1. Buyer

1.1 Buyer

Official name: Universiteit Leiden

2. Procedure

2.1 Procedure

Title:	Imaging robot
Description:	This is a publication of our intent to award a contract for an imaging system using the negotiated procedure for reasons set out below. If no representations are made within 20 days of this publication, we will award the contract to Life Science Methods BV. LACDR (an institute of the Faculty of Science of Leiden University) is developing an automated drug discovery and development pipeline based on the zebrafish embryo/larva with fluorescent biomarkers of efficacy and toxicity as new approach methodology. LACDR wants to automate whole zebrafish larva fluorescence imaging at tissue/cellular resolution at a high throughput, hands-off manner. The Life Science Methods Airyfish Lightsheet Automated Imaging Robot is the only imaging system that meets all these requirements.
Procedure identifier:	abe33676-012b-4833-aab6-9246673dd578
Internal identifier:	77ea582a-e2c3-44b8-9cfc-5e4874fdbabb
Type of procedure:	Negotiated without prior call for competition

2.1.1 Purpose

Main nature of the contract :	Supplies
Main classification (cpv):	38000000 Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)
Additional classification (cpv):	38515200 Fluorescent microscopes
Additional classification (cpv):	38636000 Specialist optical instruments
Additional classification (cpv):	42997300 Industrial robots

2.1.2 Place of performance

Town:	Leiden
Country subdivision (NUTS):	Agglomeratie Leiden en Bollenstreek (NL363)
Country:	Netherlands
Additional information:	See documentation

2.1.4 General information

Legal basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

5. Lot

5.1 Lot technical ID: LOT-0000

Title: Imaging robot

Rijksoverheid

Description:	This is a publication of our intent to award a contract for an imaging system using the negotiated procedure for reasons set out below. If no representations are made within 20 days of this publication, we will award the contract to Life Science Methods BV. LACDR (an institute of the Faculty of Science of Leiden University) is developing an automated drug discovery and development pipeline based on the zebrafish embryo/larva with fluorescent biomarkers of efficacy and toxicity as new approach methodology. LACDR wants to automate whole zebrafish larva fluorescence imaging at tissue/cellular resolution at a high throughput, hands-off manner. The Life Science Methods Airyfish Lightsheet Automated Imaging Robot is the only imaging system that meets all these requirements.
Internal identifier:	f2b8a542-fc65-4833-8a40-ca7d56b6810d

5.1.1 Purpose

Main nature of the contract :	Supplies
Main classification (cpv):	38000000 Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)
Additional classification (cpv):	38515200 Fluorescent microscopes
Additional classification (cpv):	38636000 Specialist optical instruments
Additional classification (cpv):	42997300 Industrial robots

5.1.2 Place of performance

Town:	Leiden
Country subdivision (NUTS):	Agglomeratie Leiden en Bollenstreek (NL363)
Country:	Netherlands
Additional information:	See documentation

5.1.6 General information

Procurement Project not financed with EU Funds.	
The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA):	no

5.1.10 Award criteria

Criterion:	
Type:	Price
Name:	Price
Description:	Price of the imaging system
Category of award threshold	Weight (percentage, exact)

Rijksoverheid

criterion:

Award criterion number: 100

5.1.15 Techniques

Framework agreement:

No framework agreement

Information about the dynamic purchasing system:

No dynamic purchase system

5.1.16 Further information, mediation and review

Review organisation: Rechtbank Den Haag

Information about review deadlines: This is a publication of our intent to award a contract for an imaging system using the negotiated procedure for reasons set out below. If no representations are made within 20 days of this publication, we will award the contract to Life Science Methods BV.

Organisation whose budget is used to pay for the contract: Universiteit Leiden

Organisation executing the payment: Universiteit Leiden

Organisation signing the contract: Universiteit Leiden

6. Results

Direct award:

Justification for direct award: The contract can be provided only by a particular economic operator because of an absence of competition for technical reasons

LACDR is developing an automated drug discovery and development pipeline based on the zebrafish embryo/larva with fluorescent biomarkers of efficacy and toxicity as new approach methodology. LACDR wants to automate whole zebrafish larva fluorescence imaging at tissue/cellular resolution at a high throughput, hands-off manner. The imaging system will support high-content, longitudinal zebrafish experiments that generate quantitative imaging data for pharmacological research and drug discovery and development. Its principal use is repeated imaging of individual live embryos and larvae over time, including brightfield and fluorescent reporter-based imaging, to quantify physiological, pathophysiological and treatment-related processes at tissue/cellular resolution. Typical applications include fluorescence-based pharmacodynamics such as fluorescently-labelled pathogens, host–pathogen interactions involving fluorescently labelled host cells; xenograft and disease models; nanoparticle distribution; pharmacokinetics and biodistribution; circulation and vascular biology; and organ- or tissue-level fluorescent biomarkers. The resulting repeated-measures data will support downstream translational pharmacological modelling. LACDR therefore needs an automated, light-sheet system for non-invasive, repeated and standardised brightfield and fluorescence imaging of live zebrafish embryos and larvae, that can rapidly and autonomously detect, position, focus and image zebrafish specimens in a plate-based workflow, including image acquisition and associated control and analysis software. Specifically, LACDR needs an imaging system meeting the requirements below: - Large field-of-view high-speed light-sheet imaging system with 2D galvo scanning mirror, 5X illumination objective for 5 µm axial scanning resolution, and 10X, 0.5NA detection optics for at least 1.5 µm lateral resolution, and automated fast focus, for cellular-level visualization within the live whole organism field of view. - Fluorescence excitation shall include channels centered at approximately 488 nm and 561 nm, or spectrally equivalent channels suitable for imaging common green and red fluorophores. The 488 nm fluorescence channel shall be compatible with

Rijksoverheid

Other justification:	fluorophores such as GFP, EGFP, FITC, or Alexa Fluor 488, with appropriate excitation and emission filtering. The 561 nm fluorescence channel shall be compatible with fluorophores such as mCherry, tdTomato, DsRed, or Alexa Fluor 568/594, with appropriate excitation and emission filtering. - Independent acquisition of each fluorescence channel with sufficient optical separation to minimize spectral crosstalk between the green and red channels. - Brightfield transmitted-light imaging for label-free visualization of samples. - Medium-frame scientific camera, pixel size ~0.75 µm of imaged sample for cellular resolution, active sensor area at least 50x20mm, full-resolution acquisition speed of at least 5 frames/s, and TEC cooling. - Robotic moving head including camera and FEP tube connected to rotation motor for handling of specimen, including suction from the multi-well plate into the tube, fixation using non-invasive gel, positioning in the light-sheet microscopy cuvette, and dispensing of specimen in corresponding well. - Capacity to acquire images (brightfield + 2 channels) of 96 embryos/larvae in no more than 3 hours under a precisely defined standard imaging workflow, including unattended unsupervised automated operation (e.g. overnight) and possibile repeat acquisitions. - Automated orientation for standardized automated imaging of lateral, dorsal, and ventral side of hatched larva - Analysis software recognition with adaptation for up to 10 new types of specimen or imaging mode. - Export of images and structured metadata in documented, non-proprietary, or widely adopted interoperable formats. For image data, compatibility with the OME-Zarr format is strongly preferred. - Recording of specimen ID (e.g. barcode scanner), acquisition time, imaging settings, channel, position, temperature, and other metadata needed for longitudinal analysis. - Capacity for 2 multi-well plate for two conditions (e.g. anaesthesia and fresh medium) with capability to transfer specimen between corresponding wells before/after imaging. - Training for users, including routine operation, basic troubleshooting, image export and standard workflow configuration. - Delivery and installation at Faculty of Science, Leiden. - Minimum warranty period of 24 months. - The costs should not be higher than 300 k€ excluding VAT. The Life Science Methods Airyfish Lightsheet Automated Imaging Robot is the only imaging system that meets all these requirements.

6.1 Result lot Identifier: LOT-0000

6.1.2 Information about winners

Winner:	
Official name:	Life Science Methods BV
Tender:	
Tender identifier:	T237640
Identifier of lot or group of lots:	LOT-0000
Value of the tender:	228 905 Euro
The tender was ranked:	no
Subcontracting :	No
Contract information:	
Identifier of the contract:	2026-17
Date on which the winner was chosen:	05/10/2026
Organisation signing the contract:	Universiteit Leiden

8. Organisations

8.1 ORG-0001

Official name:	Universiteit Leiden
Registration	

Rijksoverheid

number:	27368929
Postal address :	Kolffpad 1
Town:	Leiden
Postcode:	2333BN
Country subdivision (NUTS):	Agglomeratie Leiden en Bollenstreek (NL363)
Country:	Netherlands
Contact point:	Govert Schipperheijn
Email:	inkoop@ufb.leidenuniv.nl
Telephone:	+31715273304
Internet address:	https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/
Buyer profile:	https://s2c.mercell.com/buyer/19549

Roles of this organisation:

Buyer

Organisation signing the contract

Organisation whose budget is used to pay for the contract

Organisation executing the payment

8.1 ORG-0002

Official name:	Rechtbank Den Haag
Registration number:	82946175
Department:	Civiel
Postal address :	Postbus 20303
Town:	Den Haag
Postcode:	2500 EH
Country subdivision (NUTS):	Agglomeratie 's-Gravenhage (NL361)
Country:	Netherlands
Contact point:	Informatie
Email:	info@rechtspraak.nl
Telephone:	+31883622200
Internet address:	https://www.rechtspraak.nl/Organisatie-en-contact/Organisatie/Rechtbanken/Rechtbank-Den-Haag

Roles of this organisation:

Review organisation

8.1 ORG-0003

Official name:	Life Science Methods BV
Size of the economic operator:	Micro
Registration number:	53301978
Town:	Leiden

Rijksoverheid

Postcode:	2333 CH
Country subdivision (NUTS):	Agglomeratie Leiden en Bollenstreek (NL363)
Country:	Netherlands

Roles of this organisation:

Tenderer

Winner of these lots:	LOT-0000

Notice information

Notice identifier /version:	d5203438-1d0b-4a69-b114-41a82ed17c98 - 01
Form type:	Direct award preannouncement
Notice type:	Voluntary ex-ante transparency notice
Notice dispatch date:	06/10/2026 10:17 +00:00
Notice dispatch date (eSender):	06/10/2026 10:17 +00:00
Languages in which this notice is officially available:	English

Rijksoverheid