

## Information Notice

### Introduction

- This Information Notice forms part of the European open Tender procedure for Auto Wet Bench published on 13-04-2026, under TNO reference number WS2653965979.
- This Information Notice provides a record of the questions submitted by the Tenderers up to and including the date of publication of this Information Notice with the answers provided by TNO.
- If Tenderers have asked questions of similar nature, all such questions have nevertheless been included in this Information Notice and answered separately. This may result in repetition of information.
- Where a company name was mentioned in a question, it has been replaced by another word or term to anonymize the questions.
- TNO advises you to read the entire Information Notice.
- All information in the Information Notice is classified as Confidential and may only be used for the purpose of submitting a Tender for this procurement.
- The Information Notice will be made available on TenderNed through publication at [www.tenderned.nl](http://www.tenderned.nl) and added as a document.

The Information Notice serves to provide any additions/changes to the Tender Documents and to communicate announcements from TNO.

Where further clarification of the requirements is provided, this must be taken into account when answering Annex A04 at the time of when compiling the tender. If, for example an alternative is accepted in the Information Notice, Annex A04 will not be revised. The tenderer can answer the question for compliancy with "yes" in both cases (compliance to the original requirement or compliance to the alternative). In case a requirement no longer applies, leave the check box in Annex A04 on "select".

Nr	Subject	Question	Answer
1	Annex C02	Will there be negotiation rounds regarding the commercials (e.g., discussion and agreement on the payment terms currently proposed by TNO, etc.)?	No, TNO does not allow negotiation rounds regarding the commercial terms such as the proposed payment conditions. These conditions form part of the contractual framework applicable equally to all tenderers and are not subject to negotiation.  TNO may, where strictly necessary, request clarifications during the evaluation phase, provided that such clarifications do not result in any modification of the tender or the contractual terms.
2	Annex A04	R-2200-010: "The equipment shall have a cassette to cassette handler SECS/GEM Engineering mode with implementation in MES system."  Question: What is ment with "cassette to cassette handler"?	The equipment shall be able to handle complete cassettes (no single wafer processing) and shall have SECS/GEM interfacing that allows remote operation of the tool. The SECS/GEM implementation shall also allow an "Engineering Mode" that allows engineers to access the tool directly for process development.
3	Annex A04	R-2400-010: "The displacement of wafers from cassette(s) to process location(s) and vice-versa shall produce no more than ten (10) counts of added particles > 0.2 µm during a 16 hours marathon run. This shall be demonstrated on at least ten (10) wafers."  Question: Please describe the complete procedure.	The 16 hour marathon run shall be done on a dry system, with a cassette containing at least 10 wafers, to verify the that the robot handling does not add any particles or damage to the wafers.
4	Annex A04	R-2000-010: Question: How is the HF concentration supplied? 1% or concentraed (mixed inside tool)?	We will supply 1% HF in bulk. No mixing is necessary inside the tool.
5	Annex A04	Question: Do the tools require FFUs?	Yes. Cleanroom environment will be ISO5. Inside the tool we should aim for lower particle count, so additional filtering of incoming air is probably required. System exhaust will be connected to central exhaust.
6	Annex A04	R-2000-035: Question: Mixture-ratio citric acid, KOH, H2O2?	Exact mixture ratios will be provided after contract award.
7	Annex C04	When the wetbench is loaded, will the operator place the wafers - already inside the PFA process cassette - into the tool? Or does the tool need to transfer the wafers from the black transport cassette into the PFA process cassette?	Assume the wafers are already inside the PFA process cassette. We will use an external tool to transfer the wafers from the transport cassette to the process cassette and vice-versa.
8	Annex C04	Are there buffer places required inside the tool for storing PFA process cassettes?	No, this is not needed.

9	Annex C04	Which Material should be used for the Basic Corpus of the tools? The question is related to if the material needs to be compliant to FM4910 or not.	Yes, the material of construction shall comply with the FM4910 standards.
10	Annex C04	R-2000-035: Mixing ratio? Will there be any gas evaporation during process?	Exact mixture ratios will be provided after contract award. There is no significant gas production during this process.
11	Annex C04	Are filter fan units (FFUs) needed for the wetbench to maintain a mini-environment inside the tool and to guarantee laminar airflow from top to bottom?	Yes.
12	Pr. Guide6.1	Contract award criterion: Could you please clarify whether the contract award decision is based solely on the lowest price? Given the significant differences among wet process suppliers, I am concerned that a purely price-based comparison might not fully reflect an apples-to-apples evaluation.	TNO has fully and objectively defined all relevant quality aspects as minimum requirements. Consequently, no scope exists for qualitative differentiation between tenders, and the comparison can therefore be conducted transparently on price alone. In TNO's view, the use of the award criterion of lowest price in this procurement procedure is thus legally justifiable and consistent with the principles of proportionality, due diligence, and transparency.
13	Annex C04	If one or more items within the Program of Requirements and the informative questions for the automated wet bench is marked as "non-compliant," will this result in full exclusion from the tender?	<b>Yes.</b> Where the requirements set out in the Program of Requirements are designated as minimum (mandatory) requirements, full compliance is obligatory. An offer that does not meet one or more of these minimum requirements is considered invalid and cannot be admitted to further evaluation, in accordance with the principles of equal treatment and transparency under the Dutch Public Procurement Act (Aanbestedingswet 2012).  <b>No.</b> The informative questions do not have the character of knock-out criteria. These questions are included for informational and comparative purposes only and do not constitute mandatory minimum requirements. Non-compliance with an informative question therefore does not result in exclusion from the tender procedure.
14	Pr. Guide1.1	Can all tender-related documents be uploaded in English?	Yes. As set out in paragraph 2.2.6, all tenders must be written in English. Tenders submitted in any other language will be excluded from participation. Official documents that cannot reasonably be provided in English may be submitted in their original language. However, upon request, the Tenderer must provide an English translation prepared by a sworn interpreter-translator. All costs associated with such translations are borne by the Tenderer.

15	Annex A04	R-4000-010: 1)+2)+3)+4) not free of charge, would be part of service contract. Is this OK or is the expectation from TNO to have these services free of charge?	<p>For clarification, TNO clarifies that all maintenance activities referred to under requirement R-4000-010, specifically preventive maintenance, predictive maintenance, corrective maintenance, and condition-based maintenance (as applicable), are expected to be included free of charge during the warranty period. These activities form an integral part of the Total Price (TP1) as defined in the Procurement Documents and must therefore be fully covered by the Tenderer without additional costs to TNO.</p> <p>After the expiration of the warranty period, these activities may fall under the Maintenance and Services Contract (TP2), in accordance with the conditions set out in the Procurement Documents.</p>
16	Annex A04	R-4000-015: b) inventory of critical parts OK but please specify expensive parts, what is the expectation?	<p>Expensive parts are understood as critical spare parts for which not holding stock would lead to unacceptable downtime risk and/or significant exposure to future price indexation. Tenderers shall include these parts in the critical spare parts inventory and explicitly mark them as “expensive”, supported by a short justification addressing cost level, lead time, and operational impact.</p>
17	Annex A04	R-2100-010: The filter housing will be implemented. For the filter inserts, it is industry standard that these are provided by the customer. Is this acceptable?	<p>Yes, that is acceptable, as long as the filter inserts are standard parts that are widely available.</p>

18	Pr. Guide1.1	<p>We're analyzing the tender on TENDERED Platform and we have noted that the payment terms indicated are: 70% after delivery at location TNO + 30% after commissioning and SAT including test approved by TNO.</p> <p>Please consider that for us, economically, these equipment will have a certain impact and with this kind of payment terms cannot be sustained by our company. Can we propose an alternative with a % of advanced payment at purchase order receipt?</p>	<p>Alternative to TNO's original payment terms, we are willing to accept the following:</p> <p>The following payment schedule shall apply to the scope of supply of the main equipment delivered under this Contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 30% upon order, subject to TNO's receipt and approval of a bank guarantee covering 30% of the total Contract Price;</li> <li>- 50% after Delivery and successful visual inspection at TNO Eindhoven (High Tech Campus 12). Following such inspection, and provided no material Defects are identified at that time, TNO may return the bank guarantee, without prejudice to its rights under the Contract;</li> <li>- 20% after successful installation and commissioning and written approval of the Site Acceptance Test (SAT), including agreed test periods, by TNO Management and Procurement.</li> </ul> <p>This payment schedule applies exclusively to the main equipment. It does not apply to spare parts, consumables, or any maintenance and services beyond the initial 24-month warranty period. Such items and services shall be subject to separate pricing, ordering, and payment terms agreed in writing.</p> <p>The Contractor shall provide an irrevocable, unconditional, first-demand bank guarantee, issued by an A-rated bank and approved by TNO, covering at least 30% of the total Contract Price. TNO may draw on the guarantee upon first written demand in the event of any failure by the Contractor to fulfil its contractual obligations.</p> <p>The bank guarantee shall remain valid until written approval of the SAT by TNO Management and Procurement. Any payment by TNO shall not constitute acceptance of the Goods nor limit TNO's rights under the Contract or the applicable TNO Purchasing Conditions.</p>
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