

Questions and Answers Posted June 3, 2020.

## Request for Proposals Paleogeography-to-Petroleum Systems: Research Innovations for Offshore Nova Scotia (PaGeo2)

RFP issued May 21, 2020; Proposals due August 28, 2020

Note: “contractor” means any individual or group respondent to the RFP.

Q1) Re section 2.1: New controlled source refraction seismic line acquisitions for basic crustal and upper mantle calibration

Will the contractor be required to perform this acquisition or will this data be supplied? The timing and budget of this project would make this acquisition very difficult.

A1) The budget and timelines for this RFP are admittedly a poor fit for new controlled source reference seismic line acquisitions. Contractor response on this topic may benefit from the following guidance. At least two types of proposals appear possible and would be considered.

First, a synthesis project to assemble a whole margin summary of crustal and upper mantle calibration offshore Nova Scotia (and/or Morocco) from existing refraction and related data would be valuable. This could support a goal of identifying new margin formation insights and/or areas to target for future new data acquisition expeditions in the future.

Second, if a contractor is able to justify and schedule a new data acquisition expedition between 2020-2022 followed by data processing and analysis in subsequent years then an acquisition proposal would be considered very seriously due to the high value of adding to the offshore database. However, such a new data acquisition program could not be funded through the PaGeo2 program (since PaGeo2 projects must end by June 2023). Given this, we recommend the proponent discusses such projects with OERA after the RFP closes.

Q2) Re section 2.5: Source-to-sink studies for offshore Nova Scotia; Study of hinterland uplift using thermochronometry

Will this be required to be done from scratch or from pre-existing data? As above, the timing and funds for this type of studies may be difficult to fit in this RFP.

A2) Similar to Q1 and A1, at least two types of proposals appear possible.

First, one response to this RFP are proposals that focus on pre-existing databases to develop regional syntheses of the source-to-sink and hinterland uplift constraints (or, perhaps, targeted studies of particular geographic systems or processes, if value of targeted studies can be shown). Also, syntheses of pre-existing databases could be used to identify gaps and opportunities where new data acquisition could be constructively supported in future funded programs.

Second, acquisition of new data to support these topics could be targeted directly in a PaGeo2 proposal either as a full new program or to supplement the existing database in a targeted way.

As noted in the question, the value of new data would need to be balanced against the pressures to turn around the data and analysis under PaGeo2 timelines. Ideally, the PaGeo2 evaluation committee would be looking for projects that could collect, process, and report on new data within PaGeo2 timelines. Accommodation for reasonable delays on the public release of data and interpretations beyond PaGeo2 timelines would count against a proposal but perhaps not fatally.

Alternatively, contractors interested in such acquisition proposals, but certain that PaGeo2 funds and timelines remain awkward, are requested to discuss such projects with OERA after the RFP closes.

Q3) Re section 5.5: Approximately one half of the funding will be Canadian-weighted while one half will be unweighted with respect to Canadian content.

Can you clarify this statement? The respondents are required to be Canadian or have a Canadian partner in order to apply to more than 50% of the funding?

A3) We don't expect any one respondent to apply for more than half the funding. As noted in the RFP, OERA is targeting projects that require funding between \$75,000 and \$250,000 each (i.e., 3-10 projects are targeted for support depending on the total value of each). Respondents are not required to have a Canadian partner in order to apply. Approximately one half of the total funding (\$850,000) will be Canadian-weighted. To be clear, for the evaluation of \$425,000 of funding (1/2 total), all proposals will be evaluated equally, using only technical criteria, with no preference to proposals with a Canadian partner. For the other \$425,000 of funding (1/2 total), proposals with a Canadian partner will be scored higher and, assuming they are competitive on technical grounds, supported ahead of comparable proposals without a Canadian partner.

Q4) Will the funds only be delivered at the end of the project or during? For academic institutions and small enterprises monthly or quarterly transfers would be preferable.

A4) OERA will negotiate acceptable contracting terms on a project-by-project basis. Initial 'kickoff' payments, milestone payments, quarterly payments etc. will be considered at the contracting stage. OERA is familiar with academic and SME funding necessities.

Q5) The RFP states that single respondents or teams may consider proposing projects which know about one another and which would benefit from mutual funding and an advance integration plan. Does that collaborative spirit extend to allowing one individual to be formally involved with more than one project proposal? I have been approached to participate in two separate project proposals with different research goals. I just want to make sure that if I decide to participate in both, I won't ultimately condemn both of the projects to failure due to violation of the rules. Can you provide some guidance on my situation?

A5) It is perfectly acceptable for an individual person or team to participate in multiple proposals. This will not affect the technical evaluation of competing proposals. Note, however, that reviewers will consider whether project participants seem 'over committed'. Because this could affect project scheduling or deliverable quality, persons or teams involved in multiple proposals should indicate for each submitted proposal how much time and effort their contributions are expected to consume and their capacity to deliver on their contributions.