

Call for Expressions of Interest:

Chandler Project, Multi-National Deep Geological Repository

Strategic Development Partnership – Phase 1: Strategic Review and Value Improvement Study for the Chandler Deep Geological Repository Project, based in the Northern Territory of Australia

I. Scope of Call

Tellus seeks expressions of interest for a strategic development partner to help deliver a review and value improvement study (**Strategic Review**) on its flagship growth project – the Chandler Multi-National Deep Geological Repository (**Project**).

Tellus is launching this Strategic Review now that the Titjikala Native Title group has agreed to proceed with the Project, including to accept international low level radioactive waste and international chemical waste. We are extremely proud of the trust the Titjikala have granted us, and we believe that this social licence from, and partnership with, Chandler’s First Nations people provides a key foundation to drive a successful Project.

This Strategic Review will be undertaken during calendar year 2024. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with the Tellus owners’ team to review the project scope and set a robust plan to implement the Project.

Tellus will award preferred contractor status to the successful candidate for all subsequent phases of the Project (e.g. feasibility study, construction and operations), but will reserve the right to go back to market at each stage.

II. Project Background and Rationale for this Strategic Review

The Chandler Project is in regional central Australia, approximately 120 km south of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory (NT). The Project will be Australia’s first deep geological repository, 850m below ground in a 300m thick bedded salt formation.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared to support the approval of the Project under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act), the Mining Management Act 2001 (NT) (MM Act), the Environmental Assessment Act 1982 (NT) (EA Act) and the Waste Management Pollution Control Act 1998 (NT) (WMPC Act).

Ministerial approval from the Australian Government was granted via EPBC 2012/6684 on 5 September 2018. The Chandler Project was also recommended for approval (subject to conditions) by the NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) via Recommendations Report (83) on 30 November 2017.

Tellus completed a Pre-feasibility Study (PFS) and agreed an Indigenous Land use Agreement with the Titjikala community, who are the custodians of the land on which the Project is sited.

Tellus chose to place the Project on hold in 2019 to focus on commercialising its now fully licensed and operational Sandy Ridge near-surface repository in Western Australia, which is Australia’s first (and only) nationwide low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. With the Sandy Ridge asset now open and ramping up to its 100,000 tonnes per annum capacity, Tellus opened conversations with the Titjikala once more in late 2022. Tellus has now received approval from the traditional owners to proceed with the Project.

That said, due to a nearly six-year development hiatus (including lockdowns and the logistical challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic), Tellus believes that this Strategic Review is an important next step. Particularly, this review will be crucial before commencing any material project development works (e.g. site investigations, engineering and feasibility works).

The Strategic Review will also allow the current Project scope to be re-set within the context of the rapidly evolving global and regional socio-political environment, which has materially changed since the Project was first conceived over fifteen years ago (e.g. the clean energy transition, rare earths/critical minerals, Waigani Convention, Minamata Convention, ASEAN obligations and emerging focus on national security partnerships and capabilities).

III. Objectives of the Strategic Review

The objectives of the Strategic Review will include:

1. Technical Feasibility Review:

Assess the technical aspects of the proposed facility, including the suitability of the chosen site, the effectiveness of proposed waste disposal technologies and methodologies, the adherence to global best practices in chemical and low-level radioactive waste management and recommend improvements.

2. Project Timeline Assessment:

Evaluate the proposed Project timeline, ensuring it is realistic, achievable, and aligned with the Project's goals, while also considering potential delays and mitigating strategies. Provide options for alternate development pathways, such as staging (including demonstration and pilot project stages).

3. Financial Viability Examination:

Scrutinise the financial aspects of the Project, providing insights into the capital and operating estimates, potential cost-saving opportunities and the long-term financial sustainability of the Project.

4. Risk and Opportunity Identification and Management:

Identify potential risks and opportunities associated with the Project and develop a comprehensive risk and opportunity management plan to mitigate, monitor, and manage risks and opportunities effectively throughout the life of the Project.

5. Regulatory Framework Assessment:

Evaluate the proposed regulatory framework for the Project, identify issues and propose improvements and key actions to mitigate delivery risk and future operations, closure and institutional control phases (as relevant).

6. Innovation and Best Practices Incorporation:

Identify opportunities for innovation and the incorporation of best practices in waste management, ensuring that the Project aligns with the latest advancements in deep geological repository development and operation.

7. Environmental Impact Gap Analysis:

Review the existing environmental impact assessment and conduct a gap analysis for any improvements identified during the Strategic Review. Identify potential risks and impacts associated with the facility, proposing mitigation strategies to minimise adverse effects on the surrounding ecosystem(s).

8. Health and Safety Evaluation:

Examine measures to ensure public and project personnel health and safety, including emergency response, radiation protection protocols, and the Project's overall impact on human health.

9. International and Domestic Logistics and Supply Chain Assessment:

Review risks and opportunities in the international and domestic supply chains that may impact the feasibility of the Project and recommend gap closing or improvement actions.

10. Next Steps:

Develop a roadmap for the overall Project implementation and a detailed plan for the next steps in progressing the Project, including scope of work, key decisions, key expertise required and cost and schedule estimates.

These objectives aim to provide a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of the Project, addressing regulatory, environmental, social, technical, and financial aspects while promoting transparency, stakeholder engagement and the overall safety and success of the Project.

IV. EOI Timeline

Tellus is purposely setting an aggressive timeline for the Review to fast-track the Project. The timeline is as follows:

- **ASAP:** Register for briefings with Tellus management at ChandlerProject@TellusHoldings.com.
- **19th February:** Submit questions to be addressed during briefings.
- **26th and 28th February:** Closed briefings with Nate Smith (CEO), Steve Hosking (COO), Nick Williams (CFO) and Ryan Bloxson (Head of External Affairs).
- **11th-15th March:** Opportunity to meet Nate, Steve and Ryan in person and ask face-to-face questions at the Phoenix, Arizona Waste Management Symposia (**Phoenix WM Symposia**).
- **31st March:** Deadline for EOI submissions (no extensions of time will be granted).
- **5th April:** Tellus awards preferred contractor status.
- **April:** Review and refine scope and objectives of study with preferred contractor.
- **May 2024 – January 2025:** Contract award, delivery and close out of Strategic Review and value improvement study.

V. EOI Process and Selection Criteria

Criteria for evaluating responses to the EOIs will include:

- Experience and credentials of the proposed review team (considering demonstrable development, operational and commercialisation expertise).
- Demonstrable strong social licence of the applicant in its current operations.
- Global networks and ability to unlock commercial leads for international waste contracts.
- Proposed review methods and approaches.
- Willingness of team to collaborate with the Tellus owners' team for extended periods in Tellus' Perth office, Western Australia.
- Commercial offer – Tellus, as a private company, is primarily focused on commercialising its Sandy Ridge near surface geological repository in Western Australia, which only became fully commercial in February 2023. That said, with the momentum of achieving the Titjikala's support in November 2023, Tellus (and the Traditional Owners) want to progress the Chandler Project *now*. Accordingly, Tellus has decided to seek a long-term partner that can help bring world-class expertise and resources to advance the Project. Tellus will not allocate significant capital at this stage of the Project due to its business plan's focus on Sandy Ridge and is seeking commitments from prospective partners to assist it with reviewing the Project and re-setting the implementation plan.

VI. Submission Guidance

The following is a guide for applicants to structure their submissions:

1. **Cover Letter:**

- a. Introduction: Briefly introduce your organisation, its expertise and your interest in conducting the Strategic Review.
- b. Understanding of the Project: Demonstrate a clear understanding of the proposed Project and its significance.
- c. Commitment: Express your organisation's commitment to conducting a comprehensive and unbiased Strategic Review.

2. **Organisational Overview:**

- a. Background: Provide a brief history and background of your organisation, highlighting relevant experience in strategic reviews, chemical and radioactive waste management.
- b. Team Expertise: Showcase the expertise of key team members who will be involved in the strategic review.

3. **Methodology:**

- a. Approach: Outline your proposed approach to conducting the Strategic Review, emphasising key components such as regulatory compliance, environmental impact assessment, community engagement, technical feasibility, financial viability, risk management, and project timeline.
- b. Innovations: Highlight any innovative methodologies or tools that your organisation plans to employ.

4. **Experience and Past Projects:**

- a. Relevant Experience: Provide details of your organisation's relevant experience in conducting strategic reviews for projects in the chemical and radioactive waste industries.
- b. Success Stories: Share success stories or case studies that demonstrate your organisation's ability to deliver valuable insights and recommendations.

5. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Although Tellus will continue to own the partnership with the Titjikala and all community engagement, we need to ensure that our long-term partner for the Project shares our value of TRUST. To evaluate that, we would like examples of how your organisation has built trust with relevant stakeholders. Accordingly, please provide details on your organisation's approach to community engagement, emphasising transparent communication, managing social-political risk, and strategies for addressing community concerns. Provide examples of successful community engagement from previous projects.

6. **Timeline and Milestones:**

- a. Timeline: Present a proposed review timeline, highlighting key milestones and deliverables.
- b. Delivery: Demonstrate your organisation's ability to adhere to deadlines and efficiently complete the Strategic Review.

7. **Budget:**

- a. Commercial Proposal: Provide a transparent and detailed commercial proposal, including cost estimates for the Strategic Review. Highlight any cost-saving measures or efficiencies that may benefit the client.

8. References:

- a. Client References: Include references from previous clients or projects, particularly those related to strategic reviews or chemical and radioactive waste industry projects.

9. Appendices:

- a. Supporting Documents: Include relevant certifications, qualifications, and any additional documentation that strengthens your application.

10. Contact Information:

- a. Provide clear contact information for the primary point of contact within your organisation for further inquiries or discussions.
- b. Applicants should ensure clarity, conciseness, and alignment with the specific requirements outlined in this document.

VII. Logistics

1. Closed Briefings: The Tellus executive team will host closed briefings to assist with the EOI process based on the above timeline and will be available for in-person questions at the Phoenix WM Symposia. We will give a short presentation and answer any specific questions that prospective EOI applicants may have.
2. How to submit your questions: Please email ChandlerProject@TellusHoldings.com
3. Where and how to send your final submission: Please email ChandlerProject@TellusHoldings.com