



Customs Administration of the
Netherlands
Ministry of Finance

MARKET CONSULTATION

Diver Detection Sonar Systems

Dutch Customs (Douane)

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Table of contents

Chapter 1. Introduction.....	3
1.1. Introduction.....	3
1.2. Purpose.....	3
1.3. About the Contracting Authority	3
Chapter 2. The market consultation	4
2.1. Description of the topic	4
2.2. Scope	4
Chapter 3. Procedure market consultation	5
3.1. Publication.....	5
3.2. Submission of the questionnaire.....	5
3.3. Deadline questionnaire.....	5
Chapter 4. Conditions and principles for the market consultation	6

Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction

The Customs Administration of the Netherlands (hereafter: Contracting Authority) invites interested parties to participate in the market consultation regarding Diver Detection Sonar Systems. This market consultation is in preparation for a possible tender procedure, in order to gain insight into the market for Diver Detection Sonar Systems.

This guideline describes the organisation of the Contracting Authority, the content, objectives, planning, preconditions and procedural matters of the market consultation.

1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this market consultation is to gather knowledge and insights to obtain a better view of the market. The input gathered from this market consultation will influence the choices made by the Contracting Authority in respect to the intended Tender.

The market consultation provides benefits for all parties involved. The Contracting Authority investigates what is possible and can create a perception of the market. Interested market parties gain insight into a possible Tender at an early stage. In addition, the answers provided by market parties during the market consultation may influence the requirements that will be included in the intended Tender. In this way, market parties can contribute to the success of the intended Tender.

1.3. About the Contracting Authority

The Customs Administration of the Netherlands

The Customs Administration of the Netherlands is part of the Ministry of Finance. The Customs Administration is responsible for the supervision and levying of customs duties and other taxes on cross-border goods for the European Union. It levies excise duty on alcoholic products, mineral oils & tobacco products for the Netherlands. Furthermore, it is responsible for collecting consumption tax on non-alcoholic beverages for the Dutch State. Finally, Customs check on dangerous and prohibited goods and unauthorized international trade.

Tax and Customs Administration Purchasing Implementation Centre

The Tax and Customs Administration Purchasing Implementation Centre is part of the Shared Service Organisation, Centre for Facility Services (SSO CFD) and is carrying out the market consultation and the intended tender procedure on behalf of the Customs Administration.

Chapter 2. The market consultation

2.1. Description of the topic

In recent years, the Customs Administration of the Netherlands has received an increasing number of indications that divers in seaports, so-called drug pickers, are removing narcotics from ships' hulls underwater. Several drug pickers have been arrested in the seaports.

Most narcotics enter the Netherlands in containers. These are found in packages of several thousand kilos. For packages of a few hundred kilos, attachment to the hull of a ship is an attractive method. The narcotics are carefully packed and prepared, due to their vulnerability to water damage. They are then stored below the waterline, causing minimal disruption to the ship's streamline. In the port of destination, the drug pickers remove the narcotics from the hull and bring them ashore.

With the current means of enforcement, the Contracting Authority has insufficient methods to carry out underwater supervision. Therefore, there is a growing interest in diver detection sonar systems. Such a system can determine under water whether a drug picker, either with an open or closed scuba breathing system or a surface swimmer, is present in the seaport.

2.2. Scope

The Customs Administration of the Netherlands does not currently use diver detection sonars. The intention is to purchase two systems: one mobile and one permanent arrangement. These are to be deployed in Dutch seaports.

The purpose of this market consultation is to find out about the latest state of affairs in the market. The results from the market consultation will influence the Contracting Authority decision on the continuation of the tender procedure.

Chapter 3. Procedure market consultation

3.1. Publication

The Contracting Authority has chosen to conduct this market consultation in writing and in broad context, in order to give all potentially interested market parties the opportunity to participate in this process. For this reason, the market consultation is published on TenderNed. This is the Dutch platform for all government tenders. Furthermore, this market consultation has been sent by e-mail to possible interested parties.

3.2. Submission of the questionnaire

The questions for this market consultation can be found in Appendix 1. Any input by interested market parties is appreciated; you have the right to only partially answer the questionnaire.

The questionnaire can be submitted via TenderNed, or sent by e-mail to t.van.den.maagdenberg@belastingdienst.nl

Please note that commercial or sensitive information can be used by the Contracting Authority at any further stage of the tendering process. If you wish to provide commercial or sensitive information that may be of interest in the context of this market consultation, but you do not wish this information to be shared with third parties, please indicate this explicitly in your response. The Contracting Authority cannot be held liable or responsible for the anonymous inclusion of information in the tender documents, without this explicit mention.

3.3. Deadline questionnaire

The deadline for submitting the completed questionnaire is **4th of March 2022**.

Chapter 4. Conditions and principles for the market consultation

The Contracting Authority has compiled this guideline with great care. Should you notice any contradictions or imperfections, please let us know.

Your participation in the market consultation is not mandatory. If you do take part in the consultation, the following conditions and principles apply:

- This market consultation complies with the general principles of European procurement law.
- In the intended tender, no distinction is made between parties who participated in the market consultation or not. Participation in the market consultation is entirely voluntary and without obligation. It does not in any way affect participation in the intended Tender. Parties cannot claim reimbursement of any costs incurred in the context of the market consultation.
- This document was purely written within the context of the market consultation. It is not an invitation to tender for the intended tender.
- The information provided in this market consultation can deviate from information that will be provided later (in the context of the intended tender).
- The Contracting Authority reserves the right to:
 - o Adjust the planning as outlined in this guideline at its own discretion.
 - o To discontinue the market consultation and/or the intended tender.
- No rights whatsoever can be derived from information provided during the market consultation. This applies to both the Contracting Authority and the market party.
- The information provided during the market consultation will not be used for any purpose other than gaining market knowledge in order to improve the quality of tender documents. The Contracting Authority will not make any further disclosure of information from this market consultation of which it knows or can reasonably be expected to regard as confidential. It may, however, prepare a summary of the results of this market consultation to be published with the tender documents. Commercially sensitive information and specific references to participants in the market consultation will not be included in the summary.
- By participating in the market consultation, the participating market party declares to agree with all the conditions and principles stated.