Pre-Bid Meeting Summary

RFP25-8227 Airborne Lidar Survey and derived products (Tonga and RMI)

Key Points Presented

1. Overview of Project Scope and Requirements

- The project focuses on LiDAR data collection for priority islands in Tonga and the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) - specifically Milli, Wotje, and Jaluit (names referenced in the RFP).
- The goal is to obtain highly accurate, comprehensive LiDAR topography and bathymetry data down to at least 35 meters depth or until signal extinction.
- Existing data such as shapefiles and geospatial bounding boxes indicate the area of interest but are only indicative.
- The project includes not just data collection but also a training component aimed at building local government capacity to use the data across multiple sectors.
- Training should utilize open-source tools, ideally leveraging existing tools in-country.

2. Training Logistics and Technical Details

- Training will be two in-country workshops: one in Tonga (Tongatapu) and one in RMI (Majuro).
- Each training workshop may last approximately one week, depending on how it is designed.
- Audience: Government specialists with GIS background will be the primary target.
- QGIS has been promoted in the region through technical training as a robust open-source GIS solution. Bidders are welcomed to capitalise on existing QGIS Lidar processing capabilities and propose complementing alternative solution.
- The client is open to training proposals tailored to existing tools or introducing new relevant open-source solutions.

3. Data Availability and Technical Specifications

- Existing KML files for project areas will be shared post-meeting to assist bidders in preparing their proposals.
- Data accuracy is prioritized over strict adherence to some specific parameters such as the "scan angle not exceeding 30 degrees" or flight timing constraints; bidders may propose justified deviations if they improve data quality.
- There is flexibility around timing concerning survey windows, such as the requirement of data collection one hour either side of low tide; proposals can explain strategies to maintain accuracy despite these variables.

4. Operational and Logistical Considerations

- Shared office space is preferred for deployed survey crews in both Tonga and RMI to facilitate collaboration with local experts and data sharing.

- SPC will attempt to secure office space for teams, but some arrangements may need to be finalized by bidders.
- 24-hour security is not planned or required; local safety is generally high. However, if bidders foresee security issues, further discussion can follow.

5. Refly Allowance & Data Coverage

- The "refly allowance" mentioned in the RFP relates to minimizing data gaps and ensuring data accuracy.
- The main concern is data accuracy rather than how many times areas are flown; whether a 200% coverage target means flying areas multiple times is flexible.
- Bidders should describe their approach to handling reflying and gap management in their proposals to assure data quality.

6. Timeline and Administrative Matters

- Tender close date is approaching in 19 days from the meeting date.
- Expected selection timeline is roughly 30 days post-submission; bidders should consider this when planning mobilization strategies, especially to meet a November start expectation.
- Full delivery of LiDAR data is required by April next year; the training is less constrained and can occur later.
- Bidders can propose alternative milestone timeframes (excluding final delivery deadlines) if necessary due to mobilization or other constraints.

7. Questions & Answers

I. **Training Delivery Format and Audience (Smits):**

- **Q**: Should training be 2.5 days per location or a combined session? Is the audience new to open-source tools or experienced?
- **A**: Two separate in-country workshops expected, possibly one week each; QGIS in use locally but lacks some LIDAR-specific modules. Bidders can propose relevant tools.

II. **Access to KML Files (Sven):**

- **Q**: Can bidders access existing KMLs for project areas?
- **A**: Yes, links will be provided to all bidders post-meeting.

III. **Flexibility on Data Gathering Timeframe (Peter):**

- **Q**: Is the one hour either side of low tide strict?
- **A**: There is flexibility; bidders should show how they will ensure data accuracy.

IV. **Office Space and Security Arrangements (Peter):**

- **Q**: Is shared office space provided? Is 24-hour access/security available?
- **A**: SPC aims to secure office space in Tonga and RMI for the teams to collaborate with ministries; 24-hour security is generally not planned but can be discussed if needed.

V. **Scan Angle Flexibility (Sven):**

- **Q**: Can the scan angle exceed 30 degrees?
- **A**: Yes, if bidders justify how this will maintain or improve accuracy.

VI. **Refly Allowance Details (Sven):**

- **Q**: Clarification on refly allowance and 200% coverage requirement?
- **A**: The key requirement is accuracy, not coverage duplication; refly depends on need to minimize gaps and maintain data quality.

VII. **Tender Timeline and Mobilization (Smits):**

- **Q**: Is selection expected 30 days post-tender, and is November mobilization feasible?
- **A**: Timeline is tight due to donor disbursement constraints, but bidders can propose adjusted milestones. Full data delivery by April 2026 is non-negotiable.

VIII. **Submission of Queries:**

- Queries after the session can be submitted to procurement@spc.int , who will coordinate responses from technical and administrative teams.

8. Action Items

- **For SPC:**
  - Provide links to KML/shapefiles to all bidders.
  - Attempt to secure shared office space in both Tonga and RMI for survey teams.
  - Manage procurement timeline considering tight deadlines and bidder feedback.
- **For Bidders:**
  - Propose detailed technical approach including justification of any deviations from specifications (e.g., scan angle, data gathering windows).
  - Include plans for in-country training using open-source tools.
  - Clarify refly strategies to ensure data accuracy.
  - Consider adjusting milestones if mobilization before November is unfeasible.
- **For All Participants:**
  - Submit further technical or administrative queries via procurement email for official responses.

---------- END ----------