

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

FOR SERVICES

Project Title:	Cold storage in Hawaii
Nature of the services	Provide cold storage (-20° Celsius / -4° Fahrenheit) for biological samples for a period of up to five years
Location:	Honolulu, Hawaii
Date of issue:	11/04/2024
Closing Date:	25/04/2024
SPC Reference:	RFQ24-6428

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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).

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.

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

1.3 SPC's Request for Quotation (RFQ) Process

At SPC, procurement valued at more than EUR 2,000 and less than or equal to EUR 45,000 requires an evaluation of at least three quotations to determine the offer that provides the best value for money through a Request for Quotation (RFQ) process.

This RFQ sets out SPC's requirements for a project and it asks you, as a bidder, to respond in writing in a prescribed format with pricing and other required information.

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

Part 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

2.1 Background

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

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 quotation to be considered, it is important that you provide all the prescribed information by the closing date and in the format specified.

2.2 Submission Instructions

You must **submit your quotation and all supporting documents** in English and as an attachment to an email sent to paulj@spc.int and with the subject line of your email as follows: **Submission RFQ24-6428 – Cold storage in Hawaii**. The email should also be copied to rfq@spc.int.

The supporting documents expected in this RFQ are:

- [The Conflict-of-Interest Declaration form](#) completed
- Small presentation of your company, including details of the cold storage options available for items currently stored in containers on pallets

- Certificate of insurance (in case of system or power failure, damage, theft, etc.)
- Business reference or proof of experience
- Your monthly storage fee, all included

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

Bids will be evaluated on the basis of information received by **11:45 pm Noumea time on 25/04/2024**.

2.3 Evaluation & Contract Award

Each quotation validly received will be assessed against the evaluation criteria matrix set out in [Part 4](#). Any changes in the evaluation criteria will result in the RFQ process being re-issued.

SPC may award the contract once it has determined that a bidder has met the prescribed requirements and the bidder's proposal has been determined to be substantially responsive to the RFQ documents, provide the best value for money (highest cumulative score) and best serve the interests of SPC.

In the event of a bid being accepted, procurement will take place under SPC's [General Terms and Conditions of Contract](#) and depending on the value or nature of the procurement, the award will be made by issuing a purchase order or a signed and dated contract, or both.

2.4 Key Contacts

Please contact SPC should you have any doubt as to what is required or if we can help answer any questions that you may have.

SPC FAME's Finance and Administration Officer (OFP) will be your primary point of contact for this RFQ and can be contacted at paulj@spc.int. You should copy any communications into rfq@spc.int.

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 RFQ process, at any point where there is phone call or other conversation, SPC expects to keep a file note of the exchange, with all forms of communication with prospective bidders to be retained as source documents for the procurement of the services.

2.5 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
RFQ sent to potential vendors	11/04/2024
RFQ Closing Date	25/04/2024

2.6 Legal and compliance

Confidentiality: Unless otherwise agreed by SPC in advance or where the contents of the RFQ are already in the public domain when shared with the bidder, bidders shall at all times treat the contents of the RFQ 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 RFQ 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 RFQ process. **In support of your response to this RFQ, you must submit to SPC [the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration form](#) available on our procurement page website: <https://spc.int/procurement>.**

Breach of this requirement can result in SPC terminating any contract with a successful bidder.

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.

No offer of contract or invitation to contract: This RFQ 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 RFQ. SPC will handle any personal information it receives under the RFQ in line with its [Privacy Policy](#), and the [Guidelines for handling personal information of bidders and grantees](#).

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 RFQ process.

2.7 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. 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

A. Background/context

Since 2001, SPC's Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP) has been coordinating the collection of biological samples of pelagic species from all over the Pacific Islands region on behalf of its member countries.

Initially, this collection was focussed on stomach, muscle and liver samples to understand the trophic structure of the pelagic ecosystem (i.e. who eats who, where, and when); however, this has expanded to include gonads (reproductive organs), otoliths (ear bones), spines and blood, giving the opportunity to study reproduction, age, growth and contaminant concentrations.

The collection is ongoing thanks to the partnership with the fisheries observer programmes operating in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). OFP aims to have approximately 2,000 fish sampled for each species, in order to allow Pacific-wide studies to be undertaken. The ongoing status of the collection means that as some samples are withdrawn from the collection for scientific analyses others are deposited to maintain the collection for future analyses. The collection is also supplemented by scientific surveys that are undertaken by SPC and other organisations.

SPC currently has two pallets of biological samples in cold storage in Honolulu. However, we need to renew – and potentially enlarge - that cold storage capacity there for a period of up to five years.

B. Purpose, objectives, scope of services

Provide cold storage at -20° Celsius (-4° Fahrenheit) for two (and eventually more) pallets of containers with biological samples

C. Timelines

Cold storage is required for a period of up to five years, with the possibility of adding to the quantity being stored as required.

D. Skills and qualifications

The only "skills" required are the equipment to provide cold storage as requested, with guarantees of appropriate backup-generator capacity, to ensure continuity of service. Ease of access to the stored samples would be an additional criterion for selection.

The contractor must have professional insurance covering them in the event of system or power failure, damage, theft, etc.

Part 4: PROPOSAL EVALUATION MATRIX

4.1 Competency Requirements & Score Weight

The evaluation matrix below 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.

Evaluation criteria	Score Weight (%)	Points obtainable
Technical requirements		
Permanent storage capacity for samples at -20° Celsius (-4° Fahrenheit)	50 %	50
Backup generator capacity to ensure continuity of service	15 %	15
Technical requirement: Ease of access to the stored samples	5 %	5
Financial requirements		
Financial Proposal score = (Lowest Price / Price under consideration) x 300	30 %	30
Total Score	100%	700