Request for Proposal (RFP)

Vessel Engine Rebuild or Repower Project: R/V *Enviro-Lab II*
Issuing Organization: Interdistrict Committee for Project Oceanology
Address: 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340
Funding Source: NOAA Award NA26NMFX469G0003
Date of Issuance: October 22, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline: November 30, 2026
Target Work Window: To Be Determined based on award contractor and Project Oceanology availability (potential timeframes include January/Early February 2027, Late August/Early September scheduled to minimize operational disruption).

1. Project Background & Objective

Project Oceanology is a marine science educational organization based at the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus in Groton, CT, serving over 25,000 students annually. We operate research vessels to deliver hands-on marine science education throughout Long Island Sound.

Our primary research vessel, *Enviro-Lab II*, currently operating with a Detroit Diesel propulsion engine, requires a propulsion system overhaul or replacement to ensure long-term operational reliability. This procurement is supported by a federal award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As such, this solicitation and the resulting contract are subject to the federal procurement standards outlined in 2 CFR Part 200.

Project Oceanology is issuing this competitive RFP to solicit proposals from qualified marine engineering firms and shipyards to perform **EITHER** an engine rebuild/overhaul OR a complete engine repower.

2. Vessel Specifications & Scope of Work

2.1 Vessel & Schedule Context

- **Vessel Name:** R/V *Enviro-Lab II* (Official # 668567)
- **Current Engine:** Detroit Diesel (Serial # V12VA74157, Model # 71227001)
- **Contract Award Date:** On or about December 15, 2026.
- **Target Execution Window:** The work will ideally be scheduled between January 2027 and September 2027. The exact dates will depend on when the vessel can be taken out of service with the least impact on our educational programming. Proposals should specify the total number of days/weeks required for the physical work to be completed.

2.2 Detailed Scope of Work

Option A: Engine Rebuild / Overhaul

- Propose in-frame or removal rebuild.

- Complete diagnostics, teardown, inspection, and cleaning of the existing Detroit Diesel engine.
- Replacement of all worn components with OEM parts.
- Machining and reconditioning of cylinder head(s), block inspection, and crankshaft evaluation.
- Overhaul/servicing of associated systems (cooling, exhaust, fuel, electrical, and gauges).
- Post-rebuild testing and sea trial.
- Proper environmental disposal of removed materials and fluids.

Option B: Engine Repower (Replacement)

- Propose replacement engine manufacturer, model, horsepower, emissions certification, and any changes necessary to the vessel.
- Safely disconnect and remove the existing Detroit Diesel engine and components.
- Supply and installation of a new EPA Tier-compliant marine diesel engine.
- Proposal must include all fabrication and modification costs for engine beds, exhaust piping, electrical harnesses, and control head systems.
- Proper environmental disposal of the old engine, materials, and fluids.
- Post-installation alignment, sea trials under full operational load, and final commissioning.

3. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals must include the following sections to be considered responsive:

3.1 Contractor Information, Qualifications, & References

- Name, address, and primary point-of-contact.
- Summary of qualifications, OEM certifications for Detroit Diesel (if bidding Option A) or the proposed replacement engine (if bidding Option B).
- Proof of insurance ($1M+ general marine liability minimum).
- Contact information for three (3) commercial marine references.

3.2 Technical Approach & Project Timeline

- Clear specification of whether the proposal covers **Option A**, **Option B**, or **Both**. Project Oceanology reserves the right to select either alternative based on overall value, technical feasibility, funding availability, and necessary federal approvals.
- Confirmation that all major components will be ordered and physically staged at the agreed upon work location prior to the agreed-upon work start date.
- An outline that includes the estimated total duration (in weeks or days) required for the physical removal, installation/rebuild, and sea trials once the vessel arrives at the yard.

3.3 Detailed Cost Breakdown

Itemized pricing matrix covering:

- Parts & Materials costs (itemized).
- Labor hours and hourly rate.
- Yard/Haul-out fees, crane services, or rigging costs (as applicable).
- Total firm fixed/not-to-exceed price.
- Procedures for handling unforeseen repairs or additional required work that falls outside the scope of the proposal. No additional work our costs may be undertaken without prior written approval from Project Oceanology.

4. Evaluation Criteria

Pursuant to federal guidelines, Project Oceanology will evaluate proposals based on a combination of price and other disclosed factors. A committee will evaluate and score submissions based on the following weighted criteria:

Criterion	Weight
Technical approach / understanding of scope	25%
Relevant commercial marine experience	20%
Price / Cost Reasonableness	20%
Proposed schedule	15%
Warranty, service and parts support	10%
References / demonstrated past performance	10%
Total	**100%**

5. Federal Compliance & Contracting Requirements

Because this project is funded through NOAA, the successful bidder must comply with all applicable federal regulations, including:

1. **Debarment and Suspension:** The contractor must not be listed on the government-wide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). Project Oceanology will conduct a SAM exclusion check prior to contract award.
2. **2 CFR Part 200 Appendix II:** The resulting contract will include all applicable federal contract clauses required by 2 CFR §200.327, including provisions regarding termination for cause and for convenience, Equal Employment Opportunity, and compliance with the Clean Air Act and Federal Water Pollution Control Act.
3. **Right to Reject:** Project Oceanology reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any informalities or irregularities in proposals received, and to cancel this solicitation at any time if it is in the best interest of the organization to do so.

6. Submission Instructions & Site Visit

Pre-Proposal Site Visit:

To ensure accurate pricing and a clear understanding of the machinery space, contractors are strongly encouraged to attend a scheduled vessel inspection. Please contact Project Oceanology to arrange a visit between October 26 and November 25, 2026.

- **Submission Deadline:** 5:00 PM EST on November 30, 2026.
- **Submit Via Email To:** J. Andrew Ely, Executive Director – aely@oceanology.org
- **OR Submit Via Mail To:** Project Oceanology, 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340