Call for Manifestations of interest
EMSO ERIC 2026-2028 Voluntary Certification

Invitation to submit expressions of interest for the voluntary audit of EMSO ERIC's financial statements

EMSO ERIC (European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and Water Column Observatory – European Research Infrastructure Consortium) is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure established by the European Commission in 2016. Its mission is to provide long-term, high-quality, multidisciplinary ocean observations in support of scientific research, environmental monitoring and evidence-based decision-making. EMSO ERIC operates through a network of 14 Regional Facilities across European seas, from the Northeast Atlantic to the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Hosted and operated by national research institutions and organisations, these facilities provide scientific expertise, technical personnel, observing platforms, equipment and other resources essential to EMSO ERIC's activities.

EMSO ERIC, with its registered office at Via di Vigna Murata 605, Rome, Italy, tax identification number 97908370584 and VAT number IT14062811006, in accordance with its Statutes, invites expressions of interest from international auditing firms for the provision of voluntary audit services in respect of its financial statements for the 2026–2028 financial years.

1. SCOPE OF SERVICES
The assignment concerns the voluntary certification of EMSO ERIC's financial statements for the financial years 2026, 2027 and 2028.

2. EXPECTED REMUNERATION
Considering the nature, complexity and volume of EMSO ERIC's activities, the envisaged all-inclusive annual fee shall not exceed EUR 8,000.00, net of VAT.

3. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Interested firms must meet the following requirements:

- Registration with the relevant Chamber of Commerce or other appropriate business register for activities consistent with the services covered by this Notice;
- Registration in the Register of Statutory Auditors maintained by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, pursuant to Article 2(1) of Legislative Decree No. 39/2010;
- Absence of grounds for exclusion under 2023 Public Contracts Code and Article 57 of Directive 2014/24/EU of 26 February 2014.
- Aggregate turnover of at least EUR 5,000,000 from audit engagements during the last three completed financial years (2023, 2024 and 2025);
- Aggregate turnover of at least EUR 1,000,000 from audit services provided to research consortia or national and/or international public bodies during the last three completed financial years (2023, 2024 and 2025);
- Completion of at least one audit engagement for a European research organisation during the period 2023–2025.

4. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
Firms meeting the requirements set out in Section 3 must submit an expression of interest, together with the supporting documentation listed below, no later than 31 December 2026.

The expression of interest must take the form of a letter signed by the firm's legal representative, expressly confirming the firm's interest in participating in the procedure and declaring that the eligibility requirements are met.

The letter must be submitted exclusively by certified electronic mail (PEC) to eric-emso@legal.email.it , with the subject line: "Expression of interest – Audit services for EMSO ERIC accounts". It must specify a contact person, postal address, telephone number and PEC address for subsequent communications.

The following supporting documentation must be enclosed:

- A list of the principal audit engagements undertaken for research consortia or national and/or international public bodies during 2020–2025, indicating the value of each engagement;
- A list of the principal audit engagements undertaken for other European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) during 2020–2025;
- Details of the professionals proposed to perform the services, together with an indicative work plan and the estimated number of hours required to complete the assignment.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

This Notice is issued solely to gather expressions of interest and encourage participation by potentially qualified economic operators. It does not constitute an invitation to tender or create any obligation on the part of EMSO ERIC.

An expression of interest indicates only a firm's willingness to be invited to submit a proposal.

EMSO ERIC may invite an appropriate number of suitably qualified firms to submit a proposal through a subsequent letter of invitation.

EMSO ERIC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to discontinue the procedure at any stage without giving rise to any entitlement to compensation or reimbursement of costs incurred by interested firms in preparing expressions of interest or undertaking preliminary activities.

The publication of this Notice, and any related or subsequent activity, does not oblige EMSO ERIC to award a contract. In particular, EMSO ERIC reserves the right to:

- Decide not to proceed with an award if none of the expressions of interest received is considered suitable;
- Suspend, cancel or amend the procedure or its conditions, without any obligation to compensate participants;
- Invite other established international auditing firms that have not submitted an expression of interest.

Requests for clarification concerning this Notice must be sent by email to recruitment@emso-eu.org. Any amendments or clarifications will be published exclusively on the EMSO ERIC website.

Rome, 4 November 2026