

Algemene informatie

Aanbesteding:	Development and supply of Full-end-load resistant couplings to be used for PE pipelines
Aanbestedende Dienst:	Enexis Netbeheer BV/Enexis Personeel BV
Referentie:	-
Toelichting:	-

Vraag en antwoord

Ref.nr. 1	Onderwerp: Inlichtingenbijeenkomst aanmeldfase Vraag: Wij zijn graag aanwezig op de inlichtingenbijeenkomst aanmeldfase a.s. donderdag 12 Maart. Het is onduidelijk hoe we daarvoor uitgenodigd worden. Onze PM zou hiervoor graag een uitnodiging ontvangen Antwoord: You can join the information meeting on Thursday, March 12, via the following Teams link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZGU5ZjE0ZjQtZjA0My00YTU0LTgxODQtM2NmZTU4OGJhNDQw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22ad89fa4f-e4a0-4ddb-9d18-f7eeec649ffc%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22de4d24fe-c08e-418d-82c3-289fec20cd6%22%7d Fase: Aanmeldfase Inschrijfronde: - Vragenronde: Vragenronde 1 Beantwoord op: 10 mrt 2026 Percelen: P1 Development and supply of Full-end-load resistant couplings to be used for PE pipelines
Ref.nr. 3	Onderwerp: Selection Guideline – 4.1 Selection criteria Vraag: These criteria determine whether or not we pass as a candidate. Appendix 7 consists of a number of very specific questions for which we need (preparation) time to address and adequately and thoroughly work them out. Is DSO willing and able to grant us a little more time and move the submission date of April 14th forward by 2 weeks?" Antwoord: Yes, the DSO agrees to this request. We have extended the deadline for submitting the Application by two weeks. The new submission deadline is April 28, 2026, at 12:00 CET. The planning in

TenderNed will be adjusted to reflect this change.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline – 3.2 Suitability Requirements

Vraag:

Candidates are required to indicate in the Application that they meet the Suitability Requirements (SR1 to SR6. Candidates may do so by answering 'yes' in part IV of the ESPD and by completing the reference statement in accordance with Appendix 4 - Reference Statement.

Do we understand correctly that the Burdens of Proof must be submitted upon request by DSO, but not need to be submitted in the selection phase?

Antwoord:

Your understanding is partially correct. As stated in Section 3.2, indicating 'yes' in Part IV of the ESPD is generally sufficient for the Suitability Requirements during this Selection Phase, and most evidentiary documents (such as financial audit opinions and insurance policies) will only be requested during the verification stage.

However, there are explicit exceptions that MUST be submitted with your Application:

1. Appendix 4 (Reference Statement): Required for SR-5 and SC-4.
2. SR-6 (Management Systems): You must submit a copy of your valid ISO 9001 certificate. For the ISO 14001 requirement, you must submit either a copy of the valid certificate (Option A) OR a signed Declaration of Intent (Option B) stating you will obtain it within 6 months after signing the Agreement.

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Onderwerp:
Selection Guideline – § 3.1.1 European Single Procurement Document (ESPD)

Vraag:
If we are a consortium do we need to submit the ESPD twice, just as with Appendix 2?

Antwoord:
Yes, if applying as a Consortium, each individual Consortium Member must submit their own completed and signed ESPD, as well as their own Declaration of no Russian Involvement (Appendix 2). A Word version of Appendix 2 has been uploaded to the procurement documents for your convenience.

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Onderwerp:
General question?

Vraag:
Is the DSO in a position to make PE-50 pieces available for testing and development purposes?

Antwoord:
The DSOs can make PE-50 pieces available for testing and development purposes. These pieces will originate from replacement projects, where old PE-50 pipes approximately 50 to 60 years old are removed from the ground. The DSOs cannot guarantee the quality of these pipes.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline – Phase 2: The Award Phase

Vraag:

Could you please specify which minimum scores, assessment criteria, or performance indicators are used per innovation round (1 through 5) for the Go/No-Go decisions?

Antwoord:

The exact minimum scores, assessment criteria, and performance indicators for the Go/No-Go decisions during the innovation rounds will be detailed in the Invitation to Tender (Award Guidelines), which will exclusively be provided to the selected Candidates at the start of the Award Phase.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline – Phase 3

Vraag:

The Contractor is responsible for obtaining the formal Gastec QA certification. Is the DSO willing to help in reserving time slots at Gastec?"

Antwoord:

The DSOs have no influence over Kiwa's scheduling. Of course, we are willing to support the Contractor in reserving time slots at Gastec.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - §1.3.3 Number of Agreements

Vraag:

Do we understand correctly that the contract duration of 4 + 2 + 2 years commences at the start of the commercial phase?

Antwoord:

No, the initial fixed term of 4 years commences upon the signing of the Agreement

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - §1.3.3 Number of Agreements

Vraag:

Do we understand correctly that one contractor will be contracted by the DSO after the Award Phase? Or will it be one per Contracting Entity in the DSO (so two contractor in total)?

Antwoord:

The tender will result in the awarding of one (1) Contractor. This single Contractor will conclude two separate but identical framework agreements: one with Enexis and one with Alliander.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - Definition "Full-end-load resistant mechanical couplings

Vraag:

Does the DSO require a minimum axial force per diameter that the coupling must be able to withstand? Or does the contracting authority expect the coupling to be able to pull a section of PE-pipe to constrict (Plastic deformation)? In case of the latter, in our opinion, a reference pipe will be needed to be available to guarantee variations in the tensile strength of the pipe. Please advise

Antwoord:

In this Selection Phase, detailed technical designs are not yet required. The specific component requirements regarding axial force, tensility, and testing parameters will be detailed in the Program of Requirements and further discussed during the dialogue rounds in the Award Phase.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - §1.2.6 Market consultation

Vraag:

Will the result of the brief market consultation be made available to the tenderers or is the tender itself the result of the consultation?

Antwoord:

Yes, a summary of the market consultation will be published and made available as a separate appendix on TenderNed.

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Onderwerp:

Section V- Limitation of the number of qualified candidates

Vraag:

Could you please indicate in how we can demonstrate that we meet the objective, non-discriminatory criteria in the selection? What kind of description is expected from us and which specific document is expected from us to upload in this section?

Antwoord:

Please refer to Chapter 4 of the Selection Guideline and use 'Appendix 7 - Selection Criteria' to format your responses. This appendix details exactly what information and descriptions are expected from you to demonstrate compliance with each selection criterion.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - Definition "Full-end-load resistant mechanical couplings

Vraag:

The primary focus is to develop, certify, and supply Full-end-load resistant mechanical couplings for connecting PE pipes in the diameter range from 63mm, 75mm, 110mm, 160mm and 200mm. The material (PE) is the common denominator, but the material characteristics will vary per material indicated (PE50, PE80, PE100, PE100RC). And therefore the tensile strength needed will vary per pipe material used.. Will DSO set a minimum value for tensility that all couplings must meet per diameter? ,

Antwoord:

The exact technical specifications and minimum tensility values per diameter and material type will be specified in the Program of Requirements. This document will be shared with the selected Candidates at the start of the Award Phase.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - §3.2 Suitability Requirements & §3.3 Verification submission of evidence

Vraag:

The terms in the burdens of proof regarding the "Unqualified auditors opinion without continuity section" do not align. SR-2 (§3.2 Suitability Requirements) reads: the burden of proof is an audit opinion on [...] the 2 (two) most recent closed financial years. "§3.3 Verification submission of evidence" reads: "the burden of proof is an audit opinion [...] for the 3 (three) most recent closed financial years". Which term is correct?

Antwoord:

Thank you for pointing out this discrepancy. The correct requirement, as stated in Section 3.2 (SR-2), is the 2 (two) most recent closed financial years. Please consider Section 3.3 amended accordingly.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - 1.3.4 Volume indication & 1.3.5 Estimated value

Vraag:

An indication of the number of PE-connections used annually by both DSOs together is approximately 26,000 pieces within the primary diameter range (63mm to 200mm). Based on the information currently available, the DSOs estimate the total value of this Tender Procedure at approximately € 17,520,000 for the duration of both Agreements. To accommodate for uncertainties and future developments, a bandwidth is applied with a range between € 15,000,000 and € 20,000,000.

We have two questions regarding the bandwidth:

- Could you indicate on which data the DSO's arrived at the value/bandwidth of this contract?
- Will the bandwidth be in- or decreased if during the development phase it becomes apparent that the threshold is too high or low?

Antwoord:

The estimated bandwidth is based on historical usage data, projected grid expansion, and the estimated costs for development and the unit price of the new couplings. Regarding the adjustment of this bandwidth: the published maximum threshold of € 20,000,000 serves as the financial ceiling for this tender in accordance with European procurement regulations. While the final contract value can be lower depending on the outcome of the development phase and actual call-offs, the maximum threshold cannot be increased, as this would constitute a material change to the published scope.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - SR4 Professional Liability Insurance

Vraag:

We are engaging a third party (supplier) to perform (part of) the contract.
Can you confirm that, within the framework of the requirements regarding professional liability, it is permissible to rely on this third party's professional liability insurance, provided that:

1. this third party is actually engaged in the performance of the assignment; and
2. this is demonstrated in accordance with the requirements for relying on third parties?

Antwoord:

Yes, you may rely on the professional liability insurance of a third party, provided that this third party is actually engaged in the performance of the contract and you submit a signed Guarantee Statement (Appendix 6) with your application.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline

Vraag:

Can you clarify what minimum production capacity is expected and what volume serves as the baseline for assessing scalability?

Antwoord:

The indicative annual volumes are approximately 26,000 pieces for the primary scope and 2,400 pieces for the optional scope. Your response to SC2 should demonstrate your capability and operational setup to consistently manufacture and scale around these baseline volumes.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - Intellectual Property & business continuity

Vraag:

Can you fully and specifically outline the division between ownership and usage rights (including background IP and newly developed IP), particularly with regard to:

- the scope of the requested (perpetual, royalty-free) license;
- the implications of the escrow and step-in provisions;
- the protection of market participants' existing IP positions?

We note that the current wording of the Intellectual Property & Business Continuity section disproportionately interferes with existing IP positions and future exploitation opportunities and thus has a direct impact on willingness to invest and participation.

Based on the current wording, we must state that we cannot agree to these terms at this stage and that they are not workable without further consultation.

Given the fundamental nature of this issue, we request that you confirm:

1. that the IP provisions are not considered final;
2. that there will be room for further clarification and dialogue as early as the selection phase (for example, through a bilateral meeting or an in-depth session);
3. that participation in the procedure is not considered unconditional acceptance of the current IP provisions.

Antwoord:

1. The IP provisions as outlined in the Selection Guideline are indicative.
2. Yes, there will be room for clarification and dialogue regarding these provisions during the Award Phase to ensure fair and workable terms.
3. We confirm that participation in the Selection Phase does not constitute unconditional acceptance of the current IP provisions; the final terms will be formalized during the dialogue.

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Selection Guideline

Vraag:

Can you confirm whether the contracting authority and/or the involved third party is willing to sign an NDA regarding confidential information (including in the context of IP and escrow)?

Antwoord:

Yes, the DSO is prepared to provide a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with the selected Candidates prior to the start of the Award Phase to protect confidential technical and commercial information. Please note that the DSO will provide the standard NDA template to be used for this purpose.

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Selection Guideline - 1.2.2 Scope and objectives for this tender

Vraag:

Can you explain how changes to the scope are handled during the development process and at what point the design is frozen (design freeze)?

Antwoord:

Scope refinements and design iterations will be managed through the five dialogue rounds. The formal 'design freeze' will be finalized in the award phase documents.

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Onderwerp:

Selection Guideline - 4.7.12 Withdrawal by the Candidate/Tenderer

Vraag:

Can you confirm whether, and under what conditions, a party may withdraw from the innovation partnership after the selection phase?

Antwoord:

A selected Candidate may voluntarily withdraw from the Innovation Partnership at any point during the Award Phase (the dialogue rounds) up until the deadline for submitting the Final Tender. Once the Final Tender is submitted, it becomes binding and irrevocable

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