

# Information Notice #1

within the framework of the European open tender procedure for a Pouch  
Cell Assembly Line Turn-key Solution

**Guide number** : WS2950546972

**Date** : 20-04-2026

## 1. Introduction

This Information Notice forms part of the European open Tender procedure for a Pouch Cell Assembly Line Turn-key Solution, published on [date] under TNO reference number **WS2950546972**.

This Information Notice provides a record of the questions submitted by the Tenderers up to and including [date] and the answers provided by TNO.

The Information Notice serves to provide any additions/changes to the Tender Documents and to communicate announcements from 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Where a company name was mentioned in a question, it has been replaced by another word or term to anonymize the questions.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 are made available on TenderNed through publication at [www.tenderned.nl](http://www.tenderned.nl) and added as a document.

## 2. Additions / Amendments to the Tender Documents

**The following changes have been made to the tender documents:**

Paragraph 5.2.2.1 'Reference projects', Here, TNO has accidentally presented an incorrect version of Core Competence 1 in both its guideline and Annex A02. Below is the corrected and accurate representation of Core Competence 1.

*The Tenderer has demonstrable technical expertise in the design, manufacturing, and delivery of pouch cell assembly line turn-key solutions, including electrode notching, precise electrode sheets stacking, ultrasonic welding, laser welding, vision system competence, composite sealing, liquid dosing, degas and high vacuum technologies, particle control with competence in sustaining technical cleanliness in machinery work environment and automated solutions.*

*Reference project: The Tenderer must have delivered a project that fulfils Core Competence 1 in the past 3 years from the date of Announcement of this Procurement Procedure and whose contract value was a minimum of € 2.000.000 excluding VAT. The project must have been delivered in accordance with the conditions agreed at the time, including timely completion and adherence to the agreed budget.*

Annex A02 has been revised accordingly.

### 3. Questions and Answers

Question No.	Chapter No. / Subject (drop-down menu)	Question	TNO Answer
1.	2.1 - Schedule for the Procurement Procedure - 12	We did not find any Project Schedule which should show the milestones from the final award to Design Freeze/SAT/DDP/FAT (as a minimum). In chapter 1.5 "Facility Readiness Timeline it is said that the delivery of the equipment is anticipated to be possible mid-June (No Year mentioned!) The equipment in the tender has a typical delivery time between 10 to 14 months after contract signature. What is the expectation for this project?	Delivery of the equipment is anticipated to be possible beginning of June 2027, and we expect that final acceptance of the project by TNO is end of 2027 the latest.
2.	1.5 - Facility readiness Timeline - 10	For any delay in facility readiness, Tenderer must bear all costs. There will be not only storage but also costs created by payment delays. What kind of compensation is foreseen?	No compensation is foreseen in case of delays related to the readiness of the facility. The supplier remains responsible for temporary storage of the equipment at no additional cost to TNO. Tenderers are required to incorporate sufficient flexibility in their planning. TNO may, subject to agreement, consider partially fulfilling a delivery-related payment obligation.
3.	6.1.2 - Sub-award criterion: Quality (QY) - 28	<p>"If the set maximum is exceeded, the excess number of A4 pages will not be included in the assessment. Any part of the elaborated answer that exceeds the maximum will not become part of the Contract."</p> <p>We do not understand this requirement well: Is there a maximum number of A4 pages we may add to each item? If yes, what is the maximum number? Can you please explain your limitation?</p>	In this procurement guideline, TNO has not set a maximum number of pages for any of its preferences. However, TNO expects the Tenderer to describe clearly and unambiguously how the preference is met and to provide all relevant explanations, data, and supporting information that substantiate compliance with the relevant preference.

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4.	9 - List of Annexes -	In "Definitions", the number of Annexes is mentioned to be A01 to A04". We received A01 to A05, is there just a typing error in "Definitions"?	Correct, this a typing error in "Definitions", and it should be read as A01 to A05.
5.	- Annex A02 -	<p>Annex A02 shows the wrong core competence:</p> <p>Core Competence 1: The Tenderer has demonstrable technical expertise in the design, manufacturing, and delivery of dual-beam FIB/SEM systems, including electron optics, ion optics, high-vacuum technologies, advanced detectors, nano-fabrication workflows, and automated sample-preparation capabilities.</p> <p>Reference project: The Tenderer must have delivered a project that fulfils Core Competence 1 in the past 3 years from the date of Announcement of this Procurement Procedure and whose contract value was a minimum of € 650,000 excluding VAT. The project must have been delivered in accordance with the conditions agreed at the time, including timely completion and adherence to the agreed budget.</p> <p>Please provide a description for the requested Pouch assembly line (including the right contract minimum budget)</p>	<p>Correct. TNO has inadvertently presented an incorrect version of Core Competence 1 in both its guideline and Annex A02. Below is the corrected and accurate representation of Core Competence 1.</p> <p>The Tenderer has demonstrable technical expertise in the design, manufacturing, and delivery of pouch cell assembly line turn-key solutions, including electrode notching, precise electrode sheets stacking, ultrasonic welding, laser welding, vision system competence, composite sealing, liquid dosing, degas and high vacuum technologies, particle control with competence in sustaining technical cleanliness in machinery work environment and automated solutions.</p> <p>Reference project: The Tenderer must have delivered a project that fulfils Core Competence 1 in the past 3 years from the date of Announcement of this Procurement Procedure and whose contract value was a minimum of € 2.000.000 excluding VAT. The project must have been delivered in accordance with the conditions agreed at the time, including timely completion and adherence to the agreed budget.</p> <p>Annex A02 has been revised accordingly.</p>
6.	8 - Programme of Requirements and Preferences - 33	Procurement guide shows (3) classes "Minimum Requirements" ,"Performance Requirements" and	All requirements set out in Annex A04 constitute minimum requirements. Failure to comply with these minimum

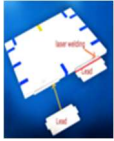
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		<p>"Preferences". Annex04 mentions on all sheets "Requirements" (without further definition).</p> <p>What is the meaning of "Requirements" without classification?</p>	<p>requirements will result in the tender being set aside, excluded from further evaluation, and declared invalid.</p> <p>The preferences included in Annex 04 will be assessed in accordance with the provisions of the tender documentation. In addition to the minimum requirements in the chapter, the tender documentation also contains minimum requirements elsewhere with which a tender must comply.</p>
7.	8 - Programme of Requirements and Preferences - 33	<p>Referring to question 6 above:</p> <p>Does this mean that any answer "No, not compliant to requirement" will exclude the Tenderer? (with other words: only answers with "Yes" to all requirements will be accepted). Is this correct?</p> <p>Consequence: only price and preferences will be the relevant award criteria. What is about the Questions on sheet 8.1 General? will those be considered also?</p>	Yes, this is correct.
8.	7.1 - Requesting supporting and other documents from intended beneficiary - 31	As a foreign entity without a Dutch subsidiary, is a foreign KRK certificate with a sworn English translation accepted as a GVA equivalent?	<p>A foreign KRK certificate, even if accompanied by a sworn English translation, cannot automatically be regarded as substantively equivalent to a Declaration of Non-Exclusion (Gedragsverklaring Aanbesteden), as it generally does not contain information on the exclusion grounds covered by the GVA. Pursuant to the Dutch Public Procurement Act 2012 and Directive 2014/24/EU.</p> <p>TNO of course accepts equivalent foreign documentary evidence, provided that it demonstrates that no exclusion grounds apply. This may also entail that a combination of foreign</p>

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			<p>statements, possibly supplemented by a declaration on honour, is accepted as an alternative.</p> <p>Such statements must, inter alia, demonstrate that no criminal offences relevant to participation in public procurement procedures have been established and that no exclusion grounds apply as referred to in the Dutch Public Procurement Act 2012 and Directive 2014/24/EU.</p> <p>For clarity: To comply on an equivalent basis with the GVA, a foreign tenderer must submit the following set of documents (at award / verification stage):</p> <p>A. KRK certificate for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the undertaking (where possible), and</li> <li>- the directors / persons with decision-making or representative authority; issued recently (no older than six months).</li> </ul> <p>B. Fiscal and social obligations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statement from the Foreign tax authority confirming that no tax arrears exist;</li> <li>- Statement from the social security institution confirming that social security contributions have been paid.</li> </ul> <p>C. If the statements under (B) do not exist or do not fully cover the requirements, a notarial declaration / sworn statement in which the tenderer declares that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- no exclusion grounds apply;</li> <li>- all taxes and social contributions have been duly paid.</li> </ul>

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9.	- Annex A04 -	<p>8.1 - General -R-1000-055</p> <p>"Each machine (excl. Degas and Pouch forming) shall be designed as a fully enclosed micro-environment unit, capable of maintaining an internal dew point of –50 °C and cleanliness in accordance with ISO 14644-1 Class 6 (ISO Class 7 for the notching machine). The dry air supply shall be provided from the facility via a dedicated dry air inlet interface. The machine shall include designated provisions for installation of a dew point sensor and a particle counter to enable continuous environmental monitoring."</p> <p>-Is it acceptable that the area between the filling machine and the pouch sealing station is Class 7, while all other areas are Class 8?</p>	<p>No, it is not acceptable, however air circulation would be from facility, so please focus on air tightness requirement and particle generation and management.</p>
10.	- Annex A04 -	<p>8.1 - General -R-1000-135</p> <p>"Tenderers shall submit technical proposals including layout, cycle-time analysis, heat capacity and utility-consumption summary."</p> <p>-What does heat capacity refer to? Does heat capacity mean heat dissipation?</p>	<p>Yes, it can be called heat dissipation. It is important for C&amp;D Room design.</p>
11.	- Annex A04 -	<p>8.1 - General -R-1000-140</p> <p>"Tenderers shall submit complete quotation including equipment, shipment, installation, FAT/SAT and training. Equipment shall include complete set of tooling allowing production of at least 150x150mm pouch cell format (based on drawing 8.10 and DWG file)."</p> <p>- Could you share the pouch cell DWG file?</p>	<p>Yes, we uploaded this file for you.</p>

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12.	- Annex A04 -	<p>8.1 - General -R-1000-210            "All internal materials and mechanical components within the micro-environment shall be non-particle generating, cleanroom compatible, and suitable for operation under very low humidity conditions (-50 °C dew point)."            -The internal materials and mechanical components of the notching machine, welding machine and degassing machine cannot be non-particle generating, but we will reduce particle generation to the minimum achievable level by using the latest design technologies and materials.</p>	<p>Main goal of this point is to make sure that materials sustain low dew point and fulfil point General -R-1000-055. Of course, working environment create particles. This point is about reducing generation to minimum.</p>
13.	- Annex A04 -	<p>8.1 - General -R-1000-230            "Noise levels during operation shall not exceed 70 dB(A)."            -Equipment noise level: ≤ 75 dB at 1 m distance            Dust collector noise level: ≤ 80 dB at 1 m distance            If TNO require noise levels below 70 dB, we can provide an optional soundproof enclosure.</p>	<p>75 and 80 are higher numbers than 70, so they do not fulfil point General -R-1000-230. Improvement required.</p>
14.	- Annex A04 -	<p>8.2 - Notching-R-1100-030 &amp; 8.3 - Folding-R-1200-020            "The machine shall support coating thicknesses from 20 to 150 µm per side."            -If the coating thickness is 20 to 150 µm per side, the electrode thickness should be more than 46 µm (20+6+20). What is the reason for the minimum limit of 20 µm?</p>	<p>20 um supposed to refer to overall thickness.</p>

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15.	- Annex A04 -	8.2 - Notching-R-1100-050 "The cutting system shall ensure burr height $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$ ." -Die notching foil burr height $\leq 15 \mu\text{m}$ Laser notching for anode foil burr height $\leq 15 \mu\text{m}$ However, the burr height for the cathode (AT9) may be $\leq 20 \mu\text{m}$ . Approximately 85% of the AT9 ceramic coating consists of high-density ceramic particles. During notching, powder shedding is likely to occur, and debris will accumulate along the edges, forming microscopic burrs.	15 and 20 are the bigger numbers than 10.
16.	- Annex A04 -	8.2 - Notching-R-1100-075 "The machine shall include an ultrasonic edge position control (EPC) system capable of maintaining electrode alignment within $\pm 0.05 \text{ mm}$ under nominal production speed or better." -Is it acceptable that the EPC system can maintain electrode alignment within $\pm 0.1 \text{ mm}$ ?	No, it is not acceptable.
17.	- Annex A04 -	8.2 - Notching-R-1100-090 "The cutting chamber shall be fully enclosed to contain particles." -If laser notching is acceptable, that is fine. However, if die notching is used, it can only be partially enclosed to contain particles.	Laser notching is acceptable. For die cutting it can be partially closed.
18.	- Annex A04 -	8.2 - Notching-R-1100-140 & 8.3 - Folding-R-1200-130 "Tenderer shall propose optional handling system for very thin (20um) foils with high inner tension." -The machine shall cut electrodes with foil thicknesses of 6–12 $\mu\text{m}$ Cu and 12–20 $\mu\text{m}$ Al.	20 um is the whole thickness and inner tension means that can roll into tube in Y axis.

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		what's the meaning for very thin (20um) foils with high inner tension, whether including the coating layer?	
19.	- Annex A04 -	8.3 - Folding-R-1200-090 "The unit shall automatically detect separator cutting and folding errors." -Could you share the requires or drawing for separator cutting and folding errors?	Error occurs if separator is not fully cut, sheet is misaligned or not picked up or two sheets are picked up at the same time. These kinds of errors.
20.	- Annex A04 -	8.4 - Welding-R-1300-035 "The welding system shall use ultrasonic prewelding for tabs only and laser technology for welding prewelded and trimmed tabs to lead." -Could you please share the drawing of the lead? Please confirm whether the reference pictures are accurate. 	In DWG file.
21.	- Annex A04 -	8.6- Pouch sealing-R-1500-040 "The sealing temperature accuracy shall be $\pm 3$ °C or better (adjustable 0 to 250 °C)." -Sealing temperature adjustable from room temperature to 250 °C, temperature accuracy shall be $\pm 5$ °C.	5 is bigger than 3 – no.
22.	- Annex A04 -	8.8- Degas-R-1700-070 "The resealing temperature accuracy shall be $\pm 3$ °C." -Please confirm whether a temperature accuracy of $\pm 5$ °C for resealing is acceptable?	It is not acceptable.

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23.	5.2.2.1 - Reference projects - 24	which value of Reference project for Core Reference is a proper and valid? minimum of € 1.500.000,- excluding VAT as described or 650.000 described in Annex A02?	€ 2.000.000,- excluding VAT. See also TNO's answer on Question no. 5.
24.	5.2.1.1 - Insurance - 24	<p>which value of insurance is valid? The Tenderer shall maintain valid insurance coverage for both business liability and professional liability, with a minimum coverage amount of €5,000,000 per occurrence or series of related occurrences, and an annual aggregate limit of no less than €10,000,000. or value described in Annex C03 - Purchasing Conditions for Goods TNO 2025 see point 24. INSURANCE</p> <p>24.1 The Supplier adequately insures, in a way that is appropriate and customary according to common standards, and thus keeps insured (i) the Performance to be delivered, as well as goods that it received from TNO for processing, against all risks of damage, loss, theft and depreciation, until the time that the risk has been transferred to TNO; (ii) its liability pursuant to this Agreement. The Supplier adequately insures the aforementioned risks under customary policy conditions and keeps these insured. The insurance provides coverage for at least EUR 1,250,000 per claim, with a minimum annual payment of 200% of this amount. For the duration of the Agreement and the obligations ensuing from it, the Supplier shall not terminate any insurance as referred to in clause 24, nor shall the Supplier change any insurance on its own accord to the detriment of TNO, without TNO's prior written consent.</p>	<p>Order of Precedence of Documents is clearly stated in the Tender. Nevertheless, for clarity:</p> <p>In the event of any inconsistency between the tender documents, the Tender Guide, including its annexes and any Information Notices, shall prevail during the tender procedure. After contract award, the order of precedence set out in the Purchase and Supply Agreement (Annex C02) shall apply. Accordingly, Annex C02 prevails over the TNO Purchasing Conditions for Goods (Annex C03), which apply insofar as not expressly deviated from.</p>

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25.	5.2.1 - Financial and economic standing - 24	Can you confirm that only value of Insurance is valid and required fo fillfield requirement of that tender? If NOT - what should be a value of Financial and economic standing / financial and economic capacity decribed in Annex B01	Annex B01 must be completed if you, as the tenderer, rely on the financial and economic capacity of a third party.
26.	- Annex B01 -	what should be a value of Financial and economic standing / financial and economic capacity decribed in Annex B01	<p>The statement in Annex B01 must specify the amount and the form in which the third party makes its financial capacity available, so that TNO can determine that the Tenderer, with that support, meets the stipulated suitability requirement.</p> <p>The value to be completed in Annex B01 must correspond to the financial and economic suitability requirement as set out in the procurement documents and must demonstrate that the Tenderer, with the support of the third party, in fact meets that requirement.</p>
27.	- Annex A04 -	<p>Can you explain meaning of comment left by TNO Team - please see R-1000- 305 " Code of Conduct" "@Ligthart, E.F.C. (Erno) @Magiera, B.W. (Bartosz) : this will make it also, legally, easier to exclude certain vendors, as most likely they have not such policy yet. Requirement says also: "Upon request"" Such a comment may indicate that the contracting authority has malicious intent and wishes to favor a contractor designated by TNO rather than those referred to by TNO employees as "certain endors." Such conduct is inconsistent with EU regulations aimed at preventing the restriction of competition in EU tenders.</p>	<p>It should be clear that this comment was intended for internal use only, and that the relevant file was already corrected on 31 March 2026.</p> <p>That being said:</p> <p>On the basis of the Dutch Public Procurement Act 2012, TNO is authorised to impose requirements on tenderers, provided that such requirements are related to and proportionate to the subject matter of the contract, in accordance with Articles 1.10 and 2.90 of the Public Procurement Act 2012. Integrity and compliance requirements, including the possession of a Code of Conduct, are in this context considered by TNO to be permissible and proportionate requirements, given the objective</p>

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			<p>of ensuring minimum standards of integrity and compliance in the performance of the contract.</p> <p>It is legally permissible for TNO to stipulate that a Code of Conduct does not need to be submitted at the time of tender, but only upon request. This is in line with the principle of proportionality and the reduction of administrative burdens for economic operators, whereby supporting evidence is in principle requested only from the tenderer eligible for contract award. This approach is compatible with the principles of transparency and equal treatment, as it applies equally to all tenderers and is disclosed in advance in the procurement documents.</p> <p>Where a tenderer does not have a Code of Conduct formulated in identical terms, that tenderer is offered the opportunity to demonstrate equivalent measures or documents, provided that it can be demonstrated that the same objective is achieved. This ensures that the requirement does not go beyond what is necessary and that access to the contract is not unjustifiably restricted.</p> <p>The requirement relating to the Code of Conduct is explicitly not intended to exclude market parties in advance, except insofar as this follows from the objective and previously disclosed provisions set out in paragraph 5.2.5 of the procurement guide.</p> <p>The requirement serves solely to safeguard minimum integrity and compliance standards relevant to the performance of the contract and to TNO as an organisation, and is applied to all tenderers in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.</p>