

Detection of oil under ice



Request for proposals

The Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) in Cordova, Alaska continues to support the development of new technologies designed to improve oil spill recovery. Of particular interest is the ability to improve our ability to detect and track spilled oil under sea ice. There are existing efforts to test ground penetrating radar and nuclear magnetic resonance. We expect the oil and gas industry will continue their development efforts and will look for efforts to collaborate with them in future.

OSRI has \$150,000 available to fund one or two single year proposals designed to develop and/or test a novel proof-of-concept design for detecting hydrocarbons under ice. We desire systems that can be used in a mapping type mode in all ice conditions from fall slush ice to spring broken floes. Efforts during this year should be focused on demonstrating the technological feasibility of developing sensors and the appropriate deployment platform. We prefer that proposals lead to a laboratory demonstration of the technology. Further funding may be available to continue development of a sensor suite suitable for field deployment based on a successful demonstration of the proof-of-concept in this phase.

Program objectives

The objective is to develop and test new technologies for detecting hydrocarbons under sea ice. The desire is to map the distribution of spilled oil under a wide variety of sea ice conditions. The optimal systems are expected to be able to map several kilometers a day with minimal need for personnel on the ice surface. It will also be able to provide near-real time reporting of the position of potential oil locations.

Proposals must link the activities to OSRI's mission and goals. A description of OSRI and our mission and goals at <http://www.pws-osri.org/>. Grant application materials can be found at http://www.pws-osri.org/grants/app_proc.shtml. **The deadline for submitting applications is February 21, 2011.** Funding is anticipated to begin on July 1, 2011. Applicants are encouraged to contact: Dr. Scott Pegau, OSRI Research Program Manager (wspgau@pwssc.org) if you have questions regarding this opportunity. Please contact Dr. Pegau before submitting a proposal if you need assistance identifying testing opportunities.

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