

***Letter of Addendum***

TO: All Offerors

FROM: Meradeth Montoya, Associate Director of Purchasing

DATE: 05/14/2026

RE: RFP Number: RFP 26050031 – Amendment No. 2  
Commodity: Rock Triaxial Testing System

- Q1: Axial load capacity is listed twice, once as “≥500 kN” and once as “≥1000 kN.” Please confirm which requirement is correct.
- A1: Pursuant to the applicable procurement specifications, the minimum required axial load capacity for the base proposal is ≥500 kN. Offerors may propose a higher-capacity frame, including a 1000 kN configuration, as an optional or alternate solution. Any alternate configuration shall be clearly identified separately from the base proposal and include all associated technical specifications and pricing.
- Q2: Please confirm that the axial load capacity refers to the hydraulic actuator maximum force and not confining pressure will have approximately 267 kN of hydrostatic reaction load to overcome, leaving about 233 kN of axial load available inside the vessel if a 500 kN hydraulic load frame is used.
- A2: The axial load capacity requirement refers to the maximum hydraulic actuator/load-frame force and not the net deviatoric load available at the specimen within the pressure vessel. Offerors shall clearly identify in their proposals both the actuator/load-frame capacity and the estimated net axial/deviatoric load available at the specimen under maximum confining-pressure conditions.
- Q3: No specification is listed for instrumentation apart from a load cell. Please confirm whether the load cell must be compatible with and installed inside the pressure vessel, or whether a load cell installed outside the vessel is acceptable.
- A3: A uniaxial load cell installed outside the pressure vessel is acceptable for the base proposal. An in-vessel load cell is not required unless necessitated or strongly recommended by the proposed system design. If an internal load cell is recommended for improved specimen-load measurement accuracy under confining pressure, it shall be identified separately as an optional item.
- Q4: No specification is listed for other instrumentation such as extensometers. Please confirm that the proposal should not include axial, circumferential, or in-vessel extensometers.
- A4: The base proposal is not required to include axial, circumferential, or in-vessel extensometers. However, if the proposed system supports axial and/or radial strain measurement within the

pressure vessel, such instrumentation may be provided separately as optional add-on components.

Q5: We understand that confining-pressure and pore-pressure intensifiers are not required, as NMT intends to use existing ISCO syringe pumps. Please confirm whether the proposal should include in-vessel end caps/platens with pore-pressure and permeability ports.

A5: Although NMT intends to utilize existing ISCO syringe pumps for confining-pressure and pore pressure applications, the proposal shall include all required in-vessel end caps/platens with pore-pressure and permeability ports. Offerors shall also identify all fittings, tubing, adapters, and interface components required for safe and compatible connection to the existing ISCO pump systems.

Q6: Please confirm the pore-fluid type. If corrosive fluids, such as saline solutions, will be used, MTS can provide Hastelloy testing platens and Hastelloy pressure fittings.

A6: Anticipated pore fluids may include water and saline brine; therefore, offerors shall assume that certain testing applications may involve corrosive aqueous fluids. Stainless-steel wetted components are acceptable for the base proposal. However, offerors are requested to provide Hastelloy platens and Hastelloy pressure fittings as optional upgrade items where recommended for saline or corrosive-fluid compatibility.

Q7: No uniaxial accessories are specified. Please confirm that the proposal should not include uniaxial platens, fracture-toughness fixtures, Brazilian-test fixtures, or direct-tension fixtures, and that all testing will be performed inside the pressure vessel.

A7: Uniaxial platens, fracture-toughness fixtures, Brazilian-test fixtures, and direct-tension fixtures are not required as part of the base proposal.

Q8: The requirement for “capability for static and cyclic testing” is broad. Please clarify whether there are specific frequency or performance expectations for the proposed frame. A 5 GPM HPU with a 1000 kN hydraulic actuator would generally support static testing and low-frequency cyclic testing only.

A8: The primary requirement is for static and low-frequency cyclic geomechanical testing and does not include high-frequency fatigue testing. A 5 GPM HPU is acceptable for the base proposal. Offerors shall specify the achievable cyclic-loading frequency range and performance envelope for the proposed actuator, hydraulic power unit, and triaxial vessel configuration, including any operational limitations under high-load or high-confining-pressure conditions. Slow cyclic testing in load-control or displacement-control modes is acceptable.

Q9: Is it possible to extend the proposal submission deadline?

A9: At this time, the proposal submission deadline will remain unchanged. Extending the deadline would delay the overall procurement and project schedule. Offerors are encouraged to submit their proposals in accordance with the deadlines established in the solicitation documents.

**ALL OFFERORS ARE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM THE RECEIPT OF THIS AMENDMENT IN THEIR RESPONSE.  
ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RFP REMAIN UNCHANGED.**