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BASQUE RESEARCH
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

Tender announcement

Sukarrieta, 14 July 2023

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1. OBJECT

AZTI Foundation announces the opening of a public tendering procedure for an **external service specialised in the eco-design, construction and testing of biodegradable JellyFADs under semi-control and real sea conditions before they are tested at large-scale by tuna purse seine companies, in the framework of the Horizon Europe project “Circular solutions for fishing gears (Grant Agreement 101112852 — SEARCULAR)”**.

About SEARCULAR

SEARCULAR is a three-year (36 months) innovation project funded by the EU Horizon Europe programme under the call HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01. It has an approved budget of €2.3 million, with 11 partners across 6 countries (5 European). The project has a start date of 01 September 2023.

SEARCULAR aims at reducing the amount of marine litter and microplastic from the most relevant European fishery contributors (demersal trawlers, demersal seiners, tropical tuna purse seiners) and to introduce circular economy practices within the fishing sector value chain including ports, by fostering behavioural change. SEARCULAR will do this by developing/testing/validating 4 close-to-market sustainable and circular solutions (TRL7-9). Three of the solutions are related to the use of more sustainable materials as alternatives to the traditional non-circular plastic used in fishing gears:

- Solution#1 proposes a dolly rope made of recycled polyamide (rPA) from discarded fishing nets (thus it is focused on circularity and more durable materials).
- Solution#2 is based on certified marine-biodegradable materials for demersal seine ropes (the focus is on less impact gears).
- Solution#3 represents an eco-designed biodegradable drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) used by tropical tuna purse seine fishery.
- And Solution#4 proposes an End-of-Life (EOL) fishing gears solution for ports by promoting a replicable management system that enables the pyrolysis of EOL fishing gears for a plastic2plastic application.





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The 4 solutions will be tested under real conditions: onboard commercial vessels (Solutions 1-3) and for the Basque country region (Solution 4), and they will be validated by stakeholders. Therefore, SEARCULAR solutions eliminate waste generated from fishing gears, circulate materials and regenerate nature.

2. LENGTH OF SERVICE

The service will be provided within the project duration, which lasts for **36 months (3 years)**, starting on the 1st of September 2023. In case of a project extension, the service will be also extended until the end of the project.

3. ECONOMIC TENDER

The maximum economic offer that will be accepted for this tender is **one hundred and twenty four thousand euros (124,000.00 euros)**, taxes not included.

Invoicing will take place according to the following schedule:

Description	Date	% invoice
Project start phase	15/09/2023	33,33%
Intermediate phase	01/02/2025	33,33%
Final phase	01/04/2026	33,33%

The invoice/s will be paid within 60 days of the date of issue.

4. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR PROPOSALS

The proposals received will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

Economic offer	50%
Technical adjustment	30%
Improvements	15%
CSR policies	5%



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5. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS

Bidders may submit their proposals to the attention of **Alaitz Lizaso** at the e-mail address alizaso@azti.es and at any of the AZTI centres, from the time of publication of this announcement on the AZTI Foundation website, **until 12 noon on 7 August 2023**.

Proposals can be submitted in Spanish, English or Basque.

Tenderers may contact the following address for further **technical information**:

AZTI

Oihane Cabezas Basurko

Maitane Grande

Tel. +34 667 174 394

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E-mail: ocabezas@azti.es

E-mail: mgrande@azti.es

6. AWARD

Once the offers have been received on the date indicated for their presentation, within 15 working days, the result of the tender will be published on the AZTI Foundation website.

7. CONDITIONS OF RECRUTEMENT

- The selected entity, during the time that the service relationship with AZTI lasts, must comply with the regulations in force on labour matters, Social Security and Health and Safety at Work, being subject, if applicable, to carry out the coordination of business activities in accordance with RD 171/2004 according to the procedure and specifications established (available at <https://www.azti.es/en/recruitment-rules/>)
- In any case, and independently of any other documentation, the selected entity must present, before the formalization of the contract, a certificate that proves that it is up to date with the fulfillment of its tax and social security obligations.



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- The selected entity must present the necessary documentation to formalize the contract within a period not exceeding 20 days from the award. Or the documentation, the selected entity must follow the Internal Contracting Regulations published at www.azti.es
- In addition to the technical and administrative conditions, AZTI will positively evaluate those suppliers who demonstrate that they maintain policies on Quality, Health and Safety, the Environment, Sustainable Mobility, as well as Corporate Social Responsibility.

The supplier shall include in its proposal those documents or records that allow verification of these policies (quality and environmental certificates, documentation relating to actions in matters of social responsibility, etc.)

8. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

Person in charge: Identity: FUNDACION AZTI - AZTI FUNDAZIOA - CIF: G48939508 Postal address: TXATXARRAMENDI UGARTEA Z/G SUKARRIETA (BIZKAIA) Telephone: 946574000 e-mail: lop@azti.es.

“From FUNDACIÓN AZTI we treat the information you provide us with the purpose of placing your order and billing for services and maintaining commercial relations. The legal basis for the processing of your personal data is our legitimate interest in maintaining commercial relations and carrying out the provision of services, being strictly necessary for this purpose. The data provided will be kept as long as the commercial relationship is maintained or for the years necessary to comply with legal obligations and, once the relationship has been resolved, to the extent that liabilities may arise. The data will not be transferred to third parties except in cases where there is a legal obligation, as well as to those providers of technical and computer services and auditing. Under no circumstances will we carry out international transfers of your personal data. You have the right to obtain confirmation as to whether or not FUNDACION AZTI - AZTI FUNDAZIOA is processing your personal data. Therefore, you have the right to access your personal data, rectify inaccurate data or request its deletion when the data is no longer necessary, as well as to exercise your right to oppose, limit or transfer your data, under the terms provided for in the applicable data protection regulations, by writing to the above-mentioned address. You may also lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority”.

9. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Expertise required.

AZTI is expert on the execution of large-scale projects on biodegradable FADs together with the fishing sector in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and on the replacement of the existing material by biodegradables in traditional FAD designs. Trials undertaken by AZTI do not normally require re-designing new FAD models. The FAD design selected within SEARCULAR is the JellyFAD, originally designed by an NGO with the support of oceanographers specialized in drifter design. AZTI did not participate in its original design. Hence, they do not have the expertise to develop the eco-designed version of the JellyFAD at the TRL envisaged in the project because they do not have the specifications (materials, weights and assembly information) of such designs; furthermore, they cannot validate them due to they lack experimental testing platforms and experience in trials at semi-controlled conditions at laboratory and sea. Therefore, **the project will require subcontracting a comprehensive external service specialised in the eco-design, construction and testing of biodegradable JellyFADs under semi-control and real sea conditions before they are tested at large-scale by tuna purse seine companies. This service will include the following tasks to be performed by the subcontracted party:**

- Collection and analysis of dFAD data: Recovery of existing data on previous Jelly-FAD trials around the three oceans (T3.1.1)
- Searching for new biodegradable materials: Travel to look into and investigate possible new biodegradable materials for the construction of newly jelly-FAD designs (T3.2.1) (Philippines and China)
- Eco-design of Jelly-FAD: Technical advice and logistical support on the eco-design of new Jelly-FAD models (T3.2.2)
- Construction and testing of 20 Jelly-FADs in the Mediterranean Sea: Technical advice and logistical support for the semi-controlled sea test in the Mediterranean Sea (T3.2.3 Sea-tests):
 - Construction and deployment of 20 Jelly-FADs
 - Maintenance of Jelly-FADs for sea test in Mediterranean Sea (T3.2.3)
 - Vessel cost to visit and monitor JellyFADs in the Mediterranean (Task 3.2.3)
 - Control and organization of the distribution of equipment and JellyFADs for the real condition sea JellyFAD tests (Task 3.2.3 real condition sea tests)
- Construction and testing of 200 Jelly-FADs in the Atlantic Ocean: Technical advice and logistical support for the real sea test in the Atlantic Ocean (T3.2.3 Sea-tests):
 - Technical advice in the construction and deployment of 200 Jelly-FADs
 - Technical advice for the validation of tested 200 Jelly-FADs
- Tracking, mapping, recovery of Jelly-FAD modelling:
 - Technical advice in the Jelly-FAD characterization for its implementation for Lagrangian modelling (T3.4.2)
 - Technical advice for the validation of the Lagrangian simulation and diagnostic of Jelly-FAD (T3.4.3)