473104-2026 - Direct award preannouncement

Denmark – Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses) – ImageXpress HCS.AI Advanced System
OJ S 130/2026 09/07/2026
Voluntary ex-ante transparency notice
Supplies

1. Buyer

1.1. Buyer

Official name: Aalborg Universitet
Email: ahra@adm.aau.dk

2. Procedure

2.1. Procedure

Title: ImageXpress HCS.AI Advanced System
Description: The system will provide researchers from various research groups with a microscopy solution suitable for a wide range of current and future experimental applications. These include high-content screening of pharmacological and biological perturbations across a range of sample carriers (including microscope slides, multiwell plate formats, and specialized geometries such as U-shaped plates), quantitative analysis of physiologically relevant 3D models (including tissue samples, spheroids, and organoids), and imaging of complex co-culture systems requiring multi-compartment or insert-based configurations. Uniqueness statement: The described procurement concerns a highly specialized high-content confocal imaging system required to support advanced, large-scale biological experiments within a shared research infrastructure. The requirements define a tightly integrated combination of functionalities, including: • High-throughput plate-based acquisition of multiwell experiments (96-384 well formats) within defined time constraints, with full plate acquisition achievable in the order of 1-5 minutes for single-position imaging and ≤30-60 minutes under realistic screening conditions, including multiple imaging positions per well (≥9), multi-channel fluorescence acquisition (≥3 channels), and Z-stack acquisition (≥20 planes). Full 96-well plate confocal imaging (≥3 channels, ≥20x objective) must be achievable within ≤10 minutes at one position per well. • Confocal optical sectioning for imaging of thick 3D biological samples, with effective penetration and signal quality for structures in the range of 50-200 um (up to ~300 um depending on sample type). For this, the imaging system must be able to operate in both widefield and spinning disk confocal modes. Availability of a minimum of two (2) confocal spinning disc geometries under software control, with options optimized for different applications, such as high-resolution, high-speed, and deep-penetration imaging, with the option for future disc upgrades. • Low phototoxicity and low photobleaching imaging conditions, enabling repeated imaging of the same samples for time-lapse experiments over hours to days, including sensitive 3D cultures and live-cell assays. • High-power laser excitation (up to 800 mW) combined with a motorized XY-stage and Z control with high-precision positioning (<25 nm resolution in all axes) and the stability required for reliable time-lapse imaging of the same sites over several hours or days is needed. • A software-controlled, automated objective turret with at least six (6) positions, equipped with a range of air and water immersion objectives from 2x to 60x magnification that includes options for both high numerical aperture (NA) and extra-long working distance. The system must be equipped with

a fully automated water immersion objective system with 20x and 40x water immersion objectives, and support optional magnification changes via an additional, software-selectable tube lens (1.5x). • Independent emission filter wheel (≥8 positions) and dichroic filter wheel (≥4 positions), equipped with filter sets for imaging DAPI, CFP, FITC, YFP, TRITC, TxRed, Cy5, and Cy7, or their equivalents. • Fully automated, high-content acquisition workflows, enabling reproducible imaging of large datasets (≥100-1000 imaging sites per experiment) with minimal user intervention. • A high-sensitivity sCMOS camera with high peak quantum efficiency (≥95%). The system is required to support high-speed image streaming for dynamic live-cell assays such as calcium imaging. The requirement is acquisition at ≥80 fps at full resolution and ≥100 fps at reduced resolution (using binning). • Integrated environmental control for physiologically relevant experiments with integrated gasmixer in the system for precise control of CO2 and O2 levels to create both normal and hypoxic conditions. • Integrated, high-throughput image analysis capabilities, including automated segmentation, feature extraction, and compatibility with AI machine learning-based analysis pipelines, enabling efficient processing and quantification of large-scale datasets. Possibility of importing images from 3rd party instruments for analysis is required. These requirements are not independent, but must be fulfilled simultaneously within a single, unified system architecture to ensure technical suitability, data quality, and operational feasibility. While individual elements of the required functionality may be available in other systems, available alternatives do not provide the full combination of required capabilities within a single, fully integrated high-content screening platform. In practice, alternative solutions rely on partial, modular, or loosely integrated configurations, where acquisition, automation, and analysis are handled by separate components or software environments. This prevents consistent, reproducible execution of large-scale experiments and introduces technical limitations in throughput, data consistency, and workflow integration. The ImageXpress HCS.AI Advanced platform is identified as the only system available that meets all specified requirements as an integrated solution. No alternative suppliers can deliver a technically equivalent system without introducing significant limitations that render the solution unsuitable for the intended research applications. Consequently, the procurement is considered to fall under a situation where competition is absent for technical reasons, as only one supplier can deliver a system that fulfils the defined requirements.
Procedure identifier: 704d2ae4-27de-4bc3-8ea2-3d25e4514345
Internal identifier: 1bc7c7b0-0001-4f2a-a8b4-86c78d73f9f6
Type of procedure: Negotiated without prior call for competition

2.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Supplies
Main classification (cpv): 38000000 Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)
Additional classification (cpv): 38515000 Fluorescent and polarising microscopes

2.1.2. Place of performance

Postal address: Selma Lagerløfsvej 249
Town: Gistrup
Postcode: 9260
Country subdivision (NUTS): Nordjylland (DK050)
Country: Denmark

2.1.4. General information

Legal basis:
Directive 2014/24/EU

5. Lot

5.1. Lot: LOT-0000

Title: ImageXpress HCS.AI Advanced System

Description: The system will provide researchers from various research groups with a microscopy solution suitable for a wide range of current and future experimental applications. These include high-content screening of pharmacological and biological perturbations across a range of sample carriers (including microscope slides, multiwell plate formats, and specialized geometries such as U-shaped plates), quantitative analysis of physiologically relevant 3D models (including tissue samples, spheroids, and organoids), and imaging of complex co-culture systems requiring multi-compartment or insert-based configurations. Uniqueness statement: The described procurement concerns a highly specialized high-content confocal imaging system required to support advanced, large-scale biological experiments within a shared research infrastructure. The requirements define a tightly integrated combination of functionalities, including: • High-throughput plate-based acquisition of multiwell experiments (96-384 well formats) within defined time constraints, with full plate acquisition achievable in the order of 1-5 minutes for single-position imaging and ≤30-60 minutes under realistic screening conditions, including multiple imaging positions per well (≥9), multi-channel fluorescence acquisition (≥3 channels), and Z-stack acquisition (≥20 planes). Full 96-well plate confocal imaging (≥3 channels, ≥20x objective) must be achievable within ≤10 minutes at one position per well. • Confocal optical sectioning for imaging of thick 3D biological samples, with effective penetration and signal quality for structures in the range of 50-200 um (up to ~300 um depending on sample type). For this, the imaging system must be able to operate in both widefield and spinning disk confocal modes. Availability of a minimum of two (2) confocal spinning disc geometries under software control, with options optimized for different applications, such as high-resolution, high-speed, and deep-penetration imaging, with the option for future disc upgrades. • Low phototoxicity and low photobleaching imaging conditions, enabling repeated imaging of the same samples for time-lapse experiments over hours to days, including sensitive 3D cultures and live-cell assays. • High-power laser excitation (up to 800 mW) combined with a motorized XY-stage and Z control with high-precision positioning (<25 nm resolution in all axes) and the stability required for reliable time-lapse imaging of the same sites over several hours or days is needed. • A software-controlled, automated objective turret with at least six (6) positions, equipped with a range of air and water immersion objectives from 2x to 60x magnification that includes options for both high numerical aperture (NA) and extra-long working distance. The system must be equipped with a fully automated water immersion objective system with 20x and 40x water immersion objectives, and support optional magnification changes via an additional, software-selectable tube lens (1.5x). • Independent emission filter wheel (≥8 positions) and dichroic filter wheel (≥4 positions), equipped with filter sets for imaging DAPI, CFP, FITC, YFP, TRITC, TxRed, Cy5, and Cy7, or their equivalents. • Fully automated, high-content acquisition workflows, enabling reproducible imaging of large datasets (≥100-1000 imaging sites per experiment) with minimal user intervention. • A high-sensitivity sCMOS camera with high peak quantum efficiency (≥95%). The system is required to support high-speed image streaming for dynamic live-cell assays such as calcium imaging. The requirement is acquisition at ≥80 fps at full resolution and ≥100 fps at reduced resolution (using binning). • Integrated environmental control for physiologically relevant experiments with integrated gasmixer in the system for precise control of CO2 and O2 levels to create both normal and hypoxic conditions. • Integrated, high-throughput image analysis capabilities, including automated segmentation, feature extraction, and compatibility with AI machine learning-based analysis pipelines, enabling efficient

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Internal identifier: 770403f0-1ca8-4a77-a7c4-ad3bf97d75bb

5.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Supplies
Main classification (cpv): 38000000 Laboratory, optical and precision equipments (excl. glasses)
Additional classification (cpv): 38515000 Fluorescent and polarising microscopes

5.1.2. Place of performance

Postal address: Selma Lagerløfsvej 249
Town: Gistrup
Postcode: 9260
Country subdivision (NUTS): Nordjylland (DK050)
Country: Denmark

5.1.6. General information

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA): yes

5.1.15. Techniques

Framework agreement:
No framework agreement
Information about the dynamic purchasing system:
No dynamic purchase system

5.1.16. Further information, mediation and review

Review organisation: Klagenævnet for Udbud
Organisation providing more information on the review procedures: Konkurrence- og Forbrugerstyrelsen
Organisation whose budget is used to pay for the contract: Aalborg Universitet
Organisation executing the payment: Aalborg Universitet

6. Results

Direct award
:

Justification for direct award: The contract can be provided only by a particular economic operator because of an absence of competition for technical reasons
Other justification: The system will provide researchers from various research groups with a microscopy solution suitable for a wide range of current and future experimental applications. These include high-content screening of pharmacological and biological perturbations across a range of sample carriers (including microscope slides, multiwell plate formats, and specialized geometries such as U-shaped plates), quantitative analysis of physiologically relevant 3D models (including tissue samples, spheroids, and organoids), and imaging of complex co-culture systems requiring multi-compartment or insert-based configurations. Uniqueness statement: The described procurement concerns a highly specialized high-content confocal imaging system required to support advanced, large-scale biological experiments within a shared research infrastructure. The requirements define a tightly integrated combination of functionalities, including: • High-throughput plate-based acquisition of multiwell experiments (96-384 well formats) within defined time constraints, with full plate acquisition achievable in the order of 1-5 minutes for single-position imaging and ≤30-60 minutes under realistic screening conditions, including multiple imaging positions per well (≥9), multi-channel fluorescence acquisition (≥3 channels), and Z-stack acquisition (≥20 planes). Full 96-well plate confocal imaging (≥3 channels, ≥20x objective) must be achievable within ≤10 minutes at one position per well. • Confocal optical sectioning for imaging of thick 3D biological samples, with effective penetration and signal quality for structures in the range of 50-200 um (up to ~300 um depending on sample type). For this, the imaging system must be able to operate in both widefield and spinning disk confocal modes. Availability of a minimum of two (2) confocal spinning disc geometries under software control, with options optimized for different applications, such as high-resolution, high-speed, and deep-penetration imaging, with the option for future disc upgrades. • Low phototoxicity and low photobleaching imaging conditions, enabling repeated imaging of the same samples for time-lapse experiments over hours to days, including sensitive 3D cultures and live-cell assays. • High-power laser excitation (up to 800 mW) combined with a motorized XY-stage and Z control with high-precision positioning (<25 nm resolution in all axes) and the stability required for reliable time-lapse imaging of the same sites over several hours or days is needed. • A software-controlled, automated objective turret with at least six (6) positions, equipped with a range of air and water immersion objectives from 2x to 60x magnification that includes options for both high numerical aperture (NA) and extra-long working distance. The system must be equipped with a fully automated water immersion objective system with 20x and 40x water immersion objectives, and support optional magnification changes via an additional, software-selectable tube lens (1.5x). • Independent emission filter wheel (≥8 positions) and dichroic filter wheel (≥4 positions), equipped with filter sets for imaging DAPI, CFP, FITC, YFP, TRITC, TxRed, Cy5, and Cy7, or their equivalents. • Fully automated, high-content acquisition workflows, enabling reproducible imaging of large datasets (≥100-1000 imaging sites per experiment) with minimal user intervention. • A high-sensitivity sCMOS camera with high peak quantum efficiency (≥95%). The system is required to support high-speed image streaming for dynamic live-cell assays such as calcium imaging. The requirement is acquisition at ≥80 fps at full resolution and ≥100 fps at reduced resolution (using binning). • Integrated environmental control for physiologically relevant experiments with integrated gasmixer in the system for precise control of CO2 and O2 levels to create both normal and hypoxic conditions. • Integrated, high-throughput image analysis capabilities, including automated segmentation, feature extraction, and compatibility with AI machine learning-based analysis pipelines, enabling efficient processing and quantification of large-scale datasets. Possibility of importing images from 3rd party instruments for analysis is required. These requirements are not independent, but must be fulfilled simultaneously within a single, unified system architecture to ensure technical

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6.1. Result lot identifier: LOT-0000

6.1.2. Information about winners

Winner:
Official name: Molecular Devices (UK) Ltd
Tender:
Tender identifier: Molecular Devices (UK) Ltd
Identifier of lot or group of lots: LOT-0000
Value of the tender: 4 010 664,00 DKK
Contract information:
Identifier of the contract: Molecular Devices (UK) Ltd

8. Organisations

8.1. ORG-0001

Official name: Aalborg Universitet
Registration number: 29102384
Postal address: Fredrik Bajers Vej 7K
Town: Aalborg Øst
Postcode: 9220
Country subdivision (NUTS): Nordjylland (DK050)
Country: Denmark
Contact point: Alexander Herskind Rasmussen
Email: ahra@adm.aau.dk
Telephone: 22505186
Roles of this organisation:
Buyer
Organisation whose budget is used to pay for the contract
Organisation executing the payment

8.1. ORG-0002

Official name: Klagenævnet for Udbud
Registration number: 37795526
Postal address: Toldboden 2
Town: Viborg
Postcode: 8800
Country subdivision (NUTS): Vestjylland (DK041)

Country: Denmark
Contact point: Klagenævnet for Udbud
Email: klfu@naevneneshus.dk
Telephone: +45 72405600
Internet address: https://naevneneshus.dk/start-din-klage/klagenaevnet-for-udbud/
Roles of this organisation:
Review organisation

8.1. ORG-0003
Official name: Konkurrence- og Forbrugerstyrelsen
Registration number: 10294819
Postal address: Carl Jacobsens Vej 35
Town: Valby
Postcode: 2500
Country subdivision (NUTS): Byen København (DK011)
Country: Denmark
Contact point: Konkurrence- og Forbrugerstyrelsen
Email: kfst@kfst.dk
Telephone: +45 41715000
Internet address: https://www.kfst.dk
Roles of this organisation:
Organisation providing more information on the review procedures

8.1. ORG-0004
Official name: Molecular Devices (UK) Ltd
Postal address: 1180 Eskdale Road
Town: Berkshire
Postcode: RG415TS
Country: United Kingdom
Roles of this organisation:
Tenderer
Winner of these lots: LOT-0000

8.1. ORG-0005
Official name: Mercell Holding ASA
Registration number: 980921565
Postal address: Askekroken 11
Town: Oslo
Postcode: 0277
Country subdivision (NUTS): Oslo (NO081)
Country: Norway
Contact point: eSender
Email: publication@mercell.com
Telephone: +47 21018800
Fax: +47 21018801
Internet address: http://mercell.com/
Roles of this organisation:
TED eSender

Notice information

Notice identifier/version: 58469284-ccda-4d98-91e9-99f47b3be35a - 01
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Notice type: Voluntary ex-ante transparency notice
Notice subtype: 25
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Notice dispatch date (eSender): 08/07/2026 07:00:44 (UTC+00:00) Western European Time, GMT
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