



Targeted Request for Proposals 2011

Minerals Geoscience to Stimulate Exploration Activity in the QUEST-Northwest Project Area

Issue Date: September 1, 2011

Closing Date: October 25th, 2011, at 12pm (Pacific)

Deliver to:

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Geoscience BC is an innovative and applied geoscience centre dedicated to the collection, interpretation, and marketing of geoscience expertise, information, and products to attract exploration investment to BC.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Minerals Geoscience to Stimulate Activity in the QUEST-Northwest Project area

In support of its mandate to undertake geoscience to attract exploration investment to BC, Geoscience BC is pleased to issue this targeted request for proposals (RFP) for new projects in the QUEST-Northwest Project area and/or to undertake follow-up activities on geoscience data acquired in Geoscience BC's QUEST-Northwest Project. Submissions from industry, academia, government, First Nations, communities or not-for profit organizations are welcome.

QUEST-Northwest Project Background

The QUEST-Northwest Project is a new initiative by Geoscience BC to stimulate exploration in the north western part of the province along Highway 37 (Figure 1). Geoscience BC has already committed to funding high resolution (250m line-spaced) airborne magnetics, the collection of new regional stream sediments data, reanalysis of stream sediment samples and new bedrock mapping (see Figure 1 for survey outlines). As of the date of release of this RFP, these data are still being collected or analyzed and have not yet been made publically available. All data should be released either at Roundup 2012 or shortly thereafter. Combined with pre-existing data in the project areas, such as geology, geochemistry, geophysics, etc. available from a variety of sources such as government (i.e. British Columbia Geological Survey, Geological Survey of Canada), industry, academic and other archival sources, this represents an important data set that is ideal for data mining.

More information on the QUEST-Northwest project can be found at:

- <http://www.geosciencebc.com/s/Quest-Northwest.asp> (QUEST-Northwest Project webpage)

Proposal Scope

This request for proposals is specifically aimed at work in the QUEST-Northwest area. Proposals could include activities that add value to data Geoscience BC is currently collecting (airborne mag/geochem/bedrock mapping), build on other datasets / concepts or propose new data collection (2012 field season) in the QUEST-Northwest area. Please note that Geoscience BC is also putting out a simultaneous General Request for Proposals that is open to minerals geoscience work throughout the province.

Topics of work that Geoscience BC would like to see addressed include, but are not limited to:

- New projects that are applied and innovative in nature and relate to the geology, mineral deposits or metallogeny in the QUEST-Northwest Project area. Proposals that geographically overlap with the major surveys already underway are strongly encouraged (refer to Figure 1 for survey outlines).
- Integration of the new Geoscience BC data with existing publicly available or industry-available geoscience data, including the existing geophysical, geologic, and topographic data sets.
- Analysis of the new Geoscience BC data to increase its usefulness, for example, geophysical inversions.
- Statistical analysis of the geochemical data to identify favourable target areas, or other geological information.
- Ground-truthing (on-the-ground follow-up) or interpretation of the geophysical and / or the geochemical data, particularly in areas of cover or poorly understood geology, to aid the exploration community in the use of the data.
- Other projects, which complement and add value to the available data sets.

Applicants are expected to review the motivations for the QUEST-Northwest Project, and to formulate their proposals as either new or follow-up projects within the larger framework of the Geoscience BC QUEST-Northwest Project.

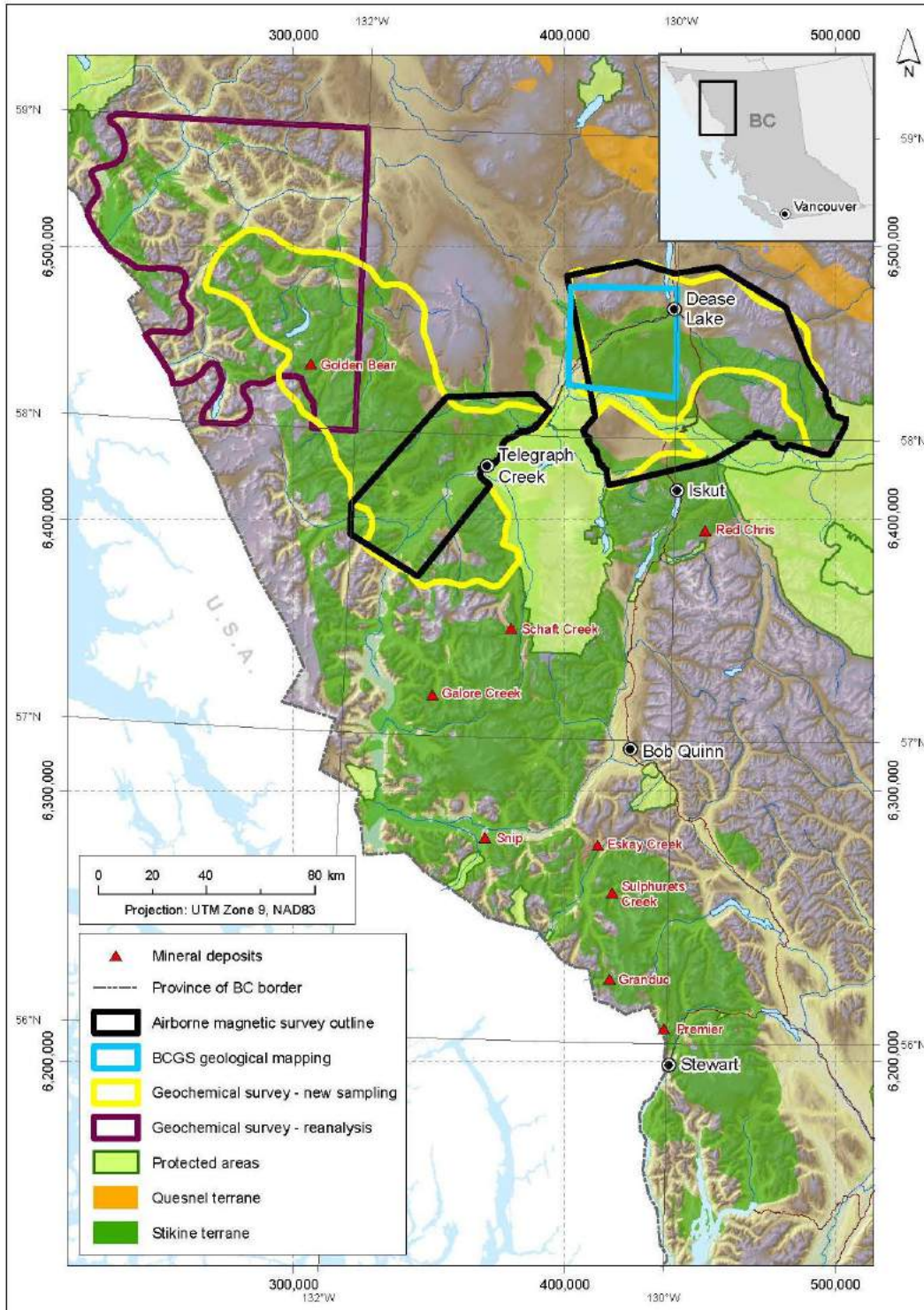


Figure 1. Geoscience BC's QUEST-Northwest Project area.

Considerations

Projects should **clearly demonstrate their application to mineral exploration in the QUEST-Northwest Project area** and in particular how they will encourage future exploration investment in this area of the Province. Proposals focused on a deposit or property of a specific company must demonstrate a wider significance to the region and/or to other companies in the area to be considered. Industry partners providing significant co-funding may negotiate exclusive access to the project results for some limited period of time prior to the results being released into the public domain. Successful proponents of projects undertaken on open ground must not engage in any staking of ground in the project area until six months after all project data is made public by Geoscience BC.

Geoscience BC encourages proponents to include a component of technology/knowledge transfer of project results to the exploration community in their proposal. Geoscience BC expects that the results from accepted proposals will be presented at technical conferences, such as Mineral Exploration Roundup, or other conferences well attended by the exploration community. In addition, proponents are encouraged to support student projects, or involve First Nations or local community expertise (e.g. prospectors, local contractors, etc.) in their proposal.

Applicants are expected to have the necessary capabilities to complete the projects submitted within the scope set out and within the schedule defined in partnership with Geoscience BC. Project applicants are encouraged to maintain an open atmosphere of cooperation with Geoscience BC staff and technical advisors during the execution of accepted projects. Geoscience BC personnel will be available to project proponents during the execution of the projects and will be able to provide ongoing advice and review of projects upon request. If project applicants expect to have significant interaction with Geoscience BC personnel during the execution of a project, this should be highlighted in the project application and discussed with the relevant personnel ahead of proposal submission. This request will not be considered negatively during the evaluation of projects by Geoscience BC.

Funding for proposals will be considered at all levels; however, proposals requesting more than \$200,000 from Geoscience BC will be required to demonstrate both high technical merit and exceptional value to mineral exploration in the QUEST-Northwest area.

Projects should not plan to start earlier than January 1, 2012, and must be completed no later than November 1, 2013. Details on required Geoscience BC deliverables can be found in the Submission Guidelines (Appendix A) accompanying this RFP, and should be included in the proposal and budget.

Eligibility

Proposals will be accepted from individuals or teams working with industry, private consultants, universities or colleges, First Nations or government, communities or not-for-profit agencies.

Submission

Persons or organizations wishing to make a submission under this RFP should submit a **maximum 10** page proposal (MS Word or PDF format only) describing the aim and scope of their project, reasons why the proposed work will attract mineral exploration investment to BC, personnel involved, and a summary of project deliverables and timing. An estimate of the total budget (using Geoscience BC's budget template) should be provided in Excel format. The submission guidelines (including required Geoscience BC deliverables) and required budget template for an RFP can be found in Appendix A of this RFP.

RFP's should be delivered, via email in MS Word or PDF format to Geoscience BC at sluggett@geosciencebc.com by **noon on October 25th, 2011**. All proposal proponents (successful or otherwise) will be notified in December 2011. Geoscience BC will begin contract negotiations with successful proponents in February 2012.

If no suitable proposals are received, no project funds will be awarded. Geoscience BC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP and to accept any proposal in whole or in part.

Geoscience BC
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APPENDIX A: SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposal Submission

Persons (the proponents) wishing to make a submission under this request for proposals (RFP) should confirm their intention and provide a single point of contact, phone number and email address to Christa Sluggett (sluggett@geosciencebc.com) at least a week prior to submission.

The proponent should prepare a **maximum** ten page proposal (not including the budget template) that includes the items listed below. Any pages past the 10 page limit will be disregarded and not submitted for review. Any costs or fees associated with preparing a proposal under this call shall be at the expense of the proponent.

Please submit your proposal via email in MS Word or PDF format to Geoscience BC, at sluggett@geosciencebc.com **by noon on October 25th, 2011** and indicate to which RFP you are applying (Targeted or General).

*Please include the following **required** information in your submission:*

- 1) Project executive summary and the relevance of the project to Geoscience BC's mandate and the project goal of stimulating mineral exploration in British Columbia.
- 2) Index or location map, at the appropriate scale, that shows the location of the project relative to towns, cities, roads or other cultural features (particularly parks and protected areas). This map must show NTS map boundaries and numbers.
- 3) Detailed project description that clearly outlines the objectives, methods, expected outcomes and key deliverables. The description must demonstrate that the project is scientifically sound, technically feasible and of an applied and innovative nature. It should also indicate how the project relates to other recent or on-going research by the proponents, other researchers or provincial or federal agencies. Include appropriate references as necessary.
- 4) Description of the key personnel involved in the project including their experience with related projects, their credentials and professional affiliation and any relevant publications. All persons or organizations that will play a key role in the project must be identified in the proposal.
- 5) Dates for completion of the various parts of the proposed project.
- 6) Detailed budget using the provided template (see below, not included in 10 page limit).

The following information is recommended to be included in your submission, if applicable:

- 1) Other maps, illustrations, and photographs as required to fully describe the project.
- 2) QA/QC procedures that will be employed.
- 3) The details of any training aspects to the project.
- 4) Letter(s) from industry or other sources of matching funds indicating their willingness to support the project if approved and the level of support anticipated.

Deliverables

In addition to any final project deliverables specified by the proponent, Geoscience BC requires that each funded project submit the following interim deliverables **annually** (until the project is complete):

- A poster for display at the Mineral Exploration Roundup in Vancouver each January
- An article for Geoscience BC's Summary of Activities (submission deadline in mid-October)

Budget Details

A detailed budget **must** be submitted using Geoscience BC's "Proposal Budget Template" available at www.geosciencebc.com/s/RequestsforProposals.asp?ReportID=475100. As your project progresses, you will need to use this template to report your actual expenditures to Geoscience BC. This will allow for easy comparison between the proposed budget and actual expenditures. Please add lines as necessary to properly complete your budget (e.g. If there are multiple personnel at different rates of pay, add a line for each group).

Please outline a complete budget for the project that includes the funding requested from Geoscience BC and any matching funding that has been secured, or will be requested from other sources. Components of the proposed project do not need to be separated out as to the source of funds, unless matching or Geoscience BC funds will be directed to a certain part of the project budget.

In addition, please note the following information:

- **Geoscience BC does not pay overhead.**
- Geoscience BC does not cover Capital Costs over \$1000 (e.g. computer purchases, field gear) without prior approval. If a Capital item is a requirement for your project, please contact Geoscience BC ahead of submitting the proposal.
- Funding for projects approved through this RFP will not include GST/HST, as Geoscience BC does not consider the funding provided to comprise a 'Taxable Supply' under the Excise Tax Act. Geoscience BC considers funding to be exclusive of GST/HST to the extent that the Principal Proponent is entitled to claim input tax credits or rebates in respect to their expenditure of these monies. If GST/HST paid is included as an expense under this grant, the Principal Proponent will provide Geoscience BC with a detailed breakdown of these amounts together with an explanation as why they were not claimed as input tax credits or GST/HST rebates.
- Geoscience BC reserves the right to approve a smaller budget than submitted in the proposal.
- It is expected that proposals will come with supporting funding from the proponent's organization in the form of salaries, laboratory facilities, computer resources, student stipends, equipment, logistics, etc. Proposals with a high level of supportive funding are looked upon favourably.

Selection

Proposal selection will be made by Geoscience BC's Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors.

Geoscience BC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals received.

Information on successful proposals will be published on Geoscience BC's website.

Proposal reviews will focus on the following:

- **Technical Quality** – Is the project technically sound and well defined with clearly articulated objectives? Is it feasible? Is it innovative?
- **Industrial relevance** – Does the project demonstrate an application to mineral exploration in BC? Is it likely to result in increased investment in exploration? Is the project supported by matching industry funds?
- **Personnel** – Do the proponents have the experience and qualifications to complete the project? Have previous projects been completed and delivered in a timely manner? Are there any training aspects to the project?
- **Budget** – Is the budget well defined and competitive? Is it realistic? Has the project generated supportive funding?

For more information, please contact:

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