Notice of Request for Proposal: Michigan Drilling Project

Procurement Package Folder

2026-15-EXP-00033 - Michigan Drilling

Scope of the Procurement Package

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Houghton Battery Minerals LLC (HBM), an indirect subsidiary of Talon Metals Corp., is soliciting bids for an approximately 25,000 foot surface diamond core drilling program in Baraga and Marquette Counties, Michigan. Drilling may occur at two (2) to four (4) separate locations. Two (2) track-mounted diamond core rigs are required. Holes will be drilled HQ to 2,500 feet and reduced to NQ to a maximum total depth of 3,000 feet. Average hole depths are expected to range between 1,000 and 1,650 feet. Re-entering existing holes to deepen them may be required. All work must comply with Michigan EGLE Part 625 and all applicable regulations.

2. HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT (HSE)

The Contractor shall conduct all operations in a safe and workmanlike manner, maintain a site-specific safety program, conduct pre-shift safety meetings and inspections, and maintain up-to-date emergency response procedures appropriate for the work. HBM personnel will regularly inspect drill sites and equipment to verify that safety and environmental risks are adequately mitigated while working collaboratively with Contractor personnel to ensure a safe workplace.

All personnel must complete a Project Operational and Safety Induction prior to beginning work at the Project. The Contractor shall ensure personnel are trained and competent to meet safety requirements, procedures, and policies appropriate for their work area. Basic first aid and CPR certification of crew members is preferred.

The Contractor shall use and store hydrocarbons and other hazardous materials in a manner that prevents spills to the environment while minimizing fire risks. The drill rig and all hydrocarbon storage locations must be fully contained while operating to prevent any hydrocarbon or hazardous material spill from contacting the ground surface. All spills shall be reported to HBM by the end of the shift in which they occurred, regardless of whether the spill was caught in containment.

Intersecting gas in the borehole while drilling at the project is possible. The Contractor shall provide three gas monitors per drill rig. One monitor will be operational at all times on site, properly maintained, and sampling for H2S/ O2/CH4/CO. Monitors must be bump tested at beginning of every shift. The Contractor shall post a written procedure at the drill describing operation and use of the monitor and protocol for gas encounters in the hole.

Each drill rig must have a hydraulically operated core press to be used for removal of core from core tubes. The press will be always used for core removal from tubes.

The drilling area is remote with unreliable cellular phone signal coverage. Contractor will provide a satellite internet connection at the drill rig to be used for emergency and routine communications as well as upload of data to HBM's cloud system. Secondly, Contractor will provide a reliable satellite based mobile communication device in each vehicle for the purpose of emergency communication when travelling to/from the drill site. An In-Reach or similar device is suitable.

The following documentation must be submitted with the bid:

- Corporate HSE Policy

- Site-Specific Safety Program Summary
- EMR (last 3 years)
- OSHA Recordable Statistics (last 3 years)
- Emergency Response Plan
- Proof of Liability Insurance to $5 million

3. DRILL CORE PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

HBM expects efficient production of drill core on each shift were drilling occurs (excluding time allotted to client directed moves, surveys, etc). Rates of drill hole advance should be appropriate to minimize hole deviation and maximize high quality core recovery.

Drill core will be oriented using industry proven core orientation tools with drill crew placing accurate, legible orientation marks on core in every run. Contractor to provide core orientation tooling.

HBM may require Contractor crews to apply additional marks to the core and photograph the core at the rig. Core will be provided to client clean with run blocks accurately labelled in feet.

Drill core will be delivered to the L'Anse Core Shed once per day at minimum.

HBM will supply cardboard core boxes and photographic equipment.

4. PERSONNEL & SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

The base of operations will be L'Anse, Michigan, and crew accommodations should be located in or near L'Anse. The Contractor is responsible for providing local accommodations and subsistence for all personnel. All personnel must be trained, qualified, fit for duty, and compliant with HBM site requirements. While off duty, Contractor personnel must always act in a professional and respectful manner to support HBM's reputation in the local community.

5. PROJECT SCHEDULE

The anticipated project time frame is May 15 through November 15, 2026. Drilling operations shall be conducted on a continuous basis, twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week (24/7). Each rig must operate with a minimum three (3) person crew per shift. A dedicated Drilling Supervisor shall be onsite during active drilling operations.

6. MOBILIZATION & PROJECT MOVES

The Contractor is responsible for mobilization and demobilization to and from the project area. HBM will provide trucking by a local contractor for drill rigs and major equipment between project locations.

7. SITE ACCESS & DRILL SITES

The project area is remote with most access routes on County roads. Where private roads or trails are utilized, HBM will provide access to the drill sites suitable for pickup trucks. Travel time from L'Anse to drill sites will range from approximately 20 minutes to 1 hour depending on location.

The Contractor shall utilize track-mounted rigs configured to operate within small drill site footprints to minimize surface disturbance. Minimum pad size requirements must be included in the bid submission and should be no larger than 120 feet by 120 feet.

HBM maintains a Field Office, Core Shed, and Laydown Yard in L'Anse, MI which the Contractor may use for temporary storage of equipment. If needed, laydown areas will be designated in the field for temporary storage of equipment or supplies that do not fit on the drill site.

HBM will provide portable toilets at or near the drill sites.

8. SURFACE CASING AND HOLE ABANDONMENT

Overburden depths are expected to range from 10 feet to 120 feet. Surface casing will be installed into bedrock and bentonite pumped into the annulus to surface before coring begins.

Surface casing will be provided by HBM.

Contractor may be required to abandon drill holes by tremie line grouting with neat cement then remove surface casing. Drill rods may be used as the tremie line.

9. DRILL CUTTINGS MANAGEMENT AND WATER USAGE

A closed-loop mud system with cuttings separation process is required. A centrifuge is the preferred equipment for separating cuttings from drilling fluid and is expected to be used during all drilling operations unless otherwise approved by HBM.

Michigan EGLE regulations require all cuttings and fluid be contained and hauled off site when drilling rock that contains sulphide minerals. However, sumps may be used to dispose of cuttings and fluid at the drill site when drilling rock without sulphide minerals.

HBM personnel will advise the Contractor when to implement the drilling waste protocol for drilling rock with sulphide minerals. When doing so, HBM will provide temporary storage tanks and bins where the Contractor will deposit cuttings and used water in a manner that prevents release to the environment. HBM will be responsible for removing drilling-related rock waste and disposing of it in a licensed facility.

Water for drilling will be sourced from local streams. A water hauling truck with pump is required. Drilling fluid recirculation is required to minimize water usage. Once used water is available on site, make-up water shall preferentially be taken from storage tanks before withdrawing additional volumes from surface sources.

Water taken from surface sources (streams) shall be treated with chlorine to achieve potability prior to introduction into the bore hole in compliance with EGLE Part 625 requirements. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable water withdrawal, treatment, and reporting requirements under Michigan regulations.

10. BORE HOLE SURVEYING

The Contractor shall perform drill hole orientation surveys at HBM's direction, typically once per 12-hour shift. HBM will provide a north-seeking gyro orientation survey tool for the Contractor's use.

Bore hole geophysical surveys will be conducted on most drill holes. In some cases, surveys may be run from the drill rig platform using HBM personnel. The Contractor shall coordinate and work safely with HBM survey crews. A survey standby rate shall be provided and applicable during such operations.

Schedule

1. Due date for submission – 11 May 2026 by 5:30pm EST
2. Period of performance: June 1 to Nov 15, 2026.
3. The submissions will be opened on 12 May 2026 starting at 10:30am EST by a Selection Committee comprising:
    - Steve Hovis
    - Brian Goldner
    - Vince Conte

- George Zugel

Additional Details

1. Minimum qualifications of vendor (if any)-
   - EMR <1.1
   - Business in operation and providing diamond core drilling services for >10 years
2. Required content/format of the proposals/bids
   Bidders shall provide footage rates for each hole diameter with hourly rates for operating, standby, supervisor, and survey standby, casing installation and casing removal. Any additional pricing for use of closed-loop mud system including centrifuge. Daily rates for support equipment (water truck, skidsteer, etc). Lump sum mobilization and demobilization charge for each rig, support equipment, and crews.
3. Bidder Communication Requirements
   - All potential vendors must refrain from CC/BCC or directly contacting any other Talon personnel regarding the scope of work until a vendor has been formally selected.
   - Interpretation of written bid or proposal specifications shall not be made to prospective bidders or proposers. Any questions related to the RFP/sealed bid request must be made via email and directed to Emma Van Guilder (vanguilder@talonmetals.com) (not the requesting department). Any violation of this requirement will result in disqualification. Potential vendors are not permitted to contact the requesting department directly. All potential bidders will receive the same information.
   - All bids should be transmitted to Talon via vanguilder@talonmetals.com. Bids may include links to additional files, when applicable, which Talon will download and include in the bid package during its assessment process. Bidders cannot grant anyone else from Talon or its partners access to the bid.
4. The response must specify a guaranteed unit price.
5. Statement on the proposal/bid opening process and non-acceptance of late submissions.
   - All proposers/bidders must include a statement within their proposal/bid certifying that they are not suspended or debarred from participating in US government contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, and other assistance programs. By submitting a proposer/bid, vendors are certifying that they understand the regulations included in the 2 CFR Section 200.214 (Uniform Guidance) and that their company is not currently suspended or debarred. Late submissions will not be considered.

Notice Approved by

Vince Conte

/s/ Vince Conte

Chief Financial Officer

TALON

Evaluation and Award Criteria and Specifications

Criteria	Weight	Vendor Score (1 = low, 5 = high)	Total	Notes
Qualtiy of HSE Policy and effectiveness of implementation with drill crews.	0.2		0	
Low OSHA Recordable Statistics	0.15		0	
Low Workman's Comp Insurance EMR	0.15		0	
Type of drill offered.	0.05			
Availability of drill rigs and crews.	0.2		0	
Bid meets overall requirements of the SOW.	0.25			
Total	100%	0	0	

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
Please confirm that Q3 tooling is required due to orientation of the core.	Yes
If holes can be drilled HQ to 3,000, is this preferred, or is there a hard stop of H at 2,500' to reduce to N?	Prefer to drill HQ as deep as possible to minimize hole deflection. No hard cutoff for switching to HQ. If rig is capable, we will drill HQ to TD.
Regarding supervision, is it possible for 1 supervisor to cover both day and night shift, or full-time supervision (1 supervisor on days and 1 on nights)?	1 supervisor to cover both shifts.
Given the volume of drilling at each site location, what is the anticipated average travel time from L'Anse to the drill sites?	Maximum travel time is 75 minutes. Some drilling locations will be 20 minutes. If drilling contractor provides two rigs, one may be at 75 minutes' drive time with the other at 20 minutes' drive time.
We understand that casing is provided by HBM; will casing shoes also be provided? If not, please confirm the typical casing size (presumed to be HWT).	Casing shoes will be provided.
Is the bentonite pumped around the annulus of the surface casing a thick gel, or is it high solids bentonite? For quantity estimates, how many holes are planned?	High solids bentonite. Approximately 20 holes
Who will provide the chlorine for water treatment?	Driller to provide chlorine additive and testing strips to confirm concentration.
What is the average rig move distance?	Within a project area, average distance is <1 mile. Drill moves between drilling areas may be 20 to 30 miles. If a lowbed truck is required for a move, Talon will provide.
What is the average distance to the water source from the drill sites?	Varies from 1/4 mile to 2 miles.
What production rates do you typically get per shift, including rig moves, casing, surveys, abandonment, etc.? = footage drilled over a significant period of time ÷ # of shifts in the period.	Target production rate is 130 feet per day averaged over a few months.
On drill sites where no sulfide bearing formations are expected to be encountered, will the earthworks contractor excavate a sump, or is a backhoe required for us to excavate and backfill ourselves?	No earth moving is required by the drilling contractor.
Is an azi-aligner required?	HBM will provide rig alignment.
Please describe the drill site access on the project site, including road maintenance, water truck accessibility, road widths for passing traffic or turning around, etc. Is there a KML file of the proposed drill sites with access roads and water sourcing points identified that could be reviewed?	Access will be provided suitable for pickup trucks and water trucks. Most trails are 1.5 lanes wide or wider. A KML file of locations will not be provided during the RFP process.
We would like to come and look at the site for a better understanding of what it will take for sulfide contact drill mud and cuttings management. When is the best time to send someone up there?	Site visits are not provided during the RFP process.