



International Association
for Hydro-Environment
Engineering and Research

Hosted by
Spain Water and IWHR, China

IAHR JOURNALS PUBLISHING AGREEMENT - CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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1 INTRODUCTION

This call seeks to attract publisher proposals for publishing five of IAHR's journals that cover selected areas of IAHR interest for a five-year period, starting in 2023. The ensuing call outlines important aspects about IAHR and its aspirations for IAHR journals.

Additionally, the call includes three annexes (A-C) that describe the five journals and their key performance indicators, and present IAHR's Strategic Plan.

The five journals are

- *Journal of Hydraulic Research*
- *International Journal of River Basin Management*
- *Journal of Applied Water Engineering and Research*
- *Journal of Ecohydraulics*
- *Revista Iberoamericana del Agua -RIBAGUA-*

The Editorial Boards of IAHR's Journals include esteemed and dedicated Editors, each with a high value of h-index attained in their own fields of research.

2 GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT IAHR

Founded in 1935, the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) is a global, independent, member-based organisation of engineers and water specialists working in fields related to the hydro-environmental sciences and engineering. IAHR stimulates and promotes research and engineering by sharing new insights and information, developing networks of people, setting industry standards, informing best-water-management practices, and nurturing young professionals interested in water science and engineering.

2.1. WHAT IAHR DOES

IAHR's vision is to bring together the world's engineers, experts, researchers, and organisations to accelerate solutions and knowledge discovery about the water (hydro) environment.

IAHR accomplishes its goals via four strategic areas of activity:

- Provide a world-class platform for international networking and great member experience** for knowledge-makers and -consumers, top and emerging scholars and leaders in the field of hydro-environmental science and engineering.
- Inspire, disseminate and catalyse state-of-the-art knowledge and thinking** on important water engineering and related environmental issues of present times through high-quality products and peer-reviewed publications.

- C. **Convene events that set agendas, harness and amplify the collective knowledge of the global hydro-environment community**, doing so via congresses, symposia, seminars, workshops, learning experiences and meetings around the world.
- D. **Act as a global voice on behalf of the water-environment scientists and engineers** by positioning IAHR as an international expert organisation, working with strategic partners and through global outreach and advocacy on matters of interest and importance to IAHR’s members.

In 2019, IAHR completed an update of its Strategic Plan. Annex C presents the Plan.

2.2. IAHR’S COMMUNITY

IAHR forms a community that brings together over 4,000 members from more than 50 countries. Members are world’s experts in hydro-environment research and engineering, representing water specialists and practitioners from many organisations.

IAHR’s global presence involves IAHR Regional Divisions in Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Africa, Middle East and North Africa, and North America.

IAHR’s numerous technical interests currently cover the broad topics listed below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fluid Mechanics ● Experimental Methods and Instrumentation ● Hydraulic Machinery and Systems ● Industrial Flows and Energy Exchange ● Hydraulic Structures ● Fluvial Hydraulics ● Hydroinformatics ● Ice Research and Engineering ● Groundwater Hydraulics and Management ● Coastal and Maritime Hydraulics ● Marine Outfall Systems ● Urban Drainage ● Ecohydraulics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flood Risk Management ● Innovation and Professional Development ● Climate Change Adaptation ● Global Water Issues ● Drones in Hydraulics ● Global Water Security ● IAHR/WMO Hydrometry Training Course Working Group ● Oil Spill Modelling ● Reservoir Sedimentation ● Sustainable Development Goals ● Water System Operations ● Transient Flows ● Nature Based Solutions
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2.3. IAHR’S PORTFOLIO OF PUBLICATIONS

IAHR offers a broad portfolio of publications. The portfolio comprises journals in related fields of water engineering and sciences, a magazine, conference proceedings, whitepapers and books (traditional books and a new series of concise monographs). IAHR’s website describes these publications.

3 CONTEXT

The five Journals have been outsourced to Taylor and Francis since 2010 and are part of the benefits provided to IAHR members (including online access for selected other publications). The current agreement with Taylor and Francis expires in December 2022.

A sixth journal, *Journal of Hydro-Environment Research*, is published by Elsevier and is not included in this Call for Proposals.

IAHR requires that the publisher of its journals provides high-level copyediting services, flexible paper management system and a commitment to improve key publishing metrics, keeping in mind future trends in journal publishing (Open Access, new metrics, research data). Additionally, IAHR requires that the publisher work with IAHR should the five journals need significant adjustment.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SELECTED PUBLISHER

As per usual arrangement for publishers of journals, the selected publisher will oversee the following list of primary responsibilities:

A. Developing a vision for IAHR journals

A1. The publisher will aid IAHR develop a vision for IAHR's journals, that accounts for future developments in scientific publication, including journals, data, software, or other material relevant for scientific endeavour.

A2. Advise on developments in Open Science policies, in particular Open Access practices. This includes advice on potential Open-Access (OA) transition for IAHR's current hybrid model of publishing journal papers.

B. Developing and implementing a publishing plan for IAHR journals

B1. Design a publishing plan for the portfolio of journals for the next five years (term of contract), including strategies for potential OA transitions and journals audit, particularly focusing on the publication processes and outreach. This effort entails: ensuring times for processing papers match the processing times of leading contemporary journals; enhancing citation strategies; implementation of effective sales strategies; strengthening Key Publishing Metrics (traditional and alternative); and ensuring rigorous peer review of papers.

B2. Maintain regular meetings and reports regarding the status of the journals.

C. Supporting all aspects of paper submission and peer reviewing process

C1. Provide a paper-submission and peer-review platform that is readily accessible, accounts for the needs of each journal, and connects smoothly with the publisher's journal-production system.

C2. Maintain regular evaluations of the performance of the peer-review platform. Take responsibility and support costs for changes that may be deemed necessary by IAHR and the editorial boards of the journals.

C3. Manage permission and copyright concerns, and help editors mitigate plagiarism cases.

D. Supporting all aspects of paper production and commercialization

D1. Provide editorial support for the journals. This aspect involves giving the consistent quality of copyediting, typesetting, and proof-checking commensurate with the standards (including mathematical elements) expected of leading journals.

D2. Work with editors of journals to ensure journals maintain a healthy backlog of papers.

D3. Make available the printing, warehousing, and distribution facilities for the journals.

D4. Host the necessary deposit of DOI's, and the archive of papers (LOCKSS/Portico).

D5. Host and manage access to repositories for supplementary material such as data or software.

D6. Assume commercial and sales responsibilities associated with IAHR's journals. This set of tasks includes assistance regarding subscription pricing, institutional sales and marketing, reprint sales, management of pay per view sales, OA charges, as well as anything related to customer service (including non-members of IAHR).

E. Increasing the visibility and quality of IAHR journals and journal papers

E1. Guide archiving and dissemination of papers, for example into the main indexes used for papers. In this regard, ensure that IAHR's journals follow the ISCE criteria and criteria proposed by other major indexing systems.

E2. Promote the visible presence of IAHR's journals in World, Regional and Technical congresses, and in social media.

E3. Provide free online access to IAHR's individual members and institute members.

E4. As needed, help with IAHR's marketing strategy to increase membership.

5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF IAHR

IAHR will assume the following responsibilities:

- A. Appoint and monitor editors, associate editors, and editorial boards.
- B. Manage (and adjust) each journal's aim, scope, and policies.
- C. Oversee each journal's peer-review policy and practices.
- D. Monitor the peer-review process each journal uses.
- E. Coordinate editorial strategy and decision-making for each journal.
- F. Manage member subscriptions and the member subscription database for the journals.
- G. Market each journal to IAHR members, and nurture member support for the journals.

6 PUBLISHER SELECTION PROCESS

The candidate organisation must be a legally registered entity with the authority and international operational and financial capability to act as the global publisher of IAHR journals. Proposals should be submitted by the candidate organisation with the approval and signature of the organization's legally authorised officer(s) for proposal submission.

7 KEY STEPS AND DATES

The selection of the publisher of IAHR's journals will be completed in a simple, three-step process:

- A. **31 January 2022:** A solicitation for proposals issued by IAHR. In addition, invitations to submit proposals shall be made to selected publishers.
- B. **15 March 2022:** Deadline for receipt of proposals by IAHR's Secretariat. The proposals shall be evaluated by an IAHR Task Force, who may request further information from candidates. Depending on need, detailed exchanges will be organized with shortlisted candidates.
- C. **12 May 2022:** Deadline for the signed agreement regarding the publishing contract.

8 EVALUATION CRITERIA

IAHR's publications are a key means for the Association to inspire, disseminate and catalyse state-of-the-art knowledge and thinking about hydro-environment engineering and research. The quality, reputation, impact, outreach, and operational efficiency of

IAHR's journals are essential for reaching IAHR's strategic goals. In this context, the evaluation criteria shall be based on the following considerations:

8.1. General considerations

- Understanding of IAHR's strategic plan. (Annex C).
- Reputation for quality and sustainability of quality (e.g., long-established teams in all the publishing processes).
- Benefits to members (e.g., free online access to related-field journals).
- Member accessibility to journals.
- Journals in the same/synergic fields.
- Green, sustainability and inclusive policies.
- Ethics and Transparency.
- Proposal contract period.
- Data-migration standards.
- Adaptation to new trends in journal publishing.
- Experienced relationship with professional societies.

8.2. Peer reviewing process

- Submission software (including tools to detect plagiarism, self-plagiarism, tagging of inappropriate content, reviewer and editor evaluation and self-evaluation, reviewer matching).
- Strategy to maintain and upgrade submission software.
- Connection between peer-review system and production system.
- Additional editorial support (e.g., light grammar improvement of manuscripts).
- Implementing a digital XML-first workflow.

8.3. Production

- Copy-editing.
- Typesetting.
- Proof-checking.
- Quality control.
- Printing.
- Online publication.
- Offprint distribution -delivery times.

8.4. Sales and circulation strategy

- Consortia deals.
- Access to transformative agreements.

8.5. Marketing strategy

- Strategy for circulation growth (readers, authors, and subscribers).
- Strategy for citation and indexing (demonstrable measures of quality).

8.6. Financial offer

- The financial offer must guarantee revenues to IAHR (notably, minimum payment, and editorial support).
- Additionally, the offer should address contingent revenues to IAHR (royalties of sales and any other income) and in-kind support (e.g., discount charges).
- The offer should include financial projections over the period of the contract.

9 WHAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD CONTAIN

Candidate organizations are requested to include the following information in their proposal, and are encouraged to include any other relevant information that enhances the proposal. Quantitative Key Performance Indicators, wherever possible, should be provided for the different evaluation criteria to denote the intended outcomes over the 5-year period:

- A. A cover letter from the candidate organization: the letter is to be signed by the authorized representative(s) of the candidate organization.
- B. Information about the candidate organization: Name and description of the organization.
- C. Information pertaining to each of the evaluation criteria: Insert headings as dot points from all evaluation criteria mentioned above (8.1 to 8.6), also accounting for key responsibilities outlined in section 4.
- D. To enhance communication with IAHR, name the key, publication personnel to be involved with IAHR.

10 WHERE TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL

Candidates are requested to submit an electronic copy and two paper copies of their proposal to the IAHR Publications Manager at:

publications@iahr.org

International Association for Hydro-Environment Research and Engineering (IAHR)
Paseo Bajo Virgen del Puerto 3
28005 Madrid
SPAIN

11 FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to arrange a confidential discussion, please contact IAHR's Publications Manager, Estíbaliz Serrano, at publications@iahr.org.

For more information about IAHR, please visit <https://www.iahr.org/>.

12 ANNEXES

- A. Descriptions of the five journals Included in this Call for Proposals.
- B. Editorial Information and Key Performance Indicators.
- C. IAHR Strategic Plan, 2020-2023.