Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum

NL-LEIDEN: **Voluntary Transparency Biomek i3 automated liquid handling platform**
REFERENCE: **L-EU-26-19**

Date: **15-05-2026**

CPV-code(s)	Description
38000000-5	*Laboratoriuminstrumenten, optische en precisie-instrumenten (uitgezonderd brillen)*

NEGOTIATING PROCEDURE WITHOUT PUBLICATION OF A CONTRACT NOTICE (ART. 2.32 AW 2012, MODIFIED BY LAW 2016)

The contracting authority, Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC) has the intention to acquire a Biomek i3 automated liquid handling platform for implementation and routine execution of the Archer FusionPLEX workflow. on behalf of the department Pathology. LUMC has the intention to award the contract to Beckman Coulter Nederland B.V. Pelmolenlaan 15, Worden, Netherlands.

LUMC will apply the negotiation procedure without publication of a contract notice. LUMC has established that no other competitors than Beckman Coulter Nederland B.V. are, momentarily, able to meet some of the essential technical demands with respect to proven technology.

The contracting authority may apply the negotiated procedure without prior notice because there is no competition for the following technical reasons and the relevant supply and service can only be provided by this specific supplier:

1. **Availability of an IDT-Validated Workflow**
   The intended application requires implementation of the Archer FusionPLEX workflow using a compact entry-level liquid handling platform for which the method has already been validated by IDT. The Biomek i3 platform is available with an IDT-validated workflow, thereby reducing implementation risk, minimizing method development requirements, and supporting rapid adoption within the laboratory environment. The availability of an existing validated method is considered essential to ensure standardized workflow performance, reproducibility, and compatibility with the intended assay application.

2. **Requirement for a Fully Automated Walk-Away Workflow**
   The laboratory requires a fully automated walk-away solution capable of processing a maximum of 24 samples per run without manual intervention. To support the validated Archer FusionPLEX workflow requirements, the liquid handling platform must at least have:
   - One on-deck thermal cycler compatible with 96-well plates
   - One integrated shaker module
   - Two integrated heating/cooling positions
   - UV-C for decontaminating the deck
   - Integrated camera for error handling

The Biomek i3 platform can accommodate these required modules within a single integrated workflow and compact instrument footprint, enabling uninterrupted automated processing and reducing hands-on time and risk of manual handling errors.

3. **Software Usability and Ease of Method Implementation**
   An important requirement for the laboratory is software that can be operated and maintained without requiring advanced scripting or software programming expertise. The Biomek i-Series software environment provides a graphical, user-friendly workflow setup and editing interface that allows methods to be implemented, modified, and maintained without custom coding knowledge. This reduces dependency on specialized programming expertise, simplifies operator training, and supports long-term sustainability of the workflow within the laboratory. Comparable systems evaluated often require scripting knowledge or more advanced software expertise for workflow customization and maintenance.
4. **Instrument Footprint and Laboratory Space Constraints**
   Due to laboratory space limitations, the liquid handling platform must not exceed the following maximum dimensions:
   - Width: 73.2 cm
   - Depth: 78.5 cm
   - Height: 82.6 cm

Based on the above technical and operational considerations, including the requirement for an IDT-validated Archer FusionPLEX workflow on a compact entry-level liquid handling platform with fully automated walk-away capability and user-friendly software operation, LUMC considers the Biomek i3 to be the solution that best fulfills the specific requirements of the laboratory environment.

Suggested delivery
Two Liquid handlers + 10 years of maintenance and 10 years of consumables.

Conclusion
By means of this call for voluntary ex ante transparency, LUMC informs parties of its intention and provides the opportunity to submit a reasoned objection against this intention. If parties have objections against the intended purchase from Beckman Coulter Nederland B.V., please inform LUMC on the last appearance of June 5th, before 17:00 h. by sending an email directed at: aanbestedingen@lumc.nl with reference to Jimmy Been, Procurement. When during this term no objections have been raised, LUMC is free to acquire it's desired the suggested delivery from Beckman Coulter Nederland B.V.