

Question and answer document

Stichting BiSC

Shared library system

Market consultation on proposed procurement of 'shared library system'



Date: 20th January 2023
Version: 1.0

Introduction

General information

This Question and answer document is part of the documentation regarding the market consultation and prevails over the Market consultation document and it's appendixes.

This Question and answer document contains the answers and reactions of the Contracting authority regarding the questions from interested parties. Some of the questions have been translated from English to Dutch to ensure a level playing field.

Questions and notes by Interested parties accompanied by the answers and reactions of the Contracting authority

Nr.	Betreft	Vraag	Antwoord
1	Market consultation document: 1.1 general information contracting authority	Are potential participants in the Procurement all part of the provincial networks or are some of the participants individual libraries (this to make an estimation of the amount of labour)?	Some of the participants are individual libraries.
2	Market consultation document: 3.2 Background information	In the general information (1.1) one talks about seven plus an additional two provinces and in paragraph 3.2 about eight provinces. What is the difference?	Currently these are libraries spread over 9 provinces. Other libraries, also from the remaining three Dutch provinces, are still joining this partnership.
3	Market consultation document: 3.3 Questions, question 3, a, i	In the market consultation document different terms are used for the proposed procurement of the 'shared library system'. What are your definitions of platform - basic system - core system - circulation system?	• By platform we mean one technical implementation of the functionalities of our proposed procurement to be used by all participating libraries. • By basic system we mean all functionalities that fall within the dark and light purple parts of the document with the intended scope of the tender (Appendix A). • By core system or module we mean the circulation module. • By circulation system we mean the circulation module.
4	Market consultation document: 3.3 Questions, question 3, a	What is your vision on the local library collection positioned in or in relation to this shared system?	Local collections must be added and made accessible in the shared system.
5	Market consultation document: 3.3 Questions, question 3, c	Is your intention to ask for the 'Proof of Concept' in advance of the procurement or after awarding the procurement in the form of a phase 0 (like used in the procurement of Eengemaakt Bibliotheek Systeem voor de Vlaamse Openbare Bibliotheken)?	We would like to see a PoC as part of the procurement process. We would like to see your take on the feasibility of this, taken into account our question and the status of your product, in the answer to this question.
6	Market consultation document: 3.3 Questions, question 3, e, i	a. What is your definition of 'Relevant open API links'? b. What is your vision, taking into account price and maintenance, on the selection process by the Partnership and participating libraries regarding 'Are you willing to offer the system including relevant modern API links in all areas where libraries have or want links now and in the future'?	a. When it comes to the definition of "relevant", we refer to Appendix A: the plate with the purple spheres and the enumeration in table 'Scope of the circulation module', line 'standard interfaces'. For the definition of open API links, we refer to the answer to question 9. b. The process for selecting, defining and developing new APIs still needs to be further shaped in the partnership. We would like to receive your viewpoint and advice on this topic.

7	Appendix A - Scope of common library system tender: slide 2	How do you plan to relate to other suppliers of physical library materials?	If there are other providers of physical library materials with an order module, the basic system must be able to connect to it. At the moment, only NBD offers such an order module.
8	Appendix A - Scope of common library system tender: slide 2	a. Could you elucidate the interface Physical local facilities? b. What is the relation with Other interfaces?	a. This concerns all local equipment available at library branches for lending, taking and paying, based on current standard interfaces and protocols. This is described in the table on the slide 'modules of local libraries out of scope', line 'physical local services'. b. Other interfaces concern interfaces that we may have forgotten in the list of interfaces.
9	Appendix A - Scope of common library system tender: slide 3	What is your definition of 'open standard interfaces'?	A standard is an agreement that is recorded in a specification document. To exchange data, ICT systems must have implemented the same standard. The condition is that the specification document is freely available. Characteristics that a standard must meet in order to be classified as 'open'. • The required documentation must be easily accessible. • There must be no obstacles in the field of intellectual property law. • There must be sufficient opportunities for stakeholders to participate during the (further) development of the standard.
10	Appendix A - Scope of common library system tender: slide 4; Financial settlement	What does 'Payment and balances of public library services' entail?	This concerns, for example, subscription fees and ticket sales.
11	Appendix A - Scope of common library system tender: slide 4; Standard interfaces	What does 'externally certified' entail? Could you provide an example?	Think, for example, of the Forum for Standardization of the Dutch Government.
12	Appendix A - Scope of common library system tender: slide 4; Standard interfaces	What does 'identity access management facility for the purpose of single sign-on facilities via single identity' entail?	One identity (login account) for all library visitors to log in to both local and national library services such as borrowing, reserving or renewing physical books as well as borrowing e-books or audiobooks. The use of one login screen for logging in for all these services. See also Project Single Identity uit de startblokken I VOB Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheken (debibliotheken.nl)
13	Market consultation document: 1.1 general information contracting authority	When you say "over 100 libraries" how many locations (branches) is that?	That would be approximately 500-525 physical library locations, plus a number of small library outlets in b.e. schools in small towns and a small amount of mobile library buses.
14		How many patrons will potentially need to be in the shared database, and why do you want it to be separate?	Each library (i.e. 100) needs to be a patron in the shared database. This is because each library is an individual legal entity. Data between libraries must be

			separate by law. Further reasons are that each library has different subscription terms and fees for library visitors.
15	Market consultation document: 3.2 Background information	When you say that "The Partnership aims to create a joint library system for the participating (100) libraries, spread over eight provinces. The prospect is that more libraries and service organisations (PSIs) will join, so that eventually a library system will emerge with national coverage" does that mean that you will be looking for a non-binding framework agreement?	How the contracting will be organised and which form of contracting will be used is part of the strategy phase of this proposed procurement and will be decided later on. A non-binding framework agreement is part of the options.
16	Market consultation document: 3.3 Questions; question 1, c, iv	How do you define "Management" ?	This concerns all management activities necessary to keep the library system up and running, like application and service management, maintenance and hosting.