

30 August 2019

1. Quotations are invited for the provision of the services of an external expert on the HARMONY project, which is financed by the Interreg V-A Italia-Malta Programme.
2. The effective engagement period for the request external expert is the following: **15 October 2019 - 15 April 2020, for a maximum duration of six (6) months**. The external expert is expected to conduct the requested laboratory analyses and to deliver results in the form of a detailed report during this period.

### 3. Background

During July and August 2019, the HARMONY project team at the University of Malta, along with an engaged external expert (Dr Giulio Franzitta), sampled extensively within Maltese coastal waters to collect biotic samples within *Posidonia oceanica* meadows as well as from shallow, fine-sediment communities/assemblages, with the aim of characterising the baseline trophic web within these two communities. As per HARMONY project list of deliverables, the Stable Isotope signature of these samples needs to be assessed in order to characterise the trophic flows within *P. oceanica* meadows and also to assess the impact of NIS (Non-Indigenous Species), including the blue swimmer crab (*Portunus segnis*). During September 2019, the University of Malta will finalise the said field sampling campaign and will process them pursuant to converting them to pellet form to the selected bidder.

### 4. The expert's duties include the following:

- (i) Processing of the delivered pellet-form samples with the aim of characterising their Stable Isotope content;
- (ii) Compilation of a report containing salient results
- (iii) Assistance in the delivery of a co-authored (successful bidder will be invited to join in as a co-author on any emerging publications) open-access publication featuring the main results of this collaboration and fully acknowledging the HARMONY project.

### 5. The **mandatory** technical expertise, previous experience and hardware which must be held by prospective bidders is the following:

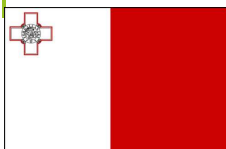
- Fully-equipped laboratory for the conduction of Stable Isotope Analysis on marine samples
- Proven track record in publishing on thematics linked to Stable Isotope Analysis.



#### Partner of Harmony

Physical Oceanography Research Group | Department of Geosciences | Faculty of Science  
Room 315, Chemistry Building, University of Malta, Msida, MSD2080, Malta  
Tel: +356 2340 2833 +356 2144 0972

[www.harmony-italiamalta.eu](http://www.harmony-italiamalta.eu)



INTERREG V-A Italy-Malta Programme  
Project part financed by the European Union  
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)  
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds



6. The actual number of samples to be analysed will not exceed 100 pellets.
  
7. Quotations should be sent over email to [tiziana.micallef@um.edu.mt](mailto:tiziana.micallef@um.edu.mt), must be furnished for the expert's hourly rate and **must be excluding of applicable VAT rates**. Deadline for receiving the requested quotations is **Friday 13 September 2019**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Payment by the University of Malta will be against the provision of VAT invoices and receipts by the engaged expert on a regular basis.

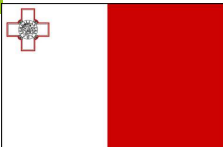
Prof. Alan Deidun



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