



Invitation to tender

OGC-API-Features tooling adjustments to the Dutch
API Design Rules and INSPIRE

Geonovum

date
18-10-2022

version
1.0



Revision history	
Revision date	notes
12 th of October 2022	Second draft
17 th of October 2022	Third draft
18 th of October 2022	Published on Geonovum website
	Revision after info session



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Chapter 1 - Introduction

This chapter gives the general background and specifies its goals and scope.

Invitation to tender

This document gives information about the invitation to tender regarding adjustments to open source tooling for publishing OGC-API-Features according to OGC-standards, [Dutch API Design Rules](#) and INSPIRE requirements.

The fixed budget is € 20.000 excluding 21% VAT per tool. When enough qualifying offers are received, Geonovum has the intention to reward at least 2 offers for that must concern different open source tools (see chapter 4).

Background

The OGC standards for spatial services that are currently widely in use are complex for users outside the geospatial domain. Because of this, it requires significant expertise in geospatial information technology to be able to use these services. Seen from outside the geospatial domain, the data behind the OGC services is part of the "Deep Web", because the data is published behind specialized web services and not readily available for the majority of web developers [Taylor and Parsons 2015]. This group of users is increasingly using and creating geospatial data. It is therefore seen by Geonovum as an important new target group to disseminate geospatial data, in addition to our existing users of these services.

OGC-API-features is a relatively new OGC standard for a download service of spatial features by means of an API (Application Program Interface) and might solve the above mentioned problem. They are considered as follow up for the OGC Web Feature Service (WFS) standard. The main advantage is that this new kind of services is less complex for users outside the geospatial domain.

More and more governmental organizations offer REST APIs (henceforth abbreviated as APIs), in addition to existing interfaces like SOAP and WFS. These APIs aim to be developer-friendly and easy to implement. While this is a commendable aim, it does not shield a developer from a steep learning curve getting to know every new API, in particular when every individual API is designed using different patterns and conventions. To overcome this problem a [Dutch API strategy](#) was setup. Part of this strategy is a [standard for designing APIs](#) in the Dutch Public Sector. This standard describes a widely applicable set of design rules for the unambiguous provisioning of REST APIs. The primary goal of this standard is to offer guidance for organizations designing new APIs, with the purpose of increasing developer experience (DX) and interoperability between APIs for the Dutch public information infrastructure.

The INSPIRE Directive aims to create an European Union spatial data infrastructure for the purposes of EU environmental policies and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment. This European Spatial Data Infrastructure will enable the sharing of environmental spatial information among public sector organizations, facilitate public access to spatial information across Europe and assist in policy-making across boundaries.

INSPIRE is based on the infrastructures for spatial information established and operated by the Member States of the European Union. The Directive addresses 34 spatial data themes needed for environmental applications. Once a dataset fits in the description of one of these 34 themes, INSPIRE enforces European public data providers to publish the following:

- 1) Metadata data
- 2) View services
- 3) Download services

Most currently implemented INSPIRE download services are based on the WFS standard and/or an ATOM feed service. But so far, no fully INSPIRE compliant download service uses the new OGC-API-Feature standard.

Geonovum wants Dutch geospatial data to be used, not only by geo-experts, but also outside the geospatial domain. Therefore Geonovum wants to stimulate the use of the new OGC-API-Feature standard. To do so, a



[testbed](#) has been set up and a [guideline](#) has been published in a draft version for the Dutch INSPIRE data providers how to use the new standard.

An important conclusion from the testbed is that none of the tools used in the testbed fulfil all Dutch API Design Rules nor do they fulfil the INSPIRE requirements and no tooling is known to do so at this moment (September 2022).

Some of the barriers are listed below:

- OGC-API Feature tools are based on the international OGC-standards, so it is not immediately logical to comply with national standards like the Dutch API design rules.
- They don't support other coordinate reference systems (CRS) than WG84. For instance, ETRS89 which is required by many INSPIRE themes is mostly not supported. Also the mostly used encoding GeoJSON does not officially support another CRS than WGS84. New standards like OGC-API-Features - part 2 and an extension to GeoJSON: JSON FG will help to solve this CRS problem, once tooling has adjusted to them.
- INSPIRE download services also demand linkage to several items, which is not provided in all of the currently existing tools.
- Another barrier for implementing OAPIF services conform INSPIRE is the complexity of the INSPIRE data models. The data needs to be flattened and converted into simple encodings like GeoJSON.

The first three barriers could be solved by adjusting the existing tools.

Goal

The goal of this invitation to tender is to make existing open source tooling for serving OGC-API-Feature services more adjusted to the OGC standards, the [Dutch API Design Rules](#) and the INSPIRE requirements in order to help the European and Dutch geospatial data providers and users. This will strengthen the Dutch public geospatial infrastructure.

Scope

The tooling must be open source and must have a solid community that will embrace the adjustments in their base code. So maintenance is secured.

It only concerns functionality for tooling that serve OGC-API-Feature services. So other type of services within the OGC-API service standards are out of scope.

Since OGC-API-Feature services are spatial services, attention is also asked for the [geospatial module](#) of the Dutch API Design Rules, although it is not yet official, because it is still in a consultation phase. So it is out of scope in this tender. Also the other modules are out of scope. Only the core is relevant to this tender.

This document

After this introduction, chapter 2 explains the tender procedure. Chapter 3 provides a detailed description of the assignment. Chapter 4 explains the organization of the testbed in more detail. Appendix A gives the metrics by which proposals will be judged.

This document is a draft. Based on questions and comments during and after the tender period, we will update this document to clarify questions and remove errors. A final version will be made available within one week of the question period ending.



Chapter 2 - How to tender

This chapter gives the information about the procedure of tender response.

Rules and procedure

The submission period for the tender starts on October the 18th, 2022 with the publication of the Invitation to Tender on Geonovum's website, <https://www.geonovum.nl/themas/aanbesteding-toolaanpassingen-ogc-api-features>.

The tender is open to private and public parties, and to combinations of parties (consortia). In the case of a consortium, there is one party who acts as the contact point and contractor on behalf of the consortium for the tender with Geonovum.

Questions about the tender can only be asked by sending an e-mail to info@geonovum.nl, addressed to Pieter Bresters, coordinator of this open invitation to tender. Questions should be submitted by Friday the 11th of November. These questions and our answers are collected in an Information Note. We will organize an informational meeting on Monday, November the 7th at 10:00h. If you are interested in joining this session, please register via an E-mail to info@geonovum.nl, addressed to Pieter Bresters. The minutes of this meeting will be part of the information note. At the latest, this note is published on the website of Geonovum on Thursday, November the 17th.

Your tender must be submitted by sending an e-mail to info@geonovum.nl, addressed to Rob van de Velde, director of Geonovum.

The tender is preferably written in English¹ and must at least contain:

- Motivation for the tool you are applying for to adjust;
- The adjustments you are intending to make with a reference to the requirements;
- Plan of approach;
- Time plan;
- References (including e.g. publications, projects, blogs, code on GitHub) and curriculum vitae for performers of the adjustments, showing enough relevant knowledge, experience and connection with the open source community of the tool to be adjusted, The OGC standards, the Dutch API Design Rules and the INSPIRE community;
- Statement of agreement with the publication of the adjusted code and deliverables under a CC/by license.
- Description of how the contractor is going to convince Geonovum that the community has adopted the adjustments into their base code in a way that it will be taken into maintenance by the community.

All outcome, not being source code, will be available under <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

All source code is preferably available under a "popular and widely used or with strong communities" open source license [as identified by the open source initiative](#).

The deadline for submitting a tender is Friday, December 9th, 2022.

Geonovum will judge the received tenders in the second week of December, according to the criteria stated in appendix A.

Parties are allowed to tender for more than one tool. However, Geonovum has the freedom to only award one tool.

Geonovum will announce which party is selected for which research topic on Thursday, December the 15th at the latest. All parties who have submitted a tender will be informed about the result via e-mail.

Note that reviewers of this document and Geonovum staff² are exempt from bidding.

¹ The alternative is Dutch

² Employees and Secondments



Chapter 3 - Deliverables

This chapter describes the deliverables and the requirement.

Deliverables

The deliverables are:

- 1) Adjustments to the base code supported by the tool community
- 2) Adjustments to the technical documentation supported by the tool community
- 3) Adjustments to the user guide supported by the tool community
- 4) Proof that the adjustments are accepted by the open source community of the tool and that it has become part of the base code and will be maintained in the future updates by this community as explained by the contractor in the offer.
- 5) Test results that prove the conformance of the tool after the adjustments. This can be substantiated by the [OGC validator](#) (validates against Part 1 and 2 of the OGC standard for OGC-API-Features), the [Dutch ADR validator](#) and the [EU validator](#) for INSPIRE. Validators can be wrong too, so if a requirement fails to be validated because of an error in the validator, the contractor should substantiate this.
- 6) A running service based on a test dataset equal to one of the datasets used in <https://geonovum.github.io/OAPIF-PDOK-INSPIRE/> so we can compare and see the differences made by the adjustments. This service should stay online for at least 2 years.
- 7) A presentation and demo at a final public event showing the adjustments made.
- 8) A report explaining the adjustments made and the lessons learned (max. 2 A4 pages)

Requirements for code adjustments

Adjustments to the code should result in the possibility for users to publish OGC-API-Feature services that comply with all the requirements as stated in the following documents:

1. OGC-API-Features Part 1:Core. OGC. V1.0. URL: <https://docs.opengeospatial.org/is/17-069r3/17-069r3.html>
2. OGC-API-Features Part 2: Coordinate Reference Systems by Reference. OGC. V1.0. URL: <http://docs.opengeospatial.org/is/18-058/18-058.html>
3. Dutch API design rules 9 JULI 2020. URL: <https://publicatie.centrumvoorstandaarden.nl/api/adr/>
The API strategy consists of a core — a generic set of rules for all government APIs — and various modules that only pertain to a specific application. Only the core is relevant to this tender and the modules are out of scope.
4. Setting up an INSPIRE Download service based on the OGC-API-Features standard. INSPIRE-MIF. V1.0. URL: <https://github.com/INSPIRE-MIF/gp-ogc-api-features/blob/master/spec/oapif-inspire-download.md>.

Ad 4:

The [describing of encoding requirement](#) means for the tooling, that it should be able to set the link to this description of the encoding once another encoding is used for output than [GML](#). The description of the encoding itself, is of course the responsibility of the data provider.

Also the requirements for [Predefined download](#), [Bulk download](#) and [Metadata links](#) mean that the tooling should enable the user to add the relevant links for their OGC-API-Feature services.

The [filtering](#) and the [multilinguality](#) are also mentioned in this document, but they are kept out of scope in this tender. This is because the filtering standard is not yet officially approved and the multilinguality requirement is not very relevant in the Netherlands.

Tool requirement

To find out which tooling needs which adjustment one can use the examples as shown in [chapter 3](#) of the draft guideline. The tool from GISspecialisten.nl can be left out of scope, because it was never intended as a full compliant operational tool, but just to show how to comply with the requirement for more than one



CRS. The other examples concern GOAF, Pygeoapi and Geoserver. If the applicant wants to tender for another open source tool than these 3 tools, it should proof how this tool complies with all the requirements, like it has been done with the examples in the draft guideline.

The tool for which the adjustments are proposed should comply with the following tool requirements:

- 1) It must be existing software
- 2) It must be open source
- 3) It must be well maintained
- 4) It must have a mature and solid community
- 5) The software should have many (expected) users in the Netherlands and/or Europe

The software developers must preferably be familiar with OGC API's, the Dutch API Design Rules and with INSPIRE.



Chapter 4 - Organization

This chapter describes the coordination, publication, planning, finance and acceptance.

Coordination

The coordinator on Geonovum side is Pieter Bresters.

There will be a bi-weekly meeting between Geonovum and the chosen contractor(s), either at the Geonovum office in Amersfoort or online. The agenda items of these meetings are the progress and any issues or technical questions concerning the details of the assignment.

Publication

The results will be communicated with the community of the chosen tool by the contractor.

Geonovum will add the result of the adjusted tool to the [guideline](#).

Geonovum will also communicate the results within the INSPIRE community.

After completing the assignment(s), there will be a final online session in which the contractor(s) can present their adjustments.

Planning

Geonovum will announce which contractor(s) are selected in the second week of December 2022 at the latest (see chapter 2). The contractors start after a kick-off meeting with Geonovum at a mutual agreed moment. After this, the bi-weekly meeting between Geonovum and the contractor (s) will start.

The deadline for the first delivery of the assignment is Friday, March the 17th, 2023. Five weeks later, a presentation will be held by the contractors during the final online session. Meanwhile, the contractors can change their deliveries on the basis of the reaction from Geonovum.

Finance

The fixed budget is € 20.000 excluding 21% VAT per tool. When enough qualifying offers are received, Geonovum has the intention to reward at least 2 offers that must concern different open source tools. Geonovum has the right to reward less when the received offers don't fulfil the minimum requirements.

The contractor should clearly specify which adjustments are made to the tooling within this budget, including all specified deliverables.

Acceptance

The adjustments to the tooling will be accepted by Geonovum, based on the test result that proof the conformance of the tool after the adjustments.

Proof of acceptance by the community will be as suggested by the contractor in the offer.

The other deliverables will be accepted by Geonovum based on the digital versions of the mentioned documents where the contractor has clearly marked the differences with previous versions of the technical and user guidelines.



Appendix A: Metrics

All proposals will be scored according to the following metrics:

	Weight
Overall proposal	30%
Portfolio, References and CV	20%
Quality of open source community behind the tool and trust in adoption by the community	20%
Expected impact of adjusted tool	
Expected use in NL	15%
Expected use in EU	15%