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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
ATLANTIC, OUTERMOST REGIONS AND ARCTIC

Brussels, 17.07.2009 D 08462
MARE/C1/ZB D (2009)

Ms Lynne RILEY
Contracts Manager
National Environment Research
Council (British Geological Survey)
Kingsley Dunham Centre
Keyworth
Nottingham
NG12 5GG
England

Subject: Open call for tenders MARE/2008/03 "Preparatory Action for European Marine Observation and Data Network- Lot 2- Geology"

Ref.: Information letter D (2009) 5998 of 26 May 2009

Dear Ms Riley,

Please find enclosed a copy of the service contract MARE/2008/03- Lot 2 (SI2.531501) duly signed by the Commission's authorised representative.

Yours sincerely,

Reinhard PRIEBE
Director

Enclosures: 1 signed copy of the service contract SI2.531501

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11.
Office: J-79 02/17.

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SERVICE CONTRACT No MARE/2008/03

Preparatory Actions for European Marine Observation and Data Network

Lot No 2 – "Geological data" - SI2.531501

The European Community (hereinafter referred to as "the Community"), represented by the Commission of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission"), which is represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by Mr Reinhard PRIEBE, Director of Directorate C, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

of the one part,

and

Natural Environment Research Council
(British Geological Survey)
Kingsley Dunham Centre
Keyworth
Nottingham
NG12 5GG
England

Registration Number RC000740

VAT Number GB 618 3673 25

In consortium with

Geological Survey of Finland, Geological Survey of Sweden, Geological Survey of Norway, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, Geological Survey of Estonia, Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency, Lithuanian Institute of Geology and Geography, Polish Geological Institute, Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Germany, Deltares, Netherlands, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Minieres, France and Geological Survey of Ireland.

The parties identified above and hereinafter collectively referred to as 'the Contractor' shall be jointly and severally liable vis-à-vis the Commission for the performance of this contract. They are represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by Ms. Lynne Riley, Contracts Manager National Environment Research Council (British Geological Survey)

of the other part,

HAVE AGREED

**the Special Conditions and the General Conditions below
and the following Annexes**

- Annex I** Tender Specifications MARE/2008/03
(Invitation to Tender, Brussels, 01.07.2008 MARE/C1 IS D (2008)
07686 -OJ S, ref. 2008 S 124-165133)
- Annex II** Contractor's Tender of 6 October 2008

which form an integral part of this contract (hereinafter referred to as “the Contract”).

The terms set out in the Special Conditions shall take precedence over those in the other parts of the Contract. The terms set out in the General Conditions shall take precedence over those in the Annexes. The terms set out in the Tender Specifications (Annex I) shall take precedence over those in the Tender (Annex II).

Subject to the above, the several instruments forming part of the Contract are to be taken as mutually explanatory. Ambiguities or discrepancies within or between such parts shall be explained or rectified by a written instruction issued by the Commission, subject to the rights of the Contractor under Article I.7 should they dispute any such instruction.

I – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE I.1 - SUBJECT

- I.1.1.** The subject of the Contract is a preparatory action for the European Marine Observation and Data Network – Lot No 2- Geology
- I.1.2.** The Contractor shall execute the tasks assigned to them in accordance with the Tender Specifications annexed to the Contract (Annex I).

ARTICLE I.2 - DURATION

- I.2.1.** The Contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last contracting party.
- I.2.2.** Execution of the tasks may under no circumstances begin before the date on which the Contract enters into force.
- I.2.3.** The duration of the tasks shall not exceed 36 months. This period and all other periods specified in the Contract are calculated in calendar days. Execution of the tasks shall start from the date of entry into force of the Contract. The period of execution of the tasks may be extended only with the express written agreement of the parties before such period elapses.

The Commission is not obliged to react to any request for extension of the duration of the tasks received less than two months before expiry of the period of execution or with less than one third of the period of execution left to run, whichever period is the shorter.

ARTICLE I.3 – CONTRACT PRICE

- I.3.1.** The total amount to be paid by the Commission under the Contract shall be:
- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| development | seven hundred and fifty thousand euro (€750,000) covering all tasks executed. |
| maintenance | one hundred and seventy five thousand euro (€175,000) covering all tasks executed. |

ARTICLE I.4 – PAYMENT PERIODS AND FORMALITIES

Payments under the Contract shall be made in accordance with Article II.4. Payments shall be executed only if the Contractor has fulfilled all his contractual obligations by the date on which the invoice is submitted.

I.4.1. Pre-financing:

Following signature of the Contract by the last contracting party, within 30 days of

- the receipt by the Commission of a request for pre-financing with a relevant invoice

- the receipt by the Commission of a duly constituted financial guarantee equal to at least two hundred and twenty five thousand euro (€225,000)

a pre-financing payment of two hundred and twenty five thousand euro (€225,000) equal to 30% of the total amount to be paid for the development referred to in Article I.3.1 may be made.

I.4.2 Interim payments:

As indicated in Annex I, there will be two interim reports delivered in this contract. Each report constitutes a milestone for an interim payment,

Requests for interim payments by the Contractor shall be admissible if accompanied by:

1. the interim technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I
2. the relevant invoices

provided the report has been approved by the Commission.

The Commission shall have forty-five days from receipt to approve or reject each interim report, and the Contractor shall have twenty days in which to submit additional information or a new report.

Within thirty days of the date on which each report is approved by the Commission, interim payments corresponding to one hundred and fifty thousand euro (€150,000) equal to 20 % of the total amount to be paid for development referred to in Article I.3.1 shall be made.

The total payment for these two interim reports will be three hundred thousand euro (€300,000) equal to 40 % of the total amount to be paid for development referred to in Article I.3.1

I.4.3. Payment of the balance:

The request for payment of the balance of the Contractor shall be admissible if accompanied by

- the final technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I
- the relevant invoices

provided the report has been approved by the Commission.

The Commission shall have forty-five days from receipt to approve or reject the report, and the Contractor shall have twenty days in which to submit additional information or a new report.

Within thirty days of the date on which the report is approved by the Commission, payment of the balance corresponding to two hundred and twenty five thousand euro (€225,000) equal to 30% of the total amount to be paid for development referred to in Article I.3.1 shall be made.

Within thirty days of the date on which the report is approved by the Commission, payment of the balance corresponding to one hundred and seventy five thousand euro (€175,000) equal to 100% of the total amount to be paid for maintenance referred to in Article I.3.1 shall be made.

ARTICLE I.5 – BANK ACCOUNT

Payments shall be made to the Contractor's bank account denominated in euro, identified as follows:

Name of bank	Lloyds TSB Bank PLC
Address of branch in full	Swindon High Street Business Centre 5 High Street Old Town Swindon UK
Exact designation of account holder	Natural Environment Research Council
Full account number including codes	Sort code 30-98-41 Account Number 86311362
IBAN ¹ code	GB68 LOYD 3098 4186 3113 62

ARTICLE I.6 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Any communication relating to the Contract shall be made in writing and shall bear the Contract number. Ordinary mail shall be deemed to have been received by the Commission on the date on which it is registered by the department responsible indicated below. Communications shall be sent to the following addresses:

Commission:

Technical and financial matters

European Commission
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Directorate Atlantic, Arctic and Outermost Regions
Attn Mr. Eddy Hartog, Head of Unit C1 - Maritime Policy
J79 02/26
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

¹ BIC or SWIFT code for countries with no IBAN code.

Invoices

European Commission
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Attn Mr. Mark Johnston, Head of Financial Unit
J99 05/07
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Contractor:

Mr. Alan Stevenson
Team Leader, Marine Geological Mapping,
British Geological survey,
Murchison House
West Mains Road
Edinburgh,
EH9 3LA
UK

ARTICLE I.7- APPLICABLE LAW AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

- I.7.1.** The Contract shall be governed by Community law, complemented, where necessary, by the national substantive law of the kingdom of Belgium.
- I.7.2.** Any dispute between the parties resulting from the interpretation or application of the Contract which cannot be settled amicably shall be brought before the courts of Brussels.

ARTICLE I.8 – DATA PROTECTION

Any personal data included in the Contract shall be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. It shall be processed solely for the purposes of the performance, management and follow-up of the Contract by Unit MARE/C1 without prejudice to possible transmission to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel and/or to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interests of the Community. The Contractor shall have the right of access to his personal data and the right to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. Should the Contractor have any queries concerning the processing of his personal data, he shall address them to Unit MARE/C1. The Contractor shall have right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

ARTICLE I.9 – TERMINATION BY EITHER CONTRACTING PARTY

Either contracting party may, of its own volition and without being required to pay compensation, terminate the Contract by serving three months formal prior notice. Should the Commission terminate the Contract, the Contractor shall only be entitled

to payment corresponding to part-performance of the Contract. On receipt of the letter terminating the Contract, the Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to minimise costs, prevent damage, and cancel or reduce his commitments. He shall draw up the documents required by the Special Conditions for the tasks executed up to the date on which termination takes effect, within a period not exceeding sixty days from that date.

ARTICLE I.9a – CONTRACT CONCLUDED DURING STANDSTILL PERIOD

In case this Contract was signed by both the Commission and the Contractor before the expiry of 14 calendar days from the day after simultaneous dispatch of information about the award decisions and decisions to reject, this Contract shall be null and void.

ARTICLE I.10 – OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS –INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Pursuant to Article II.8 of the General Conditions and as regards the results or rights obtained in performance of the contract, the Contractor undertakes to obtain written consent from the Commission prior to:

- filing a trademark, patent or design application in relation with any of the results or rights obtained in performance of the contract in his own name or that of a third party claiming a copyright over the results or rights obtained in performance of the contract in his own name or of that of a third party.
- allowing a third party to do such filings or claims

Failure to obtain permission from the Commission will entitle the Commission to seek damages against the Contractor and will not prevent the Commission from protecting the rights assigned under the contract.

The Contractor declares that it is the rightful owner of the intellectual property rights to all products and/or their components delivered under this contract, and that it is entitled to assign or licence those rights in accordance with the terms of this contract. If those intellectual property rights are the property of third Parties, the Contractor guarantees that it has requested and obtained those third Parties' written authorisation to grant to the Commission the assignment or licence of their intellectual property rights to the extent as provided under this contract.

The Contractor shall be solely responsible for taking the necessary steps, under the laws and regulations in force at the place where the tasks assigned to the Contractor are to be performed, to ensure the opposability to third Parties of the assignments or licences granted to the Commission by the Contractor or by such third Parties.

The Contractor guarantees that none of the Products, Documentation or other protected material delivered, whether or not developed in execution of this contract, infringes any third party's Intellectual property rights.

Each party shall inform the other party of the existence or threat of any third party's action or claim alleging an infringement of its Intellectual property rights by the Commission's use of any Products, Documentation or other protected material

delivered under this contract, provided such use is made in conformity with the terms of this contract.

In the event of such a dispute or threat thereof, the Contractor undertakes to conduct all litigation, arbitration or negotiations for settlement, in its own name as well as in the Commission's name, at its own and sole expense.

The Commission agrees to provide the Contractor with all information and assistance that may reasonably be required, at the Contractor's own and sole expense.

However, the Commission reserves the right to decide to conduct its own defence or to negotiate its own settlement, at its own discretion. The Contractor will be responsible for any payment arising out of any settlement or judgement following such a dispute or threat, except for the payment of a settlement made by the Commission without the Contractor's written consent. Such consent may not be withheld without reasonable grounds.

If the infringement of a third party's Intellectual property right on a Product and its Documentation is declared in a judgement, arbitration sentence or party settlement, or if such is likely to happen, the Contractor agrees to (1) either procure for the Commission the right to continue using the Product and its Documentation, (2) either replace them with substantially equivalent non-infringing Products, or, if none of the foregoing is available, (3) grant to the Commission a credit in the amount corresponding to the purchase price of the proportion of the Product which can no longer be used.

The Contractor will not be responsible under the present guarantee for any third party claiming an infringement of its Intellectual property rights based on (1) the Commission's use of Products in combination with equipment not delivered by the Contractor, if such combined use is the cause of the claimed infringement, or (2) the Commission's use of any Product and Documentation delivered hereunder in a form other than the one delivered by the Contractor, if such change in form is the cause of the claimed infringement. 2.3.7. The guarantee against third party claims is due by the Contractor until five (5) years following the end of the contract, or until five (5) years following the last use by the Commission of the Product and its Documentation delivered by the Contractor, whichever period ends last.

II – GENERAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE II.1 – PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT

- II.1.1.** The Contractor shall perform the Contract to the highest professional standards. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on him, notably those resulting from employment, tax and social legislation.
- II.1.2.** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for taking the necessary steps to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract under the laws and regulations in force at the place where the tasks assigned to him are to be executed. The costs incurred in obtaining such permits or licences shall be included under the total financial offer made by the Contractor to perform the contract.
- II.1.3.** Without prejudice to Article II.3 any reference made to the Contractor's staff in the Contract shall relate exclusively to individuals involved in the performance of the Contract.
- II.1.4.** The Contractor must ensure that any staff performing the Contract have the professional qualifications and experience required for the execution of the tasks assigned to him.
- II.1.5.** The Contractor shall neither represent the Commission nor behave in any way that would give such an impression. The Contractor shall inform third parties that he does not belong to the European public service.
- II.1.6.** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for the staff who execute the tasks assigned to him.

The Contractor shall make provision for the following employment or service relationships with his staff:

- staff executing the tasks assigned to the Contractor may not be given orders direct by the Commission;
 - the Commission may not under any circumstances be considered to be the staff's employer and the said staff shall undertake not to invoke in respect of the Commission any right arising from the contractual relationship between the Commission and the Contractor.
- II.1.7.** In the event of disruption resulting from the action of a member of the Contractor's staff working on Commission premises or in the event of the expertise of a member of the Contractor's staff failing to correspond to the profile required by the Contract, the Contractor shall replace him without delay. The Commission shall have the right to request the replacement of any such member of staff, stating its reasons for so doing. Replacement staff must have the necessary qualifications and be capable of performing the Contract under the same contractual conditions. The Contractor shall be responsible for any delay in the execution of the tasks assigned to him resulting from the replacement of staff in accordance with this Article.

- II.1.8.** Should any unforeseen event, action or omission directly or indirectly hamper execution of the tasks, either partially or totally, the Contractor shall immediately and on his own initiative record it and report it to the Commission. The report shall include a description of the problem and an indication of the date on which it started and of the remedial action taken by the Contractor to ensure full compliance with his obligations under the Contract. In such event the Contractor shall give priority to solving the problem rather than determining liability.
- II.1.9.** Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract in accordance with the provisions laid down therein, the Commission may - without prejudice to its right to terminate the Contract - reduce or recover payments in proportion to the scale of the failure. In addition, the Commission may impose penalties or liquidated damages provided for in Article II.16.

ARTICLE II.2 – LIABILITY

- II.2.1.** The Commission shall not be liable for damage sustained by the Contractor in performance of the Contract except in the event of wilful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the Commission.
- II.2.2.** The Contractor shall be liable for any loss or damage caused by himself in performance of the Contract, including in the event of subcontracting under Article II.13. The Commission shall not be liable for any act or default on the part of the Contractor in performance of the Contract.
- II.2.3.** The Contractor shall provide compensation in the event of any action, claim or proceeding brought against the Commission by a third party as a result of damage caused by the Contractor in performance of the Contract.
- II.2.4.** In the event of any action brought by a third party against the Commission in connection with performance of the Contract, the Contractor shall assist the Commission. Expenditure incurred by the Contractor to this end may be borne by the Commission.
- II.2.5.** The Contractor shall take out insurance against risks and damage relating to performance of the Contract if required by the relevant applicable legislation. He shall take out supplementary insurance as reasonably required by standard practice in the industry. A copy of all the relevant insurance contracts shall be sent to the Commission should it so request. The cost of such insurance shall be included in the financial offer made by the contractor to perform the Contract.

ARTICLE II.3 - CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- II.3.1.** The Contractor shall take all necessary measures to prevent any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the Contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest. Any conflict of interests which could

arise during performance of the Contract must be notified to the Commission in writing without delay. In the event of such conflict, the Contractor shall immediately take all necessary steps to resolve it.

The Commission reserves the right to verify that such measures are adequate and may require additional measures to be taken, if necessary, within a time limit which it shall set. The Contractor shall ensure that his staff, board and directors are not placed in a situation which could give rise to conflict of interests. Without prejudice to Article II.1 the Contractor shall replace, immediately and without compensation from the Commission, any member of his staff exposed to such a situation.

II.3.2. The Contractor shall abstain from any contact likely to compromise his independence.

II.3.3. The Contractor declares:

- that he has not made and will not make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an advantage can be derived under the Contract,
- that he has not granted and will not grant, has not sought and will not seek, has not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and will not accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, where such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either directly or indirectly, inasmuch as it is an incentive or reward relating to performance of the Contract.

II.3.4. The Contractor shall pass on all the relevant obligations in writing to his staff, board, and directors as well as to third parties involved in performance of the Contract. A copy of the instructions given and the undertakings made in this respect shall be sent to the Commission should it so request.

ARTICLE II.4 – PAYMENTS

II.4.1. Pre-financing:

Where required by Article I.4.1, the Contractor shall provide a financial guarantee in the form of a bank guarantee or equivalent supplied by a bank or an authorised financial institution (guarantor) equal to the amount indicated in the same Article to cover pre-financing under the Contract. Such guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party.

The guarantor shall pay to the Commission at its request an amount corresponding to payments made by it to the Contractor which have not yet been covered by equivalent work on his part.

The guarantor shall stand as first-call guarantor and shall not require the Commission to have recourse against the principal debtor (the Contractor).

The guarantee shall specify that it enters into force at the latest on the date on which the Contractor receives the pre-financing. The Commission shall release the guarantor from its obligations as soon as the Contractor has demonstrated that any pre-financing has been covered by equivalent work. The guarantee shall be retained until the pre-financing has been deducted from interim payments or

payment of the balance to the Contractor. It shall be released the following month. The cost of providing such guarantee shall be borne by the Contractor.

II.4.2. Interim payment:

At the end of each of the periods indicated in Annex I the Contractor shall submit to the Commission a formal request for payment accompanied by those of the following documents which are provided for in the Special Conditions:

- an interim technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I;
- the relevant invoices indicating the reference number of the Contract to which they refer;
- statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.7.

If the report is a condition for payment, on receipt the Commission shall have the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or
- to reject it and request a new report.

If the Commission does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report does not imply recognition either of its regularity or of the authenticity, completeness or correctness of the declarations or information enclosed.

Where the Commission requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

II.4.3. Payment of the balance:

Within sixty days of completion of the tasks referred to in Annex I the Contractor shall submit to the Commission a formal request for payment accompanied by those of the following documents which are provided for in the Special Conditions:

- a final technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I;
- the relevant invoices indicating the reference number of the Contract to which they refer;
- statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.7.

If the report is a condition for payment, on receipt the Commission shall have the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or

- to reject it and request a new report.

If the Commission does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report does not imply recognition either of its regularity or of the authenticity, completeness or correctness of the declarations and information enclosed.

Where the Commission requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

ARTICLE II.5 – GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING PAYMENTS

II.5.1. Payments shall be deemed to have been made on the date on which the Commission's account is debited.

II.5.2. The payment periods referred to in Article I.4 may be suspended by the Commission at any time if it informs the Contractor that his payment request is not admissible, either because the amount is not due or because the necessary supporting documents have not been properly produced. In case of doubt on the eligibility of the expenditure indicated in the payment request, the Commission may suspend the time limit for payment for the purpose of further verification, including an on-the-spot check, in order to ascertain, prior to payment, that the expenditure is eligible.

The Commission shall notify the Contractor accordingly and set out the reasons for the suspension by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent. Suspension shall take effect from the date of dispatch of the letter. The remainder of the period referred to in Article I.4 shall begin to run again once the suspension has been lifted.

II.5.3. In the event of late payment the Contractor shall be entitled to interest, provided the calculated interest exceeds EUR 200. In case interest does not exceed EUR 200, the Contractor may claim interest within two months of receiving the payment. Interest shall be calculated at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its most recent main refinancing operations ("*the reference rate*") plus seven percentage points ("*the margin*"). The reference rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment is due shall apply. Such interest rate is published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union. Interest shall be payable for the period elapsing from the calendar day following expiry of the time limit for payment up to the day of payment. Suspension of payment by the Commission may not be deemed to constitute late payment.

ARTICLE II.6 – RECOVERY

II.6.1. If total payments made exceed the amount actually due under the Contract or if recovery is justified in accordance with the terms of the Contract, the Contractor shall reimburse the appropriate amount in euro on receipt of the debit note, in the manner and within the time limits set by the Commission.

II.6.2. In the event of failure to pay by the deadline specified in the request for reimbursement, the sum due shall bear interest at the rate indicated in Article II.5.3. Interest shall be payable from the calendar day following the due date up to the calendar day on which the debt is repaid in full.

II.6.3. The Commission may, after informing the Contractor, recover amounts established as certain, of a fixed amount and due by offsetting, in cases where the Contractor also has a claim on the Communities that is certain, of a fixed amount and due. The Commission may also claim against the guarantee, where provided for.

ARTICLE II.7 - REIMBURSEMENTS

II.7.1. Where provided by the Special Conditions or by Annex I, the Commission shall reimburse the expenses which are directly connected with execution of the tasks on production of original supporting documents, including receipts and used tickets.

II.7.2. Travel and subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed, where appropriate, on the basis of the shortest itinerary.

II.7.3. Travel expenses shall be reimbursed as follows:

- a) travel by air shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of an economy class ticket at the time of the reservation;
- b) travel by boat or rail shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of a first class ticket;
- c) travel by car shall be reimbursed at the rate of one first class rail ticket for the same journey and on the same day;
- d) travel outside Community territory shall be reimbursed under the general conditions stated above provided the Commission has given its prior written agreement.

II.7.4. Subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of a daily allowance as follows:

- a) for journeys of less than 200 km (return trip) no subsistence allowance shall be payable;
- b) daily subsistence allowance shall be payable only on receipt of a supporting document proving that the person concerned was present at the place of destination;
- c) daily subsistence allowance shall take the form of a flat-rate payment to cover all subsistence expenses, including accommodation, meals, local transport, insurance and sundries;
- d) daily subsistence allowance, where applicable, shall be reimbursed at the rate specified in Article I.3.3.

II.7.5. The cost of shipment of equipment or unaccompanied luggage shall be reimbursed provided the Commission has given prior written authorisation.

ARTICLE II.8 – OWNERSHIP OF THE RESULTS - INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Any results or rights thereon, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, obtained in performance of the Contract, shall be owned solely by the Community, which may use, publish, assign or transfer them as it sees fit, without geographical or other limitation, except where industrial or intellectual property rights exist prior to the Contract being entered into.

ARTICLE II.9 – CONFIDENTIALITY

II.9.1. The Contractor undertakes to treat in the strictest confidence and not make use of or divulge to third parties any information or documents which are linked to performance of the Contract. The Contractor shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after completion of the tasks.

II.9.2. The Contractor shall obtain from each member of his staff, board and directors an undertaking that they will respect the confidentiality of any information which is linked, directly or indirectly, to execution of the tasks and that they will not divulge to third parties or use for their own benefit or that of any third party any document or information not available publicly, even after completion of the tasks.

ARTICLE II.10 - USE, DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

II.10.1. The Contractor shall authorise the Commission to process, use, distribute and publish, for whatever purpose, by whatever means and on whatever medium, any data contained in or relating to the Contract, in particular the identity of the Contractor, the subject matter, the duration, the amount paid and the reports. Where personal data is concerned, Article I.8 shall apply.

II.10.2. Unless otherwise provided by the Special Conditions, the Commission shall not be required to distribute or publish documents or information supplied in performance of the Contract. If it decides not to publish the documents or information supplied, the Contractor may not have them distributed or published elsewhere without prior written authorisation from the Commission.

II.10.3. Any distribution or publication of information relating to the Contract by the Contractor shall require prior written authorisation from the Commission and shall mention the amount paid by the Community. It shall state that the opinions expressed are those of the Contractor only and do not represent the Commission's official position.

II.10.4. The use of information obtained by the Contractor in the course of the Contract for purposes other than its performance shall be forbidden, unless the Commission has specifically given prior written authorisation to the contrary.

ARTICLE II. 11 – TAXATION

- II.11.1.** The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for compliance with the tax laws which apply to him. Failure to comply shall make the relevant invoices invalid.
- II.11.2.** The Contractor recognises that the Commission is, as a rule, exempt from all taxes and duties, including value added tax (VAT), pursuant to the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.
- II.11.3.** The Contractor shall accordingly complete the necessary formalities with the relevant authorities to ensure that the goods and services required for performance of the Contract are exempt from taxes and duties, including VAT.
- II.11.4.** Invoices presented by the Contractor shall indicate his place of taxation for VAT purposes and shall specify separately the amounts not including VAT and the amounts including VAT.

ARTICLE II.12 – FORCE MAJEURE

- II.12.1.** Force majeure shall mean any unforeseeable and exceptional situation or event beyond the control of the contracting parties which prevents either of them from performing any of their obligations under the Contract, was not due to error or negligence on their part or on the part of a subcontractor, and could not have been avoided by the exercise of due diligence. Defects in equipment or material or delays in making it available, labour disputes, strikes or financial problems cannot be invoked as force majeure unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure.
- II.12.2.** Without prejudice to the provisions of Article II.1.8, if either contracting party is faced with force majeure, it shall notify the other party without delay by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.
- II.12.3.** Neither contracting party shall be held in breach of its contractual obligations if it has been prevented from performing them by force majeure. Where the Contractor is unable to perform his contractual obligations owing to force majeure, he shall have the right to remuneration only for tasks actually executed.
- II.12.4.** The contracting parties shall take the necessary measures to reduce damage to a minimum.

ARTICLE II.13 – SUBCONTRACTING

- II.13.1.** The Contractor shall not subcontract without prior written authorisation from the Commission nor cause the Contract to be performed in fact by third parties.

II.13.2. Even where the Commission authorises the Contractor to subcontract to third parties, he shall none the less remain bound by his obligations to the Commission under the Contract and shall bear exclusive liability for proper performance of the Contract.

II.13.3. The Contractor shall make sure that the subcontract does not affect rights and guarantees to which the Commission is entitled by virtue of the Contract, notably Article II.17.

ARTICLE II.14 – ASSIGNMENT

II.14.1. The Contractor shall not assign the rights and obligations arising from the Contract, in whole or in part, without prior written authorisation from the Commission.

II.14.2. In the absence of the authorisation referred to in 1 above, or in the event of failure to observe the terms thereof, assignment by the Contractor shall not be enforceable against and shall have no effect on the Commission.

ARTICLE II.15 – TERMINATION BY THE COMMISSION

II.15.1. The Commission may terminate the Contract in the following circumstances:

- (a) where the Contractor is being wound up, is having his affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) where the Contractor has not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which he is established or with those of the country applicable to the Contract or those of the country where the Contract is to be performed;
- (c) where the Commission has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of professional misconduct;
- (d) where the Commission has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (e) where the Commission has evidence or seriously suspects the Contractor or any related entity or person, of substantial errors, irregularities or fraud in the award procedure or the performance of the Contract;
- (f) where the Contractor is in breach of his obligations under Article II.3;
- (g) where the Contractor was guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the Contract procedure or failed to supply this information;

- (h) where a change in the Contractor's legal, financial, technical or organisational situation could, in the Commission's opinion, have a significant effect on the performance of the Contract;
- (i) where execution of the tasks has not actually commenced within three months of the date foreseen, and the new date proposed, if any, is considered unacceptable by the Commission;
- (j) where the Contractor is unable, through his own fault, to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract;
- (k) where the Contractor, after receiving formal notice in writing to comply, specifying the nature of the alleged failure, and after being given the opportunity to remedy the failure within a reasonable period following receipt of the formal notice, remains in serious breach of his contractual obligations.

II.15.2. In case of force majeure, notified in accordance with Article II.12, either contracting party may terminate the Contract, where performance thereof cannot be ensured for a period corresponding to at least to one fifth of the period laid down in Article I.2.3.

II.15.3. Prior to termination under point c), d), e), h) or k), the Contractor shall be given the opportunity to submit his observations. Such observations shall be given within the period established in the formal notice sent by the Commission to the Contractor.

Termination shall take effect on the date on which a registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt terminating the Contract is received by the Contractor, or on any other date indicated in the letter of termination.

II.15.4. Consequences of termination:

In the event of the Commission terminating the Contract in accordance with this Article and without prejudice to any other measures provided for in the Contract, the Contractor shall waive any claim for consequential damages, including any loss of anticipated profits for uncompleted work. On receipt of the letter terminating the Contract, the Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to minimise costs, prevent damage, and cancel or reduce his commitments. He shall draw up the documents required by the Special Conditions for the tasks executed up to the date on which termination takes effect, within a period not exceeding sixty days from that date.

The Commission may claim compensation for any damage suffered and recover any sums paid to the Contractor under the Contract.

On termination the Commission may engage any other contractor to complete the services. The Commission shall be entitled to claim from the Contractor all extra costs incurred in making good and completing the services, without prejudice to any other rights or guarantees it has under the Contract.

ARTICLE II.18 – AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to the Contract shall be the subject of a written agreement concluded by the contracting parties. An oral agreement shall not be binding on the contracting parties.

ARTICLE II.19 – SUSPENSION OF THE CONTRACT

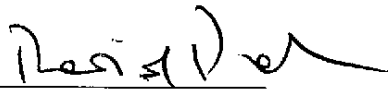
Without prejudice to the Commission's right to terminate the Contract, the Commission may at any time and for any reason suspend execution of the tasks under the Contract or any part thereof. Suspension shall take effect on the day the Contractor receives notification by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, or at a later date where the notification so provides. The Commission may at any time following suspension give notice to the Contractor to resume the work suspended. The Contractor shall not be entitled to claim compensation on account of suspension of the Contract or of part thereof.

SIGNATURES

For the Contractor,
Ms. Lynne Riley
Contracts Manager
Natural Environment Research Council

For the Commission,
Reinhard Priebe
Director DG MARE/C

signature[s]: 

signature: 

Done at NOTTINGHAM.

Done at Brussels, 16.7.2009

In duplicate in English.



**British
Geological Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

ARTICLE II.15A – SUBSTANTIAL ERRORS, IRREGULARITIES AND FRAUD ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CONTRACTOR

Where, after the award of the Contract, the award procedure or the performance of the Contract prove to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, and where such errors, irregularities or fraud are attributable to the Contractor, the Commission may refuse to make payments, may recover amounts already paid or may terminate all the contracts concluded with the Contractor, in proportion to the seriousness of the errors, irregularities or fraud.

ARTICLE II.16 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract within the time limits set by the Contract, then, without prejudice to the Contractor's actual or potential liability incurred in relation to the Contract or to the Commission's right to terminate the Contract, the Commission may decide to impose liquidated damages of 0.2% of the amount specified in Article I.3.1 per calendar day of delay. The Contractor may submit arguments against this decision within thirty days of notification by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or equivalent. In the absence of reaction on his part or of written withdrawal by the Commission within thirty days of the receipt of such arguments, the decision imposing the liquidated damages shall become enforceable. These liquidated damages shall not be imposed where there is provision for interest for late completion. The Commission and the Contractor expressly acknowledge and agree that any sums payable under this Article are in the nature of liquidated damages and not penalties, and represent a reasonable estimate of fair compensation for the losses that may be reasonably anticipated from such failure to perform obligations.

ARTICLE II.17 – CHECKS AND AUDITS

- II.17.1.** Pursuant to Article 142 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, the European Court of Auditors shall be empowered to audit the documents held by the natural or legal persons receiving payments from the budget of the European Communities from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.
- II.17.2.** The Commission or an outside body of its choice shall have the same rights as the European Court of Auditors for the purpose of checks and audits limited to compliance with contractual obligations from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.
- II.17.3.** In addition, the European Anti Fraud Office may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.