

25/07/2025

## 1. Buyer

### 1.1 Buyer

Official name : Naturalis Biodiversity Center

Legal type of the buyer: Body governed by public law

Activity of the contracting authority: Recreation, culture and religion

## 2. Procedure

### 2.1 Procedure

Title: Automated Specimen Sorter - Naturalis

Description: Naturalis needs a system to automatically sort specimens (<2,5 mm) in liquid. The contract includes the turnkey delivery of the system, and necessary supplies (e.g. flowcells), support, and maintenance for a period of 4-5 years and possibly longer. 1 automated specimen sorter, including 5 years of support and maintenance

Procedure identifier: 5c0b5f5e-8e97-44bd-893a-3d9c2fe0de8a

Type of procedure: Negotiated without prior call for competition

#### 2.1.1 Purpose

Main nature of the contract : Supplies

Main classification ( cpv): 38000000 Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)

#### 2.1.2 Place of performance

Country: Netherlands

Anywhere in the given country

Additional information: Leiden

#### 2.1.4 General information

Legal basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

## 5. Lot

### 5.1 Lot technical ID: LOT-0000

Title: Automated Specimen Sorter - Naturalis

Background Naturalis is building a large-scale research infrastructure for biodiversity monitoring through environmental DNA. This will allow, for the first time, a near-real time view of the state of biodiversity in the Netherlands. The project is called eDentity, and should be available in 2028. This infrastructure was made possible by a €18.573.838 subsidy from the Applied Research Facilities funding program by the Ministry of Economic Affairs & Climate. The eDentity infrastructure will allow for the analysis of large amounts of biological samples (soil, water, air filters, etc) through standard procedures. It aims to facilitate all steps of the analysis, from sampling to data analysis, quickly and at low cost, for a maximum of 250.000 eDNA metabarcoding samples per year. Besides setting up a metabarcoding facility,

Naturalis will implement a process for large-scale automated sample sorting of community bulk samples, enabling identification of individual specimens in complex samples. Automated sample processing Sample triage and sorting limits both the assessment of community composition and building of reference databases because it currently relies on labour-intensive work by skilled persons. In marine benthic monitoring this can result in up to two years delay between sampling and reporting. An approach integrating image recognition and, where needed, additional techniques (e.g. X-ray, hyperspectral imaging, UV imaging, etc.) will make this process more efficient and allow identification of specimens that cannot immediately be linked to vouchers in the reference database. This component will be able to process a complete range of sample types, including: passive open trap samples (terrestrial), attractant trap samples (terrestrial), soil cores, marine samples, and aquatic samples. The biological specimens in these samples are sorted by size or other physical features and quantified. The different fractions of the sample then enter the DNA sequencing component. For macro-organisms, image recognition tools are used to separate known from unknown specimens. Representatives of the latter then enter the DNA pipeline for identification, while another subset is added to the specimen collections. This contract As part of the automated sample processing line Naturalis needs a system capable of sorting specimens in liquid. The system must meet the following requirements: The system is capable of analyzing and sorting specimens with a size of up to 1.5 mm; The system includes the required peripheral equipment for proper functioning (e.g. air compressors); The system analyzes particles based on shape, excitation (488nm blue, 561nm yellow and potentially 405nm for UV detection) or other properties; The system uses a minimum of 70% EtOH as sheath fluid; The system is capable of dispensing into 96-wells (flat bottom) plates and tubes with a diameter of maximum 10 mm; During the sorting process particles must remain completely intact; The Biosorter is a benchtop type instrument which fits on a bench of 65cm deep, and supports regular connection to 220V. The instruments fits in the elevator (90cm gap size doors, 200cm depth); The system can be connected to an IP network using an RJ45 connector supporting the TCP/IP protocol; The system has the ability to copy/move data and run data to another storage location within the IP network, either using the SMB protocol, the NFS protocol or a S3 API. In case of S3 API support, this should include compatibility with non-AWS S3 compatible object storage systems. The system has the ability to automate the copying of the above mentioned data using a scheduled task or an API call; The system can be connected to laboratory automation options, e.g. barcode scanner and/or stacking instrument.

Description:

Internal identifier: 1

### 5.1.1 Purpose

Main nature of the contract Supplies

:

Main classification ( 38000000 Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses) cpv):

### 5.1.2 Place of performance

Country: Netherlands

Anywhere in the given country

Additional information: Leiden

### 5.1.3 Estimated duration

Duration: 60 Month

### 5.1.6 General information

Procurement Project not financed with EU Funds.

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA):

yes

### 5.1.7 Strategic procurement

Aim of strategic procurement: No strategic procurement

### 5.1.10 Award criteria

Criterion:

Type: Quality

Name: Q1

Description: Q1

Category of award threshold criterion: Weight (points, exact)

Award criterion number: 50

Criterion:

Type: Price

Name: P1

Description: P1

Category of award threshold criterion: Weight (points, exact)

Award criterion number: 50

### 5.1.15 Techniques

Framework agreement:

No framework agreement

Information about the dynamic purchasing system:

No dynamic purchase system

### 5.1.16 Further information, mediation and review

Review organisation: Naturalis Biodiversity Center - Rechtbank 's-Gravenhage

Organisation providing additional information about the procurement procedure: Naturalis Biodiversity Center

providing more information on the review procedures:

Naturalis Biodiversity Center

Organisation signing the contract:

Naturalis Biodiversity Center

## 6. Results

Value of all contracts awarded in this notice:

900 000 Euro

Direct award:

Justification for direct award:

Certain cases of non-contractual nature

Other justification:

Technical reasons for absence of competition In order to process all the samples that Naturalis receives as part of the eDentity project, Naturalis requires a system capable of handling the full range of specimens — from small to large, and from morphologically complex to less complex. Following thorough market research, the BioSorter#PRO has proven to be the only system capable of effectively analyzing and sorting this broad spectrum of samples. The BioSorter#PRO is the only system that: can analyze and sort particles ranging from 10 to 1,500 µm; causes minimal damage to particles during sorting; can sort particles based on spatial profile, morphology, and fluorescence. Sorted samples can be used for molecular analysis. Based on the above considerations, Naturalis sees no reasonable alternative to the BioSorter#PRO and no possibility to put the procurement out to competitive tender. PLEASE NOTE This is a voluntary ex ante transparency notice. Objections to the award of this contract can be made until 29 August 2025 at the latest.

### 6.1 Result lot Identifier: LOT-0000

#### 6.1.2 Information about winners

Winner:

Official name : Union Biometrica

Tender:

Tender identifier: 1

Identifier of lot or group of lots: LOT-0000

Value of the tender: 10 000 Euro

The tender was ranked: no

Subcontracting : No

Contract information:

Identifier of the contract: CON-0001

Title: P1 Automated Specimen Sorter - Naturalis

Date on

which the winner was chosen: 22/07/2025

Organisation signing the contract: Naturalis Biodiversity Center

## 8. Organisations

### 8.1 ORG-0001

Official name : Naturalis Biodiversity Center

Registration number: 41647282

Postal address : Darwinweg 2

Town: Leiden

Postcode: 2333CR

Country subdivision (NUTS): Agglomeratie Leiden en Bollenstreek (NL363)

Country: Netherlands

Contact point: Thomas van Oudheusden

Email: aanbesteding@naturalis.nl

Telephone: +31 715687600

Internet address: <http://www.naturalis.nl>

Other contact points:

Official name : Rechtbank 's-Gravenhage

Postal address : Prins Clauslaan 60

Town: 's-Gravenhage

Postcode: 2595 AJ

Country subdivision (NUTS): Agglomeratie 's-Gravenhage (NL361)

Country: Netherlands

Email: info@rechtspraak.nl

Internet address: <https://www.rechtspraak.nl/Organisatie-en-contact/Organisatie/Rechtbanken/Rechtbank-Den-Haag>

Roles of this organisation:

Buyer

Organisation providing additional information about the procurement procedure

Review organisation

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures

Organisation signing the contract

### 8.1 ORG-0002

Official name : Union Biometrica

Size of the economic : Micro, small, or medium

operator:

Registration  
number: 00001313277525

Postal address  
: Ninovesteenweg 19816

Town: Aalst

Postcode: B-9320

Country  
subdivision (NUTS): Arr. Aalst (BE231)

Country: Belgium

Roles of this organisation:

Tenderer

Winner of  
these lots: LOT-0000

### **Notice information**

Notice  
identifier ec963d0d-6702-40de-910e-c46ad389a27d - 01  
/version:

Form type: Direct award preannouncement

Notice type: Voluntary ex-ante transparency notice

Notice  
dispatch date: 25/07/2025 15:02 +02:00

Languages in  
which this  
notice is  
officially  
available: English