Official Tender Clarification no.1

Procurement: Supplying Tier 2 Oil Spill Response Equipment for Solomon Islands

This document is the Official Tender Clarification Notice No. 1 containing response to questions from potential bidders and SIMA's responses.

All clarifications in this document form part of the tender documents and are binding on all bidders.

A. Operational Requirements and Tier 2 Capability

Q1. Can SIMA provide further information on how it defines the required Tier 2 Oil Spill Response capability, including:

- Intended response scenarios and spill sizes;
- Operational objectives;
- Expected response capability and performance requirements; and
- Any relevant planning assumptions.

Response: the descriptive and response capabilities and performance requirements are contained in the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NATPLAN) that can be found at: https://www.sima.gov.sb/sima-solomon-islands-maritime-authority/.

Q2. Is the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NATPLAN) available to tenderers, or can additional information be provided regarding the intended operational use of the equipment?

Response: The NATPLAN can be found at: https://www.sima.gov.sb/sima-solomon-islands-maritime-authority/.

B. Alternative Equipment and Equivalent Solutions

Q3. Will SIMA accept equipment from alternative manufacturers provided the proposed equipment meets or exceeds the required operational performance?

Response: SIMA will accept any equipment meeting or exceeding the required operational performance. The evaluation will assess the value for money of the technical and financial proposals.

Q4. May bidders propose technically equivalent, improved, or alternative solutions where manufacturer-specific products or model references are listed in the equipment schedule?

Response: SIMA will accept any technically equivalent, improved, or alternative solutions meeting or exceeding the required operational performance. The evaluation will assess the value for money of the technical and financial proposals.

Q5. Will SIMA consider alternative system configurations where the proposed arrangement provides equivalent operational capability and value for money?

Response: SIMA will accept any alternative system configurations meeting or exceeding the required operational performance. The evaluation will assess the value for money of the technical and financial proposals.

C. Containment Boom Specifications

Q6. Can SIMA provide detailed technical specifications for the Pacific Sea Boom (100 m, Type 14/15 with ASTM connectors), including:

- Intended operating environment;
- Overall height;
- Freeboard and draft;
- Flotation type;
- Fabric/material requirements;
- Ballast configuration; and
- Any minimum performance criteria.

Response: It is for the bidder to consider the NATPLAN, the Solomon Islands operating environment, and the pollution risk in Solomon Islands waters when proposing suitable equipment. For context, Solomon Islands has a domestic fleet of approximately 150-200 vessels, generally up to 80 metres, and receives around 600-700 foreign vessel calls annually, about half of which are longliners, purse seiners and fish carriers. The largest vessels calling Solomon Islands waters are oil tankers and bulk carriers of about 180 metres. The operating environment can be understood from information available on the SIMA website. A key constraint is that all Tier 2 oil spill response equipment must fit within a transportable container so it can be deployed in Honiara and from Honiara to the provinces.

Q7. Is there a preferred boom design for the Pacific Sea Boom, such as:

- Inflatable boom;
- Foam-filled boom;
- Fence boom;
- Curtain boom; or
- Other configuration?

Response: It is for the bidder to consider the NATPLAN, the Solomon Islands operating environment, and the pollution risk in Solomon Islands waters when proposing suitable equipment.

Q8. Can SIMA provide detailed technical specifications for the DW600B Boom (20 m sections), including:

- Overall dimensions;
- Freeboard and draft;
- Material and weight;
- Flotation construction;
- Ballast arrangement; and
- Connector type.

Response: It is for the bidder to consider the NATPLAN, the Solomon Islands operating environment, and the pollution risk in Solomon Islands waters when proposing suitable equipment.

Q9. Can SIMA provide detailed technical specifications for the Beach Boom (20 m sections), including:

- Overall dimensions;
- Freeboard and draft;
- Water and air ballast configuration;
- Material requirements;
- Connector type;
- Intended shoreline conditions; and
- Performance requirements.

Response: It is for the bidder to consider the NATPLAN, the Solomon Islands operating environment, and the pollution risk in Solomon Islands waters when proposing suitable equipment.

Q10. If detailed specifications are unavailable, can SIMA provide information regarding:

- Expected deployment locations (harbour, port, sheltered waters, open waters, shoreline, etc.);
- Expected wave and current conditions;
- Deployment methods (vessel, shoreline, or both); and
- Types of oil products likely to be encountered.

Response: It is for the bidder to consider the NATPLAN, the Solomon Islands operating environment, and the pollution risk in Solomon Islands waters when proposing suitable equipment. For context, Solomon Islands has two international ports, Honiara and Noro, and a number of sufferance wharves serving bulk carriers involved in mining and logging activities. The domestic fleet comprises approximately 150-200 vessels, generally up to 80 metres, and Solomon Islands receives around 600-700 foreign vessel calls annually, about half of which are longliners, purse seiners and fish carriers. The largest vessels calling Solomon Islands waters are oil tankers and bulk carriers of about 180 metres. A key constraint is that all Tier 2 oil spill response equipment must fit within a transportable container so it can be deployed in Honiara and from Honiara to the provinces, including by domestic vessel and for shoreline deployment. Further information on the operating environment is available on the SIMA website.

Q11. For the Beach Boom system, is a shoreline transition boom with associated water pumping capability required?

Response: The ToR requires the supply of Beach Boom as listed in Appendix 3. A separate shoreline transition boom is not listed as an additional mandatory item. If a bidder considers that a shoreline transition boom or other ancillary equipment is necessary or beneficial for the proposed Beach Boom system to meet the required operational capability, this should be clearly identified in the technical proposal and priced in the financial proposal. Any such proposal will be considered as part of the assessment of technical suitability, operational effectiveness, and value for money.

D. Equipment Configuration and Compatibility

Q12. Can SIMA clarify the purpose and required specifications of the hose floats, including which recovery system or hose arrangement they are intended to support?

Q13. Can SIMA clarify the intended use and required specifications of the Tuff Tubs, including preferred capacity, dimensions and material?

Q14. Can SIMA provide further details or product references for the Cobrac Coil Absorbents specified in the equipment schedule?

Q15. Can SIMA clarify the item described as "Matics" and confirm whether this is a separate item from the listed mattocks?

Response to Q12–Q15: The items listed in Appendix 3 are intended to support a practical, containerised Tier 2 first-response oil spill response package for Solomon Islands, including containment, recovery, transfer, temporary storage, shoreline clean-up, absorbent use, and deployment support. Bidders are expected, as specialist suppliers, to propose equipment specifications, capacities, dimensions, materials and configurations that are suitable for the intended operational purpose, the NATPLAN, the Solomon Islands operating environment, and the requirement for the full package to be stored and transported in a suitable container. SIMA does not intend to prescribe more detailed specifications for these ancillary items through this clarification. Any proposed equivalent, improved or alternative item should be clearly described in the technical proposal, including its intended use, compatibility with the proposed response system, and any operational advantages. The proposal will be assessed for technical suitability, operational effectiveness, containerised deployment practicality, and value for money.

Q16. Can SIMA clarify the intended application and minimum contents of the Sampling Kits, including:

- Oil sampling requirements;
- Water sampling requirements;
- Soil/sediment sampling requirements;
- Sample container specifications; and
- Chain-of-custody or labelling requirements.

Response: The primary purpose of the sampling kits is to support oil sampling for analysis, evidence collection and, where required, investigation or prosecution. Water sampling is also relevant to monitor potential impacts on water quality and to inform response decisions affecting fisheries, coastal communities and public safety. Soil or sediment sampling may be included where appropriate, but it is not the primary purpose of the sampling kits under the ToR. SIMA does not intend to prescribe detailed specifications through this clarification, as bidders are expected to propose suitable sampling kits consistent with recognised oil spill response practice. The proposed kits should be clearly described in the technical proposal and will be assessed for suitability, practicality and value for money.

E. Skimmers and Sorbents

Q17. Where manufacturer-specific equipment is listed (e.g. skimmers), may bidders propose alternative equipment with equivalent or superior recovery performance?

Response: Bidders may propose alternative skimmers or equivalent recovery equipment where the proposed equipment meets or exceeds the required operational performance and is suitable for the intended Tier 2 first-response capability. Any proposed alternative should be clearly described in the technical proposal, including its specifications, recovery performance, compatibility with the overall response package and operational advantages. The evaluation will assess technical suitability, operational effectiveness, containerised deployment practicality and value for money.

Q18. May bidders propose alternative absorbent materials where they can demonstrate equivalent or improved effectiveness compared to those specified?

Response: Bidders may propose alternative absorbent materials where they can demonstrate equivalent or improved effectiveness for the intended oil spill response purpose. Any proposed alternative should be clearly identified in the technical and financial proposals, including the type, quantity, intended use, performance characteristics and any operational advantages. The evaluation will consider suitability, practicality, compatibility with the proposed response package and value for money.

F. Trailers, Reels and Power Packs

Q19. Do the tendered boom reels need to be supplied on a one-reel-per-boom basis, or will alternative reel configurations be considered where operational capability is maintained?

Response: Bidders may propose reel configurations that are suitable for the intended Tier 2 first-response capability and the Solomon Islands operating environment described in the above responses. SIMA does not intend to prescribe a one-reel-per-boom arrangement through this clarification. Any proposed configuration should be clearly described in the technical proposal, including how it supports safe storage, rapid deployment, operational practicality and compatibility with the overall response package. The evaluation will consider technical suitability, operational effectiveness, containerised deployment practicality and value for money.

Q20. Can SIMA confirm the intended arrangement of hydraulic power packs and boom reels, including whether one power pack may service multiple reels?

Response: Bidders are expected, as specialist suppliers, to propose a suitable arrangement for hydraulic power packs and boom reels based on the equipment offered, the intended operational purpose and the Solomon Islands operating environment. SIMA does not intend to prescribe whether one power pack must service one reel or multiple reels, provided the proposed arrangement achieves the required operational capability. The proposed arrangement should be clearly explained in the technical proposal and will be assessed for suitability, practicality, reliability and value for money.

Q21. Can SIMA clarify the intended use of the road trailers, including:

- Equipment to be transported;
- Preferred dimensions or capacities; and

- Responsibilities relating to local registration and permits?

Response: Bidders should propose road trailers that are suitable for transporting the relevant equipment within the proposed containerised Tier 2 response package and for the Solomon Islands operating environment. SIMA does not intend to prescribe detailed trailer dimensions or capacities through this clarification. The proposed trailer configuration should be clearly described in the technical proposal, including the equipment to be transported, load capacity, operational use and any assumptions relating to local transport requirements. The evaluation will consider technical suitability, operational practicality, compatibility with the overall response package and value for money.

G. Training and Familiarisation

Q22. Can SIMA confirm the training and familiarisation requirements, including:

- Number of participants;
- Duration;
- Required training outcomes; and
- Whether training must be conducted in person or if online components are acceptable?

Response: SIMA does not intend to design the training and familiarisation programme for bidders. Bidders are expected, as specialist suppliers, to propose the most suitable familiarisation, deployment readiness and basic care arrangements for the equipment offered, including proposed participants, duration, method of delivery and expected outcomes. SIMA personnel are not specialist oil spill responders, but have received some level of awareness and demonstration under the IMO model course framework. Proposals that include practical in-person components, particularly for equipment deployment, packing, basic maintenance and safe use, will be given positive consideration. The proposed arrangements will be assessed for suitability, practicality, effectiveness and value for money.

H. Delivery, Freight and Import Requirements

Q23. Can SIMA clarify the required delivery basis and contractual delivery point, including:

- Incoterm requirements;
- Responsibility for international freight;
- Marine/transit insurance;
- Customs clearance;
- Import duties and taxes; and
- Final delivery within Honiara.

Response: Bidders must submit proposals on an all-inclusive basis covering the supply of the equipment, packing and containerisation, international freight, marine or transit insurance, customs clearance, import duties, all applicable taxes and final delivery to the location designated by SIMA in Honiara. The financial proposal must therefore include all costs up to final delivery in Honiara. Any assumptions on delivery arrangements should be clearly stated in the technical and financial proposals.

Q24. For overseas suppliers, is a local agent, representative or distributor required?

Response: A local agent, representative or distributor is not required under the ToR. However, bidders may include details of any local support arrangements, if available, as part of their proposal.

I. Scope of Proposals

Q25. Will SIMA consider non-conforming or supplementary proposals that provide additional response capability, operational support services or alternative delivery models beyond the equipment procurement requirements?

Response: SIMA may consider supplementary proposals that provide additional response capability, operational support services or alternative delivery models beyond the equipment procurement requirements. Any such proposal will be assessed against the ToR and compared with other proposals on the basis of technical suitability, operational effectiveness, practicality and value for money. However, if a proposal is non-conforming because it does not include all equipment required under the ToR, it may not meet the minimum requirements and will be evaluated accordingly.