

## **FSM National Seabed Resources Local Consultancy Opportunity**

The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) seeks a well-qualified individual to assist in seabed resources management planning at the Department of Resources and Development. The Department is looking to fill the position of **Project Manager** for FSM's seabed resources initiative.

### **Background:**

FSM has potential for seabed mining based on surveys conducted since the 1990's to 2005 by the US, Korea, Japan and SOPAC, which identified numerous seamounts, with cobalt-rich crusts. There are also indications of hydrothermal vent sites, which suggest seafloor massive sulphide (SMS) potential, within the Western part of FSM's EEZ. A total of 38 seamounts have been identified within FSM.

The FSM participated in a four (4) year (2011-2014) Deep Sea Minerals project funded by the European Union to help Pacific Island countries to improve the governance and management of their deep-sea minerals. Through this project the critical need to develop a legal framework that regulates prospecting, exploration, and extraction of seabed minerals was proposed in order to effectively and sustainably achieve FSM's objectives to: 1) expand its resource base by capitalizing the EEZ; 2) protect its environment; 3) establish an equitable financial arrangement for the nation and its people, and; 4) adhere to international law, exercise due diligence and informed national decision processes. Collaboration between the SOPAC-SPC Deep Sea Minerals and FSM's Department of Justice (DOJ) resulted in a draft legislation in 2014, now known as the National Seabed Resources Act. The Act, 1) creates a legal framework for management and development of offshore minerals and to govern sponsorship arrangements with contractors to undertake mining activities in the Area beyond the national jurisdiction; 2) requires that sponsorship activities in the Area must be carried out in accordance with best international practice and environmentally sustainable principles; 3) Promotes a transparent decision-making process and fair regulatory environment for investors in offshore minerals; and, 4) Secures optimum benefits from offshore minerals for the citizens, via fees, taxes and royalties paid to National Government.

### **Scope of Work:**

We now have the Act in place to regulate Deep Sea Mining (DSM); however, there is a need to bring on an individual to assist the department with operationalizing and implementing the law and establishing the National Seabed Resources Authority (NSRA).

Working with the department and international consultant the **Project Manager** will provide leadership and support for the development and implementation of an operations framework to guide effective and sustainable development of seabed resources and others, as called for in the National Seabed Resources Act of 2014. This work will include:

1. Support in the creation of a roadmap and detailed TOR / operations framework for the National Seabed Resources Authority and needed staffing.
2. Lead and support operations of the program.
3. A thorough review of current international rules and regulations at the International Seabed Authority and other State parties – with particular attention to:
  - a. Mining codes
  - b. Environmental codes
  - c. Financial instruments
4. Market identification for mineral demand and current supply globally to identify sectors with the most significant growth potential.
5. Lead the development of an environmental management strategy based on the Precautionary Principle as defined in the 1992 Rio Accord. Consideration will be given to:
  - a. The biodiversity found in deep-sea mineral deposit locations;
  - b. Environmental impacts and the possible extent of deep-sea mining operations; and,
  - c. Development of mitigation and management strategies to address mining impacts.
6. Identify potential commercially viable mineral deposits with consideration of the sensitivity of the ecology of the location within FSM's EEZ and also the Area.
  - a. Polymetallic Nodules
  - b. Seafloor Massive Sulphides
  - c. Cobalt-rich Ferromanganese Crusts
  - d. Rare Earth Elements
7. Review of "Reserved" areas at the ISA to identify opportunities in the Area.
8. Assessment of current and required technology to meet all aspects of a deep-sea program from preliminary investigations through commercial mining operations.
9. Work with Consultants and FSM R&D to provide program leadership and direction for FSM's seabed mining program and to create informed legislation.
10. Development of budgets and schedules required to create strategic plans for deep ocean mining efforts; environmental research, time-series studies, mining operations and monitoring, and mine site end of life cleanup.
11. Provide diverse reports to participating Government stakeholders and others.

**Qualifications, skills, and experience:**

- Master's degree, or equivalent experience in Marine Science, Policy, Economic, Law, Sociology, Engineering or a related field.

- Five (5) or more years of professional experience in government or relevant organization at a senior management level.
- Advanced strategic planning and vision capacity.
- Strong organizational and time management skills with the ability to manage, prioritize and track multiple tasks efficiently and successfully.
- Exceptional diplomacy, negotiation, and project management skills, including the ability to work with high level public officials, NGO's, and private sector leaders in a complex public policy process.
- Proven ability to engage effectively with a range of stakeholders, including Government staff and Secretaries, scientists and the general public.
- The ability to develop and implement advocacy strategies that advance project priorities with the FSM Government.
- Ability to work well independently and as part of a team.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to positively influence others.
- Extensive budget and scheduling experience.
- Understands and is responsive to the needs of all stakeholders.
- Strong commitment to sustainable ocean management and environmental management.

**To Apply:**

Submit resume and application by mail, fax or email to these addresses:

Office of Personnel  
P.O. Box PS-35  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Email: [personnel@personnel.gov.fm](mailto:personnel@personnel.gov.fm)

Department of Resources & Development – Division of Marine Resources  
P.O. Box PS-12  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Email: [fsmrd@fsmrd.fm](mailto:fsmrd@fsmrd.fm) and [freadv@yahoo.com](mailto:freadv@yahoo.com)

The Office of Personnel will be accepting application/resume from March 03, 2022 until it filled.