Request for Proposals: Surface Casing Vent Flow Pressure Relief Device Study

Closing Time: Proposal must be received electronically before 5:00 PM Pacific Time on: **February 20th 2026**

Delivery of Proposals

Proposals must be submitted electronically.

To: Graham Deane
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Organization Overview

A joint initiative between industry, government, the regulator and non-profits is advancing research on methane emissions from oil and gas activity to support B.C.'s methane emission reduction targets.

The BC Oil & Gas Methane Emissions Research Collaborative (MERC) is composed of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation; the BC Energy Regulator; the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers; the Explorers and Producers Association of Canada, Geoscience BC Society, and the Pembina Institute.

Administrative Requirements

The project contract will be with the BC Oil and Gas Research and Innovation Society (OGRIS) with guidance and oversight by BC MERC. Additional contract-related information (including cost guidelines, deliverable guidelines, and invoicing guidelines as well as additional terms) are included as separate attachments. Exceptions to these guidelines must be included in the proposal and will be considered by MERC and BC OGRIS as part of the review process.

Application Requirements

The Proposal must include the following details:

- Project Plan, including a work plan which includes all the listed items under the Scope of Work section of this RFP.
- Project Timeline, including the key project milestones in the Anticipated Schedule section of this RFP.
- Project Budget, including the appropriate level of disaggregation outlined in the Term and Budget section of this RFP.
- Project Team Expertise, including consideration under each relevant section of the Desirable Criteria section of this RFP.

Scope of Work

The BC Drilling and Production Regulation (DPR) requires well configuration that enables the surface casing annulus to freely vent, and subsequent Surface Casing Vent Flow (SCVF) checks as part of routine maintenance throughout the life of the well. However, the DPR exempts operators from those requirements, if a burst plate is installed with a maximum pressure that does not exceed 1/2 of the formation leak off pressure at the base of the surface casing.
This study will assess the efficacy of burst plate installation with a focus on piping orientation, device geometry, and risk assessment to ensure reliable operation and methane emission reduction. Key goals include identifying optimal designs, assessing risks introduced by installation, and evaluating consequences of pressure exceedance or failure.

The successful proponent will:

1. Review and summarize current design, installation, and maintenance practices for burst plates and highlight any existing limitations found within those practices.
2. Review and summarize alternative technologies to burst plates that achieve the same outcome.
3. Perform a desktop review to identify any known failures or risks from burst plate installations for the management of SCVF.
4. Select an installation sample size of 30 to 40 wells and review the well configurations and design a burst plate configuration for each well.
5. Design a field monitoring plan for each burst plate installation to evaluate effective management of SCVF and risk of exceeding ½ of the formation leak-off pressure, as defined in the DPR.
6. Execute field monitoring plan.
7. Summarize results of installation and monitoring plan.
8. Draft design, installation, maintenance, and risk mitigation recommendations for broad use of burst plates intended to meet the DPR Section (10)(d)(i).

Anticipated Schedule

The following table outlines the anticipated schedule for this project. The proponent should propose their own schedule within the proposal and highlight key differences between the anticipated and proposed schedules, including reasons for the difference.

Event	**Anticipated Date**
Anticipated Project start date	March 5, 2026
Interim Report	June 20, 2026
Expected field campaign	July 2026
Draft Final Report	November 1, 2026
Final Report Due	December 15, 2026

Additionally, it is expected that the proponent will meet monthly with MERC representatives for brief project updates. The services outlined in this RFP are anticipated to commence on March 5th, 2026, and be completed on December 15th, 2026.

Desired Outcomes

The project is expected to provide the following outcomes:

1. To assess the effectiveness of burst plate installations in reducing surface casing vent flow (SCVF) occurrences.
2. Generate practical guidance on the design, installation, maintenance, monitoring, and risk management of burst plates, enhancing confidence among regulators and industry in this mitigation approach.
3. Support ongoing policy development related to emissions quantification, management, and reduction.

Deliverables

The project deliverables prepared by the successful Proponent will include:

1. Interim report that summarizes:
    a. Existing design, installation, and maintenance practices for burst plates used to manage SCVF.
    b. Burst plate installation risks.
    c. Burst plate design and installation configurations for field deployment. and
    d. Monitoring plan.
2. Draft final report that includes:
    a. Interim report content,
    b. Field deployment results,
    c. Design, installation, maintenance, and risk mitigation recommendations.
3. Final Report which includes the same informational requirements as the draft final report as well as responses and changes to the draft based on the BC MERC's review of the draft final report.

Note: all reports and updates to the MERC shall use the unit 'm^3/d' when addressing a methane emission quantity.

Format Requirements

The following format, sequence, and instructions should be followed in order to provide consistency in Proponent responses and ensure each Proposal receives full consideration.

With all pages consecutively numbered, the Proposal should meet the following requirements:

a) Signed cover page

b) A short (one or two page) summary of the key features of the proposal.

c) The body of the proposal, i.e. the "Proponent Response".

d) Appendices, appropriately tabbed and referenced.

e) Identification of Proponent (legal name)

f) Identification of Proponent contact

The Proposal must be written in accordance with the above content requirements. It is not to exceed **10 pages** of combined text, tables, graphics and other written materials in support of the content requirements, not including appendices.

Data management

The contractor will be required to provide a brief description on how they will ensure data or information generated or used in the project will be managed to ensure business sensitive or confidentiality of the information is maintained. It is expected that during the project, only anonymized datasets or information will be shared with the project team. If there is a requirement or desire to share non-anonymized data or information, approval for sharing this information should be received from the MERC Technical Advisory Committee (MERC TAC) chair prior to the release of the data or information.

Public discussions about the project results, either during the project, or afterwards, must be approved by the MERC TAC chair in advance. It is expected that any materials (slides, write-ups, etc.) that reference the project will be shared with the MERC in advance for review and approval for both projects that are currently underway and upon project completion. All data, observations, and results collected and/or determined through this project will remain the property of the MERC. Any use of the data, observations, and results beyond the scope of this project must be approved by the MERC.

Project Budget

A Maximum of $500,000 Canadian Dollars (subject to financing) is available for this contract, which must include all fees, expenses, and taxes.

The proposal should include a budget breakdown based on the anticipated phases of the project, along with deliverables proposed for each phase of the project.

Evaluation

The evaluation of responses will be conducted by a team consisting of a subset of members of the BC Oil & Gas Methane Emissions Research Collaborative (MERC) Technical Advisory Committee. All members of the team will be bound by confidentiality.

This section details all the mandatory and desirable criteria against which Proposals will be evaluated. Proponents should ensure that they fully respond to all criteria in order to receive full consideration during the evaluation.

The lowest cost Proposal will not necessarily be accepted. Proposals will be assessed based on quality, level of expertise, price, reputation, experience, availability of funding, and other criteria.

The Preferred Proponent will be the Proponent scoring the most points after evaluation. The evaluation process will consist of the following stages:

- Stage One – Mandatory Criteria
- Stage Two – Desirable Criteria

Project Team

The proposal should clearly list the proposed project team members and identify sub-contractors with a brief description of their relevant skills and experience.

Mandatory Criteria

Proposals not clearly demonstrating that they meet the following mandatory criteria will be excluded from further consideration during the evaluation process.

- The Proposal must be sent and received before the designated closing date and time.
- The Proposal must be in English and submitted electronically.

Failure to meet all mandatory criteria above will disqualify the Proponent's Proposal from further review.

Desirable Criteria

An agreement with the Proponent who, in the opinion of the evaluation committee, has the resources, knowledge and competence to provide the greatest value is being sought. Proposals meeting all the mandatory criteria will be further assessed against desirable criteria as follows:

A. Qualifications

- subject matter expertise
- understanding of upstream oil and gas operations
- experience and capability performing in-field operations at oil and gas facilities

B. Quality of Proposal

- technical content
- organization
- specificity and comprehensiveness in addressing deliverables, scope, and questions posed

C. Relevant Experience

- experience with the operation and or installation of burst plates at oil and gas operations
- experience measuring/monitoring fugitive emissions at oil and gas operations with preference given to experience measuring/monitoring Surface Casing Vent Flows (SCVFs)
- experience planning and executing an in-field measurement campaign at oil and gas operations
- experience interpreting and applying regulatory guidelines related to well integrity with preference given to experience interpreting and applying regulatory guidelines from BC's Drilling and Production Regulation (DPR)

D. Familiarity

- experience with Canadian oil and gas operations with an emphasis on British Columbia

E. Pricing

- Pricing will be evaluated on the basis of cost-effectiveness, including the reasonableness of the proposed cost per well and the anticipated value delivered relative to total project cost.

The weight of different evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Qualifications	30
Quality of Proposal	25
Relevant Experience	20
Familiarity	5
Pricing	20
TOTAL	100