



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat

Report of the Market consultation

concerning the planned tender:
"The purchase, installation and maintenance of
an HF radar system for current measurements
in the Western Scheldt at the Zuidergat area."

by

**The Central Information Services (RWS-CIV) department of
Rijkswaterstaat (the Directorate General for Public Works
and Water Management)**



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1. Introduction

1.1 General description of the market consultation

The Central Information Services (RWS-CIV) department of Rijkswaterstaat (the Directorate General for Public Works and Water Management) is one of the national organization units of RWS. RWS-CIV is responsible for collecting, managing and distributing data, as well as ICT management and development. Furthermore, CIV delivers support in office automation. This market consultation is carried out by RWS-CIV and the Flemish government.

This consultation is a first step towards a planned tender: “the purchase, installation and maintenance of an HF radar system for current measurements in the Western Scheldt at the Zuidergat area”. RWS-CIV is eager to actively involve the market parties before the actual tender is produced. Therefore Rijkswaterstaat has kindly invited interested parties to participate in this market consultation.

1.2 Purpose of the market consultation

The purpose of RWS with this market consultation is:

- a) to gain insight into the feasibility of the project and the plan and the conditions under which the project can be executed;
- b) to obtain input for further implementation of the tender strategy and the tender documents (get new ideas, test existing ideas);
- c) to find out whether the contract is feasible for suppliers and whether the set of conditions is realistic
- d) to learn if there are alternative solutions to achieve the objective;
- e) to reach, interest and encourage as many prospective suppliers as possible.

RWS wishes to emphasise that this market consultation is not part of the tendering procedure and that no rights may be derived from this document.

Any insights gained from the market consultation will be used by RWS (wherever relevant) in preparing the tendering procedure and the tendering documents. RWS reserves the right to not (fully) make use of these insights.

1.3 Approach of the market consultation

The market consultation was published on April 19th 2021 on TenderNed. During the consultation parties, who wished to contribute, asked written questions about the documents published on TenderNed.

After this round, individual meetings could be scheduled in with one or more market parties. In the end it turned out not to be necessary to organize these individual meetings. Publishing on TenderNed of this report concerning the insights obtained by the answers to the questions concerning the planned tender is the last step.



2. Responses to the Market Consultation

The deadline for submitting the questionnaire was June 8th, 2021. Section 1.2 of this document contains the intended objectives of the consultation. In this section a general impression per objective is given, based on the reactions of the market parties.

A. Feasibility of the project

From the received reactions it has become clear that the envisaged HF radar system along with its requirements, as specified in the market consultation document, is in principle feasible.

It also became clear that a few requirements, for instance the high update frequency, are formulated rather severely by RWS. This puts heavy constraints on the performance of the currently available HF radar systems. RWS is convinced, however, that the formulated requirements are realistic and consequently necessary because of the envisaged operational use by the shipping organizations and the natural conditions in the planned area. Therefore, RWS is not willing to weaken the requirements.

B. Tender strategy

In summary, only a very limited number of suppliers of HF radar systems is available, worldwide, that can meet with the requirements as drawn up by RWS. If a European tender will be initiated it will be according to the procedure of a public tender.

The total work package consist of supply of the HF-radar system, on-site installation and maintenance for a extend period. The work package will not be divided in three separate lots, due to technical considerations.

C. Feasibility of the contract

Following the invitation to the market consultation, 2 interested parties responded. Of the 2 questionnaires submitted, it turned out that only 1 potential supplier will actually be able to tender for the intended tender in accordance with our requirements. As stated before, this clearly shows that the market for the supplying, installation and maintenance of HF radar installations is very limited.

D. Alternative solutions

The received reactions are mainly conform the HF radar configuration as proposed by RWS in the market consultation document. It can thus be concluded that no alternative solutions were put forward.

Several recommendations were received, pertaining to the following aspects:

- The required update time interval is estimated to be rather short, but still feasible.
- The accuracy requirements should be further specified.
- The envisaged system will be installed in the Western Scheldt estuary in the shipping lane about halfway between Vlissingen and Antwerp. This is a somewhat sheltered area, relatively far from the open sea. However, most HF radar systems worldwide are installed at the coast. The very specific nature of the envisaged area



(salinity and wave height lower than at sea) has some impact on the frequency to be used.

- Sand banks falling dry within the coverage area will have a negative effect on the performance of an HF radar system.
- Large container vessels sailing through the coverage area will temporarily produce a disturbing effect.
- For increasing the reliability/availability (e.g. impaired by container ships passing by) a 3 radar stations configuration with two separate frequencies is recommended.

E. Interest prospective suppliers

By publishing this consultation, RWS has already announced at an early stage that it intends to hold a tender. The reaction of the interested parties showed that this was appreciated.