REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

for the

LOUISIANA COMPREHENSIVE WIND ROADMAP

RFI 3000022109

Response Due Date & Time: December 8, 2023, 11:59 p.m.

Release Date: November 8, 2023

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY: This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes; it does not constitute a Request for Proposal, application, or proposal abstract. This RFI does not commit the State to contract for any supplies or services or make a grant award. Further, the State is not seeking proposals through this RFI and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Respondents are advised that the State will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will solely be at the interested party's expense.

Information obtained as a result of this RFI may be used by the State for program planning on a non-attribution basis. All submission materials become State property and will not be returned. The State will accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and will agree to confidentiality, if appropriate, in accordance with State and federal law. Any material within a response to this RFI identified as such must be clearly marked and will be handled in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act, i.e. La. R.S. 44:1-44 and applicable rules and regulations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (hereinafter "DNR") has been tasked with developing a Comprehensive Wind Roadmap (hereinafter "Roadmap") for the State of Louisiana. The opportunity and possibilities of what offshore wind could mean for Louisiana workers, businesses, and energy profile have led to enormous efforts already in the works by a number of leaders from the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Already, Louisiana companies have played a foundational role in the national offshore wind supply chain and workforce, supplying surveyors, marine welders, technicians, and support staff to installations in the Northeast Atlantic. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (hereinafter "BOEM") recently held the first federal lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico on August 29, 2023, auctioning one lease off the Louisiana coast to RWE Offshore US Gulf, LLC. On October 27, 2023, BOEM announced the selection of four additional zones in the Gulf of Mexico for offshore wind development. In 2022 Louisiana also passed legislation to further enable exploration and production of offshore wind energy in state waters. Followed by legislative appropriations in 2023 to fund the Roadmap.

The state desires to build off the efforts that are already underway to support a coordinated establishment of the nation's fastest growing energy industry. Across a spectrum of stakeholders- industries, businesses, developers, academia, non-profits, and organization coalitions- there has been collaboration on a number of initiatives, programs, and deliverables. Developers are working with non-profit organizations to create supply chain databases and webinars to inform local businesses and companies on how they can engage in the clean energy market. Organizational coalitions are working toward the development of a green hydrogen cluster potentially powered by offshore wind. Businesses and industries are researching and developing blades and turbines that are hurricane resistant, manufacturing wind components and materials for use in other parts of the country and internationally, and building some of the first Jones-Act compliant service vessels for offshore wind. Higher education facilities and community and technical colleges are establishing curriculum and workforce training programs for blue and white collar jobs in the offshore wind sector. A vast amount of work building upon Louisiana's history and experience in offshore development is at play, and there is a need to align all these efforts among the sectors under one strategic roadmap for the state.

The Roadmap will provide a path to guide offshore wind investments, support and secure necessary supply chains, identify potential opportunities to achieve policy objectives, and coordinate a complex network of stakeholders and actions moving forward. Critical Entities, desired components of the Roadmap, consultant selection/qualification process, and the requirements for responses to this RFI are described below.

2. PURPOSE OF RFI

DNR issues this RFI in order to gather information from vendors, stakeholders, and other entities who can offer professional engineering services to develop a Comprehensive Wind Roadmap for the State of Louisiana.

3. PROJECT OVERVIEW

DNR is looking to develop the Roadmap as summarized in Attachment A hereto and is requesting information from engineering firms as further set forth herein.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

4.1 RFI Coordinator

Requests for copies of the RFI and any questions must be directed to the RFI Coordinator listed below:

Mark Normand, Jr.

Mark.Normand2@la.gov

Deputy Undersecretary

Office of the Secretary

This RFI has been posted to LaPAC and the DNR Website, which can be found at the following links:

LaPAC: https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/pubmain.cfm

DNR Website: https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=429

4.2 Schedule of Events

DNR reserves the right to deviate from this Schedule of Events at any time and without notice.

Activity/Event	Date
Public Notice of RFI	November 8, 2023
Deadline for Receipt of Written Inquiries	November 15, 2023
Deadline for DNR Response to Written Inquiries	November 28, 2023
Deadline for Final Response to RFI	December 8, 2023

4.3 Response Content

Responders are asked to limit the Executive Summary, Background and Experience, and Cost Structure section to no more than twenty (20) pages total of the entire response.

4.3.1 Executive Summary

This section should serve to introduce the responding vendor or stakeholder. At a minimum, it should include administrative information including the name of the responder's point of contact, phone number, email address, and any other pertinent contact information. Limit this section to no more than two (2) pages.

4.3.2 Background and Experience

Responders should give a brief description of the company history, organizational structure, and number of years in business. Responders should also describe their experience with projects of this type and any experience gained from working with other states or governmental entities of comparable size and diversity, and especially highlight any prior experience working with other States on similar projects. Responders should describe their connection to and history with States and what changes should be addressed in the project that would be most helpful.

Provide general information about your company: full legal name of the organization; name of the CEO and other upper managers-including CTO, CIO, and VP of Engineering, country and full address of the headquarters; website address, email, telephone number, and other contact information; and name and contact information of the person responsible for responding to the RFI. Provide biographies, resumes, or CVs for key firm staff members proposed for the work, including name, title, education, qualifications, training, areas of specialization, and years of relevant work experience.

Provide information regarding the structure and focus of your company, including, but not limited to, the following: background and history; size of the company; areas of expertise; organizational structure; vision and goals; services that are offered, qualities that set your company apart from its competitors. Include a statement of availability of all key principals and staff.

If the proposed prime contractor does not possess the internal capability(ies) to provide all of the plan elements described, the contractor shall clearly identify gaps in their capabilities. If subcontractors are to be proposed, each shall be identified, including a brief firm profile and statement of firm qualifications/specializations. Note that RFI responses incorporating subcontractors will not be penalized in any way in this consultant qualification process.

Provide your company's philosophy and how it is consistent with Louisiana's culture and values. Demonstrate your company's familiarity with existing Louisiana wind and clean energy planning efforts, both completed and ongoing and a strategy for validation, and, when appropriate, integration in the Roadmap. Equity, Inclusion, and Justice in this mapping, analysis, and planning is crucial to building an energy workforce that serves the local communities in Louisiana.

4.3.3 Approach and Methodology

Responder should provide approach and methodology recommended to accomplish the potential scope of services described in Attachment B. Best practices garnered from previous experience with this scope of services should be described. Provide a list of issues/concerns that were not taken into consideration in the Project Overview that you think is important for the agency to consider. Provide alternative solutions for accomplishing the project objectives, if applicable, and any other additional pertinent information.

4.3.4 Cost Structure

Responder should provide how it proposes the payments should be structured for the scope of services provided herein along with either a cost estimate or cost rates for such scope.

4.3.5 Essay Questions

Include answers to all of the following questions, limiting responses to a maximum of one page for each:

▪ How will you build on the existing wind planning efforts happening across the state?

▪ How will you approach spatial planning and data analysis to develop a holistic spatial plan upon which the state can make decisions for the siting and development of wind farms?

▪ How will you center the needs of Louisiana communities, especially vulnerable and low-income, in the energy and economic analysis and workforce training components?

▪ How will you keep the focus of this Roadmap and planning process on implementation?

▪ What differentiates your Team? What is unique about your Team for this work?

4.4 RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS

4.4.1 Response Submittal

Responders interested in providing information requested by this RFI must submit responses, not to exceed twenty-five (25) total pages in length, no later than the deadline for response to the RFI in the Schedule of Events.

The responses must be received by electronic copy only to Mark.Normand2@la.gov on or before the date and time specified in the Schedule of Events. Email submission is the only acceptable method of delivery. Fax, mail, and courier delivery shall not be accepted. Responses misdirected or otherwise received late, or corrupted files, may not be reviewed.

5 ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS TO RESPONDERS

5.1 RFI Addendum/Cancellation

DNR reserves the right to revise any part of this RFI by issuing an addendum(a) to the RFI at any time. Issuance of this RFI, or subsequent addendum(a), if any, does not constitute a commitment by DNR or the State to issue a contract or any other process resulting in the award of a contract of any type or form. In addition, DNR may cancel this RFI at any time, without incurring any liability from responders or potential responders.

5.2 Ownership of Responses

The materials submitted in response to the RFI shall become the property of the State.

5.3 Cost of Preparation

DNR shall not be liable to any responders or potential responders for any costs incurred in developing a response, preparing for discussions (if any are held), or any other costs that may be incurred by a responder, or potential responder, responding to this RFI.

6. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Advisory Committee & Working Groups – will include members of the community with expertise in offshore wind decisions and/or subject-matter expertise and other stakeholders, as identified.

Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) – 501(c)(3) non-profit to provide overall project management direction and lead stakeholder and public engagement. Will manage the organization and work of the Advisory Committee and Working Groups.

Critical Entities – include CPEX and DNR.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – lead government agency for Roadmap and client.

Supportive State Agencies & Entities – will be consulted in developing the Roadmap and include, but not be limited to, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, Louisiana Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority, Louisiana Economic Development, Public Service Commission, among others.

ATTACHMENT A

LOUISIANA'S COMPREHENSIVE WIND ROADMAP SUMMARY

Offshore Wind Roadmap Components Summary

Vision and Goals – The vision and goals for offshore wind will be developed with input from the Critical Entities, Supportive State Agencies and Entities, and the Advisory Committee through an iterative process. The Roadmap will be graphically oriented and easy to read and use.

Spatial Planning – provision of spatial planning analysis, modeling, and associated critical technical studies for offshore wind development. This analysis must include a wind energy resource analysis, both geophysical and geotechnical characteristics of seabed, and an avian and marine mammal analysis, which includes nesting and feeding habitat, migratory pathways, and flight heights for avian species. The analysis needs to account for existing oil and gas infrastructure, shipping channels, commercial fisheries, and all other infrastructure or activities that take place in state waters. The spatial planning analysis must seek to integrate potential cumulative environmental impacts, future offshore wind impacts pertaining to native and migratory avian and marine species and areas of specific concern, and state permitting and regulatory processes. A spatial planning output should be visual, inclusive of constraints (e.g. shrimping, crabbing, oyster habitats, etc.) and existing offshore energy infrastructure (e.g. pipelines, platforms, and wells). As part of this portion of the Roadmap, the Contractor will need to identify where existing data exist (i.e., BOEM, NOAA, etc.) to be obtained and used in spatial analysis. Development of the spatial modeling and analysis coordination by the Contactor with the Critical Entities, Supportive State Agencies and Entities, and the Advisory Committee and Working Groups will be necessary.

Transmission Planning – A summary of the current state of the electrical grid including potential transmission corridors from turbine to land, outline current transmission infrastructure, identifying relevant ports, regional/national/global infrastructure, and existing oil & gas infrastructure. This portion will also estimate the needed capacity headroom for offshore wind growth scenarios. Contractor will need to coordinate with Critical Entities, Supportive State Agencies and Entities, and the Advisory Committee and Working Groups.

Authorities, Policies, Laws, and Permitting Processes – Through data collection and utilizing Systems Engineering and System Thinking, this portion will identify relevant governmental authorities, evaluate existing governing laws and programs, international best practices, current offshore leasing/agreement processes and permitting processes to analyze and recommend any changes needed to reach the vision and goals of the state. The creation of a consolidated, accessible database of all significant relevant reports, studies, data inventories, partners, and tools. The result of this research and analysis will be the creation of effective and efficient offshore wind development processes, including a state offshore wind procurement plan that identifies pathways and best practices for competitive solicitations and ensures benefits for all Louisiana residents.

In addition to the above, this section will include community impacts and potential engagement in its reporting with subject matter such as: community benefit agreements (CBAs), preservation of cultural resources, environmental justice, especially for indigenous, vulnerable, and coastal communities, and how community-borne costs can inform state procurement (e.g., serve as the basis for purchasing power via Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (ORECs).

Louisiana Energy Analysis and Projection – Includes a ratepayer impact analysis based on different potential policy pathways, such as adoption of a renewable portfolio standard and percentages of that standard for a state wind program. This analysis will use a 20-year projection of energy generation and operation cost, including clean sources such as solar, wind, nuclear, and natural gas with carbon capture as well as conventional sources such as natural gas. Additionally, the impact analysis will include financial and economic scenarios, run by an energy economist (to be selected/identified by the Critical Entities), that includes the historical context of international/national/regional/state energy and our future energy scenarios and opportunities in that context (e.g., South and Central American global energy market partnership opportunities). The Contractor will identify and assess long-range energy use and supply over a 20 year time horizon. The energy economist shall research historical and current energy demand and projected increases over time, cost-effectiveness in parallel to ratepayers to meet projected demand, how renewables fit into a cost-effective, low-carbon future, and input from stakeholders and incoming industry.

This portion of the Roadmap may present different power generation solicitation and procurement options, detail the costs and benefits associated with each option, and demonstrate prospective needs from State agencies to implement this framework. An appropriate measure may be to explore the State Agreement approach utilized by the Louisiana Public Service Commission to obtain competitive solicitations of transmission solutions as they relate to offshore wind resources. Such plans have been viewed as essential first steps for any State seeking to establish a sound investment environment for renewable energy developers, and as such, is expected to yield benefits beyond the offshore wind industry in the State. The Contractor shall investigate governmental mechanisms and strike comparisons between traditional energy leasing and permitting systems, how to adjust for renewable development like offshore wind, and articulate potential financial and environmental impacts.

Workforce Training Plan – Includes considerations of anticipated supply chain growth (e.g. maritime services), existing workforce development capacities, a need for economic equity, opportunities for state revenue potential, and Louisiana's role in the broader state, national, and global market development. A market analysis will support future market projections, and transitively, job creation potential at the local and regional levels. Through alignment with industry and workforce development, this study will provide the State with innovative and practical solutions to improve the effectiveness and the efficiencies of collaboration around the energy industry in South Louisiana. It shall investigate and report on a range of job types, workforce training gaps, and development of workforce training programs that would empower job growth and labor participation across offshore wind activities in which Louisiana has national competitive advantages. The occupational analysis by offshore wind activity will examine the roles, wages, and demographics of the existing workforce. It will also consider the requirements and certifications needed to work within these roles, which in turn, will expose any potential barriers to entry within the workforce. This should enable subsequent work to identify the support and investment required to empower the Louisiana educational system to build more accessible and equitable career pathways for these sectors in the future.

Accordingly, the Roadmap will include data analysis that complements the Department of Energy's offshore wind career road map and NREL's Offshore Wind Workforce Assessment to provide a clearer roadmap to community college and training partners on career pathways/job profiles most advantageous for their students. This analysis would inform curricula and promote

opportunities to otherwise disadvantaged communities who may not be engaged on this emerging field, presently.

Implementation Plan – The final chapter of the Roadmap shall be an implementation plan outlining recommendations, governing entities in charge of implementation, supporting organizations, estimated cost, timeline, and funding opportunities.

ATTACHMENT B

POTENTIAL SCOPE OF SERVICES

Potential Scope of Services:

- Collate existing data sets and available information, including plans, specifications, and other similar documents and undertake engineering analysis, including Systems Engineering and System Thinking, related to the component parts of the Roadmap. These services may include:
    - Engineering analysis of necessary infrastructure and natural/structural limitations/obstacles to development of offshore wind energy, including analysis of infrastructure of State ports to supply and support offshore wind and characteristics of natural environment/ecological considerations on offshore wind in State waters;
    - Engineering analysis of existing electric grid and related infrastructure with potential needed upgrades to support generation of approximately 5 GWs of offshore wind energy by 2035;
    - Consideration of overall context of above listed analysis; specifically how non-physical limitations may impact the ability to implement robust offshore power generation in Louisiana, including economic, legal, and policy limitations;
- Development and delivery of Roadmap. Providing administrative support, in coordination with DNR and the Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX), to the overall effort and establish overall operations, structure, timeline and workflow to oversee work of subcontractors and separate contractors identified by DNR to develop and deliver the Roadmap.
- Advise, inform, and support the stakeholder engagement process, including developing content for public meetings and workshops, and utilization of public and stakeholder input in guiding the Roadmap.
- The Roadmap process is expected to take between fifteen (15) and eighteen (18) months.