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Nr	Date question	Question	Date answer published	Answer
1	27-10-2026	What is the predominant type of data within the scope of this challenge? Is it primarily numerical, textual, or another data format?	2-11-2026	The information forecasters use consist of primary numerical data (e.g. Observations, model outputs etc.) and textual data, like reports, message or notes from experts or information from other (web)sites.
2	27-10-2026	Is Rijkswaterstaat looking for an additional service or a complete software package as a solution?	2-11-2026	To be used operational in the water room, Rijkswaterstaat wants to have solutions run on-premise. Although in this case we will be depending on internet messages, we still want to limit to use off external resources.
3	27-10-2026	What AI/LLM-related capabilities, knowledge and tools are currently available within Rijkswaterstaat? What experience already exists with AI applications?	5-11-2026	See Question 15
4	27-10-2026	What is the current level of AI literacy among the intended users and stakeholders?	5-11-2026	AI literacy is expected to vary among stakeholders. Most users will have a general understanding of AI tools and their applications, but awareness of limitations, transparency and explainability of AI outputs may be more limited. Therefore, these aspects should be clearly addressed in the proposed solution.
5	27-10-2026	What are the main reasons for exploring market solutions rather than developing a solution entirely in-house?	2-11-2026	Rijkswaterstaat does not currently have the expertise or resources to develop such a solution itself. Its primary responsibility is to ensure water safety and the effective operation of water and infrastructure systems. Therefore, the specialised knowledge and development capacity needed for this challenge are expected to come from commercial market parties.
6	27-10-2026	What role do you foresee for Deltares and KNMI within the future solution landscape, for example regarding models, APIs, expert knowledge or operational support?	2-11-2026	Rijkswaterstaat has asked Deltares to provide support as an expert on topic of LLMs/Agents and to contribute knowledge of the existing systems and models. In addition, Deltares will monitor the overall functioning of the systems. Likewise for KNMI.
7	27-10-2026	How much historical forecasting and validation data is available, and over what period?	5-11-2026	See Question 19

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8	27-10-2026	If separate tools or components are envisaged, how should all the questions and functionalities be integrated and reflected in the response?	5-11-2026	A solution composed of different tools is certainly a possible outcome. We ask you to reflect this in the architecture question (TR-01) and to indicate which part or parts of the solution you would deliver. It would also be helpful if you briefly describe the individual components and the functionalities they contribute to. Questions from the market consultation that do not apply to your part do not need to be answered. We would, however, like to receive your proposal for organising the project in case of multiple parties are involved (PO-01).
9	27-10-2026	To what extent have AI Act requirements and other compliance considerations already been taken into account, particularly with respect to any potential follow-up procurement process?	5-11-2026	At this stage of the market consultation, no formal compliance assessment has yet been performed. This will of course be carried out before the actual procurement process. In doing so, we will consider the applicable regulations and standards, such as the EU AI Act, the AI Impact Assessment (AIA), the Dutch government Information Security Baseline (BIO), and other relevant frameworks for responsible AI use. Given the early stage, we also explicitly invite participants to share their input and expertise on these compliance topics, as this will help us define the requirements in the RFP. See §3.4.2. and question TR-02.
10	27-10-2026	Which external or third-party data sources are relevant, and what access mechanisms are available or envisaged?	5-11-2026	Relevant external data sources include: - DWD (German Weather Service) - BAFU (Swiss Federal Office for the Environment) - BFE (Swiss Federal Office of Energy) - SLF (Swiss Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research) - Maasmechelen weather station (snow observations) - LHP (German Flood Information Portal / Hochwasserportal) - Belgian hydraulic forecast services - Bodenseehochwasser (Lake Constance flood information platform) - Windy.com - Météo-France (French National Meteorological Service) - KMI (Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium) The list can be extended with additional sources where relevant. Access mechanisms include: - Observations and forecasts available through RWsOS (Rijkswaterstaat Water Management and Operational System); - Public data via portals and websites; Observations and forecast data at some (foreign) measurement stations are also available through RWsOS, but are often supplemented with information from the parties website (eg, weather reports and messages).

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11	27-10-2026	Will the market consultation report be published, and if so, will publication be limited to a high-level summary?	2-11-2026	A summary report of the market consolation will be published on TenderNed.
12	27-10-2026	Is the distinction between numerical and textual data considered correct, or are additional data categories relevant within the scope of this challenge?	2-11-2026	That is correct. A large part of the challenge is to combine, interpreted and efficiently present numerical and textual data. But other data sources might also be relevant.
13	27-10-2026	Can existing research on forecast uncertainty and forecast quality be shared or published?	5-11-2026	Existing forecast evaluation studies can be shared to a certain extent and include: - Warning history analyses, covering warning timing, occurrence, and forecast quality/accuracy. The information is available but unstructured (text combined with tables). - Forecast verification metrics, currently available for recent periods. Can also be derived from historical forecasts and observations. - The 2021 flood event is the only extensively documented case. Some effort may be needed to collect this information.
14	27-10-2026	Is the objective to acquire a product, establish a collaborative partnership, or pursue another form of collaboration?	5-11-2026	The market consultation aims to gain insight into this question, so that we can subsequently determine which contract form should be included in an eventual forthcoming RFP. Rijkswaterstaat is open to various forms of collaboration. Our preference is for a contract with a single company or a combination of companies. It is not necessary for one party to deliver the entire solution; this can be indicated in the response to the market consultation. In question PP-01, we ask about the procurement procedure, and we would also like to know whether there are any preferences in the market in this respect.
15	27-10-2026	What experience has Rijkswaterstaat gained with existing tools such as CODEX, HERMES and other AI-assisted or agent-based solutions? What were the key findings and lessons learned?	5-11-2026	Within Rijkswaterstaat (including within our Data & AI Lab, but certainly also across Rijkswaterstaat), AI-assisted and agent-based solutions, as well as other AI and machine learning techniques, are being explored and applied. In doing so, consideration is given to the balance between reliability, speed, and what is technically and legally permissible within the established frameworks. However, experience with this specific purpose — a Forecast Assistant supporting operational water management within the WMCN — and at this scale, is limited. This is precisely one of the reasons for organising this market consultation: to explore what the market can offer and to learn.

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16	27-10-2026	Are there existing generic or commercially available solutions that could already address part of the requested functionality?	2-11-2026	Yes. Existing AI platforms and agent frameworks already provide some capabilities we are looking for, such as natural-language interaction, API integration, and the generation of explanations based on numerical data. However, no current solution is expected to fully meet the intended functionality. A practical solution also needs to be combined with configuration and customization for the Rijkswaterstaat context.
17	27-10-2026	Is the available knowledge structured, semi- or unstructured?	5-11-2026	The available knowledge is a combination of structured and unstructured information. Structured sources include observations and model outputs as time series. Unstructured sources include reports, model evaluation documents, textual data from external websites (Question 10).
18	27-10-2026	Are policies, e.g. the line of reasoning, documented or is it in the head of the expert?	5-11-2026	Forecasting reasoning is largely based on expert knowledge and is only partially documented. Some experts have written material available, but there is no operational handbook. Our view is that a Forecast Assistant should identify relevant events in model results, messages, and other sources, and present them to the forecaster in a concise textual summary. Alongside this, it should suggest possible next steps or additional investigations to help follow the line of reasoning and better understand the dominant drivers behind the forecast. Through an iterative dialogue with the forecaster, the assistant can continue searching relevant sources, provide additional information, and help identify and validate the dominant drivers of the forecast. Optionally, the forecaster can then verify these drivers with the assistant.

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19	30-10-2026	What historical data can participants use to test an assistant? Specifically, per event: the model forecasts as they were issued at the time (including ensembles from RWsOS / Delft-FEWS), the final forecast the forecaster issued, and the observed outcome. For which period and which locations (for example Lobith and Sint Pieter) is this available, and may participants use it to replay a past situation without look-ahead? (UR-02, TR-03)	5-11-2026	Participants may use historical data to replay past forecasting situations without look-ahead. Historical data is saved in the MATROOS database. This includes: - RWS forecasts (RWS eindverwachting) for Lobith and St. Pieter, available for approximately the last 10 years. - Observations at these locations, available over a longer period. - Model outputs, including both deterministic forecasts and ensemble forecasts, mostly available from approximately November 2018 onwards. - Meteorological data, which is more limited in availability (typically 5-10 years), with no ensemble availability. Data can be exported in CSV and NetCDF formats. In principle, the combination of archived forecasts, model outputs, and observations provides a basis for reconstructing and evaluating historical forecasting events.
20	30-10-2026	Which forecast models or model types, and which input data, does the river forecasting team use for the Rhine and Meuse forecasts? Can RWS share one example forecast, with the model output and the forecast that was issued? (UR-01, FC-01)	5-11-2026	The river forecasting team combines meteorological models with hydrological and hydrodynamic models for both the Rhine and Meuse. Key meteorological inputs include: - ICON Family (including deterministic and ensemble prediction systems) - ECMWF (including EPS and Extended EPS) These forecasts are used as input for hydrological and hydrodynamic models, including: HBV (hydrological model) SOBEK (hydrodynamic model) For the follow-up procedure, an example dataset containing model outputs and the corresponding forecast that was issued can be prepared and shared.
21	30-10-2026	What share of the information forecasters use is structured (time series, model output) and what share is unstructured (logbooks, reports, notes), and where is the unstructured part kept? Is it digital or analog?	5-11-2026	Both are essential for operational forecasting. Understanding the weather situation and the driving forces behind a forecast is a key part of the forecasting process. Model outputs, observations, and time series provide the quantitative basis, but weather information, reports, websites, and forecaster assessments are often (at least) equally important for interpreting forecast developments and uncertainties, especially during extreme events. Most unstructured information is available in digital form.

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22	30-10-2026	Which external weather services does the team use, and are there licence restrictions on reusing their data in an assistant? (p.11)	5-11-2026	See Question 10. The data is publicly available, but for restrictions. You can check the website of the external sources.
23	30-10-2026	What AI expertise and resources does RWS currently have in house, and who will assess the AI quality of proposals and deliveries?	2-11-2026	Within Rijkswaterstaat (including within our Data & AI Lab, but certainly also across Rijkswaterstaat), AI-assisted and agent-based solutions, as well as other AI and machine learning techniques, are being explored and applied. In doing so, consideration is given to the balance between reliability, speed, and what is technically and legally permissible within the established frameworks. To be able to assess the quality of proposed deliverables we collaborate with our experts from the Data & AI Lab and Deltares. Deltares provides support as an expert on topic of LLMs/Agent for the water management domain.
24	46328	Section 2.2 states that developing new or adjusting existing forecasting models is outside the primary scope. Do the following components fall within the scope: a) Statistical post-processing of existing model output and ensembles, e.g. to derive threshold exceedance probabilities; b) Data-driven methods for data quality and anomaly detection; c) Data-driven methods for identifying comparable historical situations?	5-11-2026	a) We don't search for new post-processing methods to improve model outputs. We want to improve by better interpreting model results. b, c) Yes
25	2-11-2026	Is the follow-up RFP expected to remain limited to the CAG River Team (Lobith and Sint Pieter), or should the solution be designed from the start for other forecasting domains, as Appendix A and TR-04 suggest?	5-11-2026	The scope foreseen is the CAG River Team. At the same time, scalability to other domains should be considered and will likely be included as a requirement or desired capability. The exact scope may be adjusted depending on the follow-up procurement procedure.
26	2-11-2026	How does this project relate to other AIWaM tracks, in particular ML-based water movement models? Should the Forecast Assistant be able to incorporate output of such future models?	5-11-2026	Yes, if new models become available, the system must be flexible enough to integrate these without much effort.
27	2-11-2026	Does Rijkswaterstaat expect a solution based on generative AI or LLMs, or is it equally open to non-generative approaches or a combination?	5-11-2026	Rijkswaterstaat has no preference for a particular type of solution.

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28	2-11-2026	Which historical data will be available to participants in a follow-up procedure: archived forecasts including ensembles, with original issue times; archived observations as available at the time, including later corrections; and situation reports, logbooks or forecaster notes? Over what period?	5-11-2026	See Question 19
29	2-11-2026	Which components must run within a Rijkswaterstaat-controlled environment? Is the use of external AI or LLM services (e.g. EU-hosted APIs) permitted, and are there already approved AI platforms or infrastructure (including GPU capacity) within Rijkswaterstaat?	5-11-2026	The target of the end solution is to run on premise. Regulations and policies change regularly and with that which external AI/LMM and AI platform are approved change with these regulations and policies. This depends, among other things, on the confidentiality of the data involved, as well as risk assessments.
30	2-11-2026	Which information security classification applies to the data involved, and which security frameworks must the solution comply with (e.g. BIO)?	5-11-2026	See answer on Question 9.
31	2-11-2026	Is Rijkswaterstaat open to software where the IP is held by third parties?	5-11-2026	When Rijkswaterstaat commissions or procures the development of software, IT systems or AI, this is likely contracted under the ARBIT-2022 conditions, which are intended for IT assignments such as software development, custom-built software and AI development. In that case, everything developed specifically for Rijkswaterstaat becomes the property of the government, as soon as the contract is signed. This means that Rijkswaterstaat becomes the owner not only of the software or AI model, but also of the source code and models. If a supplier delivers standard (off-the-shelf) software, the IP remains with the supplier and Rijkswaterstaat receives an unlimited, broad right of use. In line with the "Open Source, unless" policy, OSI-compliant open-source licences such as GPL, EUPL and MIT are also accepted. For more information, see opensourcewerken.nl. The definitive conditions will be laid down in the RFP, taking into account the outcome of this market consultation.
32	2-11-2026	We assume that partners involved in the AIWaM / AI Impulse programme, including Deltares and KNMI, will not participate in a possible follow-up procurement, given their role and potential prior knowledge. Can Rijkswaterstaat confirm this? If not, how will Rijkswaterstaat ensure a level playing field?	5-11-2026	See also answer on question 6. Yes, we can confirm this. Deltares and KNMI are partners in the AIWaM programme and will act in the role of knowledge institute and expert, not as a bidder in a possible follow-up procurement. Their knowledge will be used to support Rijkswaterstaat in defining requirements and assessing offers, under strict confidentiality arrangements.

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33	2-11-2026	Can Rijkswaterstaat confirm that unique concepts and solution directions contributed by participants, which have not been applied elsewhere and are not generally available knowledge, will not be adopted or applied by Rijkswaterstaat or third parties without prior consent of the participant concerned? Does this apply both if Rijkswaterstaat decides to proceed with a procurement and if it decides not to?	5-11-2026	Rijkswaterstaat will not adopt or apply unique, non-public concepts contributed by a participant without that participant's prior consent.
34	2-11-2026	Are the price indications under PP-03 and PP-04 treated as confidential and non-binding?	5-11-2026	Both statements are correct
35	29-10-2026	1. Kan het document "AIWaM02- Apppendix B Forecast Assistant - Market Consultation.pdf" in Word format worden aangeleverd zodat het invullen/beantwoorden van de vragen makkelijker kan?	5-11-2026	Yes. We will add it to the library.
36	29-10-2026	Maken jullie voor het vergaren van data ook gebruik van IoT, zo ja via welk platform en welke data wordt verzameld?	5-11-2026	Observations can be obtained using API's from platforms as MATROOS or RWsOS. Not directly from the IoT infrastructure.
37	2-11-2026	Are there any restrictions to the poster formatting for the DigiShape poster session? (2.5.2)	5-11-2026	Most likely the format will be A1. However, this also depends on the number of participating parties. We will confirm the format shortly after the submission deadline.
38	46328	Could Rijkswaterstaat clarify which data sources and systems, beyond RWsOS/Delft-FEWS, are expected to be available to the Forecast Assistant, and through which interfaces or APIs these can be accessed? (2.2 / FC-01)	5-11-2026	See answer for question 10 about third party data source. If they are not in RWsOS/Delft-FEWS, we expect them to be assessed via third parties' interfaces or APIs.

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39	46328	What is the required frequency of data updates, and what is the maximum acceptable delay between data availability in the source system and its availability in the AI assistant? (3.4.4)	5-11-2026	The forecast assistant is expected to be used on demand by the forecaster. Depending on the solution, background updates may also be used. As a guideline, data should preferably be updated at least hourly and be available to the assistant with minimal delay.
40	2-11-2026	Which forecast models and ensemble forecasts are included in the operational CAG River setup for Lobith and Sint Pieter? Through which interfaces can external systems access the model outputs (e.g., FEWS PI-XML, REST APIs/web services, NetCDF, databases, etc.)? For proof-of-concept purposes, will suppliers be provided with sample output datasets or export files? (§3.3.1, Time-series, bullet 1)	5-11-2026	See Question 19,
41	46328	Is the assistant strictly read-only towards RWsOS/Delft-FEWS, or should it write back (annotations, reports, flags)? (§2.2 UR-01)	5-11-2026	Yes, the tool must provide information like labels, flags and annotations, but towards RWsOS, the assistant will be read-only. For several reasons (like risk, security and maintainability), we want to keep the existing systems and the solution separate. For the record, we would like to add that the solution must be able to learn from the steps taken and from qualifications of events. This requires storage within the solution itself, but not in RWsOS.
42	2-11-2026	Which observation types are in scope (rainfall, wind, water level, discharge, velocity, temperature), at what resolution, and are validation flags available? Are rating curves and their revision history available? (§3.3.1, bullet 1 (observations))	5-11-2026	Wind observations are not; the rest is. The temporal resolution depends on the source and application, ranging from hourly to daily. Information on rating curves is available within RWsOS. Validation flags and revision history of rating curves is currently not available. However, scalability to incorporate such information in the future is considered important, as these developments are being made.
43	2-11-2026	Which external weather products are used (deterministic and ensemble, 0–72 h and 1–15 day), and do the licences permit storage, AI processing and derived outputs? (§3.3.1, bullet 1 (external services))	5-11-2026	See Question 10. Forecast horizons and update frequencies depend on the specific weather model being used. Some external datasets have restrictions regarding storage. These restrictions are generally less limiting when the solution is deployed and operated on-premises within the RWS environment.
44	2-11-2026	Which upstream sources are used for the Rhine and Meuse basins (gauges and forecasts from neighbouring countries), through which channels, and do their terms restrict use in AI systems? (§3.3.1, bullet 1)	5-11-2026	See Question 10, 19 and 20. Further guidance on specific restrictions and compliance requirements, including alignment with the AI Act framework, will be provided during the follow-up phase. See answer Question 9.

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45	2-11-2026	Are soil moisture, evapotranspiration, vegetation and groundwater data used for river forecasting (especially drought), and are they model inputs only or also shown to forecasters? (§2.1 / §3.3.1)	5-11-2026	These are incorporated within the forecasting models but are generally not available as separate information to forecasters. Their influence is reflected in the model output. However, insight into factors such as soil moisture, evapotranspiration, and vegetation can be important for understanding the forecast. Therefore, it would be valuable if the assistant could recognize when these factors are influencing the forecast (dominant drivers) and highlight them to the forecaster.
46	2-11-2026	Which static GIS layers should the assistant use directly (DEM/DTM, river network, flood defences, structures, land cover, soil) and which stay embedded in models? Is infrastructure scope limited to the Rhine/Meuse system? (§3.4.1)	5-11-2026	Same as above, static GIS information is embedded within the models rather than used directly by the forecaster. The infrastructure scope is currently limited to the Rhine and Meuse river systems.
47	2-11-2026	Is navigation support in scope for the assistant (e.g. high-water closures, bridge clearance, low-water draft limits)? If so, which data (channel depth, dredging, traffic, lock status, clearance sensors) can the CAG River Team access, via which services (e.g. waterway information services, notices to skippers), and who owns them? (§2.2 (scope: "navigation"))	5-11-2026	Out of scope
48	2-11-2026	Does RWS keep a structured record of past high-water and low-water events at Lobith and Sint Pieter (e.g. start, peak and end times, threshold exceedances, actions taken)? Are these events linked to the information available at the time (observations, forecast runs, ensembles, expert assessments) and annotated with their identified causes or drivers? How are "event" and the alert thresholds defined? (§2.2 UR-02 / §3.3.1 bullet 5)	5-11-2026	No, mainly by unstructured records. Alert thresholds are defined in the 'Landelijk Draaiboek Hoogwater en Overstromingen' (LDHO).
49	2-11-2026	What text sources exist (situation reports, logbooks, warnings, handover notes), in which languages and formats, at what volume, and are they in a searchable repository? (RAG scope) (§3.3.1, Text-based data)	5-11-2026	Text sources include situation reports, logbooks, warning messages, notes, and external weather information from websites and forecast providers (see Question 10). These sources are available in different formats and languages and are primarily unstructured. The volume and availability vary by source.

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50	2-11-2026	Are data-quality flags already produced upstream, or must the assistant detect issues itself? (§2.2 UR-04)	5-11-2026	For observations, data quality flags are generally available as part of the dataset. For forecasts, quality indicators and skill scores are increasingly being developed and published by external parties (e.g., BFG), and can be obtained from publicly available information. Depending on the use case, the assistant may use these existing quality indicators and, where needed, identify additional quality issues itself.
51	2-11-2026	What security classification applies to the data, and can sample, anonymised or synthetic data be shared before award? (TR-02 / §3.4.2)	5-11-2026	Most data is publicly available, so we will share data in next phase of the procurement. More on security classification in question 9.
52	2-11-2026	Given the on-premise starting point mentioned in the information session: (a) Does RWS or WMCN operate a central data or analytics platform (on-premise, private or public cloud) that holds or exposes the operational time series, forecast archive and text data? If so, which platform, and can a supplier's solution deploy on it or connect to it? If not, is the FEWS database or its export interface the intended integration point? (b) What compute and network constraints apply in the RWS-controlled environment (e.g. accelerated compute, outbound connections to external services or models, software installation)? (c) What is the process and lead time for supplier access to systems and data during a proof of concept? (§3.4.1, bullet 3 (hosting and deployment))	5-11-2026	a) The MATROOS and RWsOS/FEWS database and interfaces are currently the main integration point for operational forecasting data. Further details on the wider platform and deployment options will be provided later. It should be noted that forecasters also rely heavily on meteorological information and weather developments from various external sources, not only on FEWS data. b) and c) Details on the compute environment, network constraints, software installation, and supplier access during a proof of concept are still to be confirmed.
53	2-11-2026	How many years of archived forecasts (including ensembles) are stored with original issue times, together with expert forecasts and observed outcomes? Which extreme events are documented well enough for backtesting? (TR-03 / §3.4.3)	5-11-2026	See Question 19
54	2-11-2026	How many years of forecast runs (including ensembles) are archived with their original issue times, together with expert forecasts, observed outcomes and any previous analyses of forecast quality? Which extreme events are documented well enough for retrospective validation? (TR-03 / §3.4.3, "representative historical forecasting situations")	5-11-2026	See Question 19, 13

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55	2-11-2026	What evaluation metrics and acceptance criteria should be applied to each capability of the Forecast Assistant (§3.4.3 Testing and validation)	5-11-2026	Depends on the functionality and architecture of the Forecast Assistant. Evaluations on (value and/or text-based) outputs and might also on assistant trajectories.
56	2-11-2026	Which hydrological characteristics should be used to identify similar historical forecasting situations? (§3.3.1, Text-based data)	5-11-2026	Similar historical forecasting situations can be identified based on discharge characteristics (e.g. discharge level, trend, and peak magnitude), combined with the underlying weather conditions, such as prolonged rainfall, intense precipitation events, snowmelt, or dry periods.
57	2-11-2026	Who are the expected users of the Forecast Assistant? Are the users only RWS employees, or also external experts?	5-11-2026	Primarily by operational team (hydrologists) of the river forecasting group (WMCN). This team consists mainly of RWS employees and occasionally by employees form external parties (Deltares).
58	2-11-2026	Should the interface of the Forecast Assistant be available in both English and Dutch?	5-11-2026	The end product should support at least Dutch language. But probably be multi-lingual. External sources will also be in different languages.
59	2-11-2026	Will RWS treat the submitted information (the vision and answers to the consultation questions) as confidential (as stated in 2.4 page 8), and not use or spread it for other purposes then to prepare for better procurements documents? In addition will this also include that the submitted information will only be available for RWS employees?	5-11-2026	Yes, the submitted information will only be used to prepare a better procurement. See also our responses to questions 6, 32 and 33.