Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum

NL-LEIDEN: **Voluntary Transparency Volta Callisto automated liquid handling platform**
REFERENCE: **L-EU-26-25**

Date: **06-10-2026**

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 Volta Callisto™ automated liquid handling platform for NGS library preparation for short- and long-read sequencing in molecular diagnostics, on behalf of the department Pathology. LUMC has the intention to award the contract to Volta Labs, Inc. 27 Drydock Ave, Suite 3 West, Boston, MA 02210 United States.

LUMC will apply the negotiation procedure without publication of a contract notice. LUMC has established that no other competitors than Volta Labs, Inc. are, momentarily, able to meet the combination of essential technical demands set out below with 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. Tip-free liquid handling that preserves high molecular weight (HMW) DNA. The division of Molecular Diagnostics intends to introduce nanopore long-read sequencing for samples with high-quality material. Read length and data quality in long-read sequencing are determined by the fragment length of the input DNA. Pipette-based liquid handlers and vortex or tip mixing shear DNA regardless of method optimisation. LUMC therefore requires a system that moves and mixes liquid without pipetting, tubing or pumps (digital fluidics with contactless mixing).

2. Short- and long-read library preparation on a single instrument. Whole genome sequencing (WGS) library preparation for LUMC diagnostic samples is currently outsourced to an external service provider. LUMC wants to perform this library preparation in-house. In addition, LUMC wants to introduce cell-free WGS (cfWGS) for patients for whom no tissue biopsy or resection is available. Both applications work with scarce patient material (small biopsies, plasma cfDNA) that cannot be re-sampled. LUMC therefore requires that short-read library preparation (including from cfDNA) and long-read library preparation run on one instrument, without transfers between instruments and without the dead-volume losses of tip- or tubing-based systems. Manufacturer-validated, preloaded workflows that require no

local method development. The division has no personnel experience with method automation; the instrument will be operated by laboratory technicians in an ISO 15189-accredited diagnostic setting next to routine work. Further the intended applications have low and variable volumes (currently approximately 40 WGS libraries per year), which does not justify developing, scripting and maintaining a method per protocol on an open liquid handler. LUMC therefore requires walk-away workflows that are developed, validated and supported by the manufacturer.

3. Batch sizes that match diagnostic practice. Diagnostic samples arrive in small, variable batches. LUMC requires a system that processes 1 to 24 samples in a single run.

4. Miniaturised reaction volumes. Because the applications above are low-volume and use expensive reagents, LUMC requires reactions at reduced volume to limit reagent use per library and to maximise yield from limited input. The tip-free design from Volta Calisto system also reduces disposable plastic by approximately a factor of ten compared to pipette-based systems, in line with LUMC sustainability objectives.

Based on market research undertaken by LUMC, it has been established that only the Callisto™ Sample Prep System supplied by Volta Labs, Inc. satisfies the complete combination of the above essential technical requirements. For this reason, LUMC considers that no reasonable alternative or substitute solution is currently available.

Suggested delivery
One Callisto™ Sample Prep System (catalogue no. C0001) including installation and training, 5 to 10 years of maintenance and service, and 5 to 10 years of supply of the Volta application kits and cartridges required to run the system.

Conclusion
The requirements above follow directly from the applications LUMC intends to run on the system. Only the Callisto™ Sample Prep System meets them in combination, and Volta Labs, Inc. is its manufacturer and sole supplier. LUMC therefore intends to award the contract to Volta Labs, Inc.

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 Volta Labs, Inc. please inform LUMC on the last appearance of 27-10-2026, 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 Volta Callisto automated liquid handling platform from Volta Labs, Inc.