

Examples to Accommodate Biodiversity in Nordic Offshore Wind Projects – Invitation to tender



Invitation to tender

for open competition under the EEA threshold
when procuring:

Examples to Accommodate Biodiversity in Nordic Offshore Wind Projects

(Deadline: 19.04.2021, 13:00 CEST)

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1 Table of contents

1.	Introduction.....	4
1.1	About the contracting authority	4
1.2	Overview.....	4
1.2.1	<i>Objectives</i>	4
1.2.2	<i>Background</i>	4
1.2.3	<i>Tasks</i>	7
1.2.4	<i>Method</i>	8
1.2.5	<i>Preliminary timeframe & deliverables for the project execution</i>	8
1.2.6	<i>Use of the report and the results</i>	9
1.2.7	<i>Value of the assignment</i>	9
1.2.8	<i>Contract</i>	9
1.3	Announcement of the tender.....	9
2	Administrative regulation.....	10
2.1	Purchase procedure	10
2.2	Requested structure of the competition.....	10
2.3	Contact information	10
2.4	Language	10
2.5	Execution of the tendering process.....	10
2.6	Correction, addition and/or change of the competition.....	11
2.7	Questions for the competition	11
2.8	The participation cost of the supplier	11
2.9	Return of tender.....	11
3	Wages and working conditions.....	11
4	Requirements for the tender	11
4.1	Structure of the tender	11
4.2	Delivery Format of the tender.....	12
4.3	Validity.....	12
4.4	Contract.....	12
4.5	Tender for all or part of the delivery.....	12
4.6	Alternative tenders.....	12
4.7	Reservations and amendments	12
4.8	Revocation of tender.....	12
5	Delivery of tender	13

5.1	Deadline of tender.....	13
5.2	Delivery method and delivery address.....	13
6	Eligibility requirements.....	13
6.1	About the eligibility requirements	13
6.2	Mandatory requirements.....	13
6.3	Requirements for organizational and legal position	14
6.4	Requirements for economic and financial position	14
6.5	Requirements for technical and professional qualifications.....	14
7	Award criteria and evaluation.....	14
7.1	Award criteria	14
7.2	Evaluation.....	15
8	Termination of competition	15
8.1	Cancellation of competition and total rejection	15
8.2	Notification of the choice of supplier and waiting period	15

1. Introduction

1.1 About the contracting authority

Nordic Energy Research is an institution under the Nordic Council of Ministers which manages and finances international research programs and projects that add value to national work in the Nordic countries. In addition, we perform certain secretariat and analytical functions in the energy policy cooperation under the Nordic Council of Ministers. The board of Nordic Energy Research comprises representatives from the authorities and ministries responsible for energy research funding in the five Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, who also contribute to most of the organisation's funding.

In this invitation to tender, Nordic Energy Research acts as the contracting partner on behalf of the Nordic Council of Ministers, which funds this report.

1.2 Overview

In the coming years, the Nordic region will see a significant increase in the number and size of offshore wind farms. However, as demand for renewable energy grows, so too will the pressures on natural resources and ecosystems. The convergence of societal needs requires new processes for stakeholder dialogue and integrated decision support, to balance these ambitions.

This study will explore how Nordic offshore wind projects can avoid, mitigate, or compensate for biodiversity impacts, and create benefits, as a key input to the September 2021 ministerial meeting. Examples of best practice from projects in the region and neighbour countries will inform regulators and industry, with a view to increasing the share of renewables in the Nordic energy system.

1.2.1 Objectives

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- 1. Identify good examples of coexistence between offshore wind projects and biodiversity in the Nordic region and/or neighbour countries, such as Germany, the Netherlands, or the Baltics.*
- 2. Assess the feasibility of specific mitigation measures in a wider Nordic context, in terms of practical, technical, economic, and ecological considerations.*

1.2.2 Background

The European Commission's [Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy](#) recognises that the North Sea and Baltic Sea will be important to securing Europe's first-mover advantage in offshore wind. The [European Green Deal Communication](#) underscores that scaling up the offshore wind industry must be compatible with the goals of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#), to promote coexistence between offshore wind and other uses of the sea space, while protecting the environment and ecosystems.

The Commission anticipates the need for a 20-fold increase in Europe's offshore wind capacity to reach climate neutrality by 2050. The Nordic region will play a key role, since it is estimated that the North Sea can supply around 200 GW by 2050, and the Baltic Sea around 80 GW. For example, the recently announced Danish energy islands, to be established in 2030, will consist of 3 GW in the North Sea and 2 GW in the Baltic Sea, and may connect to energy islands in neighbour countries.

Commercial-scale offshore wind farms, with fixed-foundation turbines, are operating in EU and Nordic waters, while large floating wind energy projects are being announced. A typical turbine structure comprises the nacelle, rotor, blades, and tower above the water, and the sub-structure, foundations, and scour protections below water. Other components include offshore and onshore substations, buried cables, onshore construction port and export cables, and transmission lines.

Nordic biodiversity most at risk from offshore wind projects include seabirds, migratory shorebirds and landbirds, waterfowl, bats, porpoises, turtles, fish, and a variety of offshore and coastal habitats, such as sandbanks, seagrasses, marshes, oyster beds and wetlands.

Key biodiversity impacts include collision risk and injury, displacement due to disturbance, barrier effects, habitat loss, and indirect ecosystem effects, as well as potential advantages through the establishment of 'no fishing zones' or artificial reefs where marine species can thrive.

Table 2-1 Examples of biodiversity and ecosystem impacts of offshore wind developments

Impact type	Relevant project phase(s)
Bird and bat mortality from colliding with turbine blades and/or onshore transmission lines	Operation
Seabed habitat loss, degradation, and transformation	Construction, operation
Hydrodynamic change and wind-wake effects	Operation
Habitat creation, including reef and refuge effects	Operation
Trophic cascades, associated with increased food availability, exclusion of fisheries and reduced vessel traffic	Operation
Barrier effects or displacement effects due to presence of wind farm	Construction, operation
Bird and bat mortality through electrocution on associated onshore distribution lines	Operation
Mortality, injury, and behavioural effects associated with vessels	Site characterisation, construction, operation, end-of-life
Mortality, injury, and behavioural effects associated with underwater noise	Site characterisation, construction, end-of-life
Behavioural effects, associated with electromagnetic fields of subsea power cables	Operation
Pollution, such as dust, light, and solid/liquid waste	Site characterisation, construction, operation, end-of-life
Indirect impacts, such as displacement of fishing activities	Construction, operation, end-of-life
Associated ecosystem service impacts, such as loss of fishing areas	Construction, operation, end-of-life
Introduction of invasive species, associated with movement of vessels, components, and people	Site characterisation, construction, operation, end-of-life

Source: Bennun, L., van Bochove, J., Ng, C., Fletcher, C., Wilson, D., Phair, N., Carbone, G. (2021). Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development. Guidelines for project developers. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and Cambridge, UK: The Biodiversity Consultancy.

Strategic measures to mitigate impacts of offshore wind projects on biodiversity may include optimising planning and site selection, active and long-term monitoring programmes, scheduling of operations in a more accommodating way, and accounting for upstream activities, such as mining to produce certain components. Technical mitigation measures may be specific to a project phase, from site characterisation and design, through construction and operation, to end-of-life.

Site characterisation and design: Design typically begins once the site is selected and the decision is made to develop a wind project. Optimising mitigation measures early in the project life cycle can reduce or avoid the need for restoration or compensation later. Involving stakeholders and interests – such as fisheries – and gathering knowledge about local values, should be prioritized. Based on this, mitigation measures can be considered.

Construction: Construction involves preparing equipment and components, mobilising contractors, and civil engineering, as well as onshore land and offshore seabed works, and electrical works. Scheduling of the works and abatement controls are key considerations.

Operation: Offshore wind farms are expected to operate continuously for approximately 25 years without major life extension upgrades. They have generally higher maintenance requirements than onshore counterparts, due to the harsher marine environment.

End-of-life: At the end of the operational life of an offshore wind farm, options might include extending the life of existing assets, partially or fully replacing assets (repowering), or decommissioning the site. Few sites have yet been decommissioned or repowered.

Table 2-2 Examples of measures to mitigate biodiversity impacts at each phase of an offshore wind project

Project phase	Examples of mitigation measures
Site characterisation and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduling survey activities to avoid disturbing biodiversity during sensitive periods; - Changing the layout of project infrastructure to avoid sensitive areas; - Designing/selecting project components to avoid impacts, such as foundations; - Re-routing, marking, or burying onshore powerlines to avoid collision risk.
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduling construction activities to avoid disturbing biodiversity during sensitive periods; - Abatement controls to reduce emissions and pollutants (e.g., selecting construction methods to minimise underwater noise impacts); - Operational controls to manage and regulate contractor activity (e.g., controlling construction/installation vessel movements and managing lighting); - Repair of degradation/damage to biodiversity features and ecosystem services from project-related impacts (e.g., revegetating onshore laydown areas or restoring coastal habitats disturbed during cable installation).
Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical controls involving modification to operation of infrastructure, to reduce impacts (e.g., shutdown on demand to minimise collision risk); - Abatement controls to reduce emissions and pollutants (e.g., managing maintenance lighting); - Operational controls to regulate contractor activity (e.g., controlling maintenance vessel movements).
End-of-life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduling decommissioning activities to avoid disturbing biodiversity during sensitive periods, such as breeding seasons; - Abatement controls to reduce emissions and pollutants created during decommissioning, such as cutting of sub-sea infrastructure; - Operational controls to regulate contractor activity (e.g., vessel speed regulation) and minimize risk to biodiversity such as marine mammal strikes; - Consider leaving infrastructure in place if there are biodiversity/ecosystem services benefits such as the reef effect associated with scour protections; - Revegetation of disturbed areas onshore as they become available, using topsoil and indigenous plants from the site where possible.

Source: Bennun, L., van Bochove, J., Ng, C., Fletcher, C., Wilson, D., Phair, N., Carbone, G. (2021). Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development. Guidelines for project developers. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and Cambridge, UK: The Biodiversity Consultancy.

1.2.3 Tasks

Prepare a catalogue of examples, illustrating best practice from offshore wind projects in the Nordic region and/or neighbour countries, to mitigate biodiversity impacts and create ecosystem benefits. This should include a description of best practice for involvement and gathering of local knowledge from stakeholders and interests.

The catalogue should present examples from the site characterisation and design, construction, operation, and end-of-life phases. For each example, provide evidence for the effectiveness of relevant strategic or technical measures, with respect to practical and economic feasibility of implementation, and the ecological implications, including how species adapt over time. To the extent possible, these shall cover:

Site characterisation and design

1. **Mitigation during site characterisation.** This may include risk screening and/or review of strategic assessments before the project design phase, to help ensure that developments do not take place in sensitive sites, as well as gathering local knowledge from stakeholders.
2. **Mitigation through project design.** There are opportunities avoid or minimise biodiversity impacts through design, such as 'micro-siting' decisions on the location of infrastructure pieces, design or selection of components, re-routing, marking, or burying powerlines, or installing dedicated nesting towers encouraging birds to land.

Construction

3. **Mitigation through scheduling.** Changing the timing of construction activities can avoid disturbing species during sensitive periods of their lifecycle.
4. **Mitigation through abatement controls.** This may involve methods to reduce underwater noise, such as source, channel, or receiver mitigation, as well as cabling techniques that minimise habitat disturbance. It might also include measures to control intensity and duration of lighting during construction or avoiding pile-driving and blasting work where/when fish spawn.
5. **Operational controls during construction.** Vessel activity on site, and between the site and the port/shore, can be managed to restrict transit through sensitive areas, reduce waste disposal, and avoid introducing invasive marine species.
6. **Habitat restoration and rehabilitation.** Work to repair habitat damage may include revegetating areas after construction activities are complete. While relocation of stones on the seabed displaces organisms, the artificial reef effect is important to consider since scour protections can enhance habitats.

Operation

7. **Mitigation through physical controls.** This may involve modification to standard operation of infrastructure to reduce impacts on biodiversity. Technologies such as camera or radar

systems can monitor bird populations and pre-emptively shut down turbines as flocks pass. Advanced measures might prevent strikes on vulnerable species, like eagles.

8. **Mitigation through abatement controls.** This may involve action to reduce emissions or pollution (dust, light, vibration and noise from rotor blades, solid/liquid waste) that could impact ecosystems, as well as acoustic monitoring to map how far noise from the wind farm reaches, or a ban on fishing around the wind park site, and the associated spillover effects.
9. **Mitigation through operational controls.** This involves managing and regulating activities and movement of operations, maintenance contractors and land/site managers, as well as controls associated with vessels and onshore facilities.

End-of-life

10. **Mitigation through project design and scheduling.** If the turbines are replaced with larger ones (repowering), a reassessment of bird collision risk and marine impacts will be necessary. Likewise, the timing of decommissioning or repowering can avoid disturbing species during sensitive periods of their lifecycle.
11. **End-of-life abatement and operational controls.** This may include methods to reduce noise due to dismantling activities, loss of habitat (e.g., resting areas or artificial reefs), and emissions (noise, dust, light, waste). Use of machinery during decommissioning or repowering can be managed to mitigate impacts.
12. **Habitat restoration and rehabilitation.** Project developers may consider leaving infrastructure in place if there are biodiversity/ecosystem benefits, such as foraging and resting areas for birds or artificial reefs for marine life.

The study should be delivered as a single report with annexes containing at least five case studies.

1.2.4 Method

The consultant is responsible for defining a detailed approach to the tasks. The study shall be based on a review of authoritative literature and interviews with industry and local stakeholders, including site owners and operators, suppliers, and contractors, as well as regulators, and scientific experts.

It is expected that the consultant organises two to three brief meetings with Nordic Energy Research during the project, to provide updates on progress. The tender should document the consultant's understanding of offshore wind projects in the Nordic region and/or neighbour countries, as well as associated biodiversity impacts and mitigation measures. It should include an overview of relevant stakeholders to interview, a draft of the interview guide(s), and a draft structure for case studies.

1.2.5 Preliminary timeframe & deliverables for the project execution

In the table below, the proposed timeframe and deliverables are set out:

Action	Deliverable	Date	Responsible
Contract signed	Contract	20.05.2021	NER
Kick-off meeting	Minutes from meeting	21.05.2021	Consultant
Pre-draft sketch	Pre-draft sketch	27.05.2021	Consultant
Present draft sketch to steering group	Oral presentation, Nordic capital/video call	31.05.2021	Consultant

Draft report	Draft report	09.08.2021	Consultant
Present draft report to steering group	Oral presentation	12.08.2021	Consultant
Second draft report	Draft report	06.09.2022	Consultant
Nordic ministerial meeting/high-level meeting	Preliminary findings from the study	22.09.2021	Consultant
Final report	Final report	20.10.2021	Consultant
Language check of final report	Comments to editor	04.11.2022	Consultant/NER
Layout customization of the report	Comments to NordPub	10.11.2022	Consultant/NordPub
Final report presentation	Oral presentation, Nordic capital/video call	4 th quarter of 2021	Consultant

Contract signature will be done via e-mail or mail. The kick-off meeting will be conducted via Teams/teleconference. The presentation of the final report should be determined during the project.

1.2.6 Use of the report and the results

The report will be made publicly available, free of charge, on Norden Publications portal (NordPub, <https://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/search.jsf?dswid=-7222>), and will be offered as a tool to be used by Nordic ministries and other relevant stakeholders. Applicants are requested to make themselves familiar with the Norden design manual (<http://design-en.norden.org/>) when finalising the report.

1.2.7 Value of the assignment

The total cost for the tender may not exceed 470 000 NOK, VAT excluded. All expenses should be included.

1.2.8 Contract

A contract shall be established with the awarded consultant.

The supplier may have subcontractors to specific task, but it will be the supplier who should have the entire responsibility regarding deadlines, quality insurance and finances etc. vis-à-vis the purchaser. If subcontractors are used, documentation for their participation in the project must be submitted, their role must be described and together with their estimated budget allocated.

1.3 Announcement of the tender

The invitation to tender will be sent to Doffin and TED as specified in Chapter 2.5.

2 Administrative regulation

2.1 Purchase procedure

The procurement directive is not directly applicable to Nordic Energy Research as an international organization located in Oslo. Consequently, only the general principles of the EU/EEA will apply to this procurement process. This procurement process will be conducted in accordance with the Norwegian Act on Public Procurement of 17 June 2017 (Lov om Offentlige Anskaffelser – LOV-2016-06-17-73) and the Norwegian Regulation on Public Procurement (FOA; Forskrift om offentlige anskaffelser – FOR-2016-08-12-974) of 18 August 2016 part I.

The purchase procedure will be executed in an open competition according to the main principles of FOA. This procedure allows all potential suppliers to bid.

2.2 Requested structure of the competition

The competition will be based on:

- this document, containing information about the content, procedures and frames describing the process until the award and signing of the contract, and
- the appendices as presented below.

Appendices:

- Appendix A: EHS declaration
- Appendix B: Tender
- Appendix C: Disclaimer and Deviation
- Appendix D: Consultancy Agreement Draft
- Appendix E: Standard Terms of Contract for Consultants
- Appendix F: ESPD

2.3 Contact information

Contact persons concerning this purchase are Anders Geertsen, Senior Adviser at Nordic Energy Research, e-mail: Anders.Geertsen@nordicenergy.org; and Marton Leander Vølstad, Adviser, E-mail: Marton.Leander.Volstad@nordicenergy.org

2.4 Language

All communication, written and oral, regarding this matter should be made in English. This also applies for the tender itself. Possible legal questions must be communicated in Norwegian.

2.5 Execution of the tendering process

Activity	Date
Announcement in Doffin and TED	19.03.2021
Deadline for questions concerning the invitation to tender	08.04.2021
Answers to questions concerning the invitation to tender	12.04.2021
Deadline for tender submission	19.04.2021, 13:00 CEST
Opening of tender	19.04.2021, 14:00 CEST

Evaluation of tender	20.04-04.05.2021
Contract award intention announced	04.05.2021
Deadline for submitting objections to award	14.05.2021
Contract award and signing	20.05.2021
Kick-off meeting	21.05.2021

2.6 Correction, addition and/or change of the competition

Before the deadline of the competition, the purchaser is entitled to make corrections, additions or changes to the competition that are not significant.

2.7 Questions for the competition

Any questions the suppliers may have for the competition must be received by the deadline indicated in the schedule 2.5.

Questions must be sent by e-mail to the contact person of the competition as indicated in 2.3. All questions will be answered anonymously and made available for all who have registered to receive the competition on Doffin and TED in due time before the deadline of the competition.

2.8 The participation cost of the supplier

Any cost that the supplier may have in connection with the preparation, delivery or follow-up of the tender and the procurement process will not be refunded. Participation in the tendering process will in no way commit the purchaser to enter into a contract with the supplier or involve the purchaser in financial obligations.

2.9 Return of tender

The purchaser will not return the tender of the supplier.

3 Wages and working conditions

If this competition includes services or construction work in accordance with regulations of February 8, 2008 no.112 on wages and working conditions in public contracts, separate requirements and remedies related to this apply.

4 Requirements for the tender

4.1 Structure of the tender

The tender should contain the following documentation that should be structured according to the following sectioning.

Section no.	Documentation
1.	Tender which should include the following: 1.1 Reference to the name of the competition 1.2 The address, phone number and e-mail address of the supplier 1.3 The contact person of the supplier and his phone number and e-mail address

	1.4 Confirmation of the validity of the tender, cf. section 4.3. 1.5 Binding signature from a person with authority to sign on behalf of the supplier
2.	Documentation of eligibility: Documentation described in 6.2-6-4 Completion of European Single Procurement Document (ESPD), available as Appendix F
3.	Requirements for technical and professional qualifications ref. section 6.5 Documentation of award criteria ref. section 7.1.
4.	Any modifications or alteration to the competition or the contract ref. section 4.7. and Appendix C.
5.	Other relevant information.

4.2 Delivery Format of the tender

Tenders should be delivered by e-mail to tender@nordicenergy.org with the following subject line:
Examples to Accommodate Biodiversity in Nordic Offshore Wind Projects – TENDER

The tender should be in PDF format and/or another Microsoft Office compatible format.

4.3 Validity

The tender must have a validity of a minimum of 90 days from the day of the deadline of the tender.

4.4 Contract

The supplier must base his tender on the enclosed contracts (Appendices D and E).

4.5 Tender for all or part of the delivery

It is not permitted to submit tenders for part of the delivery.

4.6 Alternative tenders

It is not permitted to submit alternative tenders.

4.7 Reservations and amendments

Significant reservations and amendments shall be stated precisely and unambiguously so that the purchaser can evaluate the offer without contacting the supplier. Reservations and amendments shall clearly and unambiguously refer to the relevant appendix and point in the tender documents and shall be annexed to the tender.

The supplier shall clearly specify the consequences that any reservations and amendments have or may have on the performance, price and/or other aspects of the tender.

4.8 Revocation of tender

A tender may be revoked or altered until the deadline of the tender. Revocation shall be done in writing. Change of the tender is considered a new offer.

5 Delivery of tender

5.1 Deadline of tender

The tender must reach the purchaser no later than the deadline specified in section 2.5. The deadline is absolute. Late submitted tenders will be rejected. The supplier carries the risk of failure or delay in shipment.

5.2 Delivery method and delivery address

The tender must be delivered in the format specified in section 4.2.

6 Eligibility requirements

6.1 About the eligibility requirements

The supplier must meet the requirements listed below in order to be eligible for participation in the competition. The supplier is responsible for providing all documentation requested below as proof of the requirements imposed. Lack of documentation or incomplete information may lead to the rejection of the tender. Only qualified suppliers can be awarded the contract.

Self-declaration: Documentation regarding 6.2 – 6.4 must be provided by completing the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD), available as Appendix F. The formal documents will be required at a later stage in the evaluation process, for the selected tender candidate.

6.2 Mandatory requirements

Requirements	Documentation requirements
The supplier must have fulfilled their obligation relating to the payment of tax, payroll tax and VAT.	Tax certificates not older end six months calculated from the deadline of the tender. Tax certificates are: For Norwegian suppliers: Form from the Tax Commission for VAT (RF-1244) issued by the tax office. Form from the Tax Commission (RF-1244) for tax issued by the Treasurer For foreign suppliers: Foreign suppliers must submit corresponding certificates from their country showing that they have complied with tax matters. If the authorities in the country concerned do not issue such certificates, the supplier shall submit a statement confirming that all taxes have been paid. The declaration must be approved and signed by the supplier's CFO/finance manager.
For work to be performed in Norway, the supplier must fulfil Norwegian HES requirements.	Only for Norwegian suppliers: Completed and signed HES statement according to the Norwegian Regulation health, environment, and safety at work (FOR-1996-12-06-1127 Forskrift om systematisk helse-, miljø- og sikkerhetsarbeid i virksomheter (Internkontrollforskriften). Please use the attached template, see Appendix A.

6.3 Requirements for organizational and legal position

Requirements	Documentation requirements
The supplier shall have a legally established company.	For Norwegian suppliers: Certificate of registration For foreign suppliers: Confirmation that the supplier is registered in a trade or business register acc. the legislation of the country where the supplier is established.

6.4 Requirements for economic and financial position

Requirements	Documentation requirements
The supplier shall have sufficient financial strength to perform contract.	Excerpt from the supplier's annual report including notes with the report from the Board and the auditors for the past two financial years.

6.5 Requirements for technical and professional qualifications

Requirements	Documentation requirements
The supplier must have good experience from similar deliveries	References from a maximum of 3 relevant deliveries/assignments within the last 4 years for each consultant involved. References shall at least contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short description of the delivery • Implementation date • Scope of delivery and its price • Name and phone number of a contact person responsible for ordering
The supplier must have appropriate contact information	Name and phone number for reference for the proposed assignment leader.

7 Award criteria and evaluation

7.1 Award criteria

The contract is awarded to the supplier who financially has the most favourable tender based on the below-mentioned criteria.

Award criteria	Documentation	Weight %
Expected quality Project description in the proposed assignment including relevance, ambition, quality, organization, and structure ref. section 1.2.1 – 1.2.7.	The supplier must supply the following documentation (maximum 5 A4 format pages, Times 12, 1,5 line spacing): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supplier must describe their understanding of the assignment and the implementation of it (project and solution description). 	45

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supplier must account for the organization and structure of the project with deliveries/milestones in preparing the report, including planned budget and persons accountable for part deliveries • The supplier must describe their approach and choice of methodology • The supplier must describe their sources for information 	
Price of the assignment The total price is maximum 425 000 exc. VAT.	Price must be in NOK ex. VAT. This includes all cost required to execute the tender (i.e. salaries, travel cost etc.)	10
Offered expertise Offered expertise means the expertise and experience of the key personnel who is offered to implement this specific contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supplier must present his/her CV with an overview of expertise and experience from relevant projects for the named key personnel. • The distribution of labour input to key personnel shall be specified and will be considered. 	45

7.2 Evaluation

All approved offers will be evaluated with scores per award criterion, where 10 is the highest and 0 the lowest. The overall result per criterion will be weighted according to the weighing degree above, ref. section 7.1.

8 Termination of competition

8.1 Cancellation of competition and total rejection

The purchaser reserves the right to cancel the competition or to reject all offers, if there are reasonable grounds.

8.2 Notification of the choice of supplier and waiting period

The purchaser informs all suppliers in writing and simultaneously about whom the purchaser intends to award the contract as soon as the choice of supplier is made. The notification will include an explanation for the choice and specify the waiting period from the time the award is made known until the contract signing is planned (concluding the contract). If the purchaser finds that the award decision is not in accordance with the criteria for the choice of supplier, the decision can be annulled until contract is signed.