



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR A FOR A CONSULTANCY TO UNDERTAKE  
A STUDY ON REMOTE MONITORING SYSTEMS  
IN THE CONTEXT OF EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE AREA**

**28 February 2020**

1. The International Seabed Authority (the Authority) is an autonomous international organization established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention) of 10 December 1982 and the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention. The Authority is the organization through which States Parties to the Convention shall, in accordance with the Convention, organize and control activities in the Area, particularly with a view to administering the resources in the Area.
2. Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area are currently under development at the Authority (ISBA/25/C/WP.1). The draft regulations recognize the importance of establishing a system of remote monitoring for exploitation activities in the Area to record information of all mining activities and ensure compliance with the Convention, and established rules and regulations.
3. The Authority is seeking a consultant to undertake a study as outlined in the annex below. All proposals to undertake this study must be submitted via email to [ola@isa.org.jm](mailto:ola@isa.org.jm) on or before **27 March 2020**.
4. Proposals should not exceed 1,500 words and should thoroughly and sufficiently demonstrate the competence and expertise of the applicant to meet the requirements contained in the annex. Proposals should equally reflect a clear methodology on the deliverables for the study as well as proposed costs. The outcome of the selection will be communicated to applicants using the contact details provided in the proposals.

## **Annex**

### **Terms of reference**

#### **For a consultancy in view of the development of a remote monitoring system in the context of an inspection mechanism concerning exploitation of mineral resources in the Area**

#### **Background**

1. Part XI of the Draft Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area (ISBA/25/C/WP.1) currently under development at the International Seabed Authority (ISA) contains provisions relating to the powers and functions of the Authority to carry out inspection for the purposes of monitoring, reporting on and enforcing compliance with the rules of the Authority and the terms of an exploitation contract. Draft regulation 102, in particular, recognizes the importance of establishing a system of remote monitoring of exploitation activities in the Area to record information of all mining activities to ensure compliance of contractors and prevent unapproved activities.

2. Furthermore, Article 153(5) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea states that the Authority shall have the right to take at any time, any measures provided for under Part XI to ensure compliance with its provisions and the exercise of the functions of control and regulation assigned to it thereunder or under any contract.

3. Against this backdrop, the Legal and Technical Commission acknowledged the value and significance of remote monitoring technology and noted that the secretariat would conduct a study on this topic, including proposals on how the use of such technology can be reflected in the draft regulations and relevant guidelines (ISBA/25/C/18).

4. Submissions from stakeholders on the Draft regulations have stressed the importance of a robust inspection mechanism for the Authority, while also bearing in mind that a mechanism should not impose major administrative costs, and suggested relying on remote monitoring. Suggestions were made to draw on the experience of other international organizations with such monitoring.

#### **Objective and scope of work of the consultancy**

5. The Authority is seeking to engage a consultant to:

- a) Identify remote monitoring technologies, including emerging technologies (e.g. digitalization, industrial IoT, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence), that could be applied in the context of deep sea mining for the purpose of remote monitoring and remote inspection processes, including in light of existing practices in industries such as oil

and gas and by regional fisheries management organizations. Considerations related to the costs of such technologies should also be addressed.

- b) Identify minimum resource and capacity requirements for the effective use of remote monitoring technology.
- c) Identify the best combination of remote monitoring and other tools to ensure that the Authority can carry out its inspection and enforcement activities effectively. In that regard, consideration should be given to such aspects as:
  - how data is collected, transmitted, transformed into information for use by the Authority, and reviewed continuously; and
  - maintenance aspects to reduce the risks of system failure.

### **Deliverables**

6. The consultant will be required to produce a report on the findings related to the questions listed above of no more than 15,000 words.

### **Timelines**

7. The work will be undertaken on the basis of the following anticipated timeline:
  - a) Start date: upon signature of the contract
  - b) First drafts: 4 May 2020
  - c) Review of first drafts by Secretariat: 15 May 2020
  - d) Final drafts: 1 June 2020

### **Modalities of work**

8. This is a home-based consultancy. However, if necessary, the consultant may be required to travel to Kingston, Jamaica on issues related to the deliverables. For that purpose, a round trip airline ticket (economy) as per prevailing ISA policies on official travel and DSA at the prevailing ICSC rates established on the travel days would be provided to the consultant.

9. The Secretariat will make reasonable and practical efforts to facilitate the production of timely, accurate and useful products by promptly responding to the consultant's queries and providing the necessary reference material as identified by the consultant where feasible.

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