

Questions and Answers regarding the Memorandum of Information (closing date: 19 June 2026, 12:00 CET)

European open procedure 'Provision of commodity price Datasets' with IUC-reference 202603054

Ref no. Q&A TenderNed*	Subject (as formulated by the questioner)	Question (as formulated by the questioner)	Answers
1a	Tender document, invitation to tender	In 2.2. (page 8), it is stated that a division of the Contract between different 'dataset providers' would be ineffective. Does this mean that including a subcontractor would be considered a disadvantage?	Section 2.2 explains why dividing the Contract into multiple lots, and consequently contracting multiple contractors for different assignments, is considered inefficient. Including a subcontractor is not a disadvantage and allowed if the applicable rules are respected and the decision whether or not to engage subcontractor(s) is up to the Tenderer, provided that the agreed delivery deadlines are met and the Dataset is internally consistent. The delivery of the Dataset must be carried out by the Tenderer itself who remains central point of contact. The Contractor, regardless of how the services are performed, remains ultimately responsible for the quality of the Dataset.
1b	Tender document, invitation to tender	In 3.1.5. (page 10), it is stated that delivery of the first Dataset must be fulfilled within one (1) month after the commencement date of the Contract. This Dataset must be accompanied by supporting assumptions and narratives. Is this a hard deadline, or is there any flexibility? Moreover we doubt whether we are to fully comply with these demands, and consider them to be extreme ambitious, especially from the point of modelling different modelruns. Are you willing to provide considerably more time for delivery of the first dataset?	Contracting Authority agrees to extend the delivery deadline for the first Dataset from one (1) month to two (2) months after the commencement date of the Contract. Nevertheless, it would be appreciated if the initial Dataset can be delivered within one (1) month after the commencement date of the Contract.
1c	Tender document, invitation to tender	In 3.1.8. (page 10), it is stated that the price outlooks must be internally consistent, relying on identical and correlated assumptions across commodities. Is it therefore necessary to deliver all price outlooks using one model?	No, it is not required that all price outlooks are produced within a single integrated model. The requirement in section 3.1.8 should be understood to mean that the outcomes must be internally consistent and based on identical and correlated assumptions across commodities, regardless of the modelling architecture used.

			The Tenderers are free to use multiple models, model runs, or modelling frameworks, provided that the resulting price outlooks are coherent, mutually aligned, and based on the same underlying assumptions and narratives. What matters to the Contracting Authority is the consistency and transparency of the final Dataset, including the underlying assumptions and scenarios, not the number of models used to generate it. Tenderers must therefore describe in their proposal how they will ensure internal consistency when using multiple modelling tools or methodologies.
1d	Tender document, invitation to tender	Chapter 4, page 14, sets out several requirements. Could you please confirm whether these should be understood as strict mandatory requirements? Based on our current assessment, we may not be able to comply with all of them.	This is correct. The requirements stated in Chapter 4 are mandatory requirements.
2	Consistency between global and regional drivers	How should bidders ensure consistency across scenarios when some requested commodities are influenced by global market dynamics, while others are more strongly driven by European or EU policy developments?	The Contracting Authority assumes that Tenderers will apply a single overarching narrative and ensure that each commodity follows that same logic, even if the drivers differ in weight. Commodities must still align with the EU-policy storyline and with global macro assumptions. It is up to the Tenderers to determine a methodology which ensures consistency across the different scenarios.
3	Effort and scope for scenario development	Given that creating high, base, and low scenarios requires assumptions on multiple drivers, can you clarify the expected level of detail and effort for developing the scenario framework?	The level of effort should focus on showing how for example the main macro, policy and market assumptions shape the high, base and low paths. The Tenderer should outline the key drivers, justify the directional choices, and demonstrate internal consistency across commodities. Detailed modelling should be included in the commodity-specific sections. The scenario framework itself should remain structured, transparent and proportionate.
4	Scenario narrative requirements	Could you clarify whether bidders are expected to develop a detailed narrative for each scenario, and if so, whether the contracting authority will provide guidance on the key drivers to be varied, such as	Tenderers are expected to provide a concise, structured narrative for each scenario without any guidance from the Contracting Authority.

		technology, economy, policy, or behavioural change?	This narrative should set out the key assumptions that differentiate the high, base and low cases, without developing extensive or fully elaborated storylines.
5	Availability of scenario variants	As the current forecast may only provide a "most likely" view, would a single central forecast be considered acceptable, or is the provision of three distinct scenarios mandatory for qualification?	A sole "most-likely" or central case does not meet the requirement, because the Contracting Authority explicitly asks for a structured range that captures uncertainty across key drivers. Therefore, the provision of three distinct scenarios is mandatory for qualification. The base case may reflect the Tenderer's current "most likely" view, but it must be complemented by a high and low variant built on the same scenario framework to ensure comparability and robustness.
6	Electricity demand and supply coverage	The supplier of the Dataset is expected to provide insight into the evolution of total electricity demand and supply. Should this be provided for the Netherlands only, or also for North-Western European countries?	Tenderers must present demand and supply developments for the wider North-West European region. Where the Dutch outlook materially diverges from this regional picture, Tenderers should clearly identify and justify those differences.
7	Geographical coverage of commodity forecasts	The Dataset must cover data from the North-Western European market. Does this mean that commodity forecasts should be provided for North-Western European countries where applicable?	No, but the dataset should reflect the impact of interconnectivity between North-Western European markets.
8	Modelling approach and assumptions	Could you clarify the expectations regarding the underlying modelling approach and assumptions, such as supply-demand fundamentals, cost-based modelling, and the use of external data sources?	The Contracting Authority does not prescribe a specific modelling approach beyond the requirements set out in the Tender Document. It is up to the Tenderer to determine the most appropriate approach, provided that any external sources used are clearly referenced.
9	Scenario consistency across commodities	Should the three scenarios reflect the same narrative across all commodities?	Each commodity can have different sensitivities, but the narrative must remain consistent. Variations should come from how each commodity responds to the same high, base and low drivers and not from separate or conflicting narratives.

10	Scenario framework	Could you clarify the expectations for the “at least three scenarios” requirement, specifically whether the high, base, and low scenarios should follow predefined narratives, such as policy-driven, market-driven, or stress scenarios, or whether bidders are permitted to propose their own scenario methodology, including the choice of underlying drivers and narratives, provided that the approach is clearly documented and consistently applied?	Tenderers are permitted to propose their own scenario methodology, including the selection of underlying drivers and the construction of the high, base and low narratives, provided that the approach is clearly documented, internally consistent and applied uniformly across all commodities.
11	Qualification scope	Can bidders qualify for the tender if they provide only a subset of the required commodity forecasts, such as electricity, gas, or CO ₂ ?	No, Tenderers can only qualify if they have demonstrated experience with essential aspects of the Contract, as described in Chapter 4 of the Tender Document.
12	Acceptability of third-party data sources	"We have most of the required data available in-house. However, for certain data points we work together with established data partners. Together with these partners, we ensure full consistency across the datasets used in our analysis. Could you confirm whether this set-up is acceptable within the scope of this tender, or whether the contract can only be awarded to a single party that provides all underlying data independently?"	Please refer to the answer to Question 1a.
13	Arvodi 2025 article 23	In addition, could the Contracting Authority confirm how pre-existing intellectual property and embedded methodologies are intended to be protected under the current formulation, and whether any safeguards can be introduced to prevent unintended transfer of such background IP?	This is protected. The Contracting Authority refers to Article 23.2 of the ARVODI-2025: “If the results of the Services are achieved partly or wholly using existing intellectual property rights, the Contractor grants the Contracting Authority a non-exclusive and irrevocable right of use for an indefinite period, among other things to publish and reproduce (and to have published and reproduced) the results of the Services. In such an event the Contractor guarantees that the Contractor is able to grant this right of use.” The Contracting Authority considers the current wording of Article 23 sufficient and will not introduce additional safeguards.
14	Arvodi 2025 article 23	Article 23 of the ARVODI appears to provide for full transfer of all intellectual property rights in the results of the Services to the Contracting Authority, without limitation in	The Contracting Authority agrees that pre-existing intellectual property, methodologies, models and know-how remain the property of the Contractor.

		scope, use or duration. Given the advisory nature of the Services and the reliance on proprietary methodologies, models and know-how, could the Contracting Authority clarify whether it would consider a approach, whereby the Contractor retains ownership of its intellectual property (including underlying tools, methodologies and know-how), while granting the Contracting Authority a broad, perpetual and royalty-free right to use the deliverables for its internal and project-related purposes?	The Contracting Authority will be granted a perpetual, non-exclusive and royalty-free right to use the deliverables.
15	Arvodi 2025 article 19	Could the Contracting Authority clarify whether there is any flexibility to reduce the liability cap to the size of the engagement or another lower, more proportionate cap than currently included in Arvodi 2025?	The Contracting Authority agrees to reduce the liability cap to a maximum of €2,000,000 per event and €3,000,000 for each year or part of a year in which the Contract has been in force.
16	3.2 Requirements relating to the price	Is the Government able to indicate what additional commodity prices may be required? The amount of work, availability of price data, and time for supply of additional price series varies across commodities. Given the breadth of Dutch emitters, it is difficult to guarantee a price series and a uniform fee.	The Contracting Authority cannot provide a predefined list of additional commodities. Needs may change over time. Tenderers should therefore outline their pricing methodology for adding new commodities, such as how fees would be determined, which cost drivers are considered, and how variations in data availability or modelling effort would affect pricing. This enables the Contracting Authority to assess the approach without requiring a fixed list upfront.
17	2.4 Scope of the contract	Can the Government provide an example of something that would fall under this clause "It is possible that the services specified in the Contract may change in the event of political, budgetary, administrative or organisational developments within the Dutch government and the Contracting Authority's expansion or contraction resulting from this, or changes to the Contracting Authority's position within the government or to the targets that must be met."	An example would be a change in government or political priorities, for instance, if the cabinet were to fall and new elections resulted in a government with different climate, energy or budgetary objectives. Such developments could alter the scope, timing or required outputs of the Dataset, or change how the Contracting Authority intends to use the information. Any such changes would be handled within the scope of the Contract and applicable procurement law, and where relevant in consultation with the Contractor.

18	2.3 Contract period	It is stated that during the contract period, the Dataset must be updated every six (6) months. For the Contract period of 4 years, are you assuming therefore that the prices will be updated 8 times? Please confirm the number of updates that the maximum contract fee stated is expected to cover.	The maximum contract fee should cover 8 updates (including one initial delivery), which aligns with the 6-month update schedule across the 4-year contract period.
19	2.2 Lots	We note the comment that "the division of the Contract between different 'dataset providers' would be very ineffective". Does this mean that two companies working together to provide and harmonise the projections is discouraged?	Section 2.2 explains why dividing the Contract into multiple lots, and consequently contracting multiple contractors for different assignments, is considered inefficient. The decision whether or not to work together with two companies is up to the Tenderer, provided that the agreed delivery deadlines are met and the Dataset is internally consistent. The delivery of the Dataset must be carried out by the Tenderer itself who remains central point of contact. The Contractor, regardless of how the services are performed, remains ultimately responsible for the quality of the Dataset.
20	2.1 Description and objective of the contract	What kind of supporting written up documentation is MinEZK expecting?	Section 2.1 does not contain any reference to supporting documentation.
21	2.1 Description and objective of the contract	Does MinEZK have a view regarding the achievement of the Offshore Wind Roadmap and the new nuclear build in the Netherlands that they would like incorporated into the long-term price outlook for wholesale electricity prices for the Netherlands??	The Tenderer should base its scenarios on the most recent publicly available information regarding the policies and decisions on referred topics.
22	2.1 Description and objective of the contract	What process does RVO intend to follow for their assessment to ensure that the underlying assumptions informing the Dataset are defensible and aligned with the Dutch government's economic perspective.	If the Contracting Authority has any questions or requires further clarification regarding the assumptions, scenarios or narrative underlying a Dataset, it will raise these once the relevant Dataset (initial or update) has been delivered. As stated in Section 3.1.14 of the Tender Document, for each delivery of the Dataset, the Contractor shall make an analyst available for an average of four (4) hours to provide clarification and address any questions. The Contractor shall respond to questions and requests for clarification within seventy-two (72) hours.

23	2.1 Description and objective of the contract	Apart from the Netherlands, will you require us to provide electricity price projections for the other countries covered by the specified area of North-Western Europe? If yes, where a country has a number of price zones, would we be required to provide electricity price projections for each price zone? For example, Sweden has four price bidding zones.	The Contracting Authority is seeking an independent and consistent set of commodity price projections reflecting the North-Western European market. Rather than separate price sets for individual countries, the Contracting Authority requires a single price set applicable to the Netherlands that incorporates a North-Western European market perspective. Consequently, there is no need to provide multiple price zones.
24	2.1 Description and objective of the contract	Is the purpose of the NW European price analysis to understand CIF/CFR prices to the region, or are you also trying to understand the relative competitiveness of these other European countries? We note that only a Netherlands electricity price is stated, suggesting the former.	The Netherlands electricity price is expected to be influenced by supply and demand factors in nearby countries because of the interconnectivity of the grids. The assumptions and narrative of these markets on the Dutch market and price should therefore be included. The purpose of the North-Western European price analysis is to understand how developments in neighbouring markets influence the Dutch electricity price, not to assess the standalone competitiveness of other European countries. The modelling of North-Western European markets is included only insofar as their fundamentals affect Dutch price formation through interconnection and cross-border flows. The Contracting Authority does not seek to understand the relative competitiveness of other European countries. Instead, it requires a single price set applicable to the Netherlands that incorporates a North-Western European market perspective.

25	2.1 Description and objective of the contract	We note that the prices are cover the Benelux region, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Scandinavian region. Are you meaning that the Tenderer provides a projection for each of the stated commodities for each country, or that a Northwest European price for the commodities is provided that is reflective of the prices in these countries? Some commodity price will not vary massively between countries and others will - for example gas versus electricity?	Please refer to the answer to Question 23. For commodities with material regional variation, such as electricity, Tenderers should still provide a single Northwest European price, but must indicate where Dutch conditions materially diverge from the regional view.
26	2.1 Description and objective of the contract	Please state the Scandinavian countries you wish to include	Please refer to the answer to Question 23. In defining the North-Western European market perspective, the Contracting Authority considers Norway, Sweden and Denmark to be part of Scandinavia.
27	2.1 Description and objective of the contract	Benelux region: Are we required to provide a data set for Luxemburg?	No, the Tenderer is not required to provide a separate Dataset for Luxemburg. Please also refer to the answer to Question 23.