LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

**LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY**
650 W EASTERDAY AVE
SAULT STE. MARIE MI 49783-1626

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
DONALD WILEY, PURCHASING MANAGER
(906) 635-2761

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**RFP NO. 27-0002**
**COVER PAGE**

This proposal is due by
**Nov. 20, 2026, 2:00 p.m. ET**

Quotation Valid: 120 days

| Delivery Required | Purchasing Manager | Date Bid Mailed | Purchasing Department |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Donald Wiley<br>dwiley2@lssu.edu<br>(906) 635-2761 | 10/23/2026 | Lake Superior State University<br>Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 |

| Item | Quantity | Unit | Description | Unit Price | Total Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY is seeking proposals from qualified boat manufacturers to build and deliver one (1) new 23–26 ft aluminum mono/deep-V hull work boat with twin outboard engines and a tandem-axle trailer, for use as a research vessel by the Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE). Delivery to 100 Salmon Run Way, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Full requirements are contained in the attached RFP Specifications and Bid Proposal Form.<br><br>No pre-bid conference is scheduled. Questions must be submitted in writing to the Purchasing Manager by the date listed in the RFP Schedule of Events. | | |

INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS:

**RFP NO. 27-0002**

Any required paper copies of proposals must be mailed to the address(es) noted within the RFP. Any required electronic copies may be emailed to the address(es) noted within the RFP.

READ BEFORE SIGNING:

The undersigned certifies that he/she offers to furnish materials in strict accordance with the Requirements of the bid including any terms or conditions set forth on the reverse side; that prices quoted are correct and she/he agrees that this bid may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days from the due date noted above. He/She further agrees to comply with applicable federal and state laws governing equal opportunity employment and not to discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, color, national origin or ancestry, sex, sexual preference, age, disability, religion, height, weight, marital status or veteran status.

_____
SIGNATURE (IN INK)

_____
PRINT NAME & TITLE

_____
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER FAX

Lake Superior State University
Request for Proposal

# Purchase of a 23–26 ft Aluminum Research Vessel with Trailer

**RFP No. 27-0002**

October 23, 2026

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# Lake Superior State University
# Request for Proposal

Lake Superior State University (LSSU) invites qualified boat manufacturers to submit a proposal for the purchase of a 23–26 ft Aluminum Research Vessel with Trailer for the Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE), in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of this Request for Proposal.

## Section 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Purpose: Lake Superior State University is seeking proposals from qualified boat manufacturers to build and deliver one (1) new aluminum mono/deep-V hull work boat, 23 to 26 feet in length, with twin outboard engines and a tandem-axle trailer, for use as a research vessel by the University's Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE).

SCOPE OF WORK: The successful Respondent (Contractor) shall provide all labor, materials, equipment, and expertise required to build, outfit, and deliver the vessel, engines, and trailer as described in Section 5, Vessel Specifications, including delivery to 100 Salmon Run Way, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) states instructions for submitting proposals, the procedure and criteria by which a vendor may be selected and the contractual terms by which the University intends to govern the relationship between it and the selected vendor.

1.1. Definition of Parties: Lake Superior State University will hereinafter be referred to as the "University." Respondents to the RFP shall be referred to as "Bidders." The Bidder to whom the contract is awarded shall be referred to as the "Vendor."

1.2. Debarment: Submission of a signed bid in response to this solicitation is certification that the Bidder (or any subcontractor) is not currently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any State or Federal department or agency. Submission is also agreement that the University will be notified of any change in this status.

1.3. Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the most competitive offer considering cost, compliance with specifications, and quality of product. Evaluation criteria will consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

- Total cost
- Compliance with the Vessel Specifications in Section 5
- Proposed delivery date
- Warranty, service, and parts support
- Experience building comparable aluminum work or research vessels
- References

1.4. Requirements for Return of Proposal Responses. Bidder must submit the following:

- one signed printed original
- one electronic copy

Proposals must be received by the time, date, and at the office indicated below. Each Bidder is solely responsible for the timely delivery of its proposal. Failure to meet the proposed due date and time shall be grounds for rejection.

- A Bidder's proposal is due no later than **the time and date specified in "Schedule of Events" Section 2**. via email or printed copy:

  Donald Wiley, Purchasing Manager
  Lake Superior State University
  Purchasing Department
  650 W. Easterday Avenue
  Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

  The bid must be received with the following information clearly marked in the lower left hand corner:

  - Bid Number
  - Bid Due Date and Time
  - Bid Title/Description
  - Company Name

A Bidder may withdraw a proposal prior to the closing time. After the due date, submitted proposals constitute an offer by the Bidder and shall remain irrevocable for a period of 90 days.

A legally authorized representative of the Bidder must sign the proposal.

1.5. Questions and Clarification. Any questions regarding this request must be directed, in the form of an email to:

Donald Wiley, Purchasing Manager
Lake Superior State University
Purchasing Department
PH: (906) 635-2761
E-mail: dwiley2@lssu.edu

All questions must be submitted by date referenced in "Schedule of Events" Section 2. Questions submitted after this deadline; do not require a response by the University.

Responses to inquires/questions, if they change or clarify the RFP in a substantial manner, will be forwarded by addenda to all parties that have received a copy of the RFP. The University will not be bound by oral responses to inquires or written responses other than addenda.

## Section 2: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*These dates are for reference only; LSSU may change dates at our discretion and will provide notification of any schedule dates changed.*

Issue Request for Proposal (RFP)..... October 23, 2026

Submission of Questions..... November 6, 2026

Response to Questions (Addendum)..... November 11, 2026

Proposals Due..... November 20, 2026@ 2:00 p.m.
Proposals must be received by the Purchasing Department no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on this date. Please refer to information listed below regarding how to submit your materials.

**Selection and Award**..... December 4, 2026

**Estimated Delivery Date**..... As proposed by Bidder

## Section 3: RFP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

3.1. The University reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received as a result of this RFP or enter into an agreement with the Bidder that it feels is in the best interest of the University. The University also reserves the right to request clarification and/or further information (on the proposal) from one or more respondents after closing without becoming obligated to offer the same opportunity to all respondents.

3.2. The University reserves the right to negotiate with any Bidder considered qualified or to make an award without further discussions.

3.3. The University reserves the right to waive any irregularity in any proposal received.

3.4. The University reserves the right to select the most responsive Bidder(s) without further discussion, negotiation, or prior notice.

3.5. All proposals shall be submitted as best and final offers. Bidders should not anticipate that they will be able to modify proposals after the bid opening has occurred. Therefore, each Bidder shall include in their written proposal all requirements, terms and conditions they may wish to include in a contract issued as a result of this bid. Proposals must demonstrate an understanding of the scope of service to be provided and the ability to accomplish the tasks set forth and must include information that will enable the University to determine a bidder's overall qualifications.

3.6. The University reserves the rights to award in part, in whole, or not at all.

3.7. Bidders who offer prices on all items may be given preference; however, the University reserves the right to delete specific line items in order to provide a basis for an evaluation of the prices quoted by all Bidders.

3.8. Any costs incurred by Bidders to respond to this RFP, including but not limited to, costs to present their proposal at LSSU and/or negotiate a final agreement are the sole responsibility of the Bidder.

3.9. Any discussions with University personnel, other than as listed above, regarding this RFP while the RFP is in progress (from the time Bidder receives this RFP until final award is made) are strictly prohibited. Such contact and discussion may result in disqualification of Bidder's proposal.

3.10. This RFP is subject to cancellation if any University employee or Trustee involved in this matter has a relationship or history of activity with the Bidder that is in violation of Lake Superior State University's Conflict of Interest Policy.

3.11. The University is the sole owner of all data and information contained within the Request for Proposal document and accompanying attachments. Bidder shall use this information exclusively to prepare a proposal. Bidder should not disclose this information to any other firm or use it for any other purpose unless required by law or legal process.

3.12. All proposals submitted become the property of the University; they will not be returned and may be subject to disclosure under the STATE OF MICHIGAN FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ("FOIA") or other legal process. As such, proposal may be released to third parties, without prior notice to Bidder, as required to comply with legal requirements. Bidders must identify "Proprietary" information at time of submittal, however the University cannot guarantee protection if FOIA is invoked.

3.13. Where the phrase "or approved equal" occurs in the documents, do not assume that the materials, equipment or methods will be approved as equal unless the item has been specifically so approved for this work by the Owner.

3.14. Product alternates/substitutions must be submitted by the closing of the questions period. If the substitution is approved the approval will be sent forth to all bidders in an Addendum. The decision of the Owner on substitutions shall be final.

3.15. Acceptance: Upon delivery, the University will inspect the vessel, engines, and trailer for conformance with the specifications. Final acceptance and payment will not occur until all deficiencies identified by the University have been corrected.

## Section 4: CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

*Any contract award based on this RFP will be subject to the following Terms and Conditions:*

4.1. Contract Terms and Conditions: The terms and conditions below will govern the submission and evaluation of offers and the award of a contract. Bidders are requested to carefully review these terms and conditions.

(a) Contract Status: The response to this RFP will be considered as an offer to contract. Final negotiations on the highest ranked offer will be conducted to resolve any minor differences and finalize financial commitments. After final negotiations, a contract will be executed in accordance with applicable terms and conditions.

(b) Contract Format: The resulting contract will incorporate this RFP, all additional agreements and stipulations, and the results of any final negotiations. All of these documents will constitute the final contract.

(c) Contract Termination for Cause: The University may terminate any resulting contract for cause by providing a letter to the successful Bidder citing the instances of non-compliance and non-performance on the contract

(d) Contract Modification: All changes to the contract must be agreed upon in writing by both parties prior to executing any changes.

(e) Contract Assignment or Sub-Contract: The resulting contract shall not be assigned, transferred, or sublet in whole or in part without prior written approval of LSSU.

4.2. Indemnification Requirements**:** The requirements listed below are mandatory for protecting the interests of the University.

(a) Hold Harmless: Bidder shall indemnify and hold harmless, and at the University's option, shall defend the University and its employees and agents from any claims, losses or damages arising out of or alleged to arise out of any breach by Bidder of any agreement of Bidder contained herein.

(b) Liens: The successful Bidder shall keep the University free and clear from all liens asserted by any person or firm for any reason arising out of the furnishing of services or materials by or to the successful Bidder.

4.3 Insurance: The successful Bidder will, at its expense, procure and maintain during the term of this contract, the following insurance. If any work contemplated under this contract is performed by a subcontractor of the successful Bidder, the subcontractor will likewise be required to procure and maintain this insurance.

(a) Worker's Compensation with Employers' Liability

Statutory Limits & EL $1,000,000

(b) Commercial General Liability Insurance on an occurrence basis with the University named as additional insured with limits not less than the following:

1) $1,000,000 each occurrence
2) $2,000,000 aggregate

(c) Automobile Liability Insurance covering all owned, non-owned and hired automobiles used in performing services under this contract with limits not less than $1,000,000 combined single limit.

(d) Excess Liability (umbrella) $1,000,000

The University ***must be named additional insured*** on the general liability, auto liability and excess liability policies. A policy endorsement is required. Coverage provided by the endorsement is to be primary and the University's primary insurance will be non-contributory.

(e) Certificates of Insurance showing evidence of the insurance required herein shall be provided to the following before any work is begun under this contract.

Donald Wiley, Purchasing Manager
Lake Superior State University
Purchasing Department
650 W. Easterday Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

4.4 Standard Terms and Conditions

(a) Federal, State and Local Taxes, Licenses and Permits: The successful Bidder will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

(b) Waiver of Rights: No delay or failure to enforce any provision of this agreement shall constitute a waiver or limitation of the University's rights under any resulting contract.

(c) Contract Provisions by Reference: It is mutually agreed by and between the University and the successful Bidder that the University's acceptance of the successful Bidder's offer by the issuance of a contract shall create a contract between the parties thereto containing all specifications, terms and conditions in the RFP and any amendments or modifications made prior to signing the contract . Any exceptions taken by the successful Bidder which are not included in the contract will not be part of the contract. Therefore, in the event of a conflict between the terms and conditions of the RFP and information submitted by the Bidder, the terms and conditions of the resulting contract will govern.

(d) Sales and Use Tax Exemption: The University certifies that it is tax exempt as an educational institution of the State of Michigan.

(e) Observing Laws and Regulations: The successful Bidder shall keep itself fully informed of and shall faithfully observe all laws, national and state, and all ordinances and regulations affecting the rights of its employees, and shall protect and indemnify the University, its officers, and agents against any claims of liability arising from or based on any violation thereof.

(f) Non-Collusion Clause: The Bidder, by submitting and signing this RFP declares that neither the Bidder nor agents of the Bidder's business have entered into any collusion or agreement concerning this proposal. The Bidder further declares that no persons, firms or corporations, have or will receive directly, any rebate, fee, gift, commission, etc., or that any employee or office of the University has any undisclosed interest in the award of this contract.

(g) Choice of Law: The resulting contract shall be construed under the laws of the State of Michigan.

(h) Actions of the Successful Bidder: The action of the successful Bidder with third parties is not binding upon the University.

## Section 5: VESSEL SPECIFICATIONS

**23–26 ft Work Boat with Trailer.** These specifications describe the general envelope and function required for an aluminum mono/deep-V hull (hereafter referred to as the boat) powered by two outboard engines. The Contractor shall provide detailed line drawings for approval prior to contract award and construction. The boat must meet or exceed the following criteria:

1. Established hull design certified under the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) using American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) standards
2. Boat hull, deck, transom, console, rails, and any other structural components to be constructed of "5086" marine-grade aluminum which meets or exceeds ASTM specifications for use in marine applications
3. Boat hull length at least 23 ft, but not to exceed 26 ft
4. Boat hull will be constructed using minimum 1/4" thick materials
5. Side and deck will be constructed using minimum 3/16" thick materials
6. Trailer / boat beam at gunwale to be no greater than 8'6"
7. Deck width minimum to be 7'0"
8. Maximum gunwale height along sides will be a minimum of 24" (exact height will be determined afterward if necessary)
9. Tow eye
10. Foam flotation beneath deck
11. Open storage areas/trays in gunwales where possible
12. Marine-grade non-skid coating to be applied to decking (spray-in bed liner material or equivalent)
13. Pop-up cleat(s) at bow, no cleats at midship or stern (design intended to minimize snagging of nets, etc., while deploying gear)
14. Interior railing for tying off at midship
15. Bow railings

16. Rubber runs along gunwales
17. Removable davit (minimum 250 lb capacity) with three receivers, one at bow and one on each stern corner (set into gunwale if possible)
18. Dive door aft of console
19. Self-draining anchor storage (bow) with cover (opens from top)
20. Self-draining deck
21. Single fuel tank, minimum 100 gallon capacity – center, below deck
22. LED navigation lights
    a. Bow lights integrated into side of gunwales; no gunwale cap/surface mounts
23. Transducer plates
24. Railing around motors for protection and tying off
25. Capable of twin engines to mount on C-drive extension or swim platform
26. Hard top center console
    a. Seat for vessel driver
    b. At least one 12-volt “cigarette-lighter/barrel plug” power outlet on console
    c. At least one USB outlet on console
    d. Horn
    e. VHF marine radio
    f. Motorized windshield wipers
    g. Hydraulic steering
    h. Fuel gauge
    i. Installation of supplied chart plotter (9–12" display)
    j. Attachment points for side curtains
27. Bilge pump with separate power switch
28. Wash-down pump(s), with separate power switches, and hoses at bow and transom
29. Two batteries – each with separate shutoff switches; one for engines and one (filtered) for electronics only (connected to “electronics” fuse panel)
30. Two work lights fore console
31. Two work lights aft console
32. Lockable storage: Bidder to propose options (the University is seeking to maximize deck space, so storage could be under the captain’s chair or omitted entirely)
33. Trailer
    a. Tandem axle
    b. Heavy-duty aluminum or galvanized frame
    c. Minimum 16" heavy-duty rated rims/tires
    d. Oil-bath hubs
    e. Hydraulic braking system with disc brakes
    f. LED lights
    g. Electric winch
34. Provide a subtotal on the Bid Proposal Form for all of the above specifications (Items 1–33)
35. Supply and installation of twin engines – listed as a separate line item on the Bid Proposal Form
    a. Bidder to propose engine brand and horsepower options

b. Dual throttle/shifter with emergency cutoff
c. Gauges for each engine: trim, RPM, voltage, and hours

36. Boat must be delivered – provide estimated date of delivery in bid
    a. Shipping costs to 100 Salmon Run Way, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 must be included in bid – listed as a separate line item on the Bid Proposal Form

## Section 6: BID REQUIREMENTS

**Pre-Bid Conference:** None is scheduled. Questions must be submitted in writing as described in Section 1.

**Line Drawings:** The selected Bidder shall provide detailed line drawings of the proposed vessel for University approval prior to contract award and construction.

**Performance and Bid Bond:** Bids in excess of $50,000 shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, money order or bid bond made payable to Lake Superior State University in the amount not less that five percent (5%) of the base bid as a bid guarantee.

**Delivery:** Bidder shall state the estimated delivery date in its proposal. Delivery shall be F.O.B. destination to 100 Salmon Run Way, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, with all shipping costs included in the bid and listed as a separate line item. Title and risk of loss remain with the Contractor until the vessel is delivered and accepted by the University.

**Liquidated Damages:** The Contractor will be assessed $500 per day for each day beyond the delivery date stated in the Contractor's proposal.

**Warranty:** Bidder shall describe all warranties offered, including hull and structural warranty, workmanship, engines, electronics, and trailer, and identify the nearest authorized service location for the engines.

**References:** A list of three (3) references is required to be submitted with your bid. References should contain names and contact information of organizations that have purchased comparable aluminum work or research vessels from the Bidder within the past three (3) years.

## Section 7: GUIDELINES FOR BIDDER'S PROPOSALS

*The following information must be included in the Bidder's proposal:*

**Specification Compliance:** Respond to each numbered item in Section 5, Vessel Specifications, indicating whether the proposed vessel complies. Any deviation must be clearly identified and explained.

**Line Drawings and Product Literature:** Include preliminary drawings, a general arrangement, or product literature for the proposed hull design.

**Engine Options:** Describe the engine brand(s) and horsepower options proposed, with pricing for each option.

**Lockable Storage Options:** Describe any lockable storage options proposed (see Specification 32).

**Delivery Date:** State the estimated delivery date following contract award.

Payment terms should be clearly stated in the proposal. Proposed discount payment terms will be considered in the evaluation process.

Include any RFP exceptions. All exceptions shall be clearly identified and written explanations shall include the scope of the exceptions.

## SIGNATURE PAGE

**By virtue of submittal of a proposal, Bidder acknowledges:**

- **That all of the requirements of this RFP have been read and understood.**
- **That compliance with the Specifications/Qualifications and any applicable Supplemental Terms and Conditions will be the responsibility of the Bidder unless otherwise noted in the submittal.**
- **That Bidder is presently not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, nor voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal/State department or agency.**
- **Any responses, materials, correspondence, or documents provided to the University are subject to the State of Michigan Freedom of Information Act and may be released to third parties in compliance with that Act.**
- **The individual signing below has authority to enter into this on behalf of Bidder.**

CORPORATE NAME _____

AUTHORIZED AGENT: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE #: _____

TOLL FREE #: _____FAX #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

The Internal Revenue Code requires recipients of payments which must be reported on Form 1099 to provide their taxpayer identification number (TIN).

T.I.N. (Taxpayer Identification Number or Federal Identification Number)

T.I.N. Number_____

## BID PROPOSAL FORM

**PROJECT:** Purchase of a 23–26 ft Aluminum Research Vessel with Trailer

**OWNER:** Lake Superior State University
650 W. Easterday Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

**FIRM NAME/BIDDER:** _____

**ADDRESS:** _____

_____

**TELEPHONE:** _____**FAX :** _____

**EMAIL:**

_____

**SIGNATURE & DATE:** _____

**Printed name of Signature:** _____

**BID**
Pursuant to and in compliance with this Request for Proposal and all documents relating thereto, the undersigned, having familiarized themselves with all requirements, proposes to furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and services necessary to build and deliver one (1) 23–26 ft aluminum research vessel with twin outboard engines and trailer, in accordance with the Vessel Specifications and all terms and conditions of the RFP, and agrees to accept payment as herein provided.

**A. VESSEL AND TRAILER SUBTOTAL (Specifications 1–33):**
Lump sum for the boat and trailer as specified in Section 5, Items 1 through 33.

_____
_____ Dollars ($_____)

**B. TWIN ENGINES, SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED (Specification 35):**
Engine make, model, and horsepower: _____

_____
_____ Dollars ($_____)

**C. DELIVERY (Specification 36):**
Shipping to 100 Salmon Run Way, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

_____
_____ Dollars ($_____)

**TOTAL BID (A + B + C):**
Total of items A, B, and C above.

_____
_____ Dollars ($_____)

**ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE:** _____ (following contract award)

NOTE: The amount shall be shown in both words and figures. In case of a discrepancy, the amount shown in words shall govern.

**ALTERNATES / OPTIONS:** Bidders may list alternate engine options, lockable storage options, or other optional equipment, with prices, below. Alternates are not included in the Total Bid.

_____
_____
_____
_____