

## **Montserrat Volcano Observatory**

call for  
**Expressions of Interest**

for the  
**Provision of Helicopter Services**

*31 May 2016*

Montserrat Volcano Observatory, Montserrat, West Indies (MVO) are calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the provision of helicopter services to support MVO's work monitoring the Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat.

MVO is likely to run an open tendering process for the contract, whereby any interested company can submit a tender. Submission of an EOI is not a requirement in the process.

The timings for any contracting process have not yet been determined. However it is strongly anticipated that the process will start within the second half of 2016. Any contract put in place following this process is likely to be of three years duration, with an optional two-year extension. The contract will be performance-based to ensure consistent provision of service.

The current contract provides for a minimum of 104 hours flying time on Montserrat per calendar year plus the costs of positioning to Montserrat. The service is provided on one day per week, with a minimum of two hours flying time on Montserrat on that day. MVO will consider suggestions for alternative scheduling during the contracting process.

The work that has been carried out for MVO under the current contract includes:

- Aerial investigation and photography of the volcano and other places of interest,
- Transporting staff and equipment to remote locations for the installation and maintenance of MVO monitoring stations,
- Installation of equipment at remote locations using long-line deployment and retrieval.

Operations on Montserrat will be based at MVO, where there is a helipad.

The work requires a light helicopter suited for bush-flying conditions with a density altitude up to 5,000 ft (1.5 km). Pilots will need to have experience of flying in mountainous terrain and windy conditions. Landing sites are varied, including unimproved, off-level, confined, ridgeline and pinnacle sites.

The helicopter must be able to work safely in a dusty environment and in proximity to volcanic ash.

The service is currently provided using Bell 206 Longranger aircraft.

The EOI and any requests for further information should be addressed to Mr Roderick Stewart, Director, Montserrat Volcano Observatory and should be submitted by email to [rod@mvo.ms](mailto:rod@mvo.ms). The submission should take the form of either a Word or a PDF document.

The EOI should include, as a minimum, the following information:

- Confirmation that you would be interested in tendering for this type of service.
- Name and address of company
- Contact person and email address

The closing date for submitting an EOI is 14 June 2016. All information will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.