



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Questions and answers Ministerial Order granting permit for Nederwiek I-A

Commissioned by the ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth

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Version 18-9-2025

Please note: if there are any imperfections or inaccuracies, or if different interpretations are possible, the regulations in the Ministerial Order are leading.

Please note: new questions can be submitted until 9 October 2025 at the latest via woz@rvo.nl

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Process and procedures

1. Is there a limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by the same party?

Yes, the number of applications that one applicant can submit for this tender is one (1). In this case, legal entities and companies in a group or group company are seen as a single applicant.

2. If, in addition to the applicant, another legal entity or company within the same group or group company submits an application, will both applications be rejected?

We will only assess the content of one (1) application. The other application will be rejected.

3. What is the procedure regarding additions and adjustments to the permit application and how will RVO ask for additions or adjustments?

After the closure of the tender, an application can no longer be supplemented or amended with information that affects the assessment of the application.

4. If RVO does not understand something from the application, will it ask additional questions?

It is the responsibility of the applicant to complete the application form as clearly and completely as possible and to ensure that the information in the appendices is clear and understandable. RVO can ask clarifying questions if it is unclear how something should be interpreted, but it will not request or accept additional information if something is insufficiently substantiated.

5. Are the applications only assessed by RVO employees or are experts also hired with specific knowledge of offshore wind projects?

The applications are assessed by RVO employees. To assess some criteria, (external) experts will issue an assessment advice. An expert committee will be set up to assess the ecology criterion.

6. Will more information be provided about the experts who will (co-)assess the applications?

No. No information is given in advance about the experts. After the announcement of the winner, the names of the members of the expert committee will be published.

7. Are external experts allowed to perform work for parties that have participated in the tender in the past two years or will do in the next nine (9) months?

RVO assesses whether the experts are independent of the parties that have submitted an application in this tender.

8. Will the experts receive additional guidelines from RVO regarding the extent to which criteria should be interpreted strictly or broadly?

No, the experts do not receive any additional guidelines from RVO.

9. What information do the experts receive from the application?

The Ecology Expert Committee only receive appendices 13 and 14. Any other experts will only receive the information from the application that is necessary to assess their component.

10. Can RVO or the Directorate General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat) provide clarity in advance about the permitting of the ecology measures that you intend to implement on the site?

No, RVO is not a competent authority in this area and therefore cannot comment on this matter. Rijkswaterstaat does not make any preliminary statements about the potential permitting of the measures to be taken on the site.

11. Is it true that the permit is only irrevocable once the (possible) objections and appeals against the award of the permit have been dealt with (and no further objection and appeal is possible)?

Yes, that is right.

12. If the assessment criterion shows a certain bandwidth, followed by a number of points, is it sufficient to have a value within that bandwidth to achieve the number of points in the column associated with it?

Yes, that is enough.

13. When can the permit holder start building an offshore wind farm?

As soon as RVO has issued the permit for the site, the permit holder may start building the wind farm, provided the permit holder has notified Rijkswaterstaat at least four weeks before the start of offshore construction (Article 7.34 of the Living Environment Activities Decree).

14. What requirements are included in the permit?

RVO will publish the draft Ministerial Order (regulations) for the permit at a later date on the RVO site: [Permit wind farm Nederwiek I-A | RVO.nl](#).

15. What does the text of the bank guarantee and deposit look like?

RVO will publish the draft text for the bank guarantee and deposit at a later date on the RVO website: [Permit wind farm Nederwiek I-A | RVO.nl](#).

16. If only one application is submitted to RVO, is the tender valid?

Yes. Even if one application is submitted, the tender is valid.

Policy Rule on Amendment and Revocation

1. Can the tender winner change the application after the permit has been issued?

The permit holder is obliged to carry out the project as submitted and RVO will enforce this with penalty payments if necessary. The [Policy Rule on the Amendment and Revocation of the Offshore Wind Energy Permit for Site I-A in the Nederwiek Wind Farm Zone](#) (hereinafter referred to as 'Policy Rule on Amendment and Revocation') describes the conditions under which the permit may be amended. The basic principle is that all ranking scores remain the same or improve as a result of the amendment. Furthermore, there may be no "exchange" of points between different criteria.

2. Do all changes from the original plan need to be reported to RVO?

Yes. You are obliged to carry out the project in accordance with the information submitted with the application. Any changes to the original plan must therefore be reported. RVO will then assesses whether the conditions stipulated in the Policy Rule on Amendment and Revocation are met and whether the permit can be amended.

3. If the permit holder submits a revocation request (Article 6 of the Policy Rule on Amendment and Revocation), will the costs paid for the site studies (Article 9, paragraph 1 of the Ministerial Order) be refunded?

The costs paid for the site studies will not be refunded.

4. Are there any guidelines that a revocation request (according to Article 6 of the Policy Rule on Amendment and Revocation) must comply with?

No. The information that RVO requires to properly assess the revocation request will depend on the specific circumstances of the case. The information required and the assessment will be determined in further consultation with the permit holder.

5. Does the Policy Rule on Amendment and Revocation, with the option to return the permit, also apply to the permits (for other wind farm sites) that have already been issued?

No, the Policy Rule on Amendment and Revocation only applies to the permit for Nederwiek Site I-A.

Organisation

1. Can the applicant be a private limited company or public limited company in formation and is this allowed without a Chamber of Commerce (KvK) number?

The company applying may be a private limited company or public limited company in formation, provided it is registered in the Trade Register. A Chamber of Commerce (KvK) number is therefore mandatory. It is also mandatory to set up the private limited company or public limited company immediately after the permit has been granted (the deed of incorporation must then be notarised (legally authenticated) and the registration in the Trade Register must be complete).

2. Can a company participate in multiple consortia that submit an application?

No, any applicant may only submit (or participate in) one application. Legal entities and companies in a group or group company are seen as a single applicant.

3. Can multiple subsidiaries of a parent company submit an application?

No, this is not allowed, unless the subsidiaries do not belong to the same group or group company.

4. My organisation is currently developing a wind farm within the EU, together with another party (not from the same group or group company). Can we submit an application separately?

Yes, that is allowed.

5. I am a wind turbine manufacturer. I fulfil this role for several applicants. Is this allowed?

Yes, you can, provided you are not in the same group or group company with more than one applicant.

Communication

1. What information will RVO publish about the ranking and the winner?

RVO will, of course, announce the winner. A decision will be made afterwards about whether and what information about the ranking and the winner will be made public.

2. Will the investment amounts required for the operating calculation model be made public?

RVO will not voluntarily disclose the investment amounts listed in the operating calculation model, as this is commercially sensitive information. However, RVO may be obliged to disclose the data on the basis of a WOO request and/or court decision.

3. How can interested parties stay informed of current information?

You can find the most up-to-date information about the tender and all the information you need to submit your application at rvo.nl/offshorewind. You can find all available data about the site studies on offshorewind.rvo.nl.

You subscribe to the Offshore Wind newsletter. This provides information about meetings, site investigations and other related topics. You can subscribe by sending an email to: woz@rvo.nl.

You can also find this information on offshorewind.rvo.nl.

4. Can you clarify which version of the regulation (Ministerial Order) is leading, the Dutch or the English?

The Dutch version is leading for all documents.

Submitting an application

1. How can I apply?

Unlike previous years, applications can only be submitted digitally via RVO's online application system, eLoket. For this, you need to use the eHerkenning digital login system (eHerkenning is an electronic identification, a kind of DigiD, for companies). In the eLoket, you complete a digital application form and upload the required attachments.

General information about eLoket and eHerkenning can be found here: [Help with logging in | RVO.nl](#).

2. What eHerkenning level of assurance do I need?

You need assurance level 3 to submit an application.

3. Will an application form be published?

A sample application form will be published on the website. This is only an example of what will be required in the digital form. You cannot use this sample application form to make an application.

4. In which language should the application be made?

The application must be made in Dutch or English. RVO requests that the following appendices be submitted in English:

- Appendix 13 - Ecology
- Appendix 14 - Reduction of Harbour Porpoise Disturbance Days

5. Is the application form also available in English?

The sample application form is only available in Dutch and the form in eLoket will also only be available in Dutch. However, an English translation of the sample application form will be published at a later stage. The English translation of the sample application form is not an official document for making an application.

6. Which attachments must be included in the application?

The following appendices must be included with the application:

- Appendix 1 - Summary description of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm
- Appendix 2 - Wind report, including the calculation models, environmental models and wind models
- Appendix 3 - Operation calculation
- Appendix 4 - Annual accounts(s) and, if you include a capital commitment in the application, an auditor's report
- Appendix 5 - Financing plan
- Appendix 6 - Table of wind turbine data and locations
- Appendix 7 - Overview of the knowledge and experience of the parties involved

The following attachments may be required:

- Appendix 8 - Overview of the partnership with a declaration of participation in the partnership signed by each participant and with the authorisation signed by each participant for the lead partner of the partnership
- Appendix 9 - Organisation chart of the group or group company, including the registration numbers in the Trade Register of the legal entities and companies in the group or group company.

- Appendix 10 - Information on the declaration for non-certified turbines mentioned in the application
- Appendix 11 - Description of the level of compliance with the principles of the International Responsible Business Conduct (IRBC) Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector.
- Appendix 12 - Description of the degree of insight into resource consumption, environmental impact and value retention in the design, construction, operation and removal of the wind farm
- Appendix 13 - Description of the wind farm's contribution to the ecosystem of the Dutch North Sea
- Appendix 14 - Description of the contribution to reducing harbour porpoise disturbance days in the construction phase of the wind farm

Optional attachment:

- Appendix 15 - Press release

7. Is there a maximum size or maximum number of pages per appendix?

For all appendices, there is a maximum file size of 40 MB.

A maximum number of pages has been set only for Appendix 13. For this, only the first 75 pages will be submitted to the expert committee. This does not include Section 1.2 of Table 6 of this appendix to the regulation (reducing harbour porpoise disturbance days during the construction phase of the wind farm for the installation of foundation compared to the Nederwiek I-A Wind Farm Site Decision). This information is requested in Appendix 14.

The maximum 75 pages includes cover page, table of contents, illustrations, tables, etc.

There is no maximum number of pages for the other appendices.

8. The application form asks for the intended date for awarding contracts to manufacturers, suppliers and installers. Can I enter the expected date that all contracts will be signed (financial close)?

Yes, you can assume the expected date that all contracts will be signed.

9. Will a fictitious date be included on the application form for when the permit becomes irrevocable?

The same methodology will be applied to the application form as for previous tenders. The tender closes on Thursday 30 October 2025. The notional date for irrevocability of the permit has been set at 1 March 2026.

10. In which language must the information listed in the 'Draft form for providing safety information on the basis of the Offshore Wind Energy Implementation Regulation' be provided?

The information mentioned in the application form must be submitted in Dutch. Any attachments may be in Dutch or English. If the applicant, a parent company or an ultimate beneficial owner originates from outside the European Union, the 'Notification form: request for information from the investor for the purposes of notifications pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2019/452' must also be completed. This form must be completed in English.

Wind report

1. What are the requirements for the wind report?

Article 3 (1a) (1b) and (2) of the Ministerial Order set out the requirements the wind report must meet. These requirements are explained in more detail in the Explanatory Notes to the appendices in the application form.

2. Can the applicant prepare a wind report themselves and then have it approved by an independent party?

No. The wind report must be prepared by an independent organisation with expertise in the field of wind energy yield calculations (Article 3 (1a) of the Ministerial Order). It may not be done by the applicant themselves.

3. Wind turbines are available with a booster. How does a booster factor into the calculation of the P50 value for net electricity production?

The additional yield from the booster is included in the calculation of the P50 value for net electricity production.

4. What type of certification must a wind turbine meet?

Article 7.34 of the Living Environment Activities Decree stipulates that a statement from an independent expert must be issued at least four weeks before the start of the construction period, stating that the design of the wind turbines and other installations that are part of the wind farm meet the requirements set out in Article 7:39 of the Living Environment Activities Decree.

5. If an applicant chooses a non-certified wind turbine, must they also demonstrate in Appendix 10 that the foundations and infield cables will comply with Article 7:39 of the Living Environment Activities Decree in a timely manner?

No, you only need to demonstrate that the wind turbines will be certified in time (at least 4 weeks before the start of construction).

6. Does RVO publish a list of organisations that have been approved by RVO to produce the wind report?

No. RVO does not publish a list of organisations that have been approved to produce a wind report. It must be an independent organisation with the necessary expertise (see also Question 2).

7. Which power curve should be used for the calculation of the P50 in the wind report?

The wind report is drawn up by an independent organisation with expertise in the field of wind energy yield calculations. This organisation will use the power curve coming from a certifying body. If this is not yet available, the supplier of the wind turbine can make a power curve available. You add the power curve used to the report.

8. The Ministerial Order stipulates that when calculating the P50 value for the net electricity production of the wind farm on an annual basis, availability, wake effects, electricity losses and curtailment losses must be taken into account. What is meant by curtailment losses?

Curtailment losses arise if more than 1GW is produced on the site, as TenneT can transport a maximum of 1 GW.

Curtailment losses also occur as a result of the measures described in Regulation 4 (3 and 4) of the Wind Farm Site Decision, to prevent collisions with birds and bats during migration periods near the wind farm. The wind report must

also include curtailment losses resulting from turbine shutdowns that the applicant may carry out, as a result of taking measures to protect common birds (as included in Table 6 of the appendix to the Ministerial Order), in addition to the requirements in the Wind Farm Site Decision.

9. The manufacturer of an innovative wind turbine, not yet certified, initially assumes a conservative power curve. However, according to that manufacturer, it is very likely that the power curve will be better (steeper) later in the development process. Which power curve can be used to calculate the net P50 value?

The most likely power curve from the turbine manufacturer may be used. After all, it is about determining the net P50 value, which means there is a 50% chance that this production can be achieved. If a power curve has been estimated too conservatively by the turbine manufacturer, the author of the wind report may use the most likely power curve to calculate the net P50 value.

10. Should the wind report also take into account small losses such as:

- Possible maintenance of 5 days per year by TenneT on the export cable
- High wind speed hysteresis
- Sub-optimal production in the first year
- Turbine degradation
- So-called 'wind farm blockage' effect
- Mandatory shutdown for helicopter flights

No, you do not have to take these losses into account in the wind report. Article 3 (2) of the Ministerial Order states which losses must be taken into account. These elements are explained in more detail in the Explanatory Notes to the Appendices of the application form.

11. Should wake effects from neighbouring wind farms be taken into account for the energy yield calculation?

No. For the energy yield calculation, the wake effects of nearby wind farms do not have to be taken into account. Only wake effects caused by turbines within the site itself need to be taken into account.

12. Does RVO have a list of reputable calculation models that are suitable for large wind farms when it comes to the wake effect?

RVO does not have an exhaustive list, but the most well-known renowned calculation models for calculating the wake effect for large wind farms are Ainslie IBL, Ainslie LWFM, Ainslie DAWM, PARK, FUGA and Wakeblaster.

13. When calculating the P50 value for net electricity production, availability and electricity losses must be taken into account, among other things. What is meant by that?

Regarding availability, only turbine availability needs to be considered. Availability losses from infield cables do not need to be included in the calculation. However, losses from infield cables must be included in the calculation for electricity losses.

14. PARK is a renowned calculation model for calculating the wake effect of large offshore wind farms. However, PARK can be divided into PARK1 and PARK2 model. Are these two models independent of each other?

In some cases, PARK1 and PARK2 are independent, while in others they are not. The following international guideline is used: If PARK1 is implemented with a modified wake decay constant adjusted to the wind farm layout, or with an IBL approach, or with an LWFM or DAWM approach, it can be considered independent from PARK2. If the wake superposition of PARK1 is adjusted, it cannot be considered an independent model.

15. Is it mandatory to calculate a maximum availability of 96% for turbines in the wind report?

Yes, it is mandatory to calculate a turbine availability that does not exceed 96% over the entire lifespan.

16. Is the turbine availability that must be used in the wind report an availability based on time or energy yield?

The annual turbine availability (which may be a maximum of 96%) must be used as a factor for energy yield.

17. For the energy yield calculation, is there a prescribed methodology to include the mandatory turbine shutdown for birds and bats, as described in the Wind Farm Site Decision?

Yes. In your energy yield calculation, the prescribed shutdown provision (Regulations 3 and 4 of the Wind Farm Site Decision) for birds and bats must be included as a fixed amount of 13 and 6 full-load hours respectively.

18. For the wind energy yield calculation relating to the criterion 'the contribution of the wind farm to the energy supply' in Table 3, should additional downtime due to ecological measures, such as shutdown on demand from Table 6, also be taken into account?

Yes, all ecological measures that impact the energy yield calculation must be included in that calculation.

Deadlines

1. When can the wind farm be removed?

The Ministerial Order stipulates that the removal (decommissioning) period can start from year 35 and can last up to the end of year 40 (paragraph 4.4.1 in the Explanatory Notes in Part II of the Wind Farm Site Decision). The removal will start within two years after operation has ceased and will be completed within the term of the permit at the latest (Regulation 8 of the Wind Farm Site Decision).

2. Article 5 of the Ministerial Order states that a permit can only be granted if it is sufficiently plausible based on the application that construction and operation of the wind farm can be started within 52 months of the date on which the permit has become irrevocable. Does this period relate to the start of construction and operation, or does it mean that construction of the wind farm can start within 52 months?

The application must make it sufficiently plausible that construction and operation can be started within 52 months of the date the permit has become irrevocable. 'Start of operation' refers to the first supply of electricity from the wind farm to the electricity grid.

Operating calculation model

1. What is the minimum value the project return must meet?

There is no predetermined minimum project return. Ultimately, the economic feasibility will be assessed comprehensively.

2. Can you also use your own operating calculation model?

No, you may not use your own operating calculation model. You must use the operating calculation model made available by RVO and include it with your application.

3. Should the interest during construction also be included in the overview of investment costs?

If debt is used to finance the project, the operating calculation model automatically calculates interest during construction. Therefore, these construction interest costs should not be included in the investment costs. Otherwise, they would be counted twice. However, the costs of taking out loans must be included in the investment costs.

4. Should the operating calculation model also include a reserve for the removal of the wind farm, or are the costs of the bank guarantee sufficient for this?

The costs of removing the wind farm must also be included in the operating calculation model. The costs of the bank guarantee are separate from this.

5. The operating calculation model will be prepared in Dutch. Is it permitted for a submitting party to translate the operating calculation model into English themselves? Or will RVO make an English version available?

An English version of the operating calculation model will not be made available. You must use the operating calculation model provided by the RVO.nl when submitting your application. Applicants are free to complete the text fields of the operating calculation model in English.

6. Can I choose my own repayment method in the RVO's operating calculation model?

No, in the operating calculation model, you can only choose linear or annuity. You cannot use any other repayment method.

7. If my electricity is sold by means of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), do I also have to include these values in the operating calculation model?

If you use PPAs, you must also include these revenues in the operational calculation model. If you sell part of the revenue through PPAs and part through, for example, the APX, you must include this in the operational calculation model using a weighted average.

8. Should the extra costs involved in the ecological measures be included in the operating calculation model?

Yes, the extra costs involved in the ecological measures must also be included in the operating calculation model.

9. Suppose I want to use a different electricity price in the operating calculation model than the one prescribed by RVO, is this allowed?

You can also use other electricity prices, but you must indicate what these prices are based on.

10. Will RVO provide a price forecast for the Guarantees of Origin (GOs)?

No. The applicant may use its own price forecasts for future GOs.

11. Should the costs for the turbines and infield cables be separated in the investment overview?

Yes, the costs must be separated by component.

12. Can I adjust and/or supplement the cost breakdown pre-filled by RVO in Capex and Opex?

Yes, you may create your own breakdown of costs. Please note that two cost items are mandatory: the annual financial offer and the costs listed in Article 9 (1) of the Ministerial Order. Please note that compliance with Article 3 (4a and b) of the Ministerial Order is required.

13. Do I have to take indexation into account when entering the amounts in the Capex, Opex and GoO tables?

Yes, you must include indexation in the amounts you enter in the model.

14. What is meant by the cost item 'Disposal' as included in the Opex tab of the operating model?

This concerns the disposal of parts that have been replaced.

15. How should the annual financial bid be included in the operating calculation model?

The payments for the financial bid should be included as operational expenses (OPEX). These amounts do not require indexation, as they remain the same for 35 years.

Wind Farm Site Decision

1. Is it correct that I do not have to include a cable plan with the coordinates of the infield cables with the application?

It is correct that you do not need to include a cable plan with the application.

2. What exactly is meant by maximum feed-in capacity?

TenneT's platform and landing cable can transport a maximum of 2 GW of power. Two sites are connected to the platform, so each site may feed in a maximum of 1 GW. Therefore, no more than 1 GW (per site) may be supplied to the TenneT platform at any given time. TenneT guarantees a consumption of 1 GW. The capacity installed on the site (known as installed capacity) may exceed 1 GW, namely 1.15 GW (known as "overplanting").

3. Do we need to add a jack-up buffer zone if magnetic anomalies are found that have not been identified in the magnetometer survey?

There are no specific requirements in jack-up procedures, but it is recommended to avoid contact with obstacles or debris on or in the seabed and to maintain sufficient clearance between jack-up legs and objects, pipelines, cables and rocks that are above the seabed or submerged.

4. Do the owners or managers of existing cables and pipelines in the site have the right to reject or modify our proposed cable plan?

No, they do not have the right to reject or change the wind farm cabling. However, it is advisable to inform the organisations involved. The Wind Farm Site Decision does not impose any requirements on the design of the internal (inter-array) wind farm cabling. The only condition is that the cables must be laid within the site boundary. Please note that in the Dutch part of the North Sea there is no obligation to enter into proximity and crossing agreements if existing cables or pipelines must be crossed.

5. Are there any existing conditions applicable to crossing agreements with existing cable and pipeline operators, or are the organisations involved obliged to negotiate them? Does it make any difference whether the cables/pipelines in question are located in territorial waters or in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the North Sea?

No conditions apply to proximity and crossing agreements. Proximity and crossing agreements are governed by private law and we would like to point out that in the Dutch part of the North Sea, both inside and outside the 12-mile zone, there is no obligation to enter into crossing and proximity agreements.

6. Have the authorities established a mandatory trench depth or burial cover level for the wind farm cabling?

The Wind Farm Site Decision does not include any specific requirements for trench and burial depths for the (wind farm) cabling. The permit holder is free to choose the trench depth or the level of covering.

7. The Wind Farm Site Decision states that the total installed capacity of the wind farm must be at least 1,000 MW. Does this include a 'booster'?

The booster is not automatically excluded and may be included as long as the rated power meets the minimum capacity of 15 MW.

8. Why are only monopiles permitted as foundations under the Wind Farm Site Decision?

This is in response to the EIA Committee's assessment advice in the Environmental Impact Assessment. Due to knowledge gaps about the shipping safety consequences of foundations other than monopiles, only monopiles are still permitted under the NW I-A Wind Farm Site Decision.

Financial

1. Compliance with the requirement that the applicant has a equity capital of at least 20% of the investment costs for the wind farm may be demonstrated with the annual financial statements of the parent company. Can this also be the annual accounts of the parent company's own parent company, the so-called 'grandmother'?

Yes. An applicant may also use the financial statements of the parent of the applicant's parent company to demonstrate that the size of the equity capital is equal to or greater than 20% of the investment costs for the wind farm.

2. In a group with several legal entities, one consolidated annual report is often drawn up at group level. Can these consolidated financial statements be used to meet the requirement that the applicant has equity of at least 20% of the total investment costs?

Yes. Consolidated financial statements for multiple legal entities can be used together to demonstrate that the equity requirement of at least 20% of the total investment costs has been met.

3. Is the pro-rata share of the various parties taken into account in the case of a consortium? Or is it possible for one of the parties to guarantee this for the other parties in the same consortium?

No, ownership share is not taken into account. Equity must therefore be seen in the broadest sense of the word and the assets of the (grand)parents can therefore also be fully included, regardless of the ownership share. This has been clarified in the Explanatory Notes to the Ministerial Order.

4. If the financing plan included with the application assumes 20% equity, can this be deviated from at a later date?

In the financing plan, you indicate how you intend to finance the wind farm.

5. If the applicant uses a so-called Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), may each parent company of every participant in this SPV count towards the requirement that the applicant has equity of at least 20% of the total investment costs?

When using an SPV, the parent company of each participant in this SPV may count towards the requirement that the applicant has equity of at least 20% of the total investment costs (Article 6 (2) of the Ministerial Order).

6. Are there requirements for annual accounts that demonstrate sufficient equity?

Requirements have been set for the annual accounts. You must submit the most recently adopted annual accounts, but they may not be older than three years (Article 4 € of the Ministerial Order). The requirements are described in more detail in the Explanatory Notes to Appendix 4 of the application form.

7. What is the latest date for issuing the bank guarantee for disposal (decommissioning)?

The bank guarantee for the removal of the wind farm (decommissioning) must be issued no later than when RVO has received proof that GOs have been issued for the electricity supplied.

8. Can the applicant prepare the bank guarantee for the wind farm's decommissioning itself or will a draft be provided for this?

No, RVO provides a template for this.

9. Does the bank guarantee or security deposit have to be included with the application?

No, only the winner must ensure that the bank guarantee or security deposit is received by RVO within 4 weeks of the permit being issued.

10. How will the financial and economic feasibility of the various submitted applications and associated business cases be assessed, and what quantitative criteria may apply to test the financial and economic feasibility of the operational calculation?

RVO does not provide information in advance about how financial and economic feasibility will be assessed.

11. In Table 2, Section 9 of the Appendix to the Ministerial Order, the financial strength of the party(ies) responsible for the project is assessed on the basis of the party's equity. Is this the equity capital for financing the wind farm, or the equity on the applicant's balance sheet?

This concerns the applicant's equity as shown in the annual accounts (balance sheet), or a capital commitment. The equity capital or capital commitment is determined in the same way as the assessment of financial feasibility for the construction and operation of the wind farm, as specified in Article 6 (2 and 3) of the Ministerial Order.

12. Is it permitted to issue more than one bank guarantee with a cumulative value of €100 million?

No, this is not permitted. A single (1) bank guarantee worth €100 million must be issued.

13. Is it correct to assume that the assessment of financial feasibility is binary: good (you are through) or bad (application not further assessed)?

Yes, that is correct. The financial feasibility is either sufficiently plausible or not. If not, the application is rejected.

14. How will the financial security, as included in Regulation 4.4.3 of the Wind Farm Site Decision, be indexed? Will there be a cap on indexation?

For a period of 12 years from the moment the farm begins supplying electricity, the amount is indexed annually by 2 percent, payable by the permit holder. At several points during the wind farm's operation, both the €120,000 per MW to be generated and the indexation will be reassessed. Namely, after 12 years of operation, after 24 years of operation, and one year before the removal of the wind farm begins. Consequently, there is no cap on indexation.

15. Can the financial security, as stipulated in Regulation 4.4.3 of the Wind Farm Site Decision, also be provided by an insurer with an A rating, as stipulated in Article 10 of the Ministerial Order?

No, the bank guarantee must be concluded with a Dutch systemic bank or a bank included in the list of 'Global Systemically Important Banks' published by the Financial Stability Board (FSB). An insurer with an A rating is not included.

16. When will the bank guarantee/deposit for construction of the wind farm be returned to the developer?

The bank guarantee/deposit will be returned as soon as the Minister has been notified of the readiness to supply full power for the test phase of the offshore grid. This corresponds to the date of Milestone 2 in the Offshore Wind Energy Development Framework.

Ranking criteria (with the exception of IRBC, circularity and ecology-specific questions)

1. A number of applicants are subject to a public tender obligation, how should they fill in the list of producers and installers as referred to in the ranking criterion "knowledge and experience of the parties involved" as included in Article 12a (4e) of the Offshore Wind Energy Act and Article 3 (6) of the Ministerial Order?

Applicants subject to tender obligations have two options for completing the list. The applicant can name a preferred supplier and then explain the experience of this party. This preferred supplier can be changed at a later stage, provided that the conditions are met as laid down in the Policy Rule on Amendments and Revocation. Alternatiely, the applicant can list several suppliers, explaining the experience of each supplier. The supplier and installer that receives the least number of points is included in the ranking score for this component.

2. If the experience of the foundation manufacturer is requested, does this refer to production of offshore foundations in general, or is it specifically experience in the production of the specific type of foundation requested for the site?

This refers to general experience in production of offshore foundations, not the specific type of foundation.

3. How can the knowledge and experience of the organisations involved (as referred to in Article 3 (6) of the Ministerial Order) best be described?

You can describe the knowledge and experience of the organisations involved by indicating the contribution the party concerned has made to construction and operation of offshore wind farms, addressing the points included in Article 3(6)(a to h) of the Ministerial Order. It is not necessary to provide support letters or the like from the relevant parties.

4. Will the amount of the financial offer that a party makes in the application be made known to the expert committee?

No, the amount of the financial offer will not be known to the expert committee.

5. When is a party eligible for the maximum points for project management (Table 2, Section 1 in the Appendix to the Ministerial Order)?

A party must have previously been responsible for project management for offshore wind farms with a combined capacity of 100 MW or more, or for five or more offshore energy projects. This party must have been responsible for project management in the period up to full commissioning of the wind farms or energy projects in question to obtain maximum points for this component. The situation at the time of submission of the application applies here.

6. When assessing the application, is consideration given to whether parties have won a previous tender? Is this considered a positive or negative outcome?

No, consideration is not given to whether parties have previously won a tender. The knowledge and experience of the parties is taken into account, as described in Table 2 of the Ministerial Order.

Ranking criterion 'compliance with the principles of international responsible business conduct (IRBC)'

1. If the permit application is submitted by an SPV with multiple parent companies, does that SPV or the different parent companies have to be participants in the IRBC Agreement for the maximum points to be awarded for this? In the case of multiple parent companies, do all parent companies have to participate individually in the Agreement?

In the case of an SPV with multiple parent companies, only all parent companies individually need to be participants in the Agreement. The SPV itself is not required to participate.

2. If the applicant participates in the IRBC Agreement as a 'supporting organisation' (insofar as permitted within the IRBC Agreement), will the full number of points from Table 4 of the Appendix to the Ministerial Order be awarded?

Even if the applicant participates as a 'supporting organisation' of the IRBC Agreement, the full number of points can be awarded.

3. How is the IRBC requirement assessed for parties referred to in Article 3 (5 b, c, f and g) of the Ministerial Order? Is it sufficient to demonstrate that the parties mentioned are willing to do so?

In the application form, you must indicate whether the party in question will join the IRBC Agreement or a comparable multi-stakeholder initiative no later than one year after the permit becomes irrevocable. You do not need to explain anything in Appendix 11. The permit holder must comply with the permit regulations and make every effort to get the party to join the IRBC Agreement or a comparable multi-stakeholder initiative. RVO can impose a penalty on the permit holder. If the permit holder does not succeed, the permit can be revoked.

4. Do the parties mentioned in Article 3 (5 a- h) of the Ministerial Order have to be identical to the entities listed as participants in the IRBC Agreement on the SER website to receive full points?

They must be the same parties, unless the parent company of the party in question is already a participant in the IRBC Agreement.

5. What happens if a party submits an application to join the IRBC Agreement (in time) but subsequently fails to accede?

Then, the conditions in the qualitative criteria as stated in Table 4 of the Appendix to the Ministerial Order are not met. The permit holder must comply with the permit regulations. RVO will then impose penalties on the permit holder (which has a best-efforts obligation to have the party accede).

6. Some suppliers/producers must have joined the IRBC Agreement one year after the permit becomes irrevocable. What if these suppliers/producers are not yet known at that time?

Then the conditions in the qualitative criteria as stated in Table 4 of the Appendix to the Ministerial Order are not met. The permit holder must comply with the permit regulations. RVO will then impose penalties on the permit holder (which has a best-efforts obligation to have the party to join).

7. Is it relevant which entity of a multinational (of which the applicant is a part) participates in the IRBC Agreement?

Yes, either the applicant itself or the applicant's parent company must participate in the IRBC Agreement. This may also be a parent company of a parent company. This parent company may also be registered abroad.

8. Assume several parties want to jointly develop a wind farm, where party A and party B jointly establish SPV1. Then SPV1 sets up SPV 2 together with party C, with SPV2 then ultimately becoming the applicant in the tender for Nederwiek I-A. Is it true that all parties A, B and C must participate in the IRBC Agreement to earn the maximum points for this criterion?

Yes, that's right. In this example, parties A, B and C (or their parent organisations) must participate in the IRBC Agreement. It is not necessary for the specific SPVs to sign the Agreement.

9. Who will assess Appendix 11?

Appendix 11 will be assessed by experts from RVO and/or the Ministry of Climate and Green Growth.

10. Apart from the criteria set by the SER, are there additional admission criteria for joining the IRBC agreement?

Besides the criteria set by the SER for accession, there are no additional admission criteria from RVO for the IRBC Renewable Energy Agreement.

11. Why does a party receive 50% of the maximum score if the party does not join the IRBC Agreement or a comparable multi-stakeholder initiative, but does have a due diligence policy of its own?

In this case, there is no multi-stakeholder initiative. Less points are awarded for this.

12. How are points awarded for joining the IRBC Agreement if this only has to be done one year after the permit has become irrevocable?

Points are awarded based on the commitment to join the IRBC Agreement at a later date. If a party has not joined the IRBC Agreement after one year, RVO will take action.

13. Do parties that are (only) involved in the ecology component also have to be participants in the IRBC agreement?

Only the parties referred to in Article 3 (5) of the Ministerial Order will be assessed for (commitment to) participation in the IRBC Agreement.

Development Framework

1. To what extent is early cable pull-in guaranteed? Is TenneT liable if this date is not met?

The target date for early cable pull-in will be included in the appendix to the Realisation Agreement. Early cable pull-in, where 'mechanical cable pull-in' is possible, is a best efforts obligation. TenneT aims to enable early cable pull-in so the permit holder can start this work as soon as possible. However, TenneT will not be liable if a date is not met. The exact date, and when this date will be determined, will be agreed upon between TenneT and the permit holder during the interface process during the project phase.

2. Will the bank guarantee or security deposit be forfeited if the permit holder does not meet MST 2 because TenneT has not met MST 1 on time?

No, as stipulated in the Ministerial Order, the Minister will, in principle, exercise the option to grant an exemption from the obligation to perform certain activities within the timeframe specified in the permit. The bank guarantee or security deposit is linked to these timeframes. Granting the exemption prevents the bank guarantee or security deposit from being forfeited because the permit holder, due to circumstances within the control of the offshore grid operator, is unable to complete the wind farm in time to deliver full capacity and thus cannot meet its obligation.

3. Is it possible to carry out work before MST 1?

Yes, the permit holder can start construction of the wind farm before MST 1, within the terms of the REA/ATO. During the interface process during the project phase, it will be agreed when the permit holder can carry out work on the platform for MST 1 for early mechanical cable pull-in.

4. What work needs to be done between MST 1 and MST 2?

Between MST 1 and MST 2, the wind farm must be electrically connected and integrated into the grid connection system (GCS). This also requires joint testing of wind farm and GCS; see answer to question 8. At MST 2, the wind farm must have retracted all 66 kV cables on the platform and completed their connection to the platform. From this date, the wind farm must be able to supply full power, so that TenneT can start the last part of the testing and commissioning phase, namely testing at full power.

5. What tests does TenneT have to carry out between MST 1 and MST 2 and what impact does this have on the activities that the permit holder has to carry out in that time frame?

Prior to MST 1, the GCS is independently tested and declared ready to receive electricity from the wind farm and to transport the electricity. These are low-power tests from onshore to offshore. These tests can be carried out without the wind farm.

Between MST 1 and MST 2, the entire wind farm and the GCS will be commissioned and tested over a period of six months. For these six months, TenneT will draw up a connection and test plan together with the permit holder, aiming to get the entire wind farm and GCS ready for operation within six months. In this plan, all activities are coordinated so that both the wind farm and the integrated system can be tested. This involves load, operational mode and compliance testing. These tests cannot be carried out without the wind farm and are also a normal part of the wind farm commissioning procedure. It is expected that these tests will have no or very limited effect on the possibility of drawing in or feeding power into the GCS.

The full six months are therefore available for connecting the wind farm, barring unexpected failures that may arise from the connection. In the exceptional event that such an unexpected disruption does occur or TenneT performs unforeseen activities (other than those resulting from the joint interface process), which demonstrably jeopardise achieving MST 2 and MST 3, both the permit holder and TenneT can consult with the Minister, together with the other party, about the schedule for the milestones for delivery of the grid and wind farm.

6. The dates referred to in Section 4.2.2 and Table 4 in the Development Framework state that a delay in delivery by TenneT or the permit holder may not result in it becoming impossible for the other party to meet the subsequent delivery date. TenneT and/or the permit holder can therefore submit a request to the Minister to deliver a part of the offshore grid or offshore wind farm at a later date. In both cases, the request must be accompanied by a declaration of no objection from the other party (TenneT or the permit holder of the wind farm). What happens if a party does not issue a declaration of no objection?

In this case, too, this party can consult with the Minister about the schedule for the milestones for the completion of the grid and wind farm.

7. Can MST 2 be explained in more detail?

Details can be found in Section 4.2.2 of the [Offshore Wind Energy Development Framework](#).

8. What is meant by full power (capacity) in MST 2?

Full capacity at MST 2, as defined in the [Offshore Wind Energy Development Framework](#), means that all wind turbines have been installed, connected and commissioned. This means that the wind farm should be able to deliver full power, although actual capacity also depends on other factors and can therefore deviate from the maximum power.

Ranking criterion 'Consumption of raw materials, environmental impact and value retention in the design, construction, operation and removal of the wind farm' (Table 5)

1. Are calculations expected for Table 5, Criteria 1.1, to demonstrate how the proposed circular strategies result in a higher circularity score?

The proposed circular strategies do not need to be quantified, but this is desirable.

2. Is there a list of approved circular design methodologies and ISO standards available?

There is no list available of recognised circular strategies and/or ISO standards. However the accompanying [publication](#) from the University of Leeds, for example, could be used as inspiration.

3. Can Criteria 1 to 3 in Table 5 be interpreted as a commitment to provide the requested information, and not as a commitment to meet a certain level of circularity? If so, how is the obligation to report this information qualified in the bid? Is this based on the outcome or on a substantial effort?

An application is ranked higher if an applicant commits to providing the most complete insight possible after obtaining the permit. The purpose of this criterion is to promote transparency and gain insight into the resource consumption, environmental impact, and value retention of the components of an offshore wind farm. This may help inform future policy formulation and work towards industry standards. Applications are not ranked based on the extent to which resource consumption and environmental impact are reduced or value retention is increased.

4. What is the scope of the raw materials and consumables?

Reporting must be as detailed as possible, but at least up to tier 3 (subsuppliers). It must also be explained why further reporting is not possible.

5. Who assesses the suitability of a variable/methodology to meet a specific bidding criterion?

RVO will engage specialists for this.

6. Who will assess Appendix 12?

Appendix 12 will be assessed by experts from RVO and/or the Ministry for Climate and Green Growth.

7. Are the measures included in the 'circular design' and for '(smart) maintenance' of the wind farm binding on the permit holder?

The measures included in the 'circular design' and for '(smart) maintenance' of the wind farm are binding on the permit holder. However, the permit holder may change its strategy provided that all the requirements of the Policy Rule on Amendments and Revocation are met.

Ranking criterion 'Contribution of the wind farm to the ecosystem of the Dutch North Sea' (Table 6)

General

1. How is the knowledge and experience of any ecological agencies involved in an application for the NW I-A site taken into account in the assessment?

The knowledge and experience of ecological agencies involved in an application are not specifically taken into account in the assessment of the application. This knowledge and experience will have to be demonstrated by the quality of Appendix 13 of the application.

2. Have regulations been set on what the appendix for measures that contribute to the ecosystem of the Dutch North Sea (Appendix 13) should look like?

There are no requirements regarding the format of the appendix for ecological measures (Appendix 13). You are free to complete this appendix as you see fit. However, it must be independently readable. References to other documents, websites, etc., will not be included in the assessment.

The first 75 pages of Appendix 13 will be submitted to the experts. This excludes Section 1.2 of Table 6 of the appendix to the Ministerial Order (reducing harbour porpoise disturbance days during the construction phase of the wind farm compared to the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Nederwiek I-A Wind Farm Site Decision). This information is requested in Appendix 14. The specified maximum of 75 pages includes the cover page, table of contents, illustrations, tables, etc.

3. For some criteria, under 'monitoring and reporting plan', external publication of data is requested. Is it sufficient that only results data be made publicly available, and that these results data and reports are digitally available in a user-friendly form and are up-to-date and actively disseminated? If not, what other data should be made available? Is it sufficient that this other data is made available upon first request?

No, the underlying research data must also be actively made publicly available by the permit holder, with due regard to the so-called FAIR data standards.

4. Where can I find ecological baseline data?

Ecological baseline data on birds, bats, marine mammals, benthos and fish is publicly available on the Offshore Wind Ecological Programme (Wozep) website: [Data sets overview | Offshore Wind Ecological Programme](#)

5. Can you explain what is meant by 'production installation'? Can you confirm that you hereby require the measure to be applied within the Nederwiek I-A wind farm, in compliance with the laws and regulations in force at that time?

The assumption is correct. The production installation refers to all physical components of the wind farm, including scour protection and wind farm cabling.

Permanent objects that are part of the investments and innovations for ecological benefit may only be constructed on or directly around the production installation, i.e. within the maintenance zones of the turbines and infield cables. Preparatory activities, such as laboratory research, required for the implementation of the investment/innovation may

take place outside of it. Monitoring and research related to the physical ecological measures may also take place outside this zone.

6. How does RVO deal with compliance with the research code (5.7.4 of the Appendix to the Ministerial Order) and the associated coordination with MIVSP?

This requirement is met when the applicant, where possible, incorporates the sensors planned by MIVSP into the monitoring plan to ensure their effectiveness and complementarity.

Where this is not yet possible, the requirement is met when the applicant agrees to coordinate the monitoring plan with MIVSP after obtaining the permit.

Subsequent amendments to the permit as a result of this coordination are possible, provided that such amendments comply with the Policy Rule on Amendments and Revocation.

1.1 Reducing collision casualties through shutdown on demand/local curtailment

1. For the wind energy yield calculation for the criterion 'contribution of the wind farm to energy supply' in Table 3, should additional downtime due to ecological measures, such as shutdown on demand, in Table 6 also be taken into account?

Yes, all ecological measures that impact the energy yield calculation must be included in that calculation.

1.2 Harbour porpoise disturbance days

1. Which sources of potential disturbance should be included in the calculation of the harbour porpoise disturbance days?

Only disturbance resulting from the installation of the wind turbine foundations is included in the calculation of the number of harbour porpoise disturbance days.

2. Criterion 1.2 in Table 6, regarding reducing harbour porpoise disturbance days during the construction phase, requires that the calculation must be reviewed by an independent organisation. Does an organisation still qualify as independent if it already works with a wind farm developer?

The organisation that assesses the measures for Criterion 1.2 of Table an a 'affiliated legal entity' as defined in the Ministerial Order. Furthermore, it is up to the applicant to guarantee and demonstrate that the testing organisation is independent.

3. What is the required accuracy for the calculation of harbour porpoise disturbance days?

When calculating harbour porpoise disturbance days, the number of days must be rounded to the nearest thousand. This also applies to the initial calculation of the permitted harbour porpoise disturbance days in the scale of the criterion using the overplanting factor.

4. Is it permitted to reduce the number of harbour porpoise disturbance days by, for example, simultaneously installing multiple foundations near each other?

Yes, this is permitted, provided that sufficient substantiation and quantification can be provided for how the reduction is achieved. Of course, the maximum noise standard in the Wind Farm Site Decision may also not be exceeded.

5. The calculation of the number of days of disturbance for the harbour porpoise must correspond to the EIA. What parameters are referred to here?

These are the environmental parameters used for calculations in the EIA, which can be found in Table 3 on page 4 of Appendix 1 of Appendix 6 to the EIA (page 376 of the whole EIA file).

2.1 Minimising damage to reefs and benthos

1. For Table 6, Criterion 2.1, a study is provided that shows that no reef-building species have yet been detected in the wind farm site, but that it has not yet been proven that these species are not present. The draft Ministerial Order still required an indication of whether additional research was needed. This requirement is no longer in the final Ministerial Order. Does this mean that measures should be taken for something that has not yet been sufficiently researched?

The request for additional research is no longer included in the tender regulations. Analysis of existing studies and site surveys of the abiotic conditions in the area could determine where there are (or could be) promising positions for biogenic reefs. [Read more about the site surveys for Nederwiek.](#)

2. Table 6, Criterion 2.1, refers to biogenic reefs. What is the definition of this? Is there a minimum size?

The interpretation of this is up to the applicant.

2.2 Strengthening underwater nature

1. Regarding Criterion 2.2 in Table 6: Will we also be allowed to test erosion protection for cable crossings at locations where there is no cable crossing, but only a cable? Or no cable at all?

No. Erosion protection for cable crossings should only be tested in locations where a cable crossing is actually present.

2. The "Assessment criterion" column in Table 6, under Criterion 2.2, states that it applying the measure to cable crossings is optional.

1) Is the inclusion of cable crossings, if any, a necessary condition for maximum compliance with this criterion?

2) If cable crossings are included, how should the percentage of turbines plus cable crossings be calculated?

No, applying the measures to cable crossings, if present, is not a necessary condition for this criterion. If you intend to apply measures to existing cable crossings, only those cable crossings in question count in the total percentage for application. The turbines present in the wind farm plus the treated cable crossings together determine the number of objects present.

2. In Table 6, Criterion 2.2, does collecting data on the effectiveness of nature-inclusive construction count as a measure, and not as part of the research and reporting plan?

Criterion 2.2 involves a monitoring and reporting plan. Monitoring also includes collecting information about the effectiveness of the physical measures applied.

2.3 Investigating underwater nature

1. Table 6, Criterion 2.3, asks for an integrated study of the impact of the wind farm on the presence and development of the target species. Table 6, Criterion 2.4, asks for an investigation into biomass development on the foundations of wind turbines. For both criteria, points are awarded for the quality of the measure and the investigation and reporting plan. How is a distinction made between measure and research/reporting if a criterion is only about research? What is the measure in this context?

The distinction between the two assessment criteria can be understood as the distinction between the physical measure itself and the way in which data is collected and converted into useful information for knowledge sharing.

For these two criteria, the input for the first assessment criterion 'quality measure' could be about the way in which the input data for the research is collected, for example by means of certain (innovative) sampling methods.

Other

1. Does the permit qualify as a 'concession agreement for works', so that both the Minister of Climate Policy and Green Growth and the tender winner are subject to the procurement obligations under the Public Procurement Act 2012?

No. The Ministerial Order does not fall under the Public Procurement Act 2012.

2. Does the tender winner have to pay for the site studies?

Yes. According to Article 10 (1) of the Offshore Wind Energy Act, the costs of the site studies and environmental impact assessment (EIA) carried out must be reimbursed by the tender winner. The costs for these site studies and EIA can be found in Article 9 (1) of the Ministerial Order. These costs must be paid no later than four weeks after the day on which the Minister granted the permit. An applicant must take this amount into account in his operating calculation.

3. How will previous offshore wind energy permit winners be prevented from having more information about grid connections than other tender participants?

TenneT will make new grid connection information available publicly available on its website.

4. Can RVO provide an update on the costs that TenneT will pass on to the permit holder?

The Electricity Act stipulates that no network tariffs apply to the permit holder for the offshore grid. There is therefore no feed-in grid tariff or transmission tariff. Therefore, only the commodity price for electricity (including taxes and levies to the extent applicable) must still be paid for those times when electricity is purchased by the permit holder.

If the permit holder so wishes, and as long as the connection to the wind farm is not available for electricity supply by an electricity supplier, TenneT will provide the required electricity and pass on the actual generation costs to the permit holder. The amount of energy used will be measured or estimated in consultation with the permit holder. Once the connection is available for electricity supply (especially when a reliable electricity meter is installed), the permit holder will have to enter into an agreement with an electricity company.

No tariffs apply for the installation and maintenance of the connection. The permit holder does not have to pay anything for this.

5. What is the definition of 'construction period'?

The construction period is the period from the start of construction and to full commissioning of the wind farm.

6. What is meant by the start of construction as included in Article 14(1d) of the Offshore Wind Energy Act?

The start of construction refers to installing the first foundation.

7. Article 3(3b) of the Ministerial Order asks about the date of completion of the award of contracts to manufacturers, suppliers and installers. Does this concern the parties named for Article 3(5) of the Ministerial Order?

These are, in any case, the parties referred to in Article 3 (5) of the Ministerial Order, but there may be other manufacturers, suppliers and installers involved in your project.

8. Are there any requirements regarding the visual readability of the documents supplied?

No, there are no requirements for this. However, RVO advises to use font size 9 at least and ensure sufficient contrast between text and background.

9. Where can I find Table 7, which is referred to in 5.1 of the Explanatory Notes to the Ministerial Order? This talks about system integration.

This is a mistake in the Ministerial Order. System integration is not part of this tender and there is no Table 7.



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