



## Memorandum of Information Market Consultation Webarchiving

RIS

**Visiting address:**

Rijkskantoor Beatrixpark  
Wilhelmina van Pruisenweg 52  
2595 AN The Hague  
The Netherlands

Postbus 20011  
2500 EA The Hague  
The Netherlands

### Memorandum of Information Web Archiving

| Market Consultation Data                     |                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title Market Consultation                    | Web Archiving                                               |
| Client                                       | Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (Dutch: BZK) |
| Our Ref.                                     | 201865002.001.128                                           |
| Procurement Advisor                          | Rebecca van Ooijen                                          |
| Date Memorandum of Information Web Archiving | 16 February 2026                                            |

This is the Information Memorandum in which the questions and comments raised by interested Entrepreneurs in response to the Market Consultation on Web Archiving are answered.

**Disclaimer: This English translation is for information purposes only and has no legal status. The Dutch version 'Nota van Inlichtingen Marktconsultatie Webarchivering' prevails.**

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| Question 1 | Could you explain the scope of the tender? Will the scope cover both the central government and autonomous administrative authorities and high councils of state? Do you expect the latter to be included in the tender documents as a fixed scope or as an optional extension? Reference paragraph 3.2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Answer     | The intended scope includes the national government, high councils of state and autonomous administrative authorities. All these participants must submit a power of attorney before they can participate. Part of the publication of the proposed European tender is an exhaustive overview of which parties are formally participating in the tender.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Question 2 | Can you provide an indicative segmentation of the >1,500 websites (complexity/dynamics/size) and their distribution across the approximately 70 further agreements, so that providers have a realistic picture of the scope? Reference paragraph 3.3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Answer     | The total number of websites currently stands at approximately 1,300, which is lower than the aforementioned figure of 1,500. Of these websites, 66% are classified as simple, 23% as average and 11% as complex. In addition, there are 641 static (unchanged) websites that remain online.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Question 3 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could you explain what exactly you mean by "on 1 June 2027, the existing web archives must also have been transferred"? Reference paragraph 3.3 Is this a hard 'go-live including migration', or can migration take place in phases after the start date?</li> <li>The market consultation refers to existing web archives with a size of more than one petabyte. With a view to accurate capacity planning and cost estimation, can the contracting authority provide more detailed statistics on the current archive files? Information such as the total number of WARC files, the distribution of data volume across ministries or other organisational units, and the average annual growth rate would be particularly valuable.</li> <li>With regard to the format of the existing archives to be transferred, can the contracting authority confirm whether all current web archives fully comply with ISO 28500:2017, or whether certain parts may have been created according to earlier versions of the WARC specification (such as .ARC...)? (Understanding the heterogeneity of formats will help in planning the ingestion and validation processes.)</li> <li>Are there contractual provisions with the current service provider to ensure full cooperation in the data transfer process? Furthermore, what quality assurance mechanisms will apply to the transfer to ensure that the transferred archives meet the requirements specified in the Guideline for Archiving Government Websites?</li> <li>The Guideline refers to the transfer of archives to the National Archives after a maximum of twenty years. Have earlier transfer periods been considered? What role could the service provider play in facilitating such transfers? Understanding the long-term archiving strategy would provide information for proposals regarding metadata management and export options.</li> </ol> |
| Answer     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 1 June 2027, archiving will be carried out by the new provider. All existing web archives must be transferred to the new provider and/or the National Archives by 1 June 2027 at the latest. This means that the transfer of existing web archives will start well before that date and will continue until after 1 June 2027.</li> <li>The total number of WARC files currently stands at approximately 4,303,000. The total size of the current data volume of the Site Archive is approximately 570,000 GB. The data volume is growing by approximately 20% annually. This growth relates exclusively to the data volume and not to the number of websites.</li> <li>The current service provider is obliged to follow the <u>Guidelines for archiving government websites</u>. This means that you can expect WARC files in accordance with version 1.0 (from 2009) and version 1.1 (from 2017) of the WARC standard ISO 28500.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|  | <p>d. Requirements have been agreed regarding the quality of archiving. An exit plan has been drawn up with the current (outgoing) supplier for the transfer of archives. Relevant content will be made available at a later stage during the proposed European tender process.</p> <p>e. The new Dutch Archives Act (2027) assumes transfer after 10 years. This Act has yet to be approved by the Dutch Senate and is likely to come into force <u>on 1 January 2027</u> (in Dutch). The text of the bill can be found on the Internet, <u>for example here</u> (in Dutch). Early transfer to the National Archives (before the statutory period of 10 years and if requested) is possible. In the longer term, the aim is to achieve annual transfer, but it is too early to say anything concrete about this at preset.</p> |
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| Question 4 | Can you indicate whether you will make test data sets available in advance for the migration? |
| Answer     | We will include this request in the proposed European tender.                                 |

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| Question 5 | <p>Division into lots:</p> <p>a. Can you explain the background to the possible division of the contract into several lots, and what objectives the contracting authority aims to achieve with this (e.g. market access, risk spreading, specialisation or flexibility in contracting)?</p> <p>b. If the contracting authority decides to divide the contract into several lots, what criteria will be used for the division? Possible approaches include division by ministry or organisational unit, by functional component (harvesting, storage, granting access) or by type of service (operational services versus archive transfer and long-term storage). (Understanding the preferred approach would help in preparing appropriate proposals.)</p> <p>c. In the case of a multi-lot structure, would the contracting authority allow consortium agreements whereby different specialised providers work together to provide complementary services for all lots, while the responsibility for each part remains clear?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Answer     | <p>a. By dividing the contract into lots, the contracting authority aims to make the market more mature and competitive.</p> <p>b. The question of lot division is being put to market parties in this market consultation and will therefore not be answered by the contracting authority.</p> <p>c. We will explicitly state this in future tender documents. In principle, the following applies. Regarding tendering as a consortium: entrepreneurs may jointly tender for a contract as a consortium, for example if they do not have sufficient capacity, experience or expertise individually, or in order to spread risks. The contracting authority may not prohibit tendering as a consortium, but may impose proportionate conditions, such as joint and several liability or the designation of a single point of contact. When tendering as a consortium, each participant must complete and submit its own Uniform European Tender Document (UETD). In the ESPD, all consortium members indicate who the participants are and what role they have. One entrepreneur is also designated as the lead partner. The lead partner is authorised to act on behalf of the consortium and to enter into obligations. All participants are fully and jointly and severally liable to the client. The lead partner handles correspondence and, if applicable, invoicing on behalf of the consortium.</p> <p>Tendering by means of subcontracting in order to meet the suitability requirements: a tenderer may engage a third party to meet the suitability requirements. The tenderer must demonstrate that it actually has access to the necessary resources of the third party. This can be done, for example, by means of a statement in which the third party confirms its willingness to carry out the work in question. When relying on the technical and professional competence of a third party, these resources must be available for the entire duration of the contract.</p> |

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|  | <p>Mandatory single tender: you may only tender once, either as an independent tenderer, as a member of a consortium or as a subcontractor. The further rules are set out in the descriptive document.</p> <p>With our permission, you may involve others in the performance of the contract at a later stage.</p> <p>Have you been awarded the contract? And do you want to involve another party in the execution of the contract after the agreement has been concluded? Then ask for our permission first.</p> |
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| Question 6 | With regard to question 5 ("Is your organisation ISO certified?"): can you confirm that this refers to ISO certification whose scope is demonstrably appropriate and relevant to the requested web archiving services? |
| Answer     | When answering this question, you can indicate whether and to what extent you consider these certificates to be appropriate/relevant, as well as which certificates you hold.                                          |

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| Question 7 | <p>Archiving of social media channels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the archiving of social media channels (such as X, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn) of central government organisations fall within the scope of this market consultation and the resulting tender?</li> <li>If not, can you explain the reasons for this and whether you are considering including this topic in a separate lot or procurement process?</li> <li>Are there plans to extend the scope of web archiving to the government's presence on social media platforms, or will this remain outside the scope of the current tender? (Insight into the strategic direction would help market parties assess how their broader capabilities can be aligned with future requirements).</li> </ol> |
| Answer     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media channels fall outside the scope of the proposed tender.</li> <li>The answer to this question is not relevant to the Market Consultation.</li> <li>There are no plans to extend web archiving in the proposed European tender to include social media channels.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| Question 8 | <p>Section 3.2 of the market consultation states that 'the collected content of public websites of government agencies will be made available for inspection via a viewer (website)'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is this a viewer that is accessible to the public or are login details required to access it?</li> <li>How many users will need access to the viewer on a daily basis?</li> <li>Is there a preference for a browser-based viewer?</li> <li>Are there any specific requirements regarding the display quality of the viewer for accessing archived content?</li> <li>Modern web archiving technologies can preserve not only static content but also interactive elements, including JavaScript functionality, allowing users to navigate archived websites as if they were still live. Would such enhanced viewing capabilities be considered an added value in the evaluation, and if so, how would this be weighed against other criteria?</li> </ol> |
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| Answer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Access to the web archive must be via a publicly accessible viewer without the need to log in.</li> <li>b. Sitearchief.nl has an average of 15,000 visitors and 25,000 page views per month.</li> <li>c. The viewer must work (and continue to work) in all common browsers. The application supports at least the two most recent versions of the most common web browsers in the Netherlands (including Edge, Chromium, Mozilla Firefox, Chrome and Safari). Please provide more information about the viewer you offer.</li> <li>d. For more information, please refer to the <u>Temporary Decision on Digital Accessibility for Government</u>.</li> <li>e. The requirements that web archiving must meet are set out in the Guideline for Archiving Government Websites (see answer 3b). This Guideline is periodically updated in line with new technological developments.</li> </ul> |
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| Question 9 | <p>Data sovereignty: the market consultation states that you only want to allow web archiving on servers that are located and hosted in the European Economic Area (EEA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Does this only mean that the storage/hosting of the archives must take place in the European Economic Area? Or does it also mean that data collection (harvesting) must take place on servers located in this area (and if so, is that a preference or a strict requirement)? Would it be an acceptable option if the harvesting took place on servers in the US, but the web archives were transferred to and stored in the European Economic Area?</li> <li>b. Does this requirement relate exclusively to the physical location of the data storage infrastructure, or does it also apply to the registered office of the service provider? More specifically, does a service provider with its head office outside the EEA (in this case Switzerland), but with data centres located exclusively within EEA Member States, meet this requirement?</li> <li>c. Various European jurisdictions outside the EEA have data protection frameworks that have been assessed as adequate by the European Commission. For service providers established in such jurisdictions, would the use of special infrastructure within the EEA (e.g. in the Netherlands, Germany or France) be considered sufficient to meet data sovereignty requirements, provided that all data processing and storage takes place exclusively within the territory of the EEA?</li> <li>d. Would the contracting authority find it acceptable for a service provider to collaborate with an EEA-certified hosting provider or data centre operator to ensure that all archived data remains within the jurisdiction of the European Economic Area at all times? If so, are there specific certifications or compliance frameworks (such as ISO 27001, SOC 2 or C5) that the hosting partner would need to comply with?</li> </ul> |
| Answer     | <p>We prefer that harvesting and hosting of web archives <i>not</i> fall (in)directly under the jurisdiction outside the European Economic Area. There is a chance that this preference may have been changed by the CISO at the time of the proposed European tender. Please explain in your answer to this question whether and to what extent you can comply with the above preference.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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| Question 10 | <p>How often should harvesting take place (once / periodically / in real time)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Does the same frequency apply to all 1,500 websites, or does it vary per site?</li> <li>b. If real-time harvesting is required, can this be achieved through integration with CMS or XML sitemap?</li> </ul> |
| Answer      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. See Guideline for Archiving Government Websites 4.1 and 4.2.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|  | b. See Guideline for Archiving Government Websites 7.6. |
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| Question 11 | <p>Web pages with restricted access: the Guideline stipulates that archived pages must be accessible to the public online immediately after collection.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is a list of pages requiring restricted access made available to the provider?</li> <li>Can the contracting authority clarify whether certain parts of the archive are subject to restricted access and, if so, what authentication or authorisation mechanisms are required for this?</li> <li>Who is responsible for maintaining the restriction lists mentioned in the Guideline for content that is subject to restricted availability due to privacy, copyright or information security considerations? Should the service provider provide a management interface that allows healthcare providers to manage these restrictions independently?</li> <li>Are there requirements for the viewer to support multiple levels of access, for example by offering enhanced functionality or broader access to content to government users compared to the general public?</li> </ol> |
| Answer      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current supplier shall transfer a list of the current URLs to which "limited availability" applies.</li> <li>See the answer to question 8a.</li> <li>The care provider is responsible for providing restrictions. The service provider keeps records of this, which are made available to the new service provider or the National Archives after the transfer of the web archives.</li> <li>The provision of a management interface may be part of the proposed European tender or the service provider's offer.</li> <li>We do not intend to do so; clarity will be provided at the time of the proposed European tender.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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| Question 12 | In which month is the new service provider expected to be selected? In which month are the agreements expected to be concluded? |
| Answer      | The contract is expected to be awarded in the fourth quarter of 2026.                                                           |

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| Question 13 | <p>The Guideline for Archiving Government Websites specifies daily harvesting as a standard requirement. However, different categories of government websites may exhibit different rates of content change.</p> <p>Would the contracting authority be open to proposals that implement differentiated harvesting frequencies based on objective criteria, such as content update patterns, while still ensuring that all important changes are recorded in a timely manner?</p> |
| Answer      | Proposals to this effect must comply with the requirements set out in the Guideline for Archiving Government Websites. See specifically sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this Guideline. An unofficial English translation of the 'Richlijnen archiveren overheidswebsites' was supplied with the Market Consultation web archiving.                                                                                                                                                      |

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| Question 14 | The Guideline for Archiving Government Websites requires metadata that complies with the Metadata for Sustainable Accessibility of Government Information (MDTO) standard. |
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|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Can the contracting authority indicate which version of the MDTO applies to this tender and, if possible:</li> <li>b. Can a reference example be provided of the metadata structure that is expected for transfer to the National Archives?</li> </ul> |
| Answer | When the Guideline for Archiving Government Websites are revised in mid-2026, ToPX will be replaced by MDTO. The most recent version of MDTO can be found <a href="#">here</a> on the website of the National Archives.                                                                          |

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| Question 15 | <p>Regarding quality control of archived content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What mechanisms are currently in place for care providers to report deficiencies in web archiving or to request additional harvesting of specific content?</li> <li>b. Should the new solution include improved self-service capabilities for care providers to monitor and manage their archived websites?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Answer      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Currently, this can only be done manually and through personal contact. At present, ministries can contact us by email for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registering new websites for daily/one-off harvesting and thus adding them to the web archive.</li> <li>• Discontinuing daily harvesting. The old version of the website can then still be accessed via the web archive.</li> <li>• Reporting shortcomings in the web archive with a request to repair them in the viewer.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. We are very interested in the possibilities and will then decide whether to include this as a requirement or wish in the proposed European tender. We are also very interested in possibilities for automatic quality control.</li> </ul> |

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| Question 16 | <p>Evaluation method.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Can the contracting authority provide preliminary guidance on the evaluation method expected for the formal tender?</li> <li>b. More specifically, what is the expected relative weighting between price competitiveness, technical quality and innovative capabilities? This information would help market players to tailor their investments in the development of appropriate solutions.</li> </ul> |
| Answer      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. That is not yet known at this stage.</li> <li>b. See answer under a.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| Question 17 | With regard to the reference requirements: is experience with web archiving of government websites in other European jurisdictions considered relevant, or will the evaluation focus primarily on experience within the Dutch public sector? |
| Answer      | Yes, experience with web archiving of government websites in other European jurisdictions is considered relevant.                                                                                                                            |

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| Question 18 | <p>Will the evaluation criteria also cover considerations relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. long-term sustainability, such as the financial stability of the service provider,</li> <li>b. the technological roadmap and the pursuit of open standards? (Given the requirement for permanent preservation of web archives, the continuity of service provision is likely to be an important consideration.)</li> </ul> |
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| Answer | <p>a. That is a possibility, but it is not yet known at this stage.</p> <p>b. That is a possibility, but it is not yet known at this stage.</p> |
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| Question 19 | <p>To ensure that the proposals effectively address the contracting authority's priorities, could you indicate the key areas in which improvements are sought compared to the current archiving solution? Is the emphasis on:</p> <p>a. improved functionality,</p> <p>b. better quality control,</p> <p>c. greater cost efficiency, or:</p> <p>d. other factors, to be specified?</p> |
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| Answer | This will become clear at the time of the proposed European tender. |
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| Question 20 | <p>Are there any specific features or services that are currently unavailable under the existing framework agreement, but which the contracting authority would like to see included in the scope of the new contract? Examples:</p> <p>a. improved support for dynamic content,</p> <p>b. improved search functionality, or</p> <p>c. additional reporting capabilities.</p> |
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| Answer | This will become clear at the time of the proposed European tender. |
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| Question 21 | <p>What feedback has been received from end users, including care providers, information specialists, web archivists and citizens, about the current experience of using the web archives? Are there any documented problems relating to:</p> <p>a. quality,</p> <p>b. performance or:</p> <p>c. accessibility that need to be improved in the new solution?</p> |
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| Answer | The answer to this question is not relevant to the Market Consultation. |
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| Question 22 | The market consultation document states that responses in Dutch are preferred. Are responses in English accepted for market parties based outside the Netherlands, or is a professional translation into Dutch required? |
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| Answer | English-language responses will be accepted. |
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| Question 23 | With regard to the optional individual meetings scheduled for 16-19 March 2026, will the contracting authority allow organisations based outside the Netherlands to participate via videoconference, or is physical presence at the Turfmarkt in The Hague required? |
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| Answer | Video conferencing is possible. |
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| Question 24 | For questions that a market participant considers commercially sensitive, the consultation document states that confidential treatment may be requested with appropriate justification. Can the contracting authority confirm the process for requesting such confidentiality and indicate the criteria on which such requests are granted? |
| Answer      | This can be indicated in the response form itself, accompanied by an appropriate justification.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| Question 25 | The field of web archiving continues to evolve, with new challenges such as preserving single-page applications, progressive web apps, and content delivered via client-side JavaScript frameworks. Does the contracting authority plan to include provisions for ongoing technological development and adaptation to ensure that the archiving solution remains effective as web technologies continue to evolve? |
| Answer      | Please refer to the answer to question 8e.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |