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Planning

UKRI-4855 North Sea Late Cenozoic Environments

UK Research & Innovation

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-014119

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-050020

Published 9 April 2025, 7:05pm

Scope

Description

The British Geological Survey (BGS), acting on behalf of the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD), requires a marine coring capability and suitable vessel to operate in the North Sea Basin, offshore Denmark, for a scientific drilling, coring campaign for a period of 90 days (estimated) between May and September 2026.

This scientific coring project seeks to extend our understanding of Earth's dynamics during the last 50 ice ages and the warmer periods between them. The North Sea Basin is an area that was heavily impacted by these ice age cycles as climate fluctuated between fully glacial to warmer-than-present conditions. The continuous sediment accumulation found in this marine environment should be thought of as a 'tape recorder' that contain an almost complete record of glacial-interglacial episodes, providing insight on Europe's past climate, ecology, and large river systems over the last ~3.3 million years. In this expedition, we aim to collect geological samples to gain insight into the baseline dynamics and thresholds for depositional and ecosystem regime shifts, as well as biodiversity turnover driven by rapid climate changes. This research will help us better understand the environmental responses to modern-day warming.

The project requires a contractor to provide a suitable platform or vessel from which to drill one borehole 1200 metres below the sea floor from a water depth ranging between 28 metres and 60 metres

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://ukri.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-title/5X56S85A5M>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://ukri.delta-esourcing.com/respond/5X56S85A5M>

Total value (estimated)

- 15000000.00 EUR excluding VAT
- 18000000.00 EUR including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 December 2025 to 1 October 2026
- 10 months, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 76320000 - Offshore drilling services
- 76340000 - Core drilling

Contract locations

- DK - Denmark
- NL - Netherlands

Engagement

Engagement deadline

1 July 2025

Engagement process description

UKRI are seeking to engage with interested contractors prior to going to market. Contractors are encouraged to express their interest in the opportunity via the Delta esourcing portal. Following an expression of interest, contractors may be invited to further engagement activities to be completed in April and May 2025.

To express interest in this opportunity, please go to: <https://ukri.delta-esourcing.com/respond/5X56S85A5M>

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

7 July 2025

Contracting authority

UK Research & Innovation

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDQJ-7126-JDHG

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Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government