



Memorandum of Information relating to the European tender for supporting the development of a common vision and a strategic plan within the “Vallée du Niger” program on the sustainable management of natural resources in the Niger Valley in Niger

Date: 31 July 2025

In this Memorandum of Information, the Contracting Authority provides answers to the questions raised and comments submitted regarding the above-mentioned European tender. In addition, this Memorandum of Information is used to issue announcements. This Memorandum of Information forms an integral part of the Tender Document (reference 202409091). In the event of inconsistencies between the Tender Document and the Memorandum of Information, the Memorandum of Information takes precedence.

In the event that there are multiple Memoranda of Information, then the provisions in the most recent Memorandum of Information takes precedence in the event of inconsistencies between the different Memoranda.

Announcement

Number	
1.	The Contracting Authority has added a list of companies from Niger that can be approached, without obligation, for potential collaboration on this project. These companies applied through our stakeholders in Niger without any form of selection by the Contracting Authority. Therefore, whether or not you use these companies has absolutely no influence on the final score of your application. The list of companies and contact details can be found on the last page of this Memorandum of Information.

Questions & Answers

Question	Subject	Question	Answer
1.	Requirements	Section 3.5 outlines a number of requirements (RD1 to RD5) related to the development of a data management and governance framework. Could you please clarify whether these requirements are to be demonstrated through the Tenderer's organisational experience (as supported by the core competence references in Annex 6), or through the experience and qualifications of the proposed project team members (as described in the CVs, per section 5.2.2)? This would help us understand how best to present our relevant experience.	The competences of the Tenderer with regards to the requirements RD1 to RD5 are to be demonstrated through the experience and qualifications of the proposed project team members (as described in the CVs, per section 5.2.2 of the Tender Document).
2.	Language requirements	Requirement RP7 refers to a B2 CEFR level of French, which must be verifiable in the concise CVs. Could you kindly clarify whether it is sufficient to state this qualification in the CVs, with verification to be provided during evaluation or after award if requested? Or is documentary evidence (e.g. certificates) required already at the time of proposal submission?	As mentioned in RP7, it is sufficient at this point to state the CEFR level in the CV. If there are any reasonable doubts as to the level of competency claimed, verification may be requested before the announcement of the award of the Contract. When a comparable level is submitted, this means that when another qualification standard is used the Tenderer has to proof it is comparable to the requested CEFR level.
3.	Scope of Work	Kindly provide confirmation that no surveys will need to be undertaken and should not be costed as part of the proposal.	The Contracting Authority cannot confirm whether surveys will be required or not. The development of a vision, strategic plan and SEA will require thorough public consultation regarding the policy orientations set out in said documents. If the Tenderer deems a survey to be the best solution for this in his methodology, then Tenderer must budget for this in his proposal.
4.	Scope of Work	Could you please clarify the extent to which the CTAP is currently equipped to take the lead in the development of the vision under Work Package 1? Additionally, to what extent is capacity building expected to be required	The CTAP, like the CNP, is led by national and regional public bodies responsible for the various components of the program in accordance with their sovereign missions. They will work to this end throughout the vision development process with the consultant. However, they cannot be mobilized full-time except during essential phases and for

		within this component to enable effective participation and ownership by the CTAP?	specific periods. Specific suggestions and requests can be specified in the consultant's methodologies. Some capacity development may be necessary but this will be limited and only a minor component of this Work Package. The focus will rather be on supporting CTAP in the process of drafting the Vision (e.g. facilitating meetings, sharing notes and text proposals, drafting syntheses of the CTAP's input, etc.).
5.	Stakeholders	Can you please describe the number of people present in the CTAP, their technical experience, expertise and profile in relation to this assignment? How well is the CTAP staff familiar with IWRM processes and vision development in particular? Additionally, to what extent are regional initiatives and institutions such as PANGIRE, the Niger Basin Authority, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, or others already integrated into the governance structures of the programme, such as the CTAP and the CNP, or linked to this project?	The CTAP is composed of 5 directors-general, who each represent a different sector relevant to the programme: - Water and Forests - Water/hydraulique - Agriculture - Livestock - Regional planning Each member is senior civil servant with multiple years of experience and may be considered expert in his domain. In addition, the CTAP is supported by the DG of the Nigerien authority responsible for reviewing SEA, the BNEE. There is some experience with IRWM and vision development process. When relevant, regional initiatives and institutions are involved. Several relevant institutions are member of the steering committee. The état des lieux study aimed to identify relevant existing national policy documents which may be taken into consideration in the development of Work Packages 1 and 2. Specifically, ABN is part of the steering committee, while the LCBC is not as they cover a different geographic area.
6.	Governance	Given that RVO acts as the contracting authority, while EKN is the financier and CTAP represents the primary beneficiary, the coordination between these stakeholders will be critical for effective implementation. Could you kindly clarify how the project management structure on RVO's side is envisioned, and what role RVO foresees for	RVO is primarily responsible for program management. CTAP is responsible for content, mobilizing stakeholders to ensure national ownership. Coordination and supervision of activities in Niger will be carried out by CTAP in close collaboration with RVO. In addition, CNEA, as a technical partner, will collaborate with CTAP and RVO throughout the process, providing advice and comments before the deliverables are approved. Overall coordination and supervision of the schedule and deliverables will be provided by RVO. Once the Contract is signed, the

		itself in terms of coordination and oversight throughout the assignment?	Contracting Authority will prepare a schedule with SMART milestones - approved by RVO. RVO will organize regular meetings with EKN to ensure alignment with relevant Dutch policies.
7.	Use of subcontractors	Section 4.3.2 mentions that assignments including one or more subcontractors can only be used as reference assignments if the subcontractor(s) in question will be involved in the fulfilment of the Contract and if the Tenderer can and will make use of the knowledge and experience of the subcontractor(s) in question during the fulfilment of the assignment. This seems an unrealistic difficult criterion to meet as the type of projects which completely show either one of the core competences will in almost all cases be done by using subcontractors. The obligation to use these subcontractors (e.g. if the reference is for example in Asia and we've used a local Asian sub-contractor) in this Niger project is not realistic. Can you modify this requirement or waive the requirement entirely? A suggestion is to only reference assignments that included subcontractors in which the scope executed by the Tenderer is used to proof the core competence. In other words, experience obtained by subcontractors used in the reference assignment is not considered proof for the core competence.	As mentioned in section 4.3.2 of the Tender Document, assignments including one or more subcontractors can only be used as reference assignments if the subcontractor(s) in question will be involved in the fulfilment of the Contract and if the Tenderer can and will make use of the knowledge and experience of the subcontractor(s) in question during the fulfilment of the assignment. Therefore, the core competences must be demonstrated in the reference, and if sourced from a subcontractor, that subcontractor must also be engaged in this Contract. However, for other activities within the reference project (not being the core competences), this does not have to be the case and another subcontractor could be used for that specific part of the assignment.
8.	Reference data	Kindly provide clarification on the following: In section 4.3.2 it is stated that the tenderer needs to declare that he has carried out at least one reference assignment for each of the two core competences. This suggests that more references can be used to support the	No, Tenderer may not provide more than one (1) reference for each core competence. If a single reference testifies to multiple core competences that comply with the applicable requirements, then Tenderer can use the same reference for these different core competences.

		presence of the core competence in the Tenderer's experience. However, two paragraphs later the annex mentions that 'you may not provide more than one reference for each core competence'. Section 4.3.2 also mentions that only 1 reference per core competence must be submitted. This seems to be a contradiction.	
9.	Timeline	Section 7.3.10 suggests the possibility to have multiple Memoranda of Information. Due to the size and complexity of the project, we strongly recommend having multiple clarification rounds. Also, the current schedule (see 1.3) mentions the answers to the questions will only become available on 30 July which is very/too close to the proposal submission deadline. Can you provide answers to the questions as they come in to have a more timely and dynamic clarification process?	Please see the updated Time schedule on page 20 of this Memorandum of Information in which we also included a second Memorandum of Information and we have also extended the deadline for the receipt of Tenders and the date of opening of Tenders by the Tendering Authority.
10.	Financial proposal	Work Package 3 mentions that "these designs can be implemented and made operational, including the content and hardware solution." However, at this stage, it is not feasible to accurately estimate or budget for the hardware component. Could you please clarify whether the purchase and implementation of hardware can be excluded in the financial proposal and/or addressed at a later stage?	No, the purchase and implementation of hardware cannot be excluded from the financial proposal and/or addressed at a later stage. The Tenderer is requested to provide a solid methodology which includes flexibility regarding the amount of budget for hardware which is deemed necessary.
11.	Maintenance and support	Work package 3 describes the design and operationalising of a new information system that need to be operational and maintained for a period of five (5) years. What is the contractual expectation in this regard, since the contract is 23 (or 29) months long. How elaborate does the operation and maintenance	The Tenderer is expected to identify the capacity needs of the Nigerien counterparts to maintain the information system after the programme is closed. Measures must be put in place to ensure that the Nigerien parties are able to do so. Concretely, the website hosting, for example, must be paid for the five-year time horizon.

		needs to be? What service level is requested from the Tenderer?	
12.	Award criteria	Section 5.2.1 outlines that the Work Plan and Approach will be evaluated based on several criteria, including "the quality of the detailed budget proposal per work package," referring specifically to a breakdown of expert days, daily rates, third-party costs, accommodation, travel, and other expenditures. It further states that this breakdown should be included in Annex 02 'Financial Proposal'. However, further down in the same section, it is clarified that the Work Plan should not exceed 15 A4 pages and explicitly excludes Annex 02 from the page count and content of the Work Plan. Could you kindly clarify if there's any level of budget detail expected to be included in the Work Plan/Approach itself, beyond what is presented in Annex 02? Is the evaluation of financial aspects limited solely to Annex 02?	No, this breakdown should be included in the annex 02 'Financial Proposal' and not in the plan of approach/ workplan.
13.	Payment schedule	Can an alternative payment/invoicing schedule be proposed? The limited number of invoicing moments for a 2 years project lead to a substantial negative cashflow and Work In Progress. Also, can advanced payments be made?	We propose the following payment schedule: 20% upon signing of the Contract; 20% after completion of Work Package 1; 30% after completion of Work Package 2; 25% after completion of Work Package 3; 5% after Project closure.
14.	Financial proposal	The tender is requesting a lumpsum fee (as per section 3.6.3), but the client still requests	No, we are not requesting a lumpsum fee. The Tenderer is requested to provide an overview of the total maximum price per Work Package

		an actual summary of worked hours/days. The requirement of 3.8.2 is more suitable for a Time x Tariff contract. Please clarify this requirement.	and total maximum price for all three (3) Work Packages, applicable to this assignment by filling in the annex 02 entitled 'Financial Proposal'. With these cost components the Contracting Authority can assure this assignment will stay within budget.
15.	Financial proposal	This paragraph describes three numbers to be included in the financial proposal: 1) fee excl. taxes, 2) the taxes and 3) the fee incl. taxes. However, this is not in line with the template provided for the Financial Proposal. Is the financial proposal template superseded by 3.7.2 or the other way around?	Please disregard 3.7.2 in the Tender Document and submit the pricing as requested in the annex 02 'Financial Proposal'. Pricing should be quoted excluding Dutch VAT and (if applicable) including all local foreign VAT and all other costs and/or fees.
16.	Submission	Please confirm that these are all the required documents and formats: - the workplan (max 15 pages in PDF) - Annex 1 European Single Procurement Document (1 or more, depending on the collaboration setup) - Annex 2 Financial Proposal (in Excel) - the CVs (individual pdf file per team member) - Annex 6 Reference assignments (1 or 2 files in word or in pdf)	In section 7.3.17 of the Tender Document a checklist is mentioned what should be submitted via TenderNed for this Tender. The following documents need to be submitted via TenderNed for this Tender: • Annex 01 European Single Procurement Document; • Annex 02 Using annex 02: Financial Proposal: Prices/rates included in the quotation; • Annex 06 Using annex 06: Reference assignments; • Requirements and award criteria The CVs of the expert(s) that demonstrate their experience and knowledge for the purpose of the requirements (paragraph 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5) and the award criterion (paragraph 5.2.2); • Award criteria: A separate response to each of the Tendering Authority's award criteria.
17.	Governance	Could you kindly clarify how the involvement and sustained engagement of key national institutions such as the CTAP, CNAP and BNEE is being supported throughout the assignment? Are there specific mechanisms foreseen within PROVANI or complementary initiatives to facilitate their active and	During the preparation phase, the CTAP has demonstrated a high level of engagement with the programme. Mechanisms currently in place include regular online meetings between CTAP and RVO, frequent visits, and an active WhatsApp group including all members. It is expected that the Tenderer will make efforts to maintain this level of engagement through similar and/or additional methods during the duration of the Contract.

		continued participation in the vision and strategy development process?	
18.	Governance	Could you kindly clarify to what extent relevant transboundary or regional institutions (e.g., basin-level or intergovernmental initiatives) are expected to be reflected in or connected to the governance structures and deliverables foreseen under this assignment?	The Autorité du Bassin du Niger (ABN) is member of the steering committee. The current <i>directeur technique</i> is well-aware of the programme and is engaged in its outcome. Other transboundary actors are currently not involved but may be engaged as the Tenderer or the CTAP deem relevant for the vision and strategy development.
19.	References	In the section 4.3.2 it is mentioned that "The reference(s) must be signed by the referee (the client in question)". It might be too difficult to get the reference signed by the client before the deadline for submission. Could it be possible to get it signed after per request of the Contracting Authority?	No, the reference(s) must be signed by the referee (the client in question).
20.		It is clear that the consultant will be required to provide a financial proposal in three parts—corresponding to Work Packages 1, 2, and 3—with the total maximum price to be evaluated. According to the invoicing requirements, the payment schedule will follow the percentage of the actual total cost realized per deliverable, namely, 30% upon completion of Work Package 1, 40% upon completion of Work Package 2, and 25% upon completion of Work Package 3. It is also stated that a summary of the actual hours or days worked must be provided. This raises some uncertainty as to whether the contract will be on a lump-sum basis or time-based. In our financial proposal, we will specify exactly what we expect to allocate to Work Packages 1, 2, and 3 as total maximum price. These allocations may not align with the	We propose the following payment schedule: 20% upon signing of the Contract; 20% after completion of Work Package 1; 30% after completion of Work Package 2; 25% after completion of Work Package 3; 5% after Project closure. These will be payments upon completion of each Work Package, based on the total maximum price for each Work Package.

		prescribed 30%, 40%, and 25%, but could instead be, for example, 20%, 30%, and 45% of the Total maximum price. We therefore kindly request RVO to clarify whether payments will be made as: • Lump-sum payments upon completion of each WP based on the total maximum price for each WP, or • Time-based payments for the actual workdays spent on each Work Package, thereby providing room for deviation from this 30-40-25-5 split. If time-based, kindly indicated whether reported summary of actual hours and days worked on WPs will be sufficient OR specific timesheet approval process is required. And whether invoicing can only be done after a certain WPs is fully completed or invoicing can be done quarterly (as its time based). Finally, please also confirm that no advance payment will be provided.	
21.	Award criteria	No maximum length for the expert CVs is stipulated. Kindly, could you stipulate if there is a maximum length for the CVs, and if so, what this length is?	There is no maximum length for the CVs.
22.	Award criteria	Kindly confirm that the Quality of the detailed budget proposal per work package including a breakdown of individual expert days and daily rates per key activity, third party costs, costs for accommodation, travel and other costs. Including the extent to which the input of staff for activities and other expected expenditures have their relevance substantiated in the proposal IS NOT PART OF THE 15 PAGES	Correct, the breakdown of the costs should be reflected in the annex 02 'Financial Proposal', which is not part of the 15 A-4 pages plan of approach/ workplan.

		APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY - BUT SHOULD BE ELABORATED IN Annex 02 'Financial Proposal'	
23.	Award criteria	The tender document states the following: The plan of approach/ work plan including planning should include a clear description of the team members' responsibilities and contribution. The plan of approach/ work plan may not exceed 15 pages A-4, minimum font Verdana 9pt and line spacing 12 mm, excluding the front page, table of contents, planning, and budget proposal in annex 02 'Financial Proposal'. Kindly refer if the detailed workplan falls under "planning", as referred to in the quoted section. And if so, does this mean that the detailed workplan is to be submitted as an Annex? If not, is it appropriate to submit the detailed workplan as an A3 piece of paper? Or will this then be counted as 2 pages.	The plan of approach/ work plan may not exceed 15 pages A-4, minimum font Verdana 9pt and line spacing 12 mm, excluding the front page, table of contents, planning, and budget proposal in annex 02 'Financial Proposal'. The plan of approach/ work plan need to be delivered as separate PDF-file and the detailed budget proposal in annex 02 'Financial Proposal' needs to be delivered as separate Excel-file. The plan of approach/ workplan should be one (1) PDF file with a maximum of 15 A-4 pages. The planning is excluded from the 15 pages A-4. This cannot be submitted on A-3 format, only A-4 format. The planning should be incorporated in the detailed workplan, but shall not be included in the count of a maximum of 15 pages A-4.
24.	Award criteria	The instructions for 5.2.2 Award criteria relating to Project Team composition only specify including CVs. Our standard tendering procedure is to include a few profiles of the team and describe the team composition and how it is organised, e.g. an organigram. Kindly specify if adding this section to 5.2.2 is permitted and/or desired.	For this criterium, the CVs of the proposed project team members have to be submitted as separate PDF-files. We only request the CVs including the topics mentioned in this award criteria. It is not allowed to submit other documents (e.g. an organigram and/or description of the team composition). Other documents submitted on this criterium will be disregarded and not be assessed.
25.	Requirements	Is it at least seven years or at least five years of experience for RT1, RT2 and RT3?	At least five (5) years of experience is required. The requirements RT 1, 2 and 3 are as follows: RT 1: At least five (5) years of experience in supporting the development of governmental vision documents and managing the process of developing multiannual strategic plans, such as IWRM

			plans, River Basin Planning, Natural Resource Management Plans (including development of alternative scenarios). RT 2: At least five (5) years of experience in rural development, including development of livestock, agriculture and fisheries sectors. RT 3: At least five (5) years of extensive experience in engaging with a broad range of stakeholders.
26.	Financial Proposal	Are there any instructions on where to include project management costs, overheads, local travel and accommodation costs in Annex 02 Financial Proposal?	Per work package the following cost components can be submitted: Input staff costs, Travel expenses, Accommodation expenses, Other costs and Other expected expenditures.
27.	Scope of Work	The ToR states: "To develop..a data management and governance framework concerning core datasets and indicators". Please confirm if the scope is just about data governance, or to support a framework for wider governance of natural resource management.	The scope of Work Package 3 covers the development of a data management system, which includes a governance component in order to ensure that data are updated and rendered accessible in the long term. The wider governance of natural resource management is understood to be included in the development of the vision and strategic plan and SEA (Work Packages 1 and 2). It is important that the governance is sufficiently supported in order to ensure long-term ownership and implementation of the vision and strategic plan. In short, the scope of Work Package 3 is indeed about data governance, but it should be in synergy with Work Packages 1 and 2.
28.	Scope of Work	The SEA process should be done during the plan formulation stage, and it should be iterative. Deliverable 2b implies that it should be undertaken on the submitted plan, i.e. after decisions have been made. Please advise on which of these two is the correct interpretation.	The SEA process should be integrated with the planning phase and be conducted in an integrated manner in order to inform the development of the strategic plan. It should <u>not</u> be conducted after the plan has been submitted as it will not be as effective in informing decision-making. This changes the deliverable 2b in the Tender Document.
29.	Scope of Work	The ToR states: "RVO and other partner organisations will support capacity development of ...stakeholders on strategic planning". Will the project team be able to request types of training that could be required to ensure stakeholders are able to undertake informed decision-making on the	Yes, the project team will be able to request trainings from RVO and partner organisations such as the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), given that the training need is well motivated and fits within the mandate of the programme. These trainings will be covered under a different component of the programme and need not to be budgeted for.

		basis of the methods used to develop the Strategic Plan? if not, how will we be able to ensure this?	
30.	Scope of Work	Is there an obligation to host data sets within country borders? And how about applications referencing the data sets (e.g. metadata catalogue)?	There is no legal obligation to host data sets within country borders. The manner in which the data sets are hosted should be agreed upon with the CTAP.
31.	Scope of Work	Is there a specific ISO metadata extension prescribed by Nigerien law or can default ISO formats suffice?	As far as RVO is aware, there is no specific ISO metadata extension prescribed by Nigerien law.
32.	Data Governance	Which organization will be the future data owner for datasets which are collected as part of the strategic plan development?	This is an important question which will need to be explored as part of the execution of Work Package 3. It may be that the existing owners of datasets will be able to govern the data generated in the programme effectively, but it may also be necessary to discuss alternative organisational structures.
33.	Scope of Work	It can reasonably be expected that part of the datasets will be managed in existing source systems that cannot facilitate access in a directly "shareable way" (such as OGC webservices for spatial data & download url access for non-spatial data). Is expected that all these data sets are directly accessible from the "data management and information system" (which would require keeping snapshot copies and a procedure to keep these up to date) or by providing contact details and data request procedures in the catalogue of the system?	The Contracting Authority shall answer this question in the second Memorandum of Information.
34.	Scope of Work	The platform GeoNetwork is suggested as a suitable platform for the data management system. Are other platforms also an option if they meet the requirements that will be evaluated?	Yes, other platforms are also an option.

35.	Scope of Work	Who is intended to be the responsible party for operating and maintaining the Data Management System (during and optionally after the 5-year period)? Would that be CTAP or would CTAP delegate this to a fitting government agency?	The Directeur Statistique (DS) of the Ministry of Environment, Waterworks and Sanitation (MHAE) will be the main focal point and responsible party for data management. Although the CTAP is end responsible for political approval of new systems, the DS will be responsible for managing the system. If during the early stages of WP3 it appears that a different governance mechanism is required, this will be taken up with the CTAP.
36.	Arvodi 2018	Clause 13.1: The Contractor will not divulge any information gained in performing the Contract that it knows, or reasonably should know, is confidential. This excludes information required to be disclosed by law or court order. «Confidential information excludes (1) information that is readily and publicly available, (2) Information that was already in the Contractor's possession prior to undertaking the project, (3) and information that the Contractor obtained after the undertaking the project from other sources. The party claiming information to be confidential carries the burden of showing it is, in fact, confidential. »	Not agreed, clause 13.1 ARVODI-2018 remains unchanged.
37.	Arvodi 2018	Clause 24.1: Unless agreed otherwise, all copyrights that may be exercised in relation to the results of the Services performed by the Contractor accrue to the Contracting Authority, irrespective of where and when they may be exercised. Pursuant to the Contract, the Contractor assigns such intellectual property rights to the	Not agreed.

		Contracting Authority as soon as they arise. The Contracting Authority hereby accepts the assignment of these rights. « Notwithstanding the aforementioned assignment, the Contracting Authority grants to the Contractor a perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to use the Project IP for non-commercial purposes. »	
38.	Arvodi 2018	Clause 21.3... The limitation of liability referred to above will not apply: a. in the event of third-party claims for compensation in respect of death or personal injury; « Unless such events are directly and unambiguously caused by the Contracting Authority »	Not agreed.
39.	Arvodi 2018	Clause 18.1: The Contracting Authority will pay the Contractor the amount owing under the Contract no later than 30 days of receiving the relevant invoice, provided it satisfies the provisions of the Contract. « The Contractor reserves the right to suspend work if payment is not received within 60 days of the invoice date and will not be held liable for delays cause from this. »	Not agreed.
40.	Arvodi 2018	Clause 3.1: The Contractor will invoice retrospectively, based on the number of days actually worked per deliverable and the other costs for travel, accommodation and other costs and/or expenditures. These costs are	The textual amendment proposed is not agreed. We have also included a payment schedule in this Memorandum of Information. See answers to questions 13 and 20.

		excluding Dutch VAT and (if applicable) including all local VAT and all other costs and/or fees. Textual amendment proposed: Contractor will invoice retrospectively, based on days worked/deliverable and costs for travel, accommodation, etc., excluding Dutch VAT, but including local VAT/fees. The total maximum invoice amount is €... excluding Dutch VAT, including local VAT/fees; «Contractor must be paid within 30 days of Contractor's compliant invoice receipt. Late payments accrue statutory interest. » This suggestion reflects the wording under clause 18 of the t&cs. Considering clause 18.5 of the t&Cs, we propose additional wording to safeguard in the event of late payment.	
41.	Arvodi 2018	Clause 2.1: This Contract comes into effect on 1 October 2025 and has an initial contract period of twenty-three (23) months with one (1) time an option to extend this Contract, to be exercised unilaterally by the Contracting Authority, under the same conditions, with a maximum period of six (6) months. The total duration of the Contract is therefore maximum twenty-nine (29) months, including extension option. Textual amendment proposed: This Contract comes into effect on 1 October 2025 and has an initial contract period of twenty-three (23)	Not agreed.

		months with one (1) time an option to extend this Contract, «subject to Contractor's written consent, which will not be unreasonably withheld», under the same conditions, with a maximum period of six (6) months. The total duration of the Contract is therefore maximum twenty-nine (29) months, including extension option.	
42.	Award criteria	Could you please confirm whether annexes can be included as part of the Work Plan/Approach, or should we strictly limit our submission to the 15-page maximum indicated in the tender guidelines?	The plan of approach/ work plan may not exceed 15 pages A-4, minimum font Verdana 9pt and line spacing 12 mm, excluding the front page, table of contents, planning, and budget proposal in annex 02 'Financial Proposal'. The plan of approach/ work plan need to be delivered as separate PDF-file and the detailed budget proposal in annex 02 'Financial Proposal' needs to be delivered as separate Excel-file. The planning can be included in the plan of approach/ workplan, but is not included in the maximum of 15 A-4 pages.
43.	Submission	Section 7.3.17 mentions that responses to the award criteria should be "submitted separately" and must be "added to TenderNed." Could you kindly confirm whether this means that the responses to each of the award criteria must be explicitly included within the proposal submitted via the TenderNed platform, as part of the uploaded documentation? Or is a separate submission step required within TenderNed for these specific responses?	Please see section 7.3.14 of the Tender Document. Here you can also find a link to TenderNed with instructions how to submit a Tender via TenderNed.
44.	Timeline	This tender procedure runs in the holiday period in the Netherlands, which means that not all relevant experts involved in the project will be able to contribute to the offer adequately. We therefore request an extension	Yes, please see the updated Time schedule on page 20 of this Memorandum of Information.

		of the deadline for submission with at least two weeks.	
45.	Submission	Is it possible to submit a proposal as a consortium, with a consortium lead and one or two members? If so, do all members have to comply to all the requirements? Can consortium members use each other's experience and references to meet the criteria and requirements together?	Yes, it is possible to submit a Tender as a consortium with one or two members. These members do not need to comply to all requirements individually. The consortium members need to comply to the requirements collectively, so they can use each other's experience and references to meet the requirements collectively.
46.	Payment schedule	In par 3.8 a breakdown for the payment schedule is presented. Considering the fact that the expenses will have to be made for Work Package 1 we would like to propose a first payment upon signing of the contract. Proposed distribution could then be: 25% upon signing of the contract 15% after completion of Work Package 1; 30% after completion of Work Package 2; 25% after completion of Work Package 3; 5% after Project closure	Not agreed. We propose the following payment schedule: 20% upon signing of the contract 20% after completion of Work Package 1; 30% after completion of Work Package 2; 25% after completion of Work Package 3; 5% after Project closure
47.	Scope of Work	Deliverable b of WP3 states "Building on deliverable 1". However, deliverables are numbered alphabetically per work package, thus does this mean "deliverable a" of WP3, or another deliverable (e.g. the deliverables of WP 1)? The same holds for the deliverable d of WP 3 that mentions a "deliverable 1 report".	The phrase "Building on deliverable 1" refers to "deliverable a" of Work Package 3.
48.	Travel arrangements	The paragraph titled "travelling to Niger" states that "In an emergency situation staff of the Contracting Authority and people working for the Contracting Authority having a Dutch nationality are regarded as eligible for	Unfortunately, it is indeed the case that the Dutch embassy only has an obligation of care for Dutch nationals.

		evacuation coordinated by the embassy if the situation permits.". Does that mean that non-Dutch international staff do not profit from the same service?	
49.	References	The technical qualifications (on pag 23 of 27) states: "Assignments including one or more subcontractors can only be used as reference assignments if the subcontractor(s) in question will be involved in the fulfilment of the Contract and if the Tenderer can and will make use of the knowledge and experience of the subcontractor(s) in question during the fulfilment of the assignment. " Does this mean that project references are not valid when subcontractors from the project reference are not included in this assignment?	This is correct. As mentioned in section 4.3.2 of the Tender Document, assignments including one or more subcontractors can only be used as reference assignments if the subcontractor(s) in question will be involved in the fulfilment of the Contract and if the Tenderer can and will make use of the knowledge and experience of the subcontractor(s) in question during the fulfilment of the assignment. Therefore, the core competences must be demonstrated in the reference, and if sourced from a subcontractor, that subcontractor must also be engaged in this Contract. However, for other activities within the reference project (not being the core competences), this does not have to be the case and another subcontractor could be used for that specific part of the assignment. Also see the answer to question 7.
50.	References	The qualifications also stipulate that as evidence of a project reference " The reference(s) must be signed by the referee (the client in question)." Will this be enforced? When yes, would a client certificate of client satisfaction form be sufficient?	The reference(s) must be signed by the referee (the client in question). A client certificate of client satisfaction is not sufficient.
51.	Requirements	With regards to experience of the team leader (3.3, page 17), the years of experience in writing mentions seven but in numbers 5 for RT1, RT2, RT3, could you clarify if this intended to be five (5) or seven (7)	See answer to question 25.
52.	Payment schedule	With regards to the payment schedule is there an opportunity to revisit? Considering upfront costs may be considerable as wp1 and wp2 are considerable portion of the work and only	We propose the following payment schedule: 20% upon signing of the Contract;

		paid upon completion. An advance / intermediate payment based on approved progress perhaps.	20% after completion of Work Package 1; 30% after completion of Work Package 2; 25% after completion of Work Package 3; 5% after Project closure.
53.	Submission	Is it possible to extend the deadline for submission? In light of the current holiday seasons.	Yes, please see the updated Time schedule on page 20 of this Memorandum of Information.
54.	References	For the references it is mentioned that experience must be within 3 years of submission date, could this be extended to within 5 years?	No, this cannot be extended to within 5 years.
55.	Award criteria	Would it be possible to detail the scoring of the experts a bit further, section 5.2.2 mentions 20 points for 'the team' are available is there different weighting between the 'aspects' mentioned?	No, we do not further detail the assessment aspects of this award criteria.

Updated Time schedule:

17 June 2025	Issuing of publication, start of tendering period.
21 July 2025	Closure of 1 st round of questions: deadline for the Tenderer to submit questions regarding this Tender Document and the Contract (including the general terms and conditions) and/or proposals for textual amendments to the draft Contract (including the general terms and conditions).
31 July 2025	Issuing of 1 st Memorandum of Information.
8 August 2025	Closure of 2 nd round of questions: deadline for the Tenderer to submit questions regarding the answers to the questions of the 1 st Memorandum of Information.
15 August 2025	Issuing of 2 nd Memorandum of Information.
5 September 2025 at 14:00 (CEST)	Deadline for the receipt of Tenders and opening of Tenders by the Tendering Authority.
Week 37 up to and including week 40, 2025.	Assessment of Tenders.
6 October 2025	Announcement of the award of the Contract.
21 October 2025	Deadline for the winning Tenderer to provide the evidence requested by the Tendering Authority.
26 October 2025	Deadline for asking questions and/or filing an application for a preliminary injunction in relation to the announcement of the award of the Contract.
1 November 2025	Starting date of Contract.

List of companies:

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