request for Proposal (RFP) with any bids received evaluated by SPC's Procurement Committee to determine the offer that provides the best value for money.

This RFP sets out SPC's requirements and it asks you, as a bidder, to respond in writing in a prescribed format with pricing and other required information. The RFP contains detailed instructions and templates to enable you to submit a compliant bid. It sets out the overall timetable; it confirms the evaluation criteria that SPC will use to evaluate proposals; it explains the administrative arrangements for the receipt of the bids; and it sets out how bidders can request further information.

Your participation confirms your acceptance of SPC's conditions of participation in the RFP process.

## Part 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

### 2.1 Background

SPC invites you to submit a bid to deliver the services as specified in [Part 3](#).

SPC has advertised this RFP on its website and may send it directly to potential vendors. The same specifications, submission and other solicitation requirements will be provided to all vendors.

SPC has compiled these instructions to guide prospective bidders and to ensure that all bidders are given equal and fair consideration.

Please read the instructions carefully before submitting your bid. For your bid to be considered, you must provide all the prescribed information by the closing date and in the format specified.

### 2.2 Submission instructions

Your submission must be clear, concise and complete and should only include information that is necessary to respond effectively to this RFP. Please note that you may be marked down or excluded from the procurement exercise if your submission contains any ambiguities or lacks clarity.

Your proposal must include the following documents (annexes of [Part 5](#) of the RFP):

- a) Bidder's Letter of Application (Annex 1);
- b) Conflict of Interest Declaration (Annex 2);
- c) Information about the bidder and Due diligence (Annex 3);
- d) Technical proposal submission form (Annex4);
- e) Financial proposal submission form (Annex 5).

Your proposal must be submitted in **two separate emails**.

You must submit your **Technical proposal** (Annexes 1 to 4 and all their supporting documents) in English as an attachment to one email. No financial information may appear in the technical proposal.

You must submit your **Financial proposal** (Annex 5) in a separate email. All prices in the proposal must be presented in USD. Your Financial proposal is to be password protected. SPC will request the password in the event that it is required.

Both emails are to be sent to [procurement@spc.int](mailto:procurement@spc.int) with the subject line of your email as: **Submission RFP22-4240-PRO**.

Your proposal must be received no later than **1/11/2022** by **4PM Fiji Time**. Only one bid per bidder is permitted.

SPC will send a formal acknowledgement to each proposal received before the deadline.

SPC reserves the right to exclude from consideration any proposal not received by the deadline, with incomplete information or in incorrect form.

### 2.3 Clarifications

You may submit questions or seek clarifications on any issue relating to this RFP. The questions are to be submitted in writing to [procurement@spc.int](mailto:procurement@spc.int) with the subject line: **Clarification RFP22-4240-PRO**. The deadline for submission of clarifications is **23/10/2022** by **4PM Fiji Time**.

Details will be kept of any communications between SPC and bidders. This assists SPC to ensure transparency

of the procurement process. While SPC prefers written communication in the RFP process, at any point where there is phone call or other conversation, SPC will keep a record or a file note of the exchange with prospective bidders.

## 2.4 Evaluation

### Validity

Each proposal will be assessed for compliance with the submission requirements by the Bids Opening Committee. At this stage, basic due diligence will also be undertaken.

To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of proposals, SPC may ask the bidder for clarification of its proposal or additional information. The request for clarification will be in writing.

### Technical

All valid proposals will be assessed against the technical evaluation criteria set out in Part 4. The criteria are provided with weighted scores according to the relative importance of each. SPC will not change the evaluation criteria set out in the RFP at any stage of the procurement process. Any changes in the evaluation criteria will result in the RFP process being re-issued.

Bidders are expected to familiarise themselves with local conditions and take these into account in preparing their proposal. Where minimum qualifications are set as specific evaluation criteria (which may include educational qualification, professional accreditation or certification, licensing, experience and expertise), proposals submitted must necessarily meet these criteria.

### Financial

Any bids that pass the minimum technical evaluation requirements will pass onto financial evaluation.

During the financial evaluation, if there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total price, the lower price shall prevail. If there is a discrepancy between words and figures the amount in words will prevail.

The total cost of the proposal must be submitted inclusive of taxes in accordance with the applicable legislation, and is not subject to revision.

## 2.5 Contract award

SPC may award the contract once the Procurement Committee has determined that a bidder has met the prescribed requirements and the bidder's proposal has been determined to be the most responsive to the RFP documents, provide the best value for money and best serve the interests of SPC.

SPC's [General Terms and Conditions of Contract](#) will apply to any contracts awarded under this RFP, unless otherwise agreed. Any requested changes to the General Terms and Conditions of Contract must be foreshadowed in the submission.

The award of the contract will be made by contract signed and dated by both parties.

## 2.6 Key dates

Please see the proposed procurement timetable in the table below. This timetable is intended as a guide only and while SPC does not intend to depart from the timetable, it reserves the right to do so at any stage.

STAGE	DATE
<b>RFP advertised</b>	20/09/2022
<b>Deadline for seeking clarification</b>	23/10/2022
<b>RFP Closing Date</b>	1/11/2022

<b>Award of Contract</b>	30/11/2022
<b>Commencement of Contract</b>	30/11/2022
<b>Conclusion of Contract</b>	30/08/2023

## 2.7 Legal and compliance

**Child and vulnerable adult protection:** SPC is committed to the well-being of children and vulnerable adults. All SPC contractors are required to commit to the principles of SPC's Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy ([XI.G Manual of Staff Policies](#)). Breach of this requirement can result in SPC terminating any contract with a successful bidder. Any allegations of potential misconduct in relation to this RFP involving children or vulnerable adults should be sent to [complaints@spc.int](mailto:complaints@spc.int).

**Confidentiality:** Unless otherwise agreed by SPC in advance or where the contents of the RFP are already in the public domain when **shared** with the bidder, bidders shall at all times treat the contents of the RFP and any related documents as confidential. SPC will also treat the information it receives from the bidders as confidential.

**Conflict of interest:** Bidders must take all necessary measures to prevent any situation of conflict of interest. You must notify SPC in writing as soon as possible of any situation that could constitute a conflict of interest during the RFP process. If you have any familial connection with SPC staff, this must be declared, and approval will then be sought for you to engage in the RFP process. Breach of this requirement can result in the exclusion of the bidder from the RFP process or in SPC terminating any contract with a successful bidder.

**Cost of preparation of proposals:** Under no circumstances will SPC be liable for any proposal submission costs, expenditure, work or effort that you may incur in relation to your provision of a proposal (including if the procurement process is terminated or amended by SPC).

**Currency, validity, duties, taxes:** Unless specifically otherwise requested, all proposals should be in USD and must be net of any direct or indirect taxes and duties and shall remain valid for 120 days from the closing date. The successful bidder is bound by their proposal for a further 60 days following notification they are the preferred bidder so that the contract may be awarded. No price variation due to escalation, inflation, fluctuation in exchange rates, or any other market factors shall be accepted at any time during this period.

**Eligibility:** Bidders are required to disclose to SPC whether they are subject to any sanction or temporary suspension imposed by any international organisation, or whether they are subject to bankruptcy proceedings. You may not be bankrupt or suspended, debarred, or otherwise identified as ineligible by any international organisation. Failure to disclose such information may result in debarment and termination of any contract issued to the bidder by SPC.

**Fraud and corruption:** SPC has zero tolerance for fraud and corruption. All contractors have an obligation to report potential fraud and corruption. Breach of this requirement can result in the exclusion of the bidder from the RFP process or in SPC terminating any contract with a successful bidder. Allegations of potential misconduct by an SPC staff member or contractor involving fraud or corruption can be sent to [complaints@spc.int](mailto:complaints@spc.int).

**Good faith:** The information in this RFP is provided by SPC in good faith. No representation, warranty, assurance or undertaking (express or implied) is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability will be accepted by SPC in relation to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of this RFP or any information provided by SPC in relation to this RFP.

**Modifications:** Any clarifications, corrections or modifications will be published on the SPC website prior to deadline. In the event a bidder has submitted a bid before the clarification, correction or modification, the bidder will be informed and may modify the bid. The modified bid will still need to be received before the deadline.

**No offer of contract or invitation to contract:** This RFP is not an offer to contract or an invitation by SPC to enter into a contract with you.

**Privacy:** The bidder is to comply with the requirements of applicable legislation and regulatory requirements in force for the use of personal data that is disclosed for the purposes of this RFP. SPC will handle any personal information it receives under the RFP in line with its [Privacy Policy](#), and the [Guidelines for handling personal information of bidders and grantees](#).

**Right to amend, seek clarity, withdraw, not award:** SPC reserves the right to: (1) amend, add to or withdraw all or any part of this RFP at any time, or to re-invite bids on the same or any alternative basis; (2) seek clarification or documents in respect of any bidder's submission; (3) choose not to award a contract as a result of this RFP; (4) make whatever changes it sees fit to the timetable, structure or content of the procurement process, depending on approvals processes or for any other reason. Please note that while SPC will not change the evaluation criteria set out in the RFP without the RFP process being re-issued, SPC does reserve the right at the time of award of contract to vary the quantity of services and goods specified in the RFP and to accept or reject any proposal at any time prior to award of the contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or any obligation to inform the affected bidder/s of the grounds for SPC's action.

**Right to disqualify:** SPC reserves the right to disqualify: (1) any bidder that does not submit a proposal in accordance with the instructions in this RFP; (2) any bidder that misrepresents information to SPC; (3) any bidder that directly or indirectly canvasses any SPC employee concerning the award of a contract.

**Use of material:** Bidders shall not use the contents of the RFP or any related material for any purpose other than for the purpose of considering submitting, or submitting, a bid to SPC.

**Warranty, representation, assurance, undertaking:** The bidder acknowledges and agrees that no person has any authority to give any warranty, representation, assurance or undertaking on behalf of SPC in connection with any contract which may (or may not) follow on from this RFP process.

## **2.8 Complaints process**

Bidders that consider they were not treated fairly during any SPC procurement process may lodge a protest. The protest should be addressed to [complaints@spc.int](mailto:complaints@spc.int). The bidder must provide the following information: (1) full contact details; (2) details of the relevant procurement; (3) reasons for the protest, including how the alleged behaviour negatively impacted the bidder; (4) copies of any documents supporting grounds for protest; (5) the relief that is sought.

## Part 3: Terms of Reference

### Consultancy to Support Pacific Community (SPC) in Enhancement of Digital Earth Pacific (DEP) Computing Ecosystem

#### A. Background/context

During the 2019 Group on Earth Observation (GEO) week in Canberra, the Pacific Community (SPC) announced a national and regional led consultation process to engage Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and develop an Earth and Marine Observation (EMO) action plan based on future needs of EMO in the Pacific. This initiative builds on EMO consultations for the Pacific held in Brisbane in 2018, and a subsequent Pacific Regional EMO Coordination meeting held in Suva in 2019.

Since these initial efforts, a needs assessment<sup>1</sup> was completed in 2021 and a computing environment and prototype data explorer<sup>2</sup> based on a fork of the Microsoft Planetary Computer has been initiated, forming the foundation for the Digital Earth Pacific (DEP) initiative. Several notebooks for minimum viable products have been developed, based on the needs assessment.

SPC is building DEP<sup>3</sup> to be a regional public good, making analysis-ready satellite data freely available and openly accessible for sustainable development in Pacific island countries. DEP will be the fundamental digital infrastructure that will ensure every nation in the Pacific has access to tools and technologies to better understand the changes to Pacific environments and people. DEP will condense years of freely available satellite data sets to provide real-time understanding on development issues. However, DEP is still in its initial phase and the development of the platform is still ongoing and requires further work and refinement<sup>4</sup>.

These terms of reference (ToR) set out the requirements for a consultancy to enhance the DEP platform, implement required backend features, up-scale it's analytical capabilities ,and to support SPC as the DEP initiative matures and becomes more responsive to SPC member country needs and user requests.

#### B. Purpose, objectives, scope of services

With the Microsoft Planetary Computer as the backbone of DEP, the continued development is broadly envisaged as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.spc.int/resource-centre/publications/digital-earth-pacific-needs-assessment-report>

<sup>2</sup> <https://explore.digitalearthpacific.org>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.spc.int/DigitalEarthPacific>

<sup>4</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/3cvks53c>



- Increasing data availability and enhancing analytical capabilities - both those available through the PC data catalogue, but also derived products according to prioritised use cases.
- Improve user experience - ensure that users can provide feedback on the experience and refine functionality accordingly.
- Create analytic visualisations - Develop functionality that allows users, at all levels, to better understand the underlying insights gained through the use of EMO data. By selecting a particular use case, create a graphical representation that is intuitive and dynamically communicates patterns, change, statistics, or trends in an easily consumable manner.

### **Main elements**

The Digital Earth Pacific platform consists of three main elements:

- Compute - a compute environment that allows people in the DEP community to run their own analysis on top of the Data Catalog
- Data Explorer - a data viewer that allows people to search and discover the core datasets in the Data Catalog and the derived products created in the Compute environment that were made public.
- Data - data includes both access to Microsoft hosted and managed data from Planetary Computer and DEP produced data stored in Azure storage accounts.

### **Platform architecture**

In terms of the platform architecture, the DEP environment is deployed as a variant of <https://github.com/Microsoft/planetary-computer-hub> which runs the Microsoft Planetary Computer. This repository utilizes Terraform and Helm to deploy the environment.

Compute is offered by utilizing Azure Kubernetes service. Deployments are completed using Helm and Terraform. The base environment is available for now 4 cores, 32 GiB of memory. Pangeo Notebook environment. This environment includes Dask as a means of parallel computing over multi-dimensional arrays in Python, with an on demand cluster of worker nodes. Additional compute types were disabled until testing and appropriate cost protections can be instituted.

Data is stored in Azure File Storage for user and DEP common shared data, and Azure Blob Storage for output data. Common data can be accessed directly in the compute environment via a mounted folder in each user's instance. Output storage is accessible using generated limited-lifetime SAS Tokens. We recommend a permanent read-only token for data sharing, and for now as needed write access tokens for publishing data to the output storage.

The Tiler instance uses Development Seed's TiTiler to provide COG and mosaic tiling. The Tiler is deployed into the Azure Kubernetes Service environment using Helm. Currently the Tiler works with any Cloud Optimized Geotiffs or MosaicJson in the output storage container.

API endpoint and documentation <https://dep-pctitiler.westeurope.cloudapp.azure.com/docs>

The Data Explorer is hosted using Azure Static Websites on an Azure Storage Account. It is automatically deployed with Github actions based on code merges to the develop branch of the repository.

There are 3 core git repositories related to this project, available on request:

- Notebooks - This repository has work-in-progress code which demonstrates in progress analysis work as well as contains examples documenting additional features not already documented in the official PC documentation.
- Compute - This repository contains the infrastructure as code required to deploy and update the entire compute system into the SPC managed Azure subscription. It is based on the PC example for creating a custom PC Hub.

- Explore - This repository contains the code to deploy and update the Data Viewer. It is forked from the PC open source code and modified to specifically deploy just the Explore component with DEP customizations.

### **Core Requirements and Support**

1. Strengthen and upscale DEP Analytical Capabilities and Computing Resources under Kubernetes Environment under Microsoft Azure Cloud Infrastructure.
2. Enable large-scale machine learning pipelines and ensure availability of requisite cloud processing resources.
3. Enhance product visualisation platform – <https://explore.digitalearthpacific.org> – for all DEP outputs; data description pages, custom legends and styling, vector layers and time-series support, more flexible multi-product display, charting and analytical display capabilities.
4. Support SPC in creating the Pacific Earth Observation (EO) STAC\* Catalogue for ingestion into and analysis within DEP Hub, primarily consisting of institutional data, models and legacy products.
5. Capacity building and on-going support for internal SPC IT on comprehensive management and troubleshooting of DEP Kubernetes and Azure resources.
6. Advisory and technical support for machine-learning pipelines and methodologies eg: label-maker.
7. Advisory support for statistical modelling methodologies within the DEP environment eg: meta-modelling of building/infrastructure data.

\* <https://stacspec.org>

### **Requested Features**

Below is an outline of the near- to medium-term features that require implementation. This is not an exhaustive list of features and is likely to change over the coming months and into 2023 and beyond as the project develops and requirements change. However, for now it is anticipated that the plan is as follows:

1. Redeployment of DEP MSPC Hub and Explorer to incorporate changes in MSPC Platform and API
2. Enhancements to Explorer
  - a. additional band comparison
  - b. multi product comparison
  - c. data description tooltips, popups, and pages
  - d. general data overview pages, i.e. data catalogue
  - e. legends/style popup
3. Creation of DEP hosted STAC catalog to allow for more automated addition of data to Explorer
  - a. Development of tools for publishing from notebooks to STAC catalog
  - b. Deployment of STAC Catalog, Database, API
4. Support for DEP analysis - e.g. implementation of Pyfes, creation of Pytorch nodes
  - a. Resources to support the development of additional use cases (Python notebook development)
    - i. Pyfes
    - ii. Pytorch
    - iii. Specific data pipeline (TBD)
  - b. Support Development of dashboard application based a derived data and specific use case.
  - c. Support ML and statistical modelling pipelines within DEP environment
5. Add ability to display time-series vector layers from Titiler to Explorer (important for coastline change, building extraction etc display)
  - a. Layer overlaying feature for Explorer
  - b. Solutions for when multiple layers are needed in 'compare' mode

6. Method for cataloguing vector layers added to Task 3 Support the SPC DEP team in managing and enhancing DEP MSPC Hub, and up-skilling internal SPC IT capacity in Kubernetes

**Priorities**

The current stage of development requires the following features to be implemented as a matter of priority:

- Redeployment of MSPC DEP Hub and Explorer inline with recent MSPC Platform and API Changes
- Add PyTorch Node Type
- Enable flexible resource allocation for the JupyterLab computing nodes (eg: additional RAM/vCPU Configurations)
- Enable time-series vector layer support in DEP
- Deploy STAC catalogue
- STAC data ingest pipeline
- Add Pyfes and other native libraries to compute environment (within the MSPC container)

**C. Timelines**

Most of the work is expected to be over a duration of 12 weeks from approximately September to November. The final delivery and final payment will have to be completed by December.

**D. Reporting and contracting arrangements**

- The contract and final work-delivery approval processes will be managed by the Deputy Director, Oceans and Maritime Programme, Geoscience, Energy and Maritime (GEM) Division.
- Focal point for technical work-delivery will be the Geoinformatics Team Leader, GEM Division.
- It is anticipated that successful vendor will work remotely and weekly meetings will be scheduled with the DEP technical team within GEM to monitor, guide and provide feedback on the developments within an agile project management environment.

**E. Skills and qualifications**

Wide-ranging expertise in implementing large-scale cloud-native open-source geospatial solutions, with at least 10 years of experience.

Proven experience in guiding the strategy and development of open data and analytical pipelines for high-end geospatial applications for decision-making within a developmental context.

Understanding of the challenges of using earth observation data within Pacific Island Countries and SIDS.

Highly values innovation, transparency, and the potential impact open data can have on improving livelihoods and enabling sustainable management of natural resources.

Expertise in working with the Microsoft Planetary Computer platform and the Python open source computing environment

**F. Scope of Bid Price and Schedule of Payments**

➤ The rates quoted by the supplier should represent for best value for money.

- The rate quoted should be valid and are to remain fixed for a period of one (1) year from the date of award of contract, and must be inclusive of, insurance, charges, GST, levies and taxes.
- If there is a change in the Price for reasons beyond the supplier's control, SPC should be advised promptly and upon approval by SPC, the contract rate shall be amended.

## Part 4: PROPOSAL EVALUATION MATRIX

### 4.1 Evaluation criteria & Score Weight

A two-stage procedure will be utilised to evaluate the proposals, with evaluation of the **Technical proposal** being completed prior to any **Financial proposal** being opened and compared.

The competencies which will be evaluated are detailed in [Part 3](#).

The evaluation matrix below also reflects the obtainable score specified for each evaluation criterion (technical requirement) which indicates the relative significance or weight of the items in the overall evaluation process.

The technical component, which has a total possible value of 700 points, will be evaluated using the following criteria.

Evaluation criteria	Score Weight (%)	Points obtainable
<b>Mandatory requirements</b>		
Annex 1: Bidders Application Annex 2: Conflict of interest declaration Annex 3: Information about the bidder and due diligence Annex 4: Technical proposal submission form Annex 5: Financial proposal submission form	Bidders will be disqualified if any of the requirements are not met	
<b>Technical requirements</b>		
Proven experience in implementing large-scale cloud-native open-source geospatial solutions, with at least 10 years of experience.	20	140
Proven expertise in working with the Microsoft Planetary Computer platform including the deployment of forks of the PC Explorer	40	280
Ability to add PyTorch node type	10	70
Ability to enable time-series vector layer support in Digital Earth Pacific	10	70
Ability to deploy STAC catalogue and STAC data ingest pipelines	10	70
Ability to add Pyfes and other native libraries to compute environment within the MSPC container	10	70
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Qualification score</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>490</b>

## **4.2 Financial evaluation**

The financial component of the proposal will be scored on the basis of overall costs for the delivery of the services and financial incentives and benefits provided to SPC. The lowest financial proposal will be awarded maximum 300 points and other financial offers and incentives will be awarded points as per the formula below:

$$\text{Financial Proposal score} = (\text{Lowest Price} / \text{Price under consideration}) \times 300$$

## Part 5: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMS

### Annex 1: BIDDER'S LETTER OF APPLICATION

Dear Sir /Madam:

Having examined the Solicitation Documents, the receipt of which is hereby duly acknowledged, we the undersigned, offer to supply the required services for the sum as may be ascertained in accordance with the Financial Proposal attached herewith and made part of this proposal.

We acknowledge that:

- SPC may exercise any of its rights set out in the Request for Proposal documents, at any time;
- The statements, opinions, projections, forecasts or other information contained in the Request for Proposal documents may change;
- The Request for Proposal documents are a summary only of SPC's requirements and is not intended to be a comprehensive description of them;
- Neither the lodgement of the Request for Proposal documents nor the acceptance of any tender nor any agreement made subsequent to the Request for Proposal documents will imply any representation from or on behalf of SPC that there has been no material change since the date of the Request for Proposal documents, or since the date as at which any information contained in the Request for Proposal documents is stated to be applicable;
- Excepted as required by law and only to the extent so required, neither SPC, nor its respective officers, employees, advisers or agents will in any way be liable to any person or body for any loss, damage, cost or expense of any nature arising in any way out of or in connection with any representations, opinions, projections, forecasts or other statements, actual or implied, contained in or omitted from the Request for Proposal documents.

We undertake, if our proposal is accepted, to commence and complete delivery of all items in the contract within the time frame stipulated.

We understand that you are not bound to accept any proposal you may receive and that a binding contract would result only after final negotiations are concluded on the basis of the Technical and Financial Components proposed.

**For the Bidder:** *[insert name of the company]*

Signature:

Name of the Bidder's representative: *[insert name of the representative]*

Title: *[insert Title of the representative]*

Date: *[Click or tap to enter a date]*

## Annex 2: CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

### INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

#### What is a conflict of interest?

A conflict of interest may arise from economic or commercial interests, political, trade union or national affinities, family, cultural or sentimental ties, or **any other type of relationship or common interest between the bidder and any person connected with the contracting authority** (SPC staff member, consultant or any other expert or collaborator mandated by SPC).

#### Always declare a conflict

The existence of a potential or apparent conflict of interest does not necessarily prevent the bidder concerned from taking part in a tender process. **However, the declaration of the existence of such a conflict by the persons concerned is essential and allows SPC to take appropriate measures to mitigate it and prevent the associated risks.**

Bidders are therefore invited to declare any situation, fact or link which, to their knowledge, could generate a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest.

#### Declaration at any time

Conflicts of interest may arise at any time during the procurement process or the implementation of a contract (e.g. new partner in the project) or as a result of a change in personal life (e.g. marriage, inheritance, financial transaction, creation of a company). If such a relationship is found and could be perceived by a reasonable person as likely to influence a decision, a declaration of the situation is necessary. In case of doubt, a conflict situation must be declared.

#### Declaration for any person involved

A declaration must be completed for each person involved in the tender (principal representative of the bidder, possible subcontractors, consultant, etc.)

#### Failure

Failing to declare a potential conflict of interest may result in the bidder being refused a contract or placed on SPC's list of non-responsible suppliers.



## DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, *[name of the representative of the Bidder]*, acting in the name and on behalf of the company *[name of the company]*, declare that:

<input type="checkbox"/>	To my knowledge, I am not in a conflict-of-interest situation
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a potential conflict of interest with regard to my <i>[Choose an item]</i> . relationship with <i>[name of the person concerned]</i> in his or her capacity as <i>position/role/personal or family link with the person concerned</i> , although, to the best of my knowledge, this person is not directly or indirectly involved in any stage of the procurement process
<input type="checkbox"/>	I may be in a conflict of interest with regard to my <i>[Choose an item]</i> relationship with <i>[name of the person concerned]</i> in his or her capacity as <i>position/role/personal or family link with the person concerned</i> , as this person is, to the best of my knowledge, directly or indirectly linked to the procurement process
<input type="checkbox"/>	To my knowledge, there is another situation that could potentially constitute a conflict of interest: <i>[Describe the situation that may constitute a conflict of interest]</i>

In addition, I undertake to:

- declare, without delay, to SPC any situation that constitutes a potential conflict of interest or is likely to lead to a conflict-of-interest;
- not to grant, seek, obtain or accept any advantage, whether financial or in kind, to or from any person where such advantage constitutes an unfair practice or an attempt at fraud or corruption, directly or indirectly, or constitutes a gratuity or reward related to the award of the contract;
- to provide accurate, truthful and complete information to SPC in connection with this procurement process.

I acknowledge that I and/or my company and/or my business partners who are jointly and severally bidding on the RFP *[SPC Reference]* may be subject to sanctions such as being placed on SPC's list of non-responsible vendors, if it is established that false statements have been made or false information has been provided.

**For the Bidder:** *[insert name of the company]*

Signature:

Name of the representative: *[insert name of the representative]*

Title: *[insert Title of the representative]*

Date: *[Click or tap to enter a date]*

### Annex 3: INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIDDER AND DUE DILIGENCE

Please complete the following questionnaire and provide supporting documents where applicable.

VENDOR INFORMATION				
Are you already registered as an SPC vendor?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>1. Please provide information related to your entity.</b>				
Company name	[Enter company name]		Address	[Enter address]
Director/CEO	[Enter name of the executive person]		Position	[Enter position of the executive person]
Business Registration/License number	[Enter company registration/license number (or tax number)]			
Date of business registration	[Enter date of business registration]			
Country of business registration	[Enter country of business registration]			
<b>Status of the entity:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit entity (company), <input type="checkbox"/> NGO, <input type="checkbox"/> International organisation, <input type="checkbox"/> Government body, <input type="checkbox"/> University, <input type="checkbox"/> Association, <input type="checkbox"/> Research Institute, <input type="checkbox"/> Other: [insert details]				
<b>2. Please provide relevant documentation to support and verify the legal existence of the entity, the authority of its officer and proof of its address, such as:</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Delegation of authority or power of attorney document <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of business registration/license <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum, Articles or Statutes of Association <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone, water, or electricity bill in the name of the entity <input type="checkbox"/> Bank account details bearing the name of the entity				
<b>3. How many employees does your company and its subsidiaries have?</b>			[provide answer]	
<b>4. Do you have professional insurance against all risks in respect of your employees, sub-contractors, property and equipment?</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'No', what type of business insurance do you have?			[provide answer]	
<b>5. Are you up to date with your tax and social security payment obligations?</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'No', please explain the situation:			[Provide details]	
<b>6. Is your entity regulated by a national authority?</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes', please specify the name:			[Insert name of the national regulation authority]	
<b>7. Is your entity a publicly held company?</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>8. Does your entity have a publicly available annual report?</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Please send SPC your audited financial statement from the last 3 financial years if available				

DUE DILIGENCE					
<b>9. Does your entity have foreign branches and/or subsidiaries?</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If you answered 'yes' to the previous question, please confirm the branches:					
• Head Office & domestic branches			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
• Domestic subsidiaries			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
• Overseas branches			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
• Overseas subsidiaries			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>10. Does your entity provide financial services to customers determined to be high risk including but not limited to:</b>					
Foreign Financial Institutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Casinos	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cash Intensive Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Foreign Government Entities	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Non-Resident Individuals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Money Service Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please provide details:			[Provide details]		
<b>11.If you answered 'yes' to any of the boxes in question 10, does your entity's policies and procedures specifically outline how to mitigate the potential risks associated with these higher risk customer types?</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes', please explain how:		[Provide explanation]			
<b>12.Does your entity have a written policy, controls and procedures reasonably designed to prevent and detect fraud, corruption, money laundering or terrorist financing activities?</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes', please send SPC your policy in English.					
If 'No', what process does your entity have in place to prevent and detect money laundering or terrorist financing activities?				[provide answer]	
<b>13.Does your entity have an officer responsible for anti-corruption, or anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing policy?</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes', please state that officer's contact details:		[Insert name and contact details]			
<b>14.Has your entity or any of its current or former directors or CEOs ever filed for bankruptcy?</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes', please provide details:		[Provide details]			
<b>15.Has your entity or any of its current or former directors or CEOs ever been the subject of any investigations or had any regulatory or criminal enforcement actions resulting from violations of any laws or regulations, including those relating to money laundering or terrorism financing?</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes', please provide details:		[Provide details]			

## SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY (SER)

<b>16.Does your entity have a written policy, controls and procedures to implement its Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER) commitments?</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes', please send SPC your policy in English.					
If 'No', what process does your entity have in place to ensure your social and environmental responsibility?				[provide answer]	
<b>Does your Policy or Process cover the followings?</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Child protection <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights <input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual harassment, abuse or exploitation <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental responsibility					
Please, outline the major actions you have undertaken in these areas:		[provide answer]			
<b>17.Does your entity have an officer responsible for Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER)?</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If 'Yes', please state that officer's contact details:		[Insert name and contact details]			

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (where relevant)

• Business registration/license proof	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Bank account details document	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Address of the entity and Authority of officer proofs	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Audited financial statement from the last 3 financial years	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Fraud, corruption, anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
• SER Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>

I declare that the particulars given herein above are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge, and the documents submitted in support of this form are genuine and obtained legally from the respective issuing authority.

I declare that none of the funds received or to be received by my company will be used for criminal activities, including financing terrorism or money laundering.

By sending this declaration to SPC, I agree that my business and personal information may be used by SPC for due diligence purposes. I also understand and accept that SPC will treat any personal information it receives in connection with my proposal in accordance with its [Privacy Policy](#), and the [Guidelines for handling personal information of bidders and grantees](#).

**For the Bidder:** *[insert name of the company]*

Signature:

Name of the representative: *[insert name of the representative]*

Title: *[insert Title of the representative]*

Date: *[Click or tap to enter a date]*

## Annex 4: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Please complete the table below and attach any supporting documentation as needed, including the CV of the Supervisor(s) and, for organisations, institutional capacity to support the deployed Supervisor(s).

Technical Requirements			
Competency Requirements	Response by Bidder		
<p><b>Experience:</b> Evidence of the bidder's relevant experience must be submitted. Bidders shall provide details of two contracts that demonstrate their track record in completing works/services similar to the ToR in Part 3 of this RFP. The bidder should provide contact details of one referee for each of the contracts.</p>	<p><b>Details for two references</b></p>		
	<p>1. Client's name: <i>[insert name of client 1]</i></p>		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Contact name:</td> <td><i>[insert name of contact]</i></td> </tr> </table>	Contact name:	<i>[insert name of contact]</i>
	Contact name:	<i>[insert name of contact]</i>	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Contact details:</td> <td><i>[insert contact details]</i></td> </tr> </table>	Contact details:	<i>[insert contact details]</i>
	Contact details:	<i>[insert contact details]</i>	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Contract value:</td> <td><i>[insert value of contract]</i></td> </tr> </table>	Contract value:	<i>[insert value of contract]</i>
	Contract value:	<i>[insert value of contract]</i>	
	<p>2. Client's name: <i>[insert name of client 2]</i></p>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Contact name:</td> <td><i>[insert name of contact]</i></td> </tr> </table>	Contact name:	<i>[insert name of contact]</i>	
Contact name:	<i>[insert name of contact]</i>		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Contact details:</td> <td><i>[insert contact details]</i></td> </tr> </table>	Contact details:	<i>[insert contact details]</i>	
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Contract value:	<i>[insert value of contract]</i>		
<p><b>Technical Requirement 1</b></p>			
<p>Proven experience in implementing large-scale cloud-native open-source geospatial solutions, with at least 10 years of experience.</p>	<p><i>[Bidder's answer]</i></p>		
<p><b>Technical Requirement 2</b></p>			
<p>Proven expertise in working with the Microsoft Planetary Computer platform including the deployment of forks of the PC Explorer</p>	<p><i>[Bidder's answer]</i></p>		
<p><b>Technical Requirement 3</b></p>			
<p>Ability to add PyTorch node type</p>	<p><i>[Bidder's answer]</i></p>		
<p><b>Technical Requirement 4</b></p>			
<p>Ability to enable time-series vector layer support in Digital Earth Pacific</p>	<p><i>[Bidder's answer]</i></p>		
<p><b>Technical Requirement 5</b></p>			
<p>Ability to deploy STAC catalogue and STAC</p>	<p><i>[Bidder's answer]</i></p>		

data ingest pipelines support in Digital Earth Pacific	
<b>Technical Requirement 6</b>	
Ability to add Pyfes and other native libraries to compute environment within the MSPC container	<i>[Bidder's answer]</i>

**For the Bidder:** *[insert name of the company]*

Signature:

Name of the representative: *[insert name of the representative]*

Title: *[insert Title of the representative]*

Date: *[Click or tap to enter a date]*

**Annex 5: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

1. All costs indicated on the Financial Proposal should be **inclusive** of all applicable taxes.
2. The format shown below should be used in preparing the price schedule.
3. **You must submit this Financial Proposal in a separate email to the technical proposal.** All prices in the proposal must be presented in USD. Your Financial proposal is to be password protected. SPC will request the password in the event that it is required.

	Daily Fee [USD]
Professional Fees	USD\$ _____
Other related costs (if any, please specify)	USD\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD\$ _____</b>

**For the Bidder:** *[insert name of the company]*

Signature:

Name of the representative: *[insert name of the representative]*

Title: *[insert Title of the representative]*

Date: *[Click or tap to enter a date]*