



30 April 2026

**NOTICE**  
NOI IFIB-CMRE-26-006

To : NATO Delegations  
Attn. Secretaries of Delegations

Cc : STO FC

From : CMRE Head of Contracts

Subject : **Notification of Intent (NOI) to Issue an Invitation for International Bidding (IFIB) no. CMRE 26-006 for the Provision of Technical Support to NATO Research Vessels Alliance and Leonardo.**

Reference : A. FC(2017)103-REV1 - NATO IS Procurement Manual

1. In accordance with the provisions of Article XXXII of the NATO Financial Regulations and Financial Rules and Procedures, we are pleased to inform you that CMRE intends to issue the Invitation for International Bidding (IFIB) stated above in the upcoming months

2. This procurement action will follow the Formal Procurement procedure specified in Reference A., adopted by the STO CMRE Procurement Procedures.

3. The following information is provided in conjunction with the anticipated issuance of Invitation for International Bidding (IFIB) package no. CMRE 26-006:

IFIB Reference: **CMRE-26-006**

Title of IFIB: Provision of Technical Support to NATO Research Vessels Alliance and Leonardo.

Requirement: The STO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE) is the custodian on behalf of NATO of two research vessels, NRV ALLIANCE (3180t) and CRV LEONARDO (380t). ALLIANCE is an ocean-going vessel and LEONARDO



is used primarily in coastal waters. The vessels are flagged and crewed by the Italian Navy under a Memorandum of Understanding between NATO and the Italian Ministry of Defence.

CMRE intends to award a contract for the provision of technical management services for both vessels commencing 1 January 2027.

The Managers shall provide technical management which includes, but is not limited to the following services:

a) ensuring that the Vessels comply with the requirements of the law of the Flag State;

b) ensuring compliance with the ISM Code;

c) providing competent personnel to supervise the maintenance and general efficiency of the Vessels;

d) arranging and supervising dry dockings, repairs, alterations and the maintenance of the Vessels to the standards agreed with the Owners;

e) arranging the supply of necessary stores, spares and lubricating oil;

f) appointing surveyors and technical consultants as the Managers may consider from time to time to be necessary;

g) arranging for the supply of provisions unless provided by the Owners and arranging for the sampling and testing of bunkers.

All maintenance and repairs are to be conducted in line with the approved planned maintenance system and Classification Society rules.

Type of Contract:

Firm Fixed Price (FFP) for the Technical Management Services and Cost Reimbursable (CR) for Maintenance, Repair, Spares, Stores, Consumables, Survey and Communications.

Period of Performance: Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2027- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2027. Four additional option years are envisioned each of 12 months starting on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2028.

Bidding Procedure: Sealed bid.

Award Method: Best value.

Funding: Estimated annual amount is 3.5M Euro, of which approximately 0.6M is expected to be (FFP) (for management / technical management fee and associated costs) and 2.9M Euro as (CR) (working capital and expenses).

Estimated cumulative amount over the five years period is approx. 17.5M Euro.

Classification: The solicitation and resulting contract documents are classified NU, however during the performance of services, the Contractor may need to have access up to NATO RESTRICTED (NR) information. Consequently, the Facility Security Clearance (FSC) for the Company and the NATO Personal Security Clearance (PSC) for all Contractor's personnel involved in the services, will be mandatory only if required by the NSA/DSA of the nation where the Company is registered/located (see APPENDIX 3, ANNEX 1, AC/35-D/2003-REV5).

IFIB Issue Date: 05 June 2026 (TBC)

IFIB Closing Date: 31 August 2026 (TBC)

Eligibility: Solicitation is open to all governmental and / or commercial entities that originate or are chartered / incorporated within NATO-member nations.

Eligible Companies must be able to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (ISM CODE).

Performance location: Place of performance is partially at CMRE in La Spezia, Italy and partially at Contractor's premises.

It is expected that the Contractor would maintain a local presence in La Spezia and have the ability to support the vessel on world-wide operations.

4. You are hereby invited to nominate via email, by **04 June 2026**, the names, full address, point of contact, telephone, and e-mail address of potential qualified bidders established within your country.

5. The CMRE will directly e-mail this IFIB to all potential bidders. The IFIB will also be published on the CMRE portal (<https://www.cmre.nato.int/open-procurements>).

6. This and any other correspondence hereto are to be addressed to:

**STO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE)**

Attn: Ms. Sara G.C. Stephens – Head of Contracts

Subject: NOI IFIB CMRE-26-006

Viale San Bartolomeo, 400

19126 La Spezia - ITALY

Email: [contracting@cmre.nato.int](mailto:contracting@cmre.nato.int)

Respectfully,

**Sara  
Stephens**

Digitally signed  
by Sara Stephens  
Date: 2026.04.30  
11:47:46 +02'00'

Sara G.C. STEPHENS  
Head of Contracts  
STO CMRE