



Procedure Letter No. 1

ILI HYRER/HYREL

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1 Introduction

This document presents the intended process as well as the general rules and formalities of the procedure.

Any publication of these documents (including in extract form) or disclosure to third parties is prohibited without the client's written authorisation.

The information provided by tenderers must be truthful. Incorrect information may result in the tenderer's exclusion.

Throughout this document, the term 'tenderer' is defined as 'applicant' unless the procedure is an open procedure (i.e. 'consortium of tenderers' is defined as 'consortium of applicants', etc.). Throughout this document, the term 'tender' or 'offer' or 'bid' is defined as 'requests for participation' in the first phase of this procedure. Initial situation and description of the project

This contract is subject to the Federal Collective Agreements Compliance Act (BTTG) of 30 April 2026 (Federal Law Gazette 2026 I No. 119). Tenderers are advised that the performance of this contract is subject to the obligation to grant the employees deployed at least the collective agreement terms and conditions of employment laid down in a statutory instrument relevant to the activities carried out, in accordance with Section 5 of the BTTG. A corresponding declaration (pledge to comply with collective agreements) must be submitted with the tender. This obligation shall constitute a binding condition of performance of the contract.

2 Project description

The purpose of the project is In-Line Inspection (ILI) for pipeline technical condition assessment prior to the transition from natural gas (NG) to hydrogen operation. Subject of the tender are pipeline cleaning, gauging and In-Line Inspection (ILI) of pipeline sections considered and detailed below.

2.1 Overview of services

All offered pigs and ILI tools must be equipped with at least one (1) transmitter. Corresponding handheld detection devices must be available for use to locate pigs or tools.

ILI results shall be correlated to pipe book information provided upfront when reported.

ILI results must be reported according to the requirements specified in the accompanying document "General Specifications and Requirements for In-Line Inspection of Pipelines". Further information on prerequisites and distribution of responsibilities is also provided in this specification.

2.1.1 Lot 1 - 8

Pipeline sections summary

The following NPS 32-in (DN 800) pipeline sections are considered:



	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
Outer diameter (mm)	813	813	813
Length (km)	57	158	210
Nominal pipe wall thickness (mm)	11.9	11.9	11.9
Pipe material	StE 480.7 TM	StE 480.7 TM	StE 480.7 TM
Primary factory weld type	Longitudinal	Longitudinal	Longitudinal
Weld type	DSAW	DSAW	DSAW
Min. bend radius	$\geq 3 \times D$	$\geq 3 \times D$	$\geq 3 \times D$
Max. bend curvature (degrees)	90	90	90
ILI NG operating pressure (bar)	$50 \leq OP \leq 80$	$50 \leq OP \leq 80$	$50 \leq OP \leq 80$
ILI NG velocity (m/s)	$0.5 \leq v \leq 4$	$0.5 \leq v \leq 4$	$0.5 \leq v \leq 4$
Location launch/receive site	Germany, onshore	Germany, onshore	Germany, onshore

Reporting timeline

The following number of working days, calculated from two (2) days after tool receive and acceptance of the run, shall be considered for reporting:

	Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
Data quality report	10	10	10
Preliminary report	30	30	30
Final report	40	60	60

In case the above-mentioned reporting timelines cannot be met, the most expedited reporting schedule shall be offered and parameters influencing the offered schedule must be stated.

Lot 1: Cleaning and gauging

For the pipeline sections 1 to 3 mechanical cleaning using i.e. bi-directional cleaning pigs is considered. Four (4) cleaning pig runs shall be assumed to be required per pipeline section. For the very first cleaning pig run per section a bi-directional pig must be offered which shall proof pig passage by either mechanical or intelligent gauge plate(s).

Lot 2: Mapping and position measurement

For the pipeline sections 1 to 3 mapping of the pipeline is considered over the entire section or a to be determined sub-section of it. A minimum of twenty (20) AGMs must be provided per section. Inertial measurement data are considered for bending strain analysis which shall be offered as a combined service.

For the pipeline sections 1 to 3 the following pipeline anomalies shall be addressed by ILI technologies:



Lot 3: Internal and external metal-loss

Offered services shall consider internal and external metal-loss detection and sizing in straight pipe, field- and hot-bends. In case a combination of ILI technologies implemented on one or more ILI tools which enable a combined data analysis leading to a superior performance compared to individual ILI technologies, the technologies shall be offered as a combined service and shall be emphasized as such.

Lot 4: Dents, ovalities and roof topping

Offered services shall consider detection and sizing of geometric deviations from the norm of straight pipe and in bends.

Lot 5: Axial cracks and crack-like anomalies

Offered services shall consider detection and sizing of axially oriented crack and crack-like anomalies. The definition of terms is according to the publicly available Pipeline Operators Forum Recommended Practice POF 100 edition 2021.

Lot 6: Pipe material hardness variation

Offered services shall consider detection and sizing of localized variations of the pipe material hardness with respect to the mean material hardness per joint and exceeding an upper and lower bound threshold depending on the offered tool performance.

Lot 7: Pipe material type variation

Offered services shall consider detection of pipe material yield strength variation per joint with respect to available pipe material records per joint.

Lot 8: Axial strain

Offered services shall consider measurement of the axial strain along the entire section lengths. The service shall be offered as a combined service of ILI, strain-based Fitness-For-Service assessment and, if possible, a total strain assessment including bending strain assessment results (see Lot 2). Pipe samples and pipe sample data can be provided upfront if needed to enhance the offered performance.

2.1.2 Lot 9 - 16

Pipeline section summary

The following NPS 40-in (DN 1000) pipeline section is considered:

	Section 4
<i>Outer diameter (mm)</i>	1016
<i>Length (km)</i>	97
<i>Nominal pipe wall thickness (mm)</i>	14.6
<i>Pipe material</i>	L 485 MB
<i>Primary factory weld type</i>	Longitudinal
<i>Weld type</i>	DSAW
<i>Min. bend radius</i>	$\geq 3 \times D$
<i>Max. bend curvature (degrees)</i>	90
<i>ILI NG operating pressure (bar)</i>	$50 \leq OP \leq 80$
<i>ILI NG velocity (m/s)</i>	$0.5 \leq v \leq 4$
<i>Location launch/receive site</i>	Germany, onshore

Reporting timeline

The following number of working days from two (2) days after tool receive and acceptance of the run shall be considered for reporting:

	Section 4
<i>Data quality report</i>	10
<i>Preliminary report</i>	30
<i>Final report</i>	40

In case the above-mentioned reporting timelines cannot be met, the most expedited reporting schedule shall be offered and parameters influencing the offered schedule must be stated.

Lot 9: Cleaning and gauging

For pipeline section 4 mechanical cleaning using i.e. bi-directional cleaning pigs is considered. Four (4) cleaning pig runs shall be assumed to be required per pipeline section. For the very first cleaning pig run per section a bi-directional pig must be offered which shall proof pig passage by either mechanical or intelligent gauge plate(s).

Lot 10: Mapping and position measurement

For pipeline section 4 mapping the pipeline is considered over the entire section or a to be determined sub-section of it. A minimum of twenty (20) AGMs must be provided. Inertial

measurement data are considered for bending strain analysis which shall be offered as a combined service.

For pipeline section 4 the following pipeline anomalies shall be addressed by ILI technologies:

Lot 11: Internal and external metal-loss

Offered services shall consider internal and external metal-loss detection and sizing in straight pipe, field- and hot-bends. In case a combination of ILI technologies implemented on one or more ILI tools which enable a combined data analysis leading to a superior performance compared to individual ILI technologies, the technologies shall be offered as a combined service and shall be emphasized as such.

Lot 12: Dents, ovalities and roof topping

Offered services shall consider detection and sizing of geometric deviations from the norm of straight pipe and in bends.

Lot 13: Axial cracks and crack-like anomalies

Offered services shall consider detection and sizing of axially oriented crack and crack-like anomalies. The definition of terms is according to the publicly available Pipeline Operators Forum Recommended Practice POF 100 edition 2021.

Lot 14: Pipe material hardness variation

Offered services shall consider detection and sizing of localized variations of the pipe material hardness with respect to the mean material hardness per joint and exceeding an upper and lower bound threshold depending on the offered tool performance.

Lot 15: Pipe material type variation

Offered services shall consider detection of pipe material yield strength variation per joint with respect to available pipe material records per joint.

Lot 16: Axial strain

Offered services shall consider measurement of the axial strain along the entire section lengths. The service shall be offered as a combined service of ILI, strain-based Fitness-For-Service assessment and, if possible, a total strain assessment including bending strain assessment results (see Lot 10). Pipe samples and pipe sample data can be provided upfront if needed to enhance the offered performance.

2.2 Planned execution/delivery period

The planned execution period is:

Lot 1 - 8: CW 18 to 34 in 2027.

Lot 9 - 16: CW 12 to 17 in 2027.

2.3 Award of the contract; combination of lots (Lot 2 to 8)

The contracting authority anticipates that synergy effects will arise in relation to Lots 2 to 8, which may lead to more cost-effective tenders should these lots be awarded to a single tenderer. As a rule, combined tenders are likely to result, in particular, in more favourable cost-effectiveness margins. However, the contracting authority considers it technically feasible that further synergy effects could be realised in a combined tender with regard to other award criteria. The contracting authority therefore permits combined tenders for lots 2 to 8.

The submission of such combined tenders is permitted, subject to the corresponding application of the provisions of Sections 27(3) and 33 of the SektVO, under the following conditions:

- Each combined tender must meet all the minimum requirements for the submission of the main tenders as set out in the tender documents. This means that, during the evaluation of tenders, each combined tender will be assessed independently to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements. It should be noted that different requirements may apply to the individual lots. Provided that the allocation to the individual lots within the tender is clearly established, it is permissible to submit general documents such as self-declarations, assurances, etc. for the combined tender as a whole.
- In addition to the formal requirements mentioned above, a combined tender must also be transparent in terms of the award decision for each individual lot it contains, in accordance with the award criteria set out in No. 14 and Attachment A.3.
- It is not permitted to submit more than one tender for a specific combination of lots. This does not affect the option to continue submitting tenders on a lot-by-lot basis.
- A combined tender may only be awarded if it proves to be the most economically advantageous for each lot it comprises, in accordance with the award criteria set out in No. 14 of this tender notice and Attachment A.3. A combined tender shall not be awarded if, in even one lot, a more economically advantageous tender from another tenderer is available.

The contracting authority shall proceed as follows when evaluating combined tenders:

- In accordance with No. 14, each lot shall be evaluated on the basis of the individual lot-by-lot tenders;
- these evaluations shall then be compared with the evaluations of the combined tenders;
- a check will be carried out to determine whether the tenderer has sufficient capacity to fulfil the contract for the lot;
- for a combined tender to be awarded the contract, it must prove to be the most economically advantageous tender in all individual lots on the basis of the award criteria.

Combined tenders for which the tenderer in question does not demonstrate the required capacity will not be considered.

2.4 Award of the contract; combination of lots (Lots 10 to 16)

The contracting authority anticipates that synergy effects will arise in relation to Lots 10 to 16, which may lead to more cost-effective tenders should these lots be awarded to a single tenderer. As a rule, combined tenders are likely to result, in particular, in more favourable cost-effectiveness margins. However, the contracting authority considers it technically feasible that further synergy effects could be realised in a combined tender with regard to other award criteria. The contracting authority therefore permits combined tenders for lots 10 to 16.

The submission of such combined tenders is permitted, subject to the corresponding application of the provisions of Sections 27(3) and 33 of the SektVO, under the following conditions:

- Each combined tender must meet all the minimum requirements for the submission of the main tenders as set out in the tender documents. This means that, during the evaluation of tenders, each combined tender will be assessed independently to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements. It should be noted that different requirements may apply to the individual lots. Provided that the allocation to the individual lots within the tender is clearly established, it is permissible to submit general documents such as self-declarations, assurances, etc. for the combined tender as a whole.
- In addition to the formal requirements mentioned above, a combined tender must also be transparent in terms of the award decision for each individual lot it contains, in accordance with the award criteria set out in No. 14 and Attachment A.3.
- It is not permitted to submit more than one tender for a specific combination of lots. This does not affect the option to continue submitting tenders on a lot-by-lot basis.
- A combined tender may only be awarded if it proves to be the most economically advantageous for each lot it comprises, in accordance with the award criteria set out in No. 14 of this tender notice and Attachment A.3. A combined tender shall not be awarded if, in even one lot, a more economically advantageous tender from another tenderer is available.

The contracting authority shall proceed as follows when evaluating combined tenders:

- In accordance with No. 14, each lot shall be evaluated on the basis of the individual lot-by-lot tenders;
- these evaluations shall then be compared with the evaluations of the combined tenders;
- a check will be carried out to determine whether the tenderer has sufficient capacity to fulfil the contract for the lot;
- for a combined tender to be awarded the contract, it must prove to be the most economically advantageous tender in all individual lots on the basis of the award criteria.

Combined tenders for which the tenderer in question does not demonstrate the required capacity will not be considered.

3 Contracting entity and awarding office

The contracting entity and awarding office is:

GASCADE Gastransport GmbH
Kölnische Straße 108-112
34119 Kassel
Germany
E-Mail: vergabe@gascade.de
Phone: +49 561 934-0

4 Language

The procedural language is English and/or German. For the tender and contract documents, communication and contract execution, the language English and/or German applies. Negotiations will be conducted in English or German. If there are any discrepancies/disputes in the wording between the original German legal texts quoted in this document and the English translations, the German legal text shall prevail in case of doubt.

5 Type of procedure and schedule

The tendering procedure is conducted as a negotiated procedure with prior call for competition in accordance with sections 119 (5), 141 (1) of the Federal Act against Restraints of Competition (*Gesetz gegen Wettbewerbsbeschränkungen – GWB*) and section 15 (1) of the Federal Sector Ordinance (*Sektorenverordnung – SektVO*).

The negotiated procedure is a process in which the contracting entity approaches tenderers, with or without a prior call for competition, in order to negotiate the offers with one or more of these tenderers (section 119 (5) GWB).

The negotiated procedure with prior call for competition is divided into four phases:

- Phase 1: Call for competition (requests for participation)
- Phase 2: Offer Phase I (initial offers)
- Phase 3: Negotiation phase
- Phase 4: Best and Final Offer (BAFO) and award decision

Please note that the contracting entity reserves the right to award the contract without negotiations on the basis of the initial offers. The initial offers must therefore meet all minimum requirements and must not contain any changes to the tender documents, so that they can be accepted without prior negotiation.

Offers that do not meet all the minimum requirements or contain changes to the tender documents will be excluded.

The procedure shown and the dates mentioned below only reflect the current state of planning. They are not binding – with the exception of the deadlines for submitting questions in the context of the call for competition and the request for participation itself – and can be changed by the contracting entity at any time. In particular, the contracting entity reserves the right to conduct further rounds of negotiations.

The current schedule is as follows:

Date/Period	Process
19.10.2026	Dispatch of the Europe-wide tender notice in the Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union and notification of the procedure on DTVP
06.11.2026	Deadline for tenderer questions (call for competition)
12.11.2026	Provision of a final questions and answers catalogue (call for competition)
19.11.2026, 12:00 (time)	Deadline for the submission of requests for participation
Calendar week 48/2026 (expected)	Notification of applicants about the outcome of the call for competition / sending of the invitation to submit an initial offer to the qualified tenderers
18.12.2026, 12:00 (time) (expected)	Deadline for the submission of an initial offer (Offer phase I)
Calendar weeks 01-02/2027 (expected)	If necessary, negotiation dates with the tenderers or selection of the best tenderer / awarding of the contract
Calendar week 04/2027 (expected)	If necessary, Deadline for the submission of a best and final offer (BAFO) (Offer phase II)
Calendar week 06/2027 (expected)	If necessary, selection of the best tenderer / awarding of the contract
26.02.2027	Contractual binding period

5.1 Announcement and participation competition

The procedure begins with the public tender notice in the supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union and the invitation to submit requests for participation. The tender notice refers to the "DTVP" tendering portal via a link.

The **attachments** are published on the tendering portal.

An exception applies to **Attachments B.1 and B.1.1** (see List of Attachments). These are part of the tender documents and contain particularly confidential and sensitive information. Therefore, the contracting entity asks the tenderers to submit a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) (**Attachment A.4**) (cf. section 5 (3) sentence 2 SektVO). This shall be duly signed by the tenderer and can be submitted as a scan via DTVP's message function. The tenderer will then be provided with the particularly confidential procurement documents via the DTVP message function shortly after receipt of the NDA.

Based on the tender documents (Attachments A. and B.), the tenderers or consortia prepare a request for participation.

The deadline for submitting requests for participation ends on **19.11.2026, 12:00**. The requests for participation will then be opened and examined. Based on the declarations and supporting

documents submitted by the applicants, those who meet the published suitability criteria will be selected from among the applicants.

5.2 Offer phase I (initial offers) and, if applicable, award decision

The tender documents will be further specified and updated with the invitation to submit an initial offer, if necessary. With the invitation to submit an initial offer, the tenderers may receive further tender documents.

The initial offers will be reviewed and evaluated on the basis of the announced award criteria. Taking into account the initial offers, the contracting entity shall announce whether it will award the contract on the basis of the initial offers or whether it will hold negotiation talks.

If the contracting entity decides to award the contract on the basis of the initial offers, the contracting entity will inform the tenderers who were unsuccessful on the basis of the published award criteria in text form by electronic means in accordance with Section 134 (1) GWB. Separate information will be provided on the award of the contract in accordance with Section 56 of the SektVO.

If the contracting entity decides to conduct negotiation talks, the procedure continues with the negotiation phase.

5.3 Negotiation phase

If the contracting entity has not already awarded the contract based on the initial offers, the negotiation phase begins with the end of the deadline for submitting the initial offers. The contracting entity shall invite the tenderers who have submitted an initial offer that can be evaluated to a negotiation meeting.

The subjects of negotiation talks is to improve the content of the offers. In principle, the subject matter of the negotiations may be the content of the contract, the terms of the contract and all components of the tenders, but not the minimum requirements and award criteria laid down in the tender documents or the identity of the object of the procurement tender.

The contracting entity reserves the right to successively reduce the number of tenderers further in accordance with the published award criteria during the negotiation phase.

The negotiations are expected to take place in **Calender weeks 01 - 02/2027**. The contents of the offers are kept secret, and the negotiations are conducted separately with the respective tenderers individually.

The scheduling of the appointments or negotiations is made by individual invitation. Immediately after receipt of their respective invitations, tenderers must inform them which persons from their side will participate in the respective meeting.

5.4 Offer phase II (Best and Final Offer (BAFO)) and awarding decision

The contracting entity will declare the conclusion of the negotiation phase and invite the remaining tenderers to submit final offers on the basis of the results of the negotiations and the revised tender documents, if necessary, setting a uniform deadline.

The final offers received are checked for completeness and accuracy. As part of an educational round, misleading or inaccurate information in the offers is clarified – if necessary. The offers are then evaluated on the basis of the announced award criteria and the most economical offer is determined. The most economical tender is awarded the contract.

After submitting their final offers, tenderers are bound by their offers and their contents up to and including **26.02.2027** (binding period). Until the expiry of the binding period, the offers cannot be withdrawn and the content cannot be changed. In the event that a contract cannot be validly awarded by the expiry of the binding period due to delays, the contracting entity reserves the right to request the tenderers to extend the binding period.

Tenderers who were unsuccessful based on the published award criteria will be informed electronically in text form in accordance with section 134 (1) GWB. Separate information will be provided on the award of the contract according to section 56 SektVO.

If a contract is not considered or the award procedure has to be cancelled for other reasons, the tenderers will be informed electronically in text form.

6 Communication (DTVP)

Communication between the contracting entity and the tenderers takes place via the DTVP procurement platform throughout the entire period of the procedure.

6.1 Form of communication and inquiries

Further information on this tender procedure, changes to the tender documents, answers to tenderers' questions or other information relevant to the procedure will be provided on DTVP.

All questions must be asked via DTVP. For the deadlines reference is made to No. 5.

Any other contact with the contracting entity or with employees of the contracting entity is undesirable and can lead to exclusion from the procurement procedure at the discretion of the contracting entity (principle of procedural integrity). Oral or telephone inquiries will not be answered.

6.2 Data processing

In the context of the present procurement procedure, personal data is collected and processed from natural persons involved in the procedure. This concerns, among other things, names, address details as well as information on professional activity and professional qualifications.

The aforementioned consulting firms will use and process the personal data exclusively for the purposes of the procurement procedure. You are contractually and/or legally obliged to maintain confidentiality.

7 Provision of the tender documents

With the exception of **Attachment B.1 and B.1.1**, the tender documents can be accessed free of charge, without restriction, in full and directly on DTVP in accordance with Section 41 (1) SektVO.

It is possible to retrieve the tender documents on DTVP without prior registration, but active participation in the procurement procedure, in particular communication with the contracting entity and the electronic submission of an offer by the tenderer, requires registration.

If you have any questions about the use of the DTVP procurement portal, in particular if you have any questions about the technical processing, the tenderer must contact the operator of the tendering portal:

E-Mail: support@cosinex.de

Tel. +49 900 1 267463 (subject to charge)

The hotline's service hours are Monday to Friday from 07:00 to 17:00 (CET).

Failure to register and/or acknowledgement of information provided by the contracting entity on DTVP on this award procedure, changes to the procurement documents, answers to tenderers' questions or other information relevant to the procedure shall be at the expense of the respective tenderer.

Attachment B.1 and B.1.1 contains particularly confidential and sensitive information. Therefore, the contracting entity requests the tenderers to submit a Non Disclosure Agreement (**Attachment A.4** (Non Disclosure Agreement)) (Section 5 (3) sentence 2 SektVO). This can be submitted via DTVP's message function. The aforementioned particularly confidential attachment will then be made available to the tenderer via the DTVP messaging function shortly after receipt of the confidentiality agreement.

8 Submission of the request for participation

The request for participation must be submitted by no later than

19.11.2026, 12:00

electronically via the DTVP tool. DTVP is a desktop application that installs itself automatically via a webstart technology, provided that the process of submitting an electronic request for participation has been started from the virtual project room of the corresponding award procedure.

When submitting a request for participation, the size limit for the maximum permissible file size must be observed. The size of the electronic request for participation to be submitted using DTVP is limited to 500 MB.

Please note that the contracting entity does not allow the submission of requests for participation by post, e-mail or fax. Any requests for participation submitted via post, e-mail or fax will be excluded from the awarding procedure.

An advanced or qualified electronic signature is not required.

The requests for participation must be submitted in text form in accordance with section 126b of the German Civil Code (*Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch – BGB*). In contrast to the written form, a handwritten signature is not required, but the company name and the name of the natural person authorized to represent the declaration must be recognizable. The information applies to the entire request for participation and is legally binding. With the complete upload of the tender in due form other documents submitted are deemed to have been submitted by the tenderer in a legally valid manner. In the case of requests for participation from tenderer

consortia, the request for participation must be submitted and uploaded in text form by the authorized member of tenderer consortium in accordance with section 126b BGB.

Any necessary declarations by third parties must be signed by the third party itself and enclosed by the tenderer. Third parties in the above sense are member companies of a tenderer consortium, subcontractors and companies providing suitability.

9 Required documents

The offer must be accompanied by the following documents and submitted with the supporting documents specified therein:

- Completed **Attachment A.1** Forms and Certificates (Suitability)

The supporting documents may be submitted as (uncertified) photocopies or scans (PDF), but must be clearly legible.

If available, please provide us with details of the availability of the ILI tools you have at your disposal and indicate whether the reporting deadlines can be met. Your response will not affect the assessment of your application for participation.

Once the suitability check has been carried out and, where applicable, the group of tenderers invited to submit initial offers has been narrowed down, the following must be submitted with all offers for each lot

- Completed **Attachment A.2** Offer Letter
- Completed **Attachment B.1.1** Performance Specification
- Completed **Attachment B.2** Pricing sheet
- Completed **Attachment B.7** Declaration of Commitment GDPR

Tenders must also meet the following minimum requirements or provide the following declarations regarding the minimum requirements (failure to meet the minimum requirements will result in exclusion):

- Staff planning (minimum requirements see number 14.3)
- Technical specifications (minimum requirements see Attachments A.3 and B.1.1)

10 Tenderer consortia

Tenderer consortia may submit offers in this tender procedure if their formation does not constitute a violation of competition law.

Pursuant to section 43 (2) sentence 1 SektVO, tenderer consortia are treated as individual tenderers.

Each tenderer consortium must submit a declaration of all members with its offer,

- in which the formation of a consortium in the event of an assignment is declared,
- listing all members and designating authorized representatives throughout the award procedure and, in the event of the award of the contract, for the entire term of the contract,
- declaring that the authorized representative represents the members vis-à-vis the Client in a legally binding manner,

- declaring that all members are jointly and severally liable.

In addition to the tenderer consortium declaration, the documents specified in the form for the tenderer consortium declaration (**Attachment A.1** (Forms and evidence (suitability)), form 1.2) must be submitted for each member.

The tenderer consortium declaration must comply with the requirements for third-party declarations in the electronic submission of tenders.

The suitability requirements can be submitted for the tenderer consortium as a whole.

Furthermore, members of a tenderer consortium may only participate in one tenderer consortium. Participation in several tenderer consortia is not permitted. In the event of an infringement, the consortia concerned will be excluded.

The contracting entity will exceptionally refrain from excluding if plausible reasons for the double participation are presented at the time of submission of the offer and the tenderer consortium in question proves that there has been no violation of the principle of secret competition.

11 Use of subcontractors (not providing suitability)

If the tenderer intends to perform parts of the contract through subcontractors – without at the same time invoking their economic and/or financial as well as technical and/or professional capacity – the parts of the contract/services affected by this must be indicated in the tender and the subcontractor(s) must be named (**Attachment A.1** Forms and Proof (Suitability), Form 2).

In addition, the documents specified in the aforementioned form (**Attachment A.1** (Forms and Proof (Suitability)), Form 2) must also be submitted for the named subcontractor.

The award of subcontractors after the conclusion of the contract requires the prior consent of the client.

Reference is made to the principles of the involvement of subcontractors in accordance with section 34 SektVO. In particular, the contracting entity reserves the right to demand the replacement of a subcontractor within a period specified by the contracting entity before the contract is awarded, provided that there is a compelling grounds for exclusion within the meaning of § 123 GWB or an optional grounds for exclusion within the meaning of § 124 GWB with regard to the subcontractor.

In the awarding of subcontractor contracts, the interest of small and medium sized enterprises must be primarily considered by the main contractor.

12 Suitability loan

If, in the performance of this order, the tenderer intends to rely on the services/capacities of other companies in accordance with section 47 of the SektVO ("loan of suitability") with regard to the required economic, financial, technical or professional capacity, it must specify the services/capacities envisaged for this purpose in its request for participation/offer and also submit the documents specified therein for the other company. In particular, he must state the name

and contact details of these companies and submit corresponding declarations of commitment (**Attachment A.1** forms and proofs (suitability), forms 4 and 5) of these companies.

Another company within the sense of section 47 SektVO cannot only be an independent company that is legally different from the tenderer (e.g., subcontractor). This also includes affiliated companies.

If the tenderer relies on the capacities of other companies with regard to the criteria for economic and financial capacity in the context of a suitable loan pursuant to section 47 SektVO, these companies must be jointly liable for the performance of the contract in accordance with the scope of the suitable loan; the declaration of liability must be submitted at the same time as the "declaration of commitment" (**Attachment A.1** Forms and Proofs (Suitability), Form 5).

However, the applicant can only rely on the capacities of other companies for the necessary professional capabilities, such as qualifications and evidence of relevant professional experience (e.g., references), if those companies will provide the services for which these capacities are required (see section 47 (1) sentence 3 SektVO). This means that the respective third company must be a sub-contractor.

The applicant or tenderer must replace other companies that have grounds for exclusion or do not meet the corresponding suitability criteria within a period set by the contracting entity. In addition, reference is made to section 47 SektVO.

13 Suitability

In accordance with section 122 GWB, public contracts are awarded qualified and capable (suitable) companies that have not been excluded under sections 123, 124 GWB.

The offer must demonstrate suitability for the service to be awarded. Tenderers must submit the required documents (self-declarations, information, certificates and other evidence) in either German or English with the offer to prove their suitability and to prove that there are no grounds for exclusion (sections 42 et seq. SektVO). The documents to be submitted can also be found in Attachment **A.1** Forms and Evidence (Suitability).

Tenderers or tenderer consortia can also submit a European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) as preliminary proof. If the tender is shortlisted, self-declarations must be confirmed on separate request by submitting the above-mentioned certificates from competent authorities. Certificates that are not written in German or English must be accompanied by a translation either of the two languages.

The contracting entity shall determine the following objective suitability criteria:

13.1 Qualification and authorization to practice profession

- PL1: A proof of registration in the professional or commercial register must be attached in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which the tenderer is based (in unverified copy), provided that the tenderer is registered in the professional or commercial register.

In case of non-registration:

The submission of a business registration (for foreign tenderers: or equivalent). The proof must identify at least the persons authorized to represent the company.

The proof may be submitted in (non-certified) photocopy/photocopy (PDF), but must be clearly legible and formulated in German or English (if necessary, translated). The proof must not be older than 12 months at the time of publication of this announcement.

Refer to **Attachment A.1** Forms and Proofs (Suitability), Proof 1.

- PL2: Declaration of the absence of grounds for exclusion according to sections 123 and 124 GWB. Proof of self-cleaning measures in accordance with section 125 GWB is possible.

See **Attachment A.1** Forms and Certificates (Suitability), Form 3.1 (or Form 3.2).

- PL3: Self-declaration on Regulation (EU) 2022/576 (Sanctions against Russia).

See **Attachment A.1** Forms and Certificates (Suitability), Form 8.

- PL4: Self-declaration of compliance with the pledge to adhere to collective agreements.

See **Attachment A.1** Forms and Certificates (Suitability), Form 9 (or Form 10).

13.2 Economic and financial capacity

- WL1: Self-declaration on the annual revenue of the company in the last 3 (three) completed financial years, insofar as this relates to services that are comparable to the service to be awarded.

If a company has not been active on the market for three years, it shall provide a business plan for the missing years, stating the expected annual revenue.

Minimum requirement (failure to meet will result in exclusion):

The annual revenue in EUR (net) for each of the last 3 (three) completed financial years, broken down by lot, must be

for Lot 1, at least 480.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 2, at least 100.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 3, at least 1.300.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 4, at least 500.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 5, at least 10.000.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 6, at least 900.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 7, at least 700.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 8, at least 900.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 9, at least 160.000,00 EUR.

for Lot 10, at least 50.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 11, at least 200.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 12, at least 150.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 13, at least 1.000.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 14, at least 220.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 15, at least 160.000,00 EUR.
for Lot 16, at least 220.000,00 EUR.

If the applicant wishes to submit a tender for several lots, the minimum requirements must be met cumulatively. This means that, for a tender covering all 16 lots, evidence of an annual revenue of EUR 17.040.000,00 (net) must be provided for each of the last three (3) completed financial years.

Refer to **Attachment A.1** Forms and Certificates (Suitability), Form 6.

- WL2: Proof of existing professional or business liability insurance or comparable market-standard insurance for personal injury, property and financial damages.

Minimum requirement (failure to meet will result in exclusion):

The amount of liability cover for personal injury, property damage and financial loss must be at least EUR 10 million per insurance year.

If insurance with these coverage levels does not currently exist, it is sufficient to submit

1. a self-declaration by the tenderer that it is prepared to take out appropriate insurance at the first request of the contracting entity in the event of a contract award
and
2. an irrevocable declaration by an insurer (in non-verified copy) that it is willing to take out the corresponding insurance.

The proof can be presented in photocopy/photocopy (PDF), but must be clearly legible. The proof must not be older than 12 months at the time of the expiry of the deadline for submitting offers.

Refer to **Attachment A.1** Forms and proof (suitability), Proof 2.

13.3 Technical and professional performance

- TL1: Information on the performance of relevant and comparable services (references) in the last six (6) years since the publication of the announcement. The reference must be comparable to the service to be contracted here in terms of type, scope and level of difficulty.

To demonstrate comparability, references must contain at least the following information:

1. Reference title
2. Client
(If the client may not be named for data protection reasons, it is sufficient to categorize the client (research, industry, other sectors of the contracting entity) and to confirm that the reference is comparable to the tendered service.)
3. Contact person incl. contact details (e.g., e-mail, telephone number)
(If the contact person may not be named for data protection reasons, it is sufficient to categorize the client (research, industry, other sectors client) and confirm that the reference is comparable to the tendered service.)
4. Brief description of the ILI service(s) performed
5. Inspected pipeline section outer diameter
6. Nominal wall thickness
7. Seamweld type
8. Length
9. Pipeline medium
10. Medium flow conditions
11. Mean operating pressure during inspection
12. Order value in EUR (net)
13. Execution period

Minimum requirement (failure to meet will result in exclusion):

There are at least 2 relevant (comparable) references per Lot and ILI service.
Refer to **Attachment A.1** Forms and Certificates (Eligibility), Form 7.

- **TL2:** Proof of valid certification in accordance with DIN EN ISO 9001 or equivalent.

Minimum requirement (failure to meet will result in exclusion):

Proof of valid certification in accordance with DIN EN ISO 9001 or equivalent must be submitted.

Refer to **Attachment A.1** Forms and Certificates (Eligibility), Proof 3.

14 Award criteria and offer evaluation

The contract will be awarded to the most economical offer.

The offered price is not the only decisive factor. The profitability is determined on the basis of the **award criteria presented in Attachment A.3** (Evaluation Matrix (Tenders)).

14.1 Price

The offers will be evaluated in accordance with the quoted prices (price in EUR (net)) set out in the relevant price sheet (Attachment B.2).

14.2 Technical specifications

The tenderer's technical specifications for each lot will be assessed on the basis of the criteria set out in Attachment A.3 and B.1.1. These specifications must be enclosed with the tender as a separate document (Attachment B.1.1).

14.3 Concept

The concept will be subject to an expert assessment.

For Lot 1 and 9 the tenderer shall address at least the following evaluation relevant information:

- Staff planing (Qualification, etc.)
- Pig availability with respect to the planned execution periods. A granularity of calendar weeks is preferred.
- Minimum turnaround time of pigs in between runs and requirements to ensure the stated turnaround time can be met.
- Pig data sheets including maximum inspection.
- Implementation of HSE requirements.
- Statement on any other company procedure or equipment limitation that might affect the schedule of tool runs.

For Lot 2 to 8 and Lot 10 to 16 the tenderer shall address at least the following evaluation relevant information:

- Staff planning
Minimum requirement (failure to meet will result in exclusion):
Personnel operating ILI tools, processing or analysing ILI data must be qualified according to the ANSI/ASNT standard for personnel qualification and certification for ILI technologies used in the examination of pipelines (ANSI/ASNT ILI-PQ-2023).
There shall be at least one (1) ILI tool operator onsite that holds a level 2 and at least one (1) ILI tool operator available for support that holds a level 3. There shall be at least one (1) data analyst for the analysis and review of anomalies that holds a level 2 and at least one (1) data analyst for the report reviews that holds a level 3.
- ILI tool availability with respect to the planned execution periods. A granularity of calendar weeks is preferred.
- Minimum turnaround time of pigs and ILI tools in between runs and requirements to ensure the stated turnaround time can be met.
- ILI tool data sheets including maximum inspection distance based on calculated battery lifetime assuming a tool velocity of 2 m/s and remaining battery safety.
- Method statement to ensure operational and data analysis quality.
- In case requested ILI reporting times cannot be met, alternative expedited reporting timelines must be provided for:
 - o Data quality report
 - o Preliminary inspection report
 - o Final inspection report

- Implementation of HSE requirements.
- Statement on any other company procedure or equipment limitation that might affect the schedule of tool runs, data processing, analysis and reporting.

15 Non-disclosure

The contracting entity does not disclose any information transmitted by the companies that is marked as confidential, in accordance with section 5 (1) SektVO. This includes, in particular, business and trade secrets and the confidential aspects of the submitted documents. The transfer of information to the contracting entity's consultants, who are professionally obligated to confidentiality (such as auditors, tax advisors, and external lawyers), is explicitly permitted.

The tenderer is required to clearly mark any parts of their request for participation /offer that contain a business or trade secret on each relevant page.

If this is not done, the contracting entity and the legal remedy body may assume, in the event of a legal remedy procedure, that they have consent to disclose this information to other procedure participants (e.g. other tenderers).

Throughout all communication, as well as during the exchange and storage of information, the contracting entity ensures the integrity of the data and the confidentiality of the requests for participation offers, including their appendices. The requests for participation /offers, along with their appendices, as well as the documentation regarding the opening and evaluation of the requests for participation /offers, will remain confidential even after the conclusion of the procurement procedure.

In return, the companies involved in the procurement procedure agree not to forward any documents and information transmitted by the contracting entity to third parties and to treat all received documents and information confidentially.

The contracting entity receives all rights to the submitted documents (ownership rights) while maintaining the business and trade secrets of the applicant/tenderer. The applicant/tenderer agrees to this transfer of rights by submitting their requests for participation or offer(s).

16 Obligation to raise objections

The tender documents must be checked for completeness and legibility after receipt/download by the interested companies. If the notice, the tender documents or the documents or other information communicated, handed over and made available to the tenderers contain ambiguities or if they violate applicable law, the tenderers are obliged to inform the contracting entity of this without delay. Otherwise, they cannot invoke the ambiguities or the violations of the law. The tenderers must take unresolved ambiguities into account in their offers as risks to be borne by them.

Any procedural objections must be clearly identified as such. Explicit reference is made to the tenderers' obligations to complain under section 160 (3) GWB. In addition, the contracting entity expressly refers to the time limit for appeal under section 160 (3) sentence 1 no. 4 GWB. Accordingly, an application for review is inadmissible if more than 15 calendar days have elapsed after receipt of the contracting entity's notification that it does not wish to remedy the relevant complaint.

Section 160 GWB reads:

Section 160 GWB Introduction, Application

- (1) The Public Procurement Tribunal shall initiate review proceedings only upon application.*
- (2) Every undertaking that has an interest in the public contract or the concession and claims that its rights under Section 97(6) have been violated by non-compliance with the provisions governing the awarding of public contracts has the right to file an application. In doing so, the undertaking must show that it has been or risks being harmed by the alleged violation of public procurement provisions.*
- (3) The application is inadmissible if*
- 1. the applicant became aware of the claimed violation of public procurement provisions before filing the application for review, but did not complain to the contracting authority within a time limit of 10 calendar days; the expiry of the time limit under Section 134(2) remains unaffected,*
 - 2. violations of public procurement provisions which become apparent from the tender notice are not notified to the contracting authority by the end of the time limit for the application or the submission of a tender specified in the notice,*
 - 3. violations of public procurement provisions which only become apparent from the procurement documents are not notified to the contracting authority by the end of the time limit for the application or the submission of a tender specified in the notice,*
 - 4. more than 15 calendar days have expired since receipt of notification from the contracting entity that it is unwilling to redress the objection.*

Sentence 1 shall not apply to an application under Section 135(1) no 2 to have the contract declared ineffective. Section 134(1) sentence 2 shall remain unaffected.

17 Reviews procedures

According to section 160 (2) GWB, any company that has an interest in the sector contract and claims a violation of its rights under section 97 (6) GWB due to non-compliance with public procurement regulations is entitled to submit a request for review to the responsible procurement chamber. It must be demonstrated that the company has suffered or is likely to suffer damage due to the alleged violation of the public procurement regulations.

Tenderers may contact the following body for review of alleged infringements:

Vergabekammer des Bundes
Villemombler Straße 76
53123 Bonn
Fax: +49 228 9499 163
E-Mail: vk@bundeskartellamt.bund.de
Telefon: +49 228 9499 0

18 Supplementary provisions

18.1 Subsequent requests

The contracting entity reserves the right to request documents in accordance with section 51 (2) or (3) SektVO. The requested documents must be submitted by the tenderer concerned within the time limit set by the contracting entity. There is no entitlement to an additional claim.

18.2 Impermissible restrictions on competition

Requests for participation or offers from applicants/tenderers who participate in an impermissible restriction of competition in connection with this public procurement procedure will be excluded. To combat competition restrictions, affected applicants/tenderers must provide information upon request regarding whether and in what manner they are economically and legally connected to other companies.

18.3 Combined offers

Combined offers in the meaning of commercial ancillary offers as defined in Sections 27(3) and 33 of the SektVO are permissible; see No. 2.3 and 2.4.

18.4 Ancillary offers

No ancillary offers other than the combined offers stated in No. 18.3 are permitted.

18.5 Exclusion

Requests for participation and offers that do not meet the requirements/conditions specified in the tender documents will be excluded.

18.6 Compensation

Reimbursement of costs/expenses or compensation for participation in the procurement procedure will not be granted.

18.7 Cancellation of the procedure

In the event that no offer meets the requirements of the contracting entity is received in time, if a fundamental change to the tender documents becomes necessary, or if there are other serious reasons, the procedure is reserved for cancellation (section 57 SektVO). In the event of cancellation of the procedure, the contracting entity shall immediately inform the tenderers of the reasons and, if applicable, of the intention to initiate a new procurement procedure.



18.8 Consent of the tenderer

By submitting an offer, the respective tenderer in question agrees to all the elements of these procedural conditions.

By participating in the procedure, the tenderer assures that the necessary consent of the data subjects has been obtained for the processing of the personal data contained in its offer and/or offer in connection with this procedure and the performance of the contract. Name, address, telephone, fax, e-mail and contact person are entered. After completion of the procedure, this data will be deleted in accordance with the data protection regulations. In this respect, see the information on data protection (**Attachment A.5** Information on data protection).

18.9 Withdrawal of offers

Withdrawals of offers that have already been submitted are possible until the expiry of the offer period by means of a declaration in text form in accordance with section 126b BGB. A new offer can then be submitted until the deadline for submitting offers.
