



# ACTIVE PCP

## Pre-Commercial Procurement of Innovative Personal Protective Equipment for First Responders

### Report on the result of the open market consultation (including Annexes)

June 2026



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## Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the Open Market Consultation (OMC) carried out within the framework of the ACTIVE PCP project (Pre-Commercial Procurement of Innovative Personal Protective Equipment for First Responders). The OMC aimed to validate the preliminary state-of-the-art (SOTA) analysis, test the feasibility and attractiveness of the envisaged Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP), and collect structured feedback from technology providers and other stakeholders on the ACTIVE PCP challenge, procedure, and preliminary requirements.

The OMC combined three main strands of activity: (i) a series of multilingual online webinars organised between 27 and 30 April 2026 with an additional one taking place on 21 May 2026, (ii) a hybrid OMC event held in Brussels in 07 May 2026, and (iii) a written Request For Information (RFI) questionnaire disseminated via the EU Survey platform. Across these activities, we welcomed the registration and participation of stakeholders, representing 15 countries and a diverse mix of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), large private entities, universities, and research organisations.

The webinars provided an excellent opportunity to present the ACTIVE PCP project, its vision and main innovation areas, the different scenarios/use cases developed during the preparatory phase, the key threats that it aims to address, and the high-level functional and non-functional requirements, while also enabling real-time interaction through Q&A and live polls. The international event in Brussels complemented this with a full-day programme combining plenary presentations, an interactive session, and structured matchmaking. Participants were also introduced to the project's rationale, PCP phases, and budget; received a detailed presentation of the results of the SOTA analysis and the OMC objectives; and took part in an interactive discussion on requirements and technical approaches, followed in the afternoon by supplier pitches on company capabilities and a dedicated matchmaking session between technology providers and public buyers.

The RFI questionnaire was drafted to invite technology providers, end-users, and other relevant stakeholders to respond and provide input on various aspects of the ACTIVE PCP project. More specifically, it was designed to gather structured input on the maturity of technologies, potential solution approaches, foreseen Intellectual Property Right (IPR) strategies, operational needs, and market capabilities. A total of 13 responses were received, reflecting the highly specialised and niche nature of the project and its targeted stakeholder group. Despite broad dissemination efforts and given the technical scope and specific market segment addressed, the level of participation is considered proportionate to the expected pool of relevant respondents.

Overall, the OMC validated the assumption that there is sufficient market interest and technical capacity to develop innovative solutions addressing the ACTIVE PCP challenge, while also confirming the necessity of a PCP approach due to the existing technological gaps. The feedback received from the market has been taken into account in refining and solidifying the technical requirements, procurement strategy, and evaluation approach.

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Table 1: Abbreviations and acronyms

<b>CBRN</b>	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear
<b>EAFIG</b>	European Assistance For Innovation Procurement
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAQ</b>	Frequently Asked Questions
<b>GA</b>	Grant Agreement
<b>GDPR</b>	General Data Protection Regulation
<b>HAZMAT</b>	Hazardous Materials
<b>IPR</b>	Intellectual Property Right
<b>MS</b>	Member State
<b>OMC</b>	Open Market Consultation
<b>PB</b>	Public Buyer
<b>PBG</b>	Public Buyers Group
<b>PCP</b>	Pre-Commercial Procurement
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>PPI</b>	Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions
<b>Q&amp;A</b>	Questions and Answers
<b>RFI</b>	Request For Information
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<b>SOTA</b>	State-of-the-art
<b>TED</b>	Tenders Electronic Daily
<b>TFEU</b>	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
<b>WP</b>	Work Package

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 ACTIVE PCP Project Overview

The ACTIVE PCP project is a Horizon Europe-funded initiative that aims to address critical gaps in personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders operating in increasingly complex and multi-hazard environments. Police forces, firefighters, and emergency medical services are required to respond to a wide range of scenarios, including CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) incidents, hazardous materials (HAZMAT) exposure, natural disasters, and terrorist threats. However, existing PPE solutions, largely designed for single-risk situations, fail to provide the necessary levels of protection, adaptability, comfort, and operational functionality required in such dynamic contexts.

ACTIVE PCP responds to these shortcomings by leveraging a Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) approach to stimulate research and development of innovative PPE systems tailored to real operational needs. The project aims to foster the development of advanced, integrated solutions that enhance responder safety, mobility, and situational awareness, including through the incorporation of smart technologies such as physiological monitoring, geolocation, and environmental sensing. At the same time, it seeks to address systemic challenges such as supply chain vulnerabilities, sustainability, and the lack of interoperability across Member States (MS).

Through this innovation-driven procurement process, ACTIVE PCP aims to set new benchmarks for PPE performance, usability, and cross-border compatibility. Ultimately, the project contributes to strengthening the resilience and effectiveness of emergency response systems across Europe, ensuring that first responders are better equipped to protect people, assets, and the environment in high-risk and rapidly evolving situations, while fostering greater cross-border coordination and innovation capacity within the European security and emergency response ecosystem.

## 1.2 OMC Report: purpose, scope and context

This report serves as the official report of the OMC conducted as part of the ACTIVE PCP preparatory phase. Its primary purpose is to document and present the results of the OMC process, consolidating the outcomes of all consultation activities carried out between February 2026 and May 2026.

The scope of this report encompasses the complete documentation and analysis of all OMC activities including: the RFI questionnaire; the national OMC Webinars, the international hybrid event and company pitching sessions; the questions and answers (Q&A) document with the questions from the market operators and the appropriate responses from the Consortium; and the dissemination strategy and activities carried out throughout the consultation period. The report also synthesises the key findings, market suggestions and conclusions emerging from the consultation process.

The feedback from the market summarised in this report provides relevant information for the future refinement of the procurement specifications, and the design of the evaluation criteria, intellectual property arrangements, and procurement strategy, in compliance with European Union (EU) procurement principles as required by the applicable legal framework.

This report is produced within the framework of the ACTIVE PCP initiative (Grant Agreement - GA 101226110) and is intended to directly inform the preparation of the tender documentation for the three-phase PCP process (Solution Design, Prototyping, and Original development and testing).

## 2 Open Market Consultation design and implementation

### 2.1 OMC objectives and methodology

An OMC is an open dialogue between the procurer(s) and the market, in which the procurers ask for the view of the market to identify the ability thereof to meet the needs of the procurer(s). Additionally, it supports strategic alignment between public sector demand and innovation supply and ensures that any future procurement is informed, realistic, and inclusive.

The ACTIVE PCP Consortium designed the OMC to fulfil three main objectives:

- Validate the preliminary market and SOTA analysis carried out under earlier tasks of WP2, including key technology trends and maturity levels relevant to the ACTIVE PCP challenge.
- Inform and engage a broad community of potential suppliers, integrators and research organisations about the planned PCP, its scope, timetable and high-level requirements.
- Collect structured feedback on the feasibility of the proposed challenge, requirements and procurement approach, and identify potential risks, barriers and opportunities from a market perspective.

To achieve these objectives, the Consortium combined qualitative and quantitative methods: online webinars in different EU languages; a hybrid international event in Brussels; and an RFI questionnaire administered through the EU Survey platform. The webinars and Brussels event allowed for interactive presentations, live polling and open Q&A session, while the RFI captured more detailed and comparable information across respondents.

All activities were conducted on a voluntary, non-binding basis, in line with Horizon Europe PCP rules and in accordance with the fundamental principles of EU public procurement law as derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU): equal treatment, non-discrimination, transparency, and proportionality. These principles safeguard the integrity of the consultation process and ensure a fair and competitive basis for any subsequent procurement. Participation in the OMC did not create any advantage or disadvantage in the future tender, and all contributions were anonymised in this report to protect legitimate business interests and ensure fair competition.

### 2.2 OMC timetable and participation

The OMC document informed interested parties that the ACTIVE PCP Consortium reserved the right to adjust the planned activities and timetable. Nonetheless, the OMC implementation followed the timetable announced in the OMC document, with minor adjustments.

The OMC started on the date of its publication in Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) and ends on the date set in the timetable, unless terminated earlier. Interested parties were requested to register in order to participate in the events and receive additional information about the project.

The consortium implemented a comprehensive and coordinated dissemination strategy to ensure broad market engagement and maximise participation across all OMC activities. All partners actively contributed by screening relevant supplier landscapes at national level and conducting targeted outreach to a wide range of economic operators for each national OMC webinar, as well as for the international hybrid OMC Event. This proactive and decentralised approach allowed for tailored engagement within each partner’s ecosystem, ensuring that both established suppliers and emerging innovators were effectively reached. In parallel, outreach efforts extended beyond direct supplier engagement to include multipliers and key stakeholder networks, thereby amplifying visibility and strengthening the overall impact of the consultation process. Across the whole consortium more than 500 technology providers have been approached, not taking into account the social media visibility we acquired through the communication activities of WP6. In particular, the consortium leveraged established European and international networks and communities, including the DIREKTION Network, the PPE working community under DG GROW, the International Responders Forum (IRF), IAM-I, and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI), among others. These channels significantly broadened the geographical and sectoral reach of dissemination activities. Furthermore, strategic partnerships were established with related EU-funded initiatives, notably the SHIELD PCP project, enabling cross-project promotion and knowledge-sharing synergies. This collaborative approach enhanced the visibility of the OMC activities, strengthened stakeholder engagement, and contributed to achieving a higher level of participation, thereby reinforcing the robustness and representativeness of market feedback collected.

Overall, the ACTIVE PCP Consortium supported interested parties throughout the whole OMC during the events and by answering questions through a Q&A document, which were published on the project's website before the closure of the OMC.

Additional written contribution in the form of an RFI questionnaire, aiming to collect market information on innovative and commercial solutions, was requested. The responses to the questionnaire didn’t contain any confidential information. As the questionnaire intended to explore the market "as is", there were no right or wrong answers. The answers provided will be used as input for the procurement strategy and contract conditions.

After processing and analysing the answers, the ACTIVE PCP Consortium disseminates the results to the widest possible audience through the OMC Report. Nevertheless, all answers provided by market parties are anonymised and treated as confidential. The results of this OMC were published on the project’s website before the closure of the OMC.



**Figure 1: Indicative slide from the OMC Presentation**  
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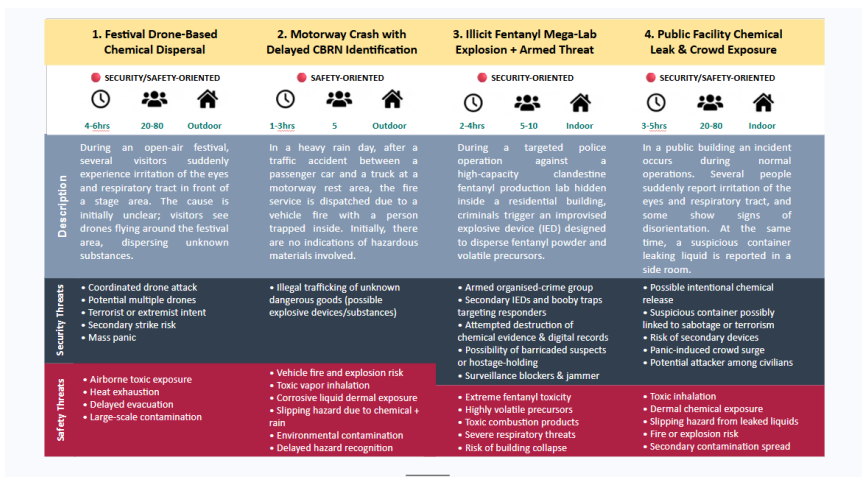


Figure 2: Indicative slide from the OMC Presentation

In practice, the OMC was implemented substantially as planned; the main adjustments concerned the extension of the period for the submission of responses to the RFI questionnaire, shifting the deadline from 20 May to 24, as well as the addition of an extra National OMC Webinar in French, organised on 21 May 2026, as reflected in Table 2 below. The additional OMC Webinar aimed to increase the overall outreach of the project, specifically towards French-speaking suppliers from France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Luxembourg, which, based on our prior screening activities, constitutes a large market in the field.

Table 2 below summarises the overall OMC timetable from the announcement of the consultation through the publication of a Prior Information Notice (PIN) to the formal closure of the consultation.

Table 2: OMC timetable of activities and required actions

Date	Event Description
18 February 2026	Publication of the PIN on <a href="#">TED-eNotices2</a> .
17 March 2026	Publication of the OMC document and the online survey (RFI) questionnaire on the <a href="#">ACTIVE PCP project website</a> and associated channels.
27 April 2026 10:00 - 12:00 Local Time	OMC Webinar in Greek (online).
28 April 2026 10:00 - 12:00 Local Time	OMC Webinar in German (online).
29 April 2026 10:00 - 12:00 Local Time	OMC Webinar in Lithuanian (hybrid).
30 April 2026 10:00 - 12:00 Local Time	OMC Webinar in Spanish (online).
7 May 2026	Hybrid International OMC event in English (Brussels).
21 May 2026 10:00 - 12:00 Local Time	OMC Webinar in French (online).

<b>24 May 2026</b> 23:59 CEST	Deadline for the submission of answers to the questionnaire in the EU Survey.
<b>29 May 2026</b>	Publication of the OMC report on <a href="#">Open Market Consultations - ACTIVE PCP</a>
<b>29 May 2026</b>	Formal closure of the OMC.

The events and webinars organised within the framework of the OMC were recorded and the recordings were uploaded to the project's website.

## Open Market Consultations

**Greece & Cyprus**  
27th of April 2026

Language: Greek  
Location: Online  
Time: 10:00 – 12:00 EEST

Event Agenda ▼

Download Presentation

**Austria & Germany**  
28th of April 2026

Language: German  
Location: Online  
Time: 10:00 – 12:00 CEST

Event Agenda ▼

Download Presentation

**Lithuania**  
29th of April 2026

Language: Lithuanian  
Location: Online  
Time: 10:00 – 12:00 EEST

Event Agenda ▼

Download Presentation

**Spain**  
30th of April 2026

Language: Spanish  
Location: Online  
Time: 10:00 – 12:00 CEST

Event Agenda ▼

Download Presentation

**INTERNATIONAL**  
07.05.2026 | Belgium

Language: English  
Location: Brussels. Permanent  
Representation of Greece in EU  
Time: 12:00 – 17:30 CEST

Event Agenda ▼

Download Presentation

Download Presentation Template

**France, Belgium, Luxembourg & Switzerland**  
21st of May 2026

Language: French  
Location: Online  
Time: 10:00 – 12:00 CEST

Event Agenda ▼

OMC recording in French coming soon!

**Figure 3: Screenshot from the project's OMC webpage**

Registration was required to participate in the national OMC webinars and the international hybrid OMC event in English. Interested participants were asked to register via an online form ([EU Survey](#)) available on the ACTIVE PCP website.

Registration was free of charge. In the registration form, interested parties were asked to provide basic information (name, organisation, contact details, etc.) and indicate which session(s) they planned to attend (national OMC webinars and/or the international hybrid OMC event). Early registration was encouraged, to help the Consortium in planning the sessions and logistics.

By registering, participants agreed to the project's [privacy policy](#) regarding the handling of personal data. Personal data were used solely for the purposes of organising the OMC and were treated as confidential in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - EU Regulation 2016/679 and any other applicable EU legislation.

Table 3 below summarises the actual participants for each OMC activity, including the national OMC webinars, the international hybrid OMC event in Brussels and the responses received to the RFI questionnaire via EU Survey.

**Table 3: OMC participation per activity**

Activity	Date	Participants
OMC Webinar in Greek	27 April 2026	40
OMC Webinar in German	28 April 2026	22
OMC Webinar in Lithuanian	29 April 2026	21
OMC Webinar in Spanish	30 April 2026	15
International Hybrid OMC Event in English - Brussels	07 May 2026	52
OMC Webinar in French (additional activity)	21 May 2026	9
RFI questionnaire (EU Survey)	Deadline: 24 May 2026	13

## 2.3 National OMC Webinars

Between 27 and 30 April 2026 and on 21 May 2026, the Consortium organised five OMC webinars in different EU languages to reach a wide audience and facilitate participation from various countries mainly corresponding to the countries of origin of the public buyers (PBs) constituting the Public Buyers Group (PBG) of the project. The webinars covered the same core content but were delivered in Greek, German, Spanish, Lithuanian and French, with slides and explanatory materials adapted as needed to the language and audience.

The webinars had an average duration of 1 hour and 40 minutes and followed the same structure. Each webinar consisted of four main parts: (i) introduction to ACTIVE PCP (justification, scenarios/use cases, key threats, innovation areas) and the PCP concept and phases; (ii) presentation of the SOTA findings and the main functional and non-functional requirements; (iii) explanation of the OMC process, the RFI questionnaire and the next steps; and (iv) interactive sessions, including live polls and Q&A. The webinars were recorded, in line with the privacy information included in the OMC document, and the recordings were used solely for internal analysis and quality assurance. The webinar recordings and presentation slides are made publicly available on the ACTIVE PCP website: [Open Market Consultations - ACTIVE PCP](#)

### National OMC Webinar in Greek (27 April 2026)

The Greek Webinar targeted technology providers, integrators and research organisations active in Greece and Cyprus. It lasted approximately 1 hour and 18 minutes and was attended by 40 participants.

### National OMC Webinar in German (28 April 2026)

The German Webinar targeted technology providers, integrators and research organisations active in Germany and Austria. It lasted approximately 1 hour and 52 minutes and was attended by 22 participants.

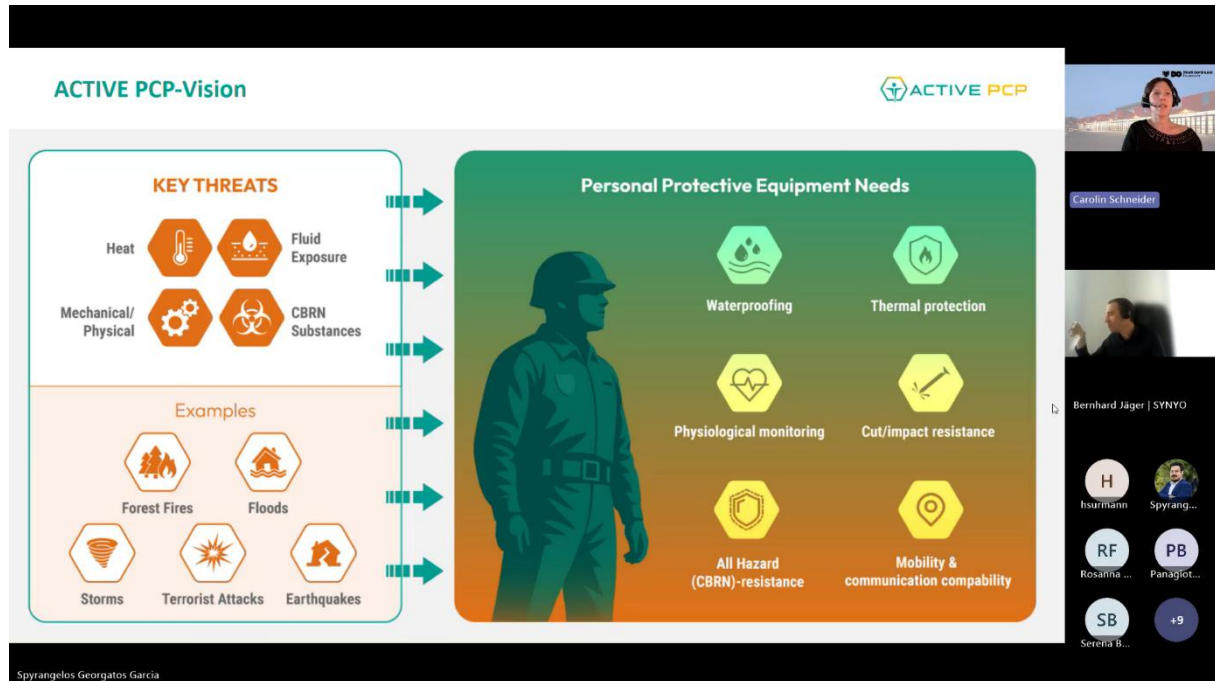


Figure 4: Photo from the National OMC Webinar in German (28 April 2026)

### National OMC Webinar in Lithuanian (29 April 2026)

The Lithuanian Webinar targeted technology providers, integrators and research organisations active in Lithuania. After PAGD's initiative the event was organised in a hybrid format, welcoming some of the suppliers in its premises. It lasted approximately 2 hours and 19 minutes and was attended by 21 participants. An interesting discussion took place during this national OMC webinar where some market participants raised several observations regarding the feasibility and framing of the current requirements.

In terms of technical requirements, suppliers emphasised that the expectations may be overly ambitious when considered collectively (in terms of functionality, timeline, and cost). It was pointed out that highly specialised equipment is typically designed for narrowly defined use cases, and that combining multiple advanced features into a single universal solution may not be realistic.

Specific technical aspects were also flagged for clarification. For instance, certain functional requirements (such as material breathability) may conflict with operational needs in high-risk environments, where fully sealed protection would be necessary. Similarly, the requirement for radiation protection was considered insufficiently specified, and it was suggested that the intended level and type of protection should be more clearly defined, as this has a significant impact on feasible solution design.

### National OMC Webinar in Spanish (30 April 2026)

The Spanish Webinar targeted technology providers, integrators and research organisations active in Spain. It lasted approximately 1 hour and 12 minutes and was attended by 15 participants.

**LA VISIÓN**

**Revolucionando la seguridad del personal de primeros auxilios**

El proyecto ACTIVE PCP aborda las deficiencias críticas de los **equipos de protección individual (EPI)** para el personal de primeros auxilios, con el objetivo de mejorar su seguridad, eficiencia operativa y adaptabilidad frente a diferentes amenazas, incluidos los incidentes **químicos, biológicos, radiológicos y nucleares (QBRN)**.

Estas amenazas pueden derivarse de situaciones como **ataques terroristas o accidentes en los que intervengan mercancías peligrosas**.

**El equipo de protección individual (EPI) para aquellos que llegan primero a la escena es clave para gestionar con éxito tales incidentes.**

El proyecto aprovecha el enfoque de **Compra Pública Precomercial (CPP)** para impulsar la innovación de los EPI, centrándose en escenarios con riesgos múltiples.

ACTIVE PCP

Dr. Ana Isabel Peiró Baquedano

Participants: Ana Luci..., Serenía B..., Lucrezia..., Valeriya..., Spyrang..., Panajiot..., Pol Vallid..., Pastó F..., Bernhar..., Bernar...

**Figure 5: Photo from the National OMC Webinar in Spanish (30 April 2026)**

#### **National OMC Webinar in French (21 May 2026)**

The French Webinar targeted technology providers, integrators and research organisations active in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxemburg. It constitutes an additional effort in the context of OMC activities to reach out to an additional large European market. The webinar lasted approximately 1 hour and 19 minutes and was attended by 9 participants.

#### **2.4 International OMC Hybrid Event**

The hybrid OMC event took place in Brussels on 07 May 2026, bringing together representatives from the PBG, potential suppliers, research organisations and other stakeholders. The event combined plenary presentations, thematic sessions, and matchmaking opportunities, and was accessible both on site and online via streaming and interactive tools.



**Figure 6: Photo from the International Hybrid OMC Event - Brussels (07 May 2026)**

The session commenced with formal opening remarks, establishing the framework and objectives of the event. This was followed by a comprehensive presentation of the ACTIVE PCP project, detailing its strategic rationale, defined use-case/scenarios, and a series of indicative requirements.

An overview of the PCP process was subsequently delivered, including reference to the Innovation Procurement Platform which is going to be used in the context of the project. The programme then proceeded with a presentation outlining the objectives and planned activities of the OMC, complemented by a summary of the key findings of the SOTA analysis.



### Figure 7: Photo from the pitching sessions of International Hybrid OMC Event - Brussels (07 May 2026)

Following a scheduled networking break, the agenda resumed with an interactive session designed to facilitate stakeholder engagement and exchange. The discussions were subsequently consolidated through a synthesis of key conclusions and an outline of the envisaged next steps.

The latter part of the session focused on supplier engagement, with participating organisations presenting their respective profiles and capabilities. This was followed by a dedicated matchmaking session, enabling targeted bilateral exchanges among participants. The event concluded with formal closing remarks.

The detailed agenda is provided as Annex 1.

Participation in the international OMC event was open to all interested parties. The event attracted a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including providers of sensor systems, smart textile, PPE manufacturing, and integration services. Actual participation comprised 52 participants with a strong presence of SMEs alongside some larger industry players and research organisations, as well as a number of new entrants to the ACTIVE PCP topic.

Discussions in Brussels focused on several key themes:

- Technical feasibility of the ACTIVE PCP requirements.
- Challenges related to deploying solutions in real operational environments.
- Legal and ethical aspects.

Participants generally welcomed the PCP approach and the cross-border nature of the PBG, which they viewed as an opportunity to scale innovative solutions beyond national markets. At the same time, suppliers highlighted the importance of clear and realistic requirements, phased testing and adequate support for interoperability and integration.

## 2.5 Interactive session: Main findings from the poll questions

During the webinars and the international hybrid OMC event, the Consortium used the Mentimeter tool to host an interactive session, aiming to collect instant feedback from participants on seven questions aligned with the RFI structure, while avoiding duplications. For each question, participants selected predefined answer options, enabling a consolidated quantitative view across all language sessions (Greek, German, Lithuanian, Spanish, English and French). The detailed per-language results and the original Mentimeter screenshots are provided in Annex 3.

**Question 1: In which of the following innovation areas could your organisation make a contribution? Select all options that apply in your case.**

Across all OMC events, the results of the first poll question revealed a clear market signal. A substantial majority of responses (30) indicated a strong level of confidence among participants in contributing to the field of protection against CBRN substances. This suggests that suppliers perceive themselves as technically capable and well-positioned to address challenges in this innovation area. In parallel, a similarly significant number of responses (25) highlighted protection from heat and thermal threats as a key area of relevance, pointing to a strong and overlapping market interest.

1. Σε ποιον από τους παρακάτω τομείς καινοτομίας θα μπορούσε να συνεισφέρει ο οργανισμός σας; (επιλέξτε όλα όσα ισχύουν.)



Figure 8: Indicative Screenshot from Q1 of the Greek OMC Webinar (27 April 2026)

### Question 2: How would you position your contribution to the project?

The responses indicated that a considerable share of participants is still in the process of assessing their potential contribution to the project. This trend reflects both the inherent complexity of the challenge and its highly specialised nature, which may require additional internal alignment within organisations.

In parallel, an equally significant proportion of respondents expressed a clear readiness to engage actively in the project. These participants identified concrete avenues for contribution, either through the provision of specific components or the development of targeted technologies aligned with the envisaged solution under the ACTIVE PCP framework.

### Question 3: Do you have or know of solutions that provide real-time situational awareness to responders during operations and can be integrated into PPE?

The responses revealed that a substantial majority of participants are aware of, or already possess, solutions capable of delivering real-time situational awareness to responders during operations. However, these solutions are not yet fully aligned with the needs outlined in the OMC, as they would require further adaptation or integration to effectively meet the envisaged requirements.

At the same time, a smaller segment of respondents presented a more nuanced perspective. Some indicated that they are not aware of existing solutions fulfilling this function, while others suggested that commercially available solutions already exist that could meet the scope described in the question.

Overall, this distribution reveals a relatively mature but still fragmented market landscape, where capabilities are present but may require refinement, alignment, or validation to fully address the project's objectives.

### Question 4: Based on your experience, which user needs should be the highest priority for ACTIVE PCP? Select up to two options.

The responses indicated a clear prioritisation of key user needs within the scope of the project. Foremost among these is the need for real-time monitoring of responders' condition, particularly in relation to heat stress and vital signs, which is strongly supported by the majority of technology

providers. This highlights a shared recognition of the critical importance of safeguarding responder health and operational effectiveness in demanding environments.

In addition, a significant proportion of respondents emphasised the importance of enhanced usability and comfort features, underscoring the need for solutions that are not only technically advanced but also practical and user-friendly in real-world conditions. Closely related to this, the development of an “all-hazard” fabric solution was also identified as a key priority, reflecting the demand for versatile and adaptable protective materials capable of addressing multiple types of threats.

Overall, these findings point to a convergence between technological innovation and user-centric design as central pillars for future development in the context of the ACTIVE PCP project.

Mentimeter

4. Με βάση την εμπειρία σας, ποιες ανάγκες των χρηστών θα πρέπει να έχουν την υψηλότερη προτεραιότητα για το ACTIVE PCP; (Επιλέξτε έως δύο.)



Figure 9: Indicative Screenshot from Q4 of the Greek OMC Webinar (27 April 2026)

#### Question 5: In which type of scenario do you see the greatest unmet operational need for innovation?

The responses indicated that the most pressing unmet operational need for innovation is primarily associated with the “public building chemical leak and crowd exposure” scenario. This scenario emerged as the most relevant among the ones presented, reflecting a strong perception among respondents of its urgency and complexity in real-world operational contexts. It is closely followed by the “drone-based chemical attack at public events” scenario, which was also recognised as a significant area requiring further innovation.

At the same time, the majority of respondents acknowledged that addressing these challenges through a cross-scenario approach is likely to be more realistic and effective. Rather than focusing on isolated use cases, this perspective highlights the need for adaptable and flexible solutions capable of responding to a range of incident scenarios.

Overall, these findings suggest a shift towards more integrated and versatile innovation strategies, where solutions are designed to perform across multiple operational contexts rather than being confined to a single, scenario-specific application.

## 5. Kurio tipo scenarijuje, Jūsų vertinimu, inovacijų poreikis yra didžiausias?

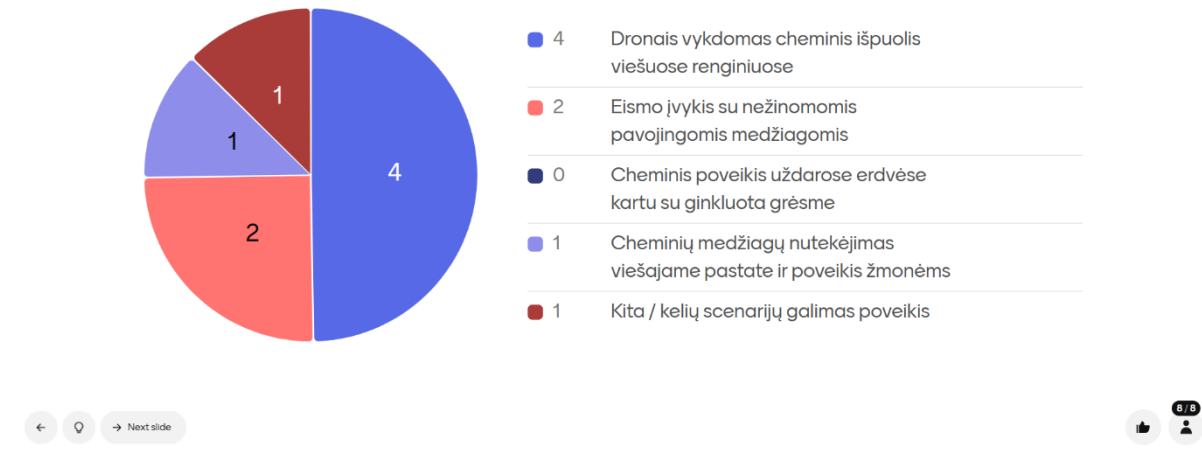


Figure 10: Indicative Screenshot from Q5 of the Lithuanian OMC Webinar (29 April 2026)

### Question 6: From your experience, which of the following operational capabilities is currently the least addressed or more challenging to support?

The responses suggested that certain operational capabilities remain more challenging to address within the current market landscape. In particular, the real-time monitoring of responders' vital signs, as well as protection against multi-hazard exposure, were consistently identified as the least supported and most complex areas for innovation. This indicates that, despite their critical importance, these capabilities still require significant technological advancement and integration efforts.

Conversely, other functionalities appear to be comparatively more mature. Respondents indicated that real-time geolocation of responders and interoperability-related aspects are relatively easier to address, reflecting a higher level of readiness and availability of existing solutions in these areas.

Overall, these findings highlight an uneven distribution of technological maturity, where core safety-related capabilities remain challenging, while enabling functionalities such as positioning and system integration are more readily achievable within the current state of the market.

### Question 7: Do you identify any obstacles that may refrain you from participating in the upcoming PCP? Select all options that apply in your case.

The responses indicated that the most significant obstacles to participation in the forthcoming PCP are primarily linked to the technical challenges associated with meeting the project's requirements. In addition, a notable proportion of respondents highlighted their limited experience with PCP procedures as a barrier, suggesting a need for further clarification, guidance, or support in navigating the process.

At the same time, a small minority of participants reported that they do not anticipate any major hindrances and express a clear interest in engaging in the upcoming PCP.

Overall, these findings point to a dual challenge: addressing technical complexities while also strengthening market familiarity with PCP mechanisms, in order to facilitate broader and more confident participation.

7. Do you identify any obstacles that may refrain you from participating in the upcoming PCP? (Select all that apply.)

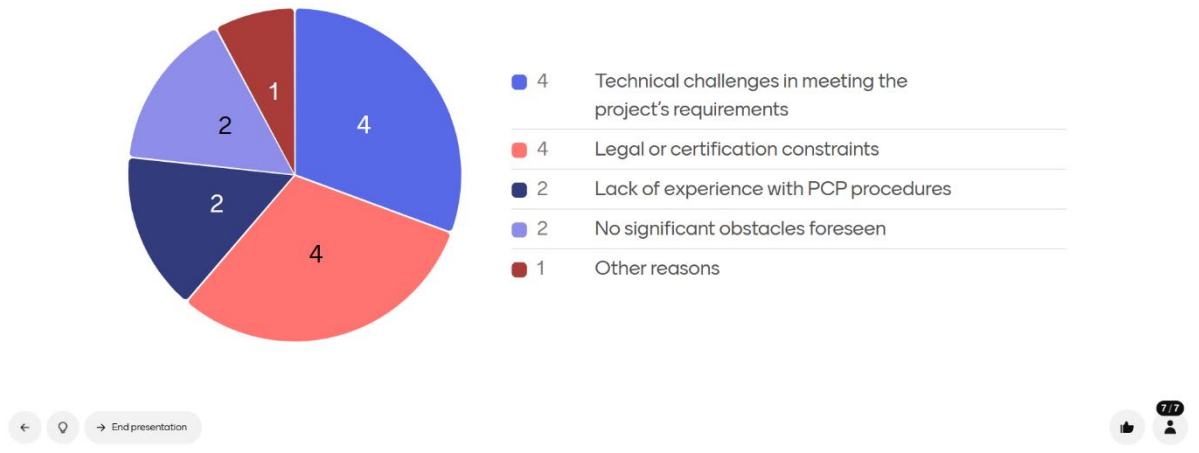


Figure 11: Indicative Screenshot from Q7 of the International Hybrid OMC Event - Brussels (07 May 2026)

## 3 Request For Information (RFI) questionnaire

### 3.1 Structure and content of the RFI questionnaire

The RFI questionnaire, made available via the EU Survey platform and annexed to the OMC document, invited technology providers and other stakeholders to provide written input on their solutions, capabilities and views in relation to the ACTIVE PCP challenge. The questionnaire consisted of 33 questions (Q1-Q33), covering organisational information, hazard coverage, solution concepts, operational performance, state of the art, innovation potential, market aspects and interest in participating in the future PCP.

Sections of the ACTIVE PCP RFI questionnaire:

- General Information.
- ACTIVE PCP challenge, needs and key innovation areas.
- Target Stakeholders.
- Challenges.
- Assessment of existing technologies.
- Miscellaneous.

The detailed RFI questionnaire structure and content can be found in Annex 2.

Participation in the RFI was voluntary and non-binding, and respondents were advised not to include confidential or proprietary information. All responses have been anonymised for the purposes of this report.

### 3.2 Response rate and respondent profile

By the RFI deadline of 26 March 2026, 13 valid responses to the RFI questionnaire had been received. Respondents represented 9 countries, with the largest shares coming from the Netherlands (2 responses), Austria (2 responses) and Germany (2 responses), followed by Ireland (1 response), Italy (1), Sweden (1), Slovenia (1), Spain (1), Bulgaria (1) and Cyprus (1).

In terms of organisation type, the responses show a strong predominance of market actors from the SME and start-up ecosystem, alongside a smaller number of larger companies and a research organisation. Based on the EU Survey statistics, respondents selected the following organisation categories: SME (9 selections), start-up (2), university/R&D institute (1) and large company (1), while no respondent selected public organisation. As each respondent selected a single category, these figures should be read as declared profiles of the participating organisations. Overall, the respondent base was composed mainly of solution providers, technology developers and systems integrators active in areas such as real-time physiological monitoring and wearable sensing for first responders, healthcare-oriented CBRN PPE and infection-prevention systems, European respiratory PPE manufacturing, technical and smart textiles, CBRN and first-response software modelling, CBRN medical countermeasures, material research and technology transfer, B2B sensor technology for textile integration, specialist safety and fire-fighting footwear, personal protective equipment, AI-based security solutions, respiratory health and environmental monitoring, and PPE trading.

### 3.3 Main findings from the responses of the market operators

**Question 1: Are the needs, key innovation areas and threats clear and feasible within the frame of ACTIVE PCP? Please elaborate.**

Out of 13 respondents, all 13 answered this question and confirmed that the needs, key innovation areas and threats are clear and technically feasible within the ACTIVE PCP framework, although several underlined that the scope is highly ambitious. Many answers stressed that the main difficulty lies in integrating multiple protection functions, sensing capabilities and digital layers into coherent systems that remain usable, certifiable and affordable for first responders. Respondents repeatedly highlighted the shift from traditional PPE towards intelligent, data-driven systems combining advanced materials, sensing, communication and analytics, noting that this evolution is necessary but increases design and integration complexity. User-centric aspects such as comfort, ergonomics, reduced heat stress and long-duration usability were frequently cited as equally critical to protection performance, confirming the importance of a holistic approach to next-generation protective systems.

**Question 2: Which types of hazards is your solution designed to protect against? (Select all that apply.) Please describe the protection concept of your solution.**

All 13 respondents provided an answer and selected at least one hazard type. Chemical agents and biological hazards were each mentioned in most responses, often together with toxic industrial chemicals, thermal hazards/fire exposure, particulate contamination and mechanical/physical threats, while many respondents explicitly referred to combined or multi-hazard environments. One respondent focused on internal thermal safety (heat stress) rather than external threats, and another offered a software-based solution that enhances protection through real-time video analytics and hazard detection rather than physical PPE.

The described protection concepts range from integrated CBRN respiratory protection systems and modular multi-layer textile architectures to PFAS-free omniphobic coatings, customised multi-hazard PPE ensembles and digital monitoring layers. Several solutions emphasise light and flexible fabrics, cooling systems and advanced filtration, while others concentrate on thermophysical modelling,

biosensing or AI-based detection of unsafe situations, illustrating a diverse landscape of complementary approaches to the ACTIVE hazard scope.

**Question 3: Does your solution include mechanisms for adaptive or scalable protection depending on the detected hazard level? Please elaborate.**

Out of 13 respondents, 12 indicated that their solution includes mechanisms for adaptive or scalable protection, while 1 answered no. Positive answers describe a variety of adaptation approaches, including modular PPE systems with configurable protection levels, interchangeable textile layers, adjustable sensor configurations and context-dependent communication or alerting behaviour. Several respondents highlighted “survive-to-respond” concepts, where baseline protection is provided immediately and then adapted as more information about the threat and operational tasks becomes available.

Examples include PAPRs that adapt airflow to filter clogging, modular CBRN PPE architectures tailored to different zones and threat types, scalable thermophysical monitoring solutions, and video-analytics systems that adjust detection, prioritisation and escalation based on risk severity. The single negative answer came from a respondent whose solution does not directly implement adaptive mechanisms at PPE level, although they can support multi-layer approaches in combination with other products.

**Question 4: What is the expected operational duration of the PPE system under high-intensity intervention conditions? Please describe the assumptions regarding environmental conditions.**

All 13 respondents answered this question. Most indicated expected operational durations of more than 2 hours under high-intensity intervention conditions, often in the range of 2-4 hours or longer, particularly for textile-based PPE systems, monitoring platforms and safety footwear designed for prolonged use in demanding environments. Two respondents indicated shorter durations of 30-60 minutes or 1-2 hours, reflecting, for example, “survive-to-respond” phases and assumptions linked to respiratory protection or SCBA cylinder rotations.

Environmental assumptions frequently included elevated temperatures (up to around 40 degrees Celsius), high physical workloads, humidity, presence of smoke or dust, intermittent connectivity, and complex CBRN or multi-hazard scenarios. Several respondents stressed that actual operational duration is constrained by physiological tolerance and respiratory autonomy rather than material protection time, and that integrated monitoring and clear operational protocols are needed to manage heat strain and exposure safely.

**Question 5: Does your proposed solution integrate sensors or monitoring systems? (Select all that apply.) Please briefly describe the functionality.**

All 13 respondents answered this question. The majority reported integrating some combination of environmental monitoring, physiological monitoring of the responder and location tracking, with two respondents stating that their solutions do not include dedicated sensors but can work alongside external sensing or rely on existing camera infrastructures. Several solutions combine wearable vital-sign sensors with CBRN or environmental detectors and localisation, feeding data to mobile devices and incident-command dashboards, often with offline buffering and prioritised synchronisation for low-bandwidth environments.

Smart-textile platforms, integrated RFID chips in footwear, SCBA-linked sensors and modular sensor architectures for future gas/chemical detection were also described. Across the answers, sensor functions are consistently framed as enablers of holistic risk assessment, situational awareness and proactive management of responder safety, rather than as standalone features.

**Question 6: What design strategies do you use to reduce heat stress and physiological burden on the wearer? (Please elaborate your response.)**

All 13 respondents provided an answer. Many described design strategies such as lightweight, breathable multi-layer constructions, moisture-management inner linings, body-mapped ventilation zones, ergonomic cuts, improved weight distribution and multiple width/size options to enhance comfort and reduce physiological burden. Some highlighted specialised cooling textiles and systems, PFAS-free omniphobic treatments that preserve garment breathability, and careful placement or miniaturisation of sensors to avoid pressure points and minimise additional weight.

Other responses focused on reducing heat stress indirectly, for instance through thermophysical modelling that supports operational decision-making, or video-analytics systems that shorten time spent in hazardous areas by improving remote supervision and early hazard detection. Several respondents emphasised the role of continuous physiological monitoring and warning systems as part of a broader strategy to prevent over-exertion and heat-related incidents.

**Question 7: Has your solution been tested or evaluated with end-users (first responders)? Please describe the type of testing or feedback received.**

All 13 respondents answered this question: 8 indicated that their solutions have been tested or evaluated with end-users, while 5 reported no such testing to date. Positive answers referenced operational trials with military first responders, firefighters, police and other emergency services, as well as pilots with industrial and infrastructure operators facing similar safety and monitoring requirements. Reported evaluations include field tests in EU-funded projects, certification-related testing, and long-term deployments in sectors such as transport, logistics, automotive and retail that provide relevant feedback on durability, comfort and usability.

Respondents without direct first-responder testing often noted that their solutions have been evaluated in analogous environments (e.g. sports or industrial safety) or are at stages where such testing is planned in upcoming projects or within the PCP. Overall, the responses show a mix of mature solutions already validated in demanding contexts and emerging technologies that would benefit from structured testing with first responders.

**Question 8: What is the estimated preparation or donning time for the PPE system before deployment?**

All 13 respondents provided an estimated donning time. Most indicated that their PPE systems can be donned in less than 2 minutes, with several additional responses in the 2-5 minute range and one indication of 5-10 minutes for more complex configurations. The overall pattern suggests that the majority of proposed solutions aim to maintain rapid deployment comparable to current first-responder practices.

Respondents also underlined that actual donning time depends on training, familiarity and operational conditions, and that intuitive design and standardised procedures are critical to minimise delays during emergencies.

**Question 9: Does your solution support rapid decontamination and reuse? Please describe the decontamination process.**

All 13 respondents answered this question: 10 indicated that their solutions support rapid decontamination and reuse, while 3 answered no. Positive answers described a range of approaches, including durable barrier layers and contamination-resistant surfaces, PFAS-free omniphobic treatments and enabling primary decontamination with water alone, compatibility with standard

industrial washing and re-impregnation processes, and modular architectures that allow contaminated components to be removed, cleaned or replaced without discarding the entire system.

Some respondents focus on decontamination of sensors and electronics via detachable modules, simple wiping of sensor surfaces, or CO<sub>2</sub>-based decontamination technologies, and one Consortium is developing environmentally friendly decontamination agents for low-temperature field use. Those indicating “no” often clarified that their products either sit under PPE and do not require decontamination, or that decontamination is outside the scope of their specific contribution, while recognising that this is an important consideration for the overall ACTIVE solution.

**Question 10: If you were to participate in the ACTIVE PCP upcoming Call for Tenders, please indicate your indicative time allocation (in months) for each of the following phases (total should not exceed 21 months). Please briefly justify your estimated time.**

All 13 respondents provided indicative time allocations and justifications for the three PCP phases. Most respondents broadly aligned with the indicative total duration of 21 months and with the logic of a shorter design phase, a longer prototype-development phase and a substantial validation phase, although several proposed rebalancing the distribution. A number of respondents kept to or remained close to the indicative 4-10-7 structure, while others suggested extending Phase 2 (Prototype Development) and shortening Phase 3 (Validation & Demonstration), or slightly adjusting Phase 1, to reflect the core innovation workload.

Across the answers, Phase 2 is consistently seen as the most time-intensive stage, covering system and material development, sensor and electronics integration, software and model adaptation, prototype manufacturing, and iterative laboratory testing. Phase 1 is generally dedicated to requirements analysis, material and architecture selection, system design and stakeholder alignment, while Phase 3 focuses on field validation, interoperability testing, demonstrations with first responders and, in some cases, certification-oriented evaluation. One respondent proposed very short durations for the first two phases and a longer validation period, reflecting an already high maturity level and in-house development capability.

**Question 11: If you were to participate in the ACTIVE PCP, please provide your indicative budget allocation (in EUR) per PCP phase. Please briefly justify your estimated budget distribution.**

All 13 respondents also provided indicative budget distributions across the three phases, within or referring to the maximum amounts indicated in the RFI. While the exact figures differ, the majority allocated the largest share of the budget to Phase 2, reflecting the high costs of prototype development, textile and material engineering, sensor and electronics integration, iterative testing and certified laboratory validation. Phase 1 budgets are generally more modest and oriented towards design, planning, requirements engineering and initial formulation or architecture work, whereas Phase 3 budgets cover pilot-scale production, field trials, interoperability testing, demonstrations and, where relevant, certification-related activities.

Several respondents explicitly linked higher Phase-2 and Phase-3 costs to specialised sensors, expensive prototype tooling (e.g. molds), third-party accredited testing, washing-durability campaigns and multi-site operational demonstrations. Software-focused respondents proposed comparatively lower absolute budgets but kept the same qualitative pattern, with the main cost concentration in development and integration, followed by validation in real operational environments. Overall, the distributions confirm that suppliers expect the PCP to invest most heavily in prototype development and system validation, rather than in early design alone.

**Question 12: Do you think it is feasible to target these organisations with the solution developed in ACTIVE PCP? Please explain your choice.**

All 13 respondents answered this question: 12 considered it feasible to target the organisations identified in ACTIVE PCP, while 1 expressed reservations. Positive answers stressed that firefighters, law-enforcement agencies, civil-protection units and related actors are directly exposed to CBRN and multi-hazard scenarios and therefore stand to benefit most from improved PPE, monitoring and situational-awareness solutions. Several respondents already supply or collaborate with such organisations and highlighted existing commercial relationships or projects experience as evidence of feasibility.

Explanations emphasised that the proposed solutions – ranging from advanced PPE and omniphobic coatings to wearable sensing platforms and AI-based safety analytics – are designed specifically with these user groups and their operational constraints in mind. The single more cautious response underlined that feasibility may depend on solutions being stand-alone, easy to implement and not reliant on complex remote connectivity, which should be considered when specifying integration expectations.

**Question 13: Do you miss any stakeholder(s)? Which one(s)?**

All 13 respondents answered this question: 8 indicated that additional stakeholders are missing, while 5 answered that they did not miss any. Among those who suggested further stakeholders, frequently mentioned groups included military CBRN response teams, civil-protection agencies, hazmat industrial response units, airport rescue services, disaster-relief organisations, critical-infrastructure operators, border and security authorities, police, urban search-and-rescue teams, military medical units and civil-protection volunteers. Several respondents also highlighted hospitals and healthcare facilities as “first receivers” in CBRN and mass-casualty scenarios, as well as training centres that could use the solutions for capacity-building.

Respondents underlined that these actors play crucial roles in prevention, response and coordination during large-scale or complex emergencies, and that including them explicitly would better reflect the multi-agency reality of CBRN incidents. In particular, they stressed the need for solutions to integrate with existing communication, command, control and coordination centres to support geolocation, modelling and mapping across stakeholders.

**Question 14: Could you indicate the complexity of the key threat areas by ordering them as basic (1), intermediate (2) or advanced (3)? (CBRN Substances; Heat and thermal; Fluid Exposure; Mechanical and Physical Violence; Operational Barriers and Limitations.)**

Out of 13 respondents, 12 provided ratings for the key threat areas, while 1 did not answer. The responses show a clear pattern in which CBRN substances and operational barriers and limitations are perceived as the most complex domains, with ratings most often at level 3 (advanced) and only rarely at lower levels. Heat and thermal hazards, fluid exposure and mechanical and physical violence are generally rated at intermediate complexity (level 2), with some basic ratings and a few advanced ratings where respondents associate them with particularly demanding operational contexts.

Several respondents implicitly link higher complexity ratings to the combined technical, regulatory and organisational challenges associated with CBRN threats and with cross-agency operational barriers. By contrast, thermal, mechanical and fluid hazards are seen as more established PPE domains, though complexity rises sharply when they are combined with CBRN risks, long interventions and demanding environmental conditions. The results suggest that ACTIVE PCP should treat CBRN and systemic

operational constraints as the highest-complexity areas, while building on more mature, though still non-trivial, baseline capabilities for other hazard types.

**Question 15: Which would be the biggest challenge(s) to address in your view?**

All 13 respondents identified one or more major challenges. Frequently mentioned issues include integrating advanced sensors into PPE without compromising protection, comfort or durability; ensuring reliable data transmission and localisation in degraded or denied environments; and developing sensor technologies that can accurately capture critical variables at high precision while remaining practical for field use. Many respondents also emphasised the fundamental challenge of combining high-level, broad-spectrum multi-hazard protection (including CBRN, thermal and mechanical threats) with acceptable weight, ergonomics, breathability and mobility.

Further challenges concern the development of fluorine-free omniphobic solutions that can match the performance of PFAS-based treatments, the detection and monitoring of individual CBRN exposure, and the difficulty of assessing responder status under acute, highly stressed operating conditions. Several answers pointed to interoperability between physical PPE, monitoring systems and command-and-control platforms, as well as compliance with evolving regulatory standards, as additional barriers that must be addressed to achieve widespread adoption.

**Question 16: Do you identify any technical, operational or organisational barriers, gaps or missing needs in relation to the scope and innovation needs highlighted in the OMC Document of ACTIVE PCP? Please explain.**

All 13 respondents answered this question: 5 explicitly identified barriers or gaps, while 8 respondents replied that they did not see major additional issues beyond those already highlighted. Among those pointing to barriers, recurring themes include interoperability challenges when integrating with diverse existing systems (e.g. SCBA, radios, legacy ICT), regulatory and certification complexity (particularly for medical-device-like monitoring functions and new materials), and data-security requirements for encrypted transmission in hostile environments. Several respondents stressed gaps in standardised testing methods for combined CBRN, thermal and mechanical threats, as well as logistical and organisational issues around decontamination, reuse and procurement of reusable PPE systems.

Some respondents also noted that current discussions focus strongly on materials and embedded sensors, while comparatively less emphasis is placed on integrating external data sources and decision-support systems (such as video-analytics platforms) into the overall protective ecosystem. Others highlighted the need to better address internal factors such as heat stress, not only external hazards, and to ensure alignment between physical protection, digital monitoring and operational workflows across agencies and borders. Together, these answers indicate that technical, operational and organisational dimensions all require attention to fully realise the ACTIVE PCP innovation ambitions.

**Question 17: The ACTIVE PCP solution should be able to exchange information with the systems of the procurers during the pilot phase. As this is a challenging task, how can procurers support potential suppliers to accomplish this objective?**

All 13 respondents provided suggestions on how procurers could support information exchange and interoperability during the pilot phase. The most frequently mentioned measures include early provision of technical specifications, API and interface documentation, communication protocols, data formats and cybersecurity requirements, as well as access to test environments, sandboxes or existing operational systems for integration and validation. Many respondents called for regular technical workshops and forums bringing together end-users, IT staff and suppliers to clarify operational

workflows, priorities and integration challenges, while recognising that commercial sensitivities may need to be managed through appropriate confidentiality arrangements.

Several respondents also recommended establishing clear data-governance rules, GDPR-compliant data-handling frameworks and, where appropriate, mutual NDAs to protect intellectual property. Others suggested appointing dedicated technical liaisons on the procurer side and phasing access (e.g. specifications in Phase 1, test access in Phase 2, one-way or limited integration in Phase 3) to match the PCP stages. Overall, the answers underline that proactive, structured and transparent engagement by the procurers will be essential to achieve the desired level of interoperability during the pilots.

**Question 18: Do you think there are any specific limitations or barriers to the deployment of the envisaged solution on the market? Which one(s)?**

Out of 13 respondents, 9 answered that they foresee specific limitations or barriers to market deployment, while 4 answered no. Those identifying barriers most often pointed to regulatory hurdles (including medical-device approval differences between countries and certification for multifunctional PPE with embedded electronics), scalability and customisation across different PPE standards (EN/ISO/NFPA), and the high cost of specialised sensors and advanced components. Respondents also highlighted fragmented procurement practices, long public-sector purchasing cycles, and cost sensitivity among smaller emergency organisations as factors that could slow adoption.

Several answers underlined integration and interoperability challenges with legacy command-and-control systems and differing communication standards, as well as cybersecurity, data-protection and user-acceptance issues when introducing connected PPE and new workflows. One respondent stressed that the main barrier is the difficulty of combining all desired innovations (PFAS-free coatings, embedded sensing, localisation and ergonomics) into a single certified ensemble that remains practical in terms of weight, durability and donning time.

**Question 19: Do you have a solution covering ALL ACTIVE PCP needs, key innovation areas and threats in FULL that is already available in the market? Please briefly describe your solution (solution name, relevant link(s), details).**

Out of 13 respondents, 5 stated that their current solution covers the ACTIVE PCP needs only partially, while 8 answered that they do not have a solution already on the market that fully covers all needs, innovation areas and threats as defined in ACTIVE PCP. The “partially” answers typically describe mature platforms or products – such as integrated vital-sign monitoring systems, advanced CBRN respiratory protection, multifunctional PPE ensembles, PFAS-free omniphobic impregnations, specialist safety footwear, thermophysical modelling tools and AI-based video-analytics systems – that address several, but not all, of the required threat categories and functional areas.

Respondents who answered “no” generally explained that their contributions are focused on specific components or subsystems (e.g. coatings, textile architectures, medical countermeasures, software layers) that would need to be combined with other technologies to meet the full ACTIVE scope. Across both groups, respondents emphasised that, while key building blocks are already market-ready or close to market, further adaptation and especially system-level integration work is necessary to deliver the fully integrated, multi-hazard solutions envisaged for ACTIVE PCP.

**Question 20: What is the current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of your solution(s) or its/their main components following H2020 Technology Readiness Levels?**

All 13 respondents provided TRL information for their main solutions or components. Many placed their core technologies in the TRL 7-9 range (e.g. established PPE products, operational monitoring platforms, mature footwear lines), while also indicating that some innovative sub-components or

extensions remain at TRL 4-6 or lower. For example, PFAS-free omniphobic coatings, new smart-textile integrations, advanced sensor fusion, and specific AI-based analytics modules are generally at mid-TRL and would require further development and validation within the PCP.

Several respondents explicitly distinguished between mature, already deployed systems and newer project-specific elements, underlining that the PCP would be used to bridge the gap from component-level readiness to fully integrated, operational solutions in demanding first-responder contexts. Overall, the TRL data indicate that ACTIVE PCP can build on a solid base of high-TRL building blocks while simultaneously advancing mid-TRL innovations towards deployment.

**Question 21: Which of the following challenges are covered by your solution?**

Out of 13 respondents, 12 indicated that their solutions address operational and environmental challenges, while 1 focused solely on compliance and usage challenges without explicitly mentioning operational/environmental issues. Compliance and usage challenges were selected by 11 respondents, discomfort and fit issues by 8 respondents, reduced mobility and performance by 9 respondents, and maintenance and durability by 9 respondents.

The answers show that suppliers see their technologies as tackling a broad cluster of interrelated problems rather than isolated issues. Most respondents aim to improve how PPE performs and can be used in unknown or emerging hazard environments (including CBRN), while also addressing discomfort, fit and mobility constraints that undermine compliance and effective use. Many solutions explicitly target the burden of current PPE on movement, heat stress and fine motor performance, and a similar number seek to improve maintenance and decontamination processes to keep PPE effective over time. Overall, respondents position their innovations as supporting both safer operations in demanding environments and more reliable, sustained use of PPE in real-world conditions.

**Question 22: Do you think there is room for technological development beyond the state of the art? Please explain.**

Out of 13 respondents, 12 answered yes and provided a brief explanation, while 1 answered no without further comment. Those answering yes highlighted multiple areas where they see substantial room for progress, including sensor miniaturisation for better PPE integration, AI-driven predictive algorithms that go beyond simple thresholds, and multi-model data fusion combining vital signs with environmental sensing. Several respondents stressed that existing solutions typically address individual CBRN threats separately and still struggle to combine high protection levels, reusability and reduced heat stress in a single interoperable system.

Material-focused respondents emphasised the need to move PFAS-free omniphobic coatings from laboratory demonstrations to fully validated EN 469-compliant firefighter textiles, while systems developers underlined gaps in integrated localisation, communication and triage support within a unified PPE ecosystem. Others noted that the “easy and obvious” solutions have largely been implemented, and that further progress now requires more innovative approaches whose economic viability and market readiness still need to be demonstrated.

**Question 23: What are the main limitations of the current state of the art that your solution aims to address, and what improvements would it introduce compared to existing approaches?**

All 13 respondents answered this question. They pointed to a range of state-of-the-art (SOTA) limitations, including lack of CBRN-specific adaptation in monitoring systems, reliance on manual data interpretation, absence of predictive capabilities, and PPE that is heavy, restrictive, thermally stressful and difficult to adapt to changing operational scenarios. Several respondents stressed that current solutions deal with individual threats in isolation, without combining high-level protection, reusability

and effective heat-stress management, and that existing PFAS-free finishes do not yet deliver robust omniphobic performance at textile and garment level.

In response, proposed improvements include AI-driven predictive algorithms with multi-model data fusion, next-generation CBRN respiratory systems with advanced filtration and sensing, lightweight modular multi-hazard PPE platforms with integrated smart textiles, and nanoparticle-based omniphobic coatings brought from TRL 4 to 7 under realistic EN 469 validation and washing-durability conditions. Other respondents aim to replace purely manual supervision with context-aware video analytics, provide more realistic physiological and breathing-rate metrics for firefighters, and deliver “overkill” multi-threat solutions that integrate heat management and maintainability beyond what is currently available on the market.

**Question 24: Do you rely on any patented technology or standards? Please list relevant patents or standards.**

Out of 13 respondents, 6 indicated that they rely on patented technologies and/or specific standards, while 7 answered no. Those answering yes mostly referred to alignment with existing PPE and medical-device standards (CEN, ISO, NATO frameworks and EU medical device regulation), or cited concrete PPE standards such as EN 469 and a broad set of associated EN ISO test and performance norms. Some respondents also mentioned proprietary technologies and trade names, including a vital back system, fitting and foot-climate technologies, and a patented sensor-awareness system intended to be integrated in the proposed solutions.

Several respondents clarified that their development will be designed to comply with relevant European and international standards for CBRN protection, flame resistance, ergonomics and wearable electronics, even where no specific patents are involved. The answers suggest a mix of proprietary elements and strong reliance on existing certification frameworks, which will shape how ACTIVE PCP solutions can be brought to market and recognised by end-users.

**Question 25: Are there existing patents or intellectual property barriers that could limit your solution’s development or deployment?**

All 13 respondents answered this question, and all indicated “no”, without further elaboration. None of the respondents currently foresee patents or other IP barriers that would restrict their ability to develop or deploy the solutions they have in mind for ACTIVE PCP. This suggests that IP risks, at least as presently understood by respondents, are not expected to be a major limiting factor for participation in the PCP.

**Question 26: Based on your market knowledge, what is the current market value of similar solutions, and what is your projection for the future market value of the proposed solution(s)? (Please justify your answer.)**

All 13 respondents provided some form of market-value indication, although one explicitly stated, “no clear answer”. Several replies referred to current price points for comparable products (for example around €400 and above for high-end full-face masks, about €1,500 for PAPR systems, or broader CBRN PPE sets ranging from €5,000 to over €20,000 per operational kit), and to fragmented markets where many tenders are national and favour domestic providers. Others provided global or segment-level estimates, such as an “achievable” market of €1-2 billion over five years for advanced PPE, a current worldwide market of over €200 million for certain integrated solutions with potential ten-fold growth, or a firefighter biometric-monitoring sub-market growing from roughly USD 410 million in 2024 to about USD 1.22 billion by 2033.

Several respondents focused on niche but strategically important segments, such as PFAS-free durable water-repellent agents for protective textiles, estimating EU markets of €80-120 million annually with projected global growth to €300-500 million by 2035, plus recurring re-impregnation revenues. Others highlighted the rapidly expanding global market for AI-based video analysis and intelligent monitoring (currently in the low tens of billions of euros, with strong growth expected by 2030) and for connected smart PPE driven by climate-related risks, industrial hazards and civil-defence investments. Overall, the answers confirm a significant and growing market potential across multiple segments relevant to ACTIVE PCP.

**Question 27: Are you familiar with the concept of Pre-commercial Procurement of Innovation (PCP)?**

Out of 13 respondents, 10 stated that they are familiar with the PCP concept, while 3 answered no. The high share of affirmative answers indicates that most market operators engaging with ACTIVE PCP already have at least a basic understanding of pre-commercial procurement frameworks and their implications for R&D, risk-sharing and IPR arrangements. At the same time, the presence of some organisations that are new to PCP suggests that explanatory material and support on the process may still be valuable to facilitate participation, particularly for smaller or less experienced actors.

**Question 28: Would your organisation consider participating in the upcoming ACTIVE PCP procurement (tender) as a solution provider?**

Out of 13 respondents, 12 indicated “Yes, we would likely participate”, while 1 selected “Maybe, we need more information/depends on conditions”. This strong positive signal suggests a high level of potential supplier interest in the planned ACTIVE PCP tender, subject to final conditions and detailed specifications. The single “maybe” answer indicates that some organisations will decide based on future clarifications regarding requirements, funding levels, risk allocation and administrative burden.

**Question 29: Do you intend to participate as a single entity or as part of a Consortium?**

For this question, 8 respondents indicated that they would participate as part of a Consortium, 3 stated that they would participate as a single entity, and 2 answered N/A. The predominance of Consortium-based intentions reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the ACTIVE PCP challenge and the need to combine complementary expertise in PPE, materials, sensing, communications, software and integration. At the same time, several respondents consider themselves strong enough to participate alone or to lead consortia, underlining the presence of mature players in specific market segments.

**Question 30: Does your proposed solution support interoperability with other equipment used by first responders (e.g. SCBA systems, communication devices, sensors, body cameras)? Please specify compatible systems or standards.**

Out of 13 respondents, 12 stated that their solutions support interoperability with other first-responder equipment and provided a brief explanation, while 1 answered no without further detail. Positive answers describe interoperability at several levels, including compatibility with smartphones, radios, body-worn cameras, SCBA harness systems, standard sensor interfaces and existing command-and-control platforms via BLE, MQTT, REST APIs and other standard protocols. Respondents also referred to alignment with CEN and ISO standards, NATO standards, and specific PPE norms such as EN 469 and interface requirements under EN ISO 13688, alongside industrial laundry and re-impregnation processes.

Several solutions are explicitly designed as modular add-ons or textile treatments that do not interfere with mechanical attachment points or existing equipment integration, while others plan future work

to integrate with SCBA data and other in-use sensors. The only negative response suggests one solution is currently stand-alone, though this may not preclude future integration work during the PCP.

**Question 31: What is the estimated manufacturing scalability of your solution? Please describe key manufacturing considerations.**

All 13 respondents answered this question. 4 respondents reported N/A at this stage (often indicating that scalability will depend on future design choices or partnerships), 3 indicated medium-scale production capability, 5 reported readiness for large-scale industrial production, and 1 mentioned small-batch production with in-house manufacturing up to about 20-30 items before outsourcing or new equipment would be needed. Those indicating medium or large-scale production typically referred to existing technical-textile or PPE manufacturing processes, established supplier networks and proven ability to serve European markets.

Key manufacturing considerations mentioned include maintaining quality and sustainability, ensuring coating uniformity and nanoparticle size distribution at scale, integrating modular electronics into certified PPE without compromising durability or washability, and aligning with certified PPE production workflows. Respondents also stressed the importance of cost-effectiveness, delivery times, resilient supply chains for critical chemicals and components, and the ability to scale from prototype runs to industrial volumes after validation and certification.

**Question 32: What additional information, requirements or conditions would you need to make a good plan for the development and/or deployment of a solution to address the challenge of ACTIVE PCP?**

All 13 respondents provided an answer, although several explicitly stated that they did not currently need additional information. Among those requesting more detail, common needs included clearer descriptions of operational scenarios, target user groups, priority threat combinations, interoperability and certification requirements, and preferred communication and positioning standards. Respondents also asked for information on selection criteria, subcontracting rules and minimum self-performance thresholds, as well as timelines for the tender and access to technical specifications of existing equipment and systems.

Several answers stressed the value of access to representative test and pilot environments, detailed data-management and cybersecurity requirements, and early end-user feedback on workflows and operational constraints. Overall, suppliers indicated that the current information is sufficient to outline an initial approach, but that more granular requirements and integration details will be important for precise planning and risk reduction.

**Question 33: Do you have any final suggestions and/or remarks?**

Most of the 13 respondents used this question to offer final comments or expressed consent to data processing, while a few had no additional remarks. Suggestions included leveraging existing validated (including military) solutions to accelerate development and reduce risk, ensuring early and continuous involvement of end-users throughout development and validation, and harmonising testing methodologies for combined multi-hazard scenarios. Several respondents emphasised the importance of not limiting innovation to materials and PPE alone, but also investing in digital capabilities for real-time monitoring, situational awareness and decision support, with strong focus on interoperability across technologies and stakeholders.

A number of comments explicitly welcomed the ACTIVE PCP initiative, congratulating the Consortium for tackling a highly relevant and timely challenge and underlining the potential impact on first-

responder safety. Respondents recommended prioritising interoperability and end-user involvement from the earliest stages to maximise usability, adoption and real-world operational impact.

## 4 Conclusions

The OMC confirmed that the ACTIVE PCP addresses a clearly defined and market-relevant challenge, which is broadly recognised by stakeholders as technically feasible within the envisaged framework. At the same time, the feedback consistently indicates that the overall scope remains highly ambitious, primarily due to the complexity of delivering fully integrated, multi-hazard protective systems that combine advanced materials, embedded sensing, communication functionalities and data-driven capabilities into a single, coherent solution. The market acknowledged that such a transition towards intelligent, interconnected PPE systems is both necessary and inevitable, yet it is associated with significant design, integration and certification challenges.

The results further demonstrate that, although a wide range of technological building blocks already exists and, in many cases, has reached relatively high levels of maturity, these solutions remain fragmented and are typically limited to addressing specific aspects of the challenge. No solution currently available on the market comprehensively fulfils the full set of requirements defined under ACTIVE PCP, thereby confirming a clear gap at system-integration level rather than at component level. This fragmentation underscores the need for coordinated development efforts capable of bringing together multiple technological domains into operationally viable and interoperable solutions.

The OMC results also highlight the increasing importance of adopting a holistic and user-centered design approach. Respondents consistently stressed that protection performance must be balanced with ergonomics, comfort, mobility and thermal regulation, particularly in high-intensity and long-duration intervention scenarios. The management of physiological burden, and especially heat stress, was identified as a critical determinant of operational effectiveness, reinforcing the need to integrate human factors into the core design of next-generation systems. In parallel, a clear trend emerges towards the incorporation of monitoring and data-driven functionalities, aimed at enhancing situational awareness and supporting real-time decision-making.

A differentiated view of complexity across hazard domains is also evident. Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, together with broader operational and organisational constraints, are consistently perceived as the most complex areas, given their combined technical, regulatory and coordination requirements. Other hazards, such as thermal, mechanical and fluid exposure, were considered comparatively more mature, although their complexity increases significantly when combined with multi-hazard scenarios. This indicates that innovation efforts should be carefully prioritised and structured, with particular attention given to the most demanding domains while ensuring effective integration across all hazard types.

At the same time, a number of cross-cutting technical and operational challenges are identified. These include the integration of sensing technologies into protective equipment without compromising performance and durability, the reliable transmission of data in constrained or degraded environments, and the achievement of interoperability with existing first-responder systems. Regulatory and certification requirements, particularly for multifunctional solutions combining protective and digital elements, are also highlighted as key constraints. In addition, the absence of harmonised testing methodologies for combined multi-hazard scenarios further complicates validation and deployment pathways.

From a market and deployment perspective, the feedback reflects both strong opportunities and significant constraints. Respondents confirm a growing demand for advanced protective solutions in response to increasingly complex threat environments, alongside a high level of interest in participating in the forthcoming PCP. At the same time, potential barriers to follow-up large-scale deployment are identified, including cost considerations, fragmented procurement practices and integration challenges within existing operational frameworks. These aspects underline the importance of ensuring that technological innovation is aligned with practical deployment conditions and end-user requirements.

Overall, the results of the OMC clearly confirm both the relevance and the necessity of the ACTIVE PCP. The consultation demonstrates that, while the market is able to provide advanced and innovative technological components, there remains a clear gap in achieving fully integrated, interoperable and operationally validated solutions. In this context, the PCP approach is validated as an appropriate instrument to stimulate cross-disciplinary innovation, support system-level integration and de-risk the development process through phased research, prototyping and validation activities.

In light of these findings, it is essential that the next stages of the project ensure a balanced refinement of requirements that takes into account feasibility, usability and potential certification constraints. Particular attention should be given to interoperability, supported by early definition of technical specifications and data standards, as well as to the continuous involvement of end-users throughout the development and validation phases. The multidisciplinary nature of the challenge further suggests the need to facilitate collaboration across complementary domains, thereby enabling the consolidation of expertise required to deliver integrated solutions.

In conclusion, the OMC results demonstrate that ACTIVE PCP is well-positioned to drive innovation beyond the current state of the art, by bridging the gap between existing technological capabilities and the development of next-generation, fully integrated PPE solutions tailored to the evolving needs of first responders.

## Annex 1: Agendas of the OMC Events

### A. National OMC Webinar in Greek (Greece and Cyprus) – 27.04.2026

#### Ημερήσια Διάταξη



10.00–10.05	Καλωσόρισμα
10.05–10.50	Παρουσίαση του έργου ACTIVE PCP
10:50–11:10	Φάσεις Προ-εμπορικής δημόσιας συμβασης και Διαδικασία Διαγωνισμού
11:10–11:20	Στόχοι και δραστηριότητες των Ανοικτών Διαβουλεύσεων με την αγορά Παρουσίαση της πλατφόρμας για τις δημόσιες συμβάσεις καινοτομίας
11:20–11:55	Αποτελέσματα ανάλυσης τεχνολογίας αιχμής / Διαδραστική συνεδρία
από τις 11.55 έως τις 12.00	Συμπεράσματα και επόμενα βήματα

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Figure 12: Agenda of the Greek OMC Webinar

### B. National OMC Webinar in German (Germany and Austria) – 28.04.2026

#### AGENDA



10:00–10:05 Uhr	Willkommen & <u>Eröffnungsbemerkungen</u>
10:05–10:50 Uhr	Erläuterung des ACTIVE PCP-Projekts <i>Vision, Szenarios &amp; Anforderungen</i>
10:50–11:10 Uhr	ACTIVE PCP-Phasen und Ausschreibungsverfahren
11:10–11:20 Uhr	Ziele und Tätigkeiten der Open Market Consultation (OMC) Vorstellung der Innovation Procurement Platform
11:20–11:55 Uhr	State-of-the-Art Analyseergebnisse / Interaktive Session
11:55–12:00 Uhr	Schlussfolgerungen und nächste Schritte

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Figure 13: Agenda of the German OMC Webinar

## C. National OMC Webinar in Lithuanian (Lithuania) – 29.04.2026

### DARBOTVARKĖ



10.00–10.05 val.	<b>Welcome &amp; Įžanginės pastabos</b>
10.05-10.50 val.	<b>Aktyvaus PCP projekto paaiškinimas</b> <i>Rationale, Scenarios &amp; Reikalavimai</i>
10.50-11.10 val.	<b>ACTIVE PCP etapai ir konkurso procesas</b>
11.10–11.20 val.	<b>AKM tikslai ir veikla</b> <b>Inovacijų viešųjų pirkimų platformos pristatymas</b>
11.20-11.50 val.	<b>Naujausi analizės rezultatai / Interaktyvi sesija</b>
11.50-12.00 val.	<b>Išvados ir tolesni veiksmai</b>

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Figure 14: Agenda of the Lithuanian OMC Webinar

## D. National OMC Webinar in Spanish (Spain) - 30.04.2026

### Agenda



10.00 - 10.05	<b>Bienvenida</b>
10.05 - 10.50	<b>Explicación del proyecto ACTIVE PCP</b> <i>Justificación, Escenarios &amp; Requisitos</i>
10.50 - 11.10	<b>Proceso de CPP</b>
11:10 - 11:20	<b>Objetivos y actividades de la consulta preliminar de mercado</b> <b>Presentación de la Plataforma de Contratación</b>
11.20 - 11.55	<b>Resultados de análisis del mercado / Sesión interactiva</b>
11.55 - 12.00	<b>Conclusiones</b>

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Figure 15: Agenda of the Spanish OMC Webinar

## E. National OMC Webinar in French (France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxemburg) – 21.05.2026

### Ordre du jour



Heures	Description	Présentateurs
10:00 – 10:05	Bienvenue et remarques d'ouverture	CORVERS
10:05 – 10:35	Présentation du projet ACTIVE PCP (Justification, scénarios et exigences)	CORVERS
10:35 – 11:05	Présentation du processus PCP (et de la plateforme de passation de marchés d'innovation)	KEMEA
11:05 – 11:20	Objectifs et activités de la COM	CORVERS
11:20 – 11:30	Présentation des résultats de l'analyse de l'état de l'art	CORVERS
11:30 – 11:50	Session interactive	All participants
11:50 – 12:00	Conclusions et prochaines étapes	CORVERS

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Figure 16: Agenda of the French OMC Webinar

## F. International Hybrid OMC Event – 07.05.2026

Time	Description	Partner
12:00 – 12:05	Welcome & opening remarks	SYNYO
12:05 – 12:45	Explanation of the ACTIVE PCP project (rationale, scenarios & requirements)	HP/KEMEA
12:45 - 13:15	PCP Process Explanation (and Innovation Procurement Platform)	KEMEA/SYNYO
13:15 – 13:35	OMC objectives and activities	CORVERS
13:35 – 13:45	State-of-the-art analysis results	CORVERS
13:45 – 14:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
14:30 – 15:15	Interactive session	All participants
15:15 – 15:30	Conclusions and next steps	SYNYO
15:30 – 16:30	Presentation by suppliers of their company and capabilities	All participants
16:30 – 17:30	Matchmaking session (onsite only)	All participants
17:30	Closure	SYNYO

Figure 17: Agenda of the International Hybrid OMC Event

## Annex 2: Request For Information (RFI) questionnaire



This questionnaire is part of the Open Market Consultation (OMC) of the ACTIVE PCP project. The purpose of this survey is to gather input from technology providers on the state of the art, technological maturity and feasibility of innovative solutions relevant to the scope of ACTIVE PCP, which focuses on addressing critical gaps in personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders facing increasingly complex threats, whether man-made or natural.

The information collected through this questionnaire will support the ACTIVE PCP Public Buyers Group in better understanding market capabilities and limitations and will be taken into account when preparing the tender documents for the future Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP).

The OMC document, to which this questionnaire is an annex, is available on the ACTIVE PCP project website: [www.activepcp.eu](http://www.activepcp.eu)

Technology providers are invited to complete one questionnaire per organisation and to answer the questions to the best of their knowledge. The deadline for submitting responses is **24 May 2026, 23:59 CEST**. Any updates, including possible deadline extensions, will be communicated via the ACTIVE PCP project website. Participation in this questionnaire is voluntary; it is not a prerequisite for participating in the future ACTIVE PCP, and it does not confer any advantage or disadvantage to any economic operator.

The ACTIVE PCP Consortium will ensure transparency, openness and equal treatment of all market participants throughout the OMC process. All information provided through this questionnaire will be analysed, anonymised, aggregated and summarised, and the results will be published in English on the project website.

### General Information

Name of your organisation:

Website:

Email address:

Type of organisation:

- Start-up
- SME
- Large company
- Public organisation
- University/R&D institute
- Other

Field of activity:

Headquarters Country:

Contact person name & email:

### **ACTIVE PCP challenge, needs and key innovation areas**

The ACTIVE PCP solutions will address critical shortcomings of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for first responders, aiming to enhance their safety, operational efficiency, and adaptability in the face of evolving threats, including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) incidents. The project leverages the Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) approach to drive innovation in PPE, focusing on multi-hazard scenarios. The solutions should address the following key innovation areas:

- **Development of an “All-Hazard” Fabric Solution:** Comprehensive protection against a wide spectrum of CBRN hazards, including the key threats identified in the project:
  - a) CBRN Substances
  - b) Heat and thermal (e.g., fire, high temperature, steam, etc.)
  - c) Fluid Exposure (e.g., rain, floodings, sweat, oils, etc.)
  - d) Mechanical and Physical Violence Threats (e.g., abrasion, cutting, tearing, puncture)
  - e) Operational Barriers and Limitations
- **Real-Time Monitoring Integrated in PPE:** solutions to track responders' health and environmental hazard with secure data transmission
- **Enhanced Usability and Comfort Features:** Incorporating ergonomic designs, stretchable fabrics, and advanced ventilation for reduced heaviness and restrictiveness
- **Sustainable and Low-Maintenance Material:** Developing self-cleaning or antimicrobial properties to reduce decontamination efforts
- **Adaptive, Modular Design for Multi-Use and Portability:** Configurable for different roles with interchangeable protective layers for quick adaptation
- **Compliance with Emerging Standards and Regulatory Progress:** Complying with emerging EU regulations and certifications for cross-border use
- **Foster multi-stakeholder cooperation on a European level:** Enhancing interoperability across multi-stakeholder groups during joint operations.

The aim of this section of the questionnaire is to validate with market players the draft Innovation Areas and Needs prior to their publication in the Call for Tenders.

To complete this section of the questionnaire, please have a look at the OMC Document.

1. Are the needs, key innovation areas and threats clear and feasible within the frame of ACTIVE PCP?

- Yes
- No

2. Which types of hazards is your solution designed to protect against? (Select all that apply.)

- Chemical agents
- Toxic industrial chemicals

- Biological hazards
- Thermal hazards / fire exposure
- Particulate contamination
- Mechanical / physical threats
- Combined / multi-hazard environments

Please describe the protection concept of your solution:

3. Does your solution include mechanisms for adaptive or scalable protection depending on the detected hazard level?

- Yes
- No

4. What is the expected operational duration of the PPE system under high-intensity intervention conditions?

- Less than 30 minutes
- 30–60 minutes
- 1–2 hours
- More than 2 hours

Please describe the assumptions regarding environmental conditions:

5. Does your proposed solution integrate sensors or monitoring systems? (Select all that apply.)

- Chemical detection
- Environmental monitoring
- Physiological monitoring of the responder
- Location tracking
- None of the above

Please briefly describe the functionality:

6. What design strategies do you use to reduce heat stress and physiological burden on the wearer? (Please elaborate your response.)

7. Has your solution been tested or evaluated with end-users (first responders)?

- Yes
- No

8. What is the estimated preparation or donning time for the PPE system before deployment?

- Less than 2 minutes
- 2–5 minutes
- 5–10 minutes
- More than 10 minutes

9. Does your solution support rapid decontamination and reuse?

- Yes
- No

10. If you were to participate in the ACTIVE PCP upcoming Call for Tenders, please indicate your indicative time allocation (in months) for each of the following phases (Total should not exceed 21 months):

- Phase 1: Solution Design (indicatively 4 months)
- Phase 2: Prototype Development (indicatively 10 months)
- Phase 3: Validation & Demonstration (indicatively 7 months)

Please briefly justify your estimated time:

11. If you were to participate in the ACTIVE PCP, please provide your indicative budget allocation (in EUR) per PCP phase:

**Note:** Please be aware that there is a predefined budget allocation for this PCP project, and the total available budget will be divided across phases and participating contractors.

*Phase 1 - Solution Design (€): EUR 58.333,33 max. budget per contractor*

*Phase 2 - Prototype Development (€): EUR 600.000 max. budget per contractor*

*Phase 3 - Validation & Demonstration (€): EUR 750.000 max. budget per contractor*

Please briefly justify your estimated budget distribution:

### Target Stakeholders

Firefighters and LEAs, first arriving at the scene, are the main target stakeholders of ACTIVE PCP.

12. Do you think it is feasible to target these organisations with the solution developed in ACTIVE PCP?

- Yes
- No

Please explain your choice:

Other target stakeholders could be included such as Emergency Medical Services, External Emergency Communication Centres, and third-party developers [Ability to connect their applications with the solutions].

13. Do you miss any stakeholder(s)?

- Yes
- No

## Challenges

14. Could you indicate the complexity of the Key Threat Areas by ordering them as basic (1), intermediate (2), or advanced (3)?

### **CBRN Substances**

*Move the slider or accept the initial position.*

1 – 2 – 3

**Heat and thermal** (e.g., fire, high temperature, steam, etc.)

*Move the slider or accept the initial position.*

1 – 2 – 3

**Fluid Exposure** (e.g., rain, floodings, sweat, oils, etc.)

*Move the slider or accept the initial position.*

1 – 2 – 3

**Mechanical and Physical Violence** (e.g., abrasion, cutting, tearing, puncture)

*Move the slider or accept the initial position.*

1 – 2 – 3

### **Operational Barriers and Limitations**

*Move the slider or accept the initial position.*

1 – 2 – 3

15. Which would be the biggest challenge(s) to address in your view?

16. Do you identify any technical, operational or organisational barriers, gaps or missing needs in relation to the scope and innovation needs highlighted in the OMC Document of ACTIVE PCP?

- Yes
- No

## Non-functional, organisational and legal/regulatory considerations

In parallel to the upcoming functional requirements, organisational, and legal/regulatory requirements will be identified in a systematic manner. Further to this, any sectoral and/or occupational codes of practice that may exist in the participating regions and/or service provider organisations will be identified. Results of the requirements analysis will build the basis for the development of a comprehensive and systematic requirements catalogue for inclusion in the Call for Tenders.

17. The ACTIVE PCP solution should be able to exchange information with the systems of the procurers during the pilot phase. As this is a challenging task, how can procurers support potential suppliers to accomplish this objective?

18. Do you think there are any specific limitations or barriers to the deployment of the envisaged solution on the market?

- Yes
- No

### Assessment of existing technologies

A prior analysis is being conducted to confirm whether the identified needs are indeed "unmet". If the prior art analysis reveals that there are already solutions available on the market that can meet the aforementioned needs and fulfill the requirements that will be set in the upcoming period or they will already become available before it is possible to complete the planned procurement, then there is no more need for an innovation procurement.

To complete this section of the questionnaire, please have a look at the OMC Document.

19. Do you have a solution covering ALL ACTIVE PCP needs, key innovation areas and threats in FULL that is already available in the market?

- Yes
- No

20. What is the current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of your solution(s) or its/their main components following [H2020 Technology Readiness Levels](#)?

- TRL 1-3
- TRL 4-6
- TRL 7-9
- N/A

21. Which of the following challenges are covered by your solution?

- Operational and Environmental Challenges:** Current PPE often fails to address unknown or emerging hazards, lacking adaptability to protect against threats like unfamiliar chemical or biological agents. For instance, CBRN resistant PPE may not withstand heat. Additionally, PPE must be portable for varied operational settings and requires extensive decontamination or disposal processes, increasing response delays and logistical demands.
- Discomfort and Fit Issues:** Poorly fitting or uncomfortable PPE, particularly for female firefighters, can compromise protection and compliance. Ill-fitting gear may leave gaps, reducing effectiveness, while heavy, restrictive PPE limits movement, ventilation, and communication. Prolonged wear can cause irritation or rashes, further discouraging use and jeopardising safety, especially during extended operations.

- **Compliance and Usage Challenges:** Inconsistent PPE use due to discomfort, overconfidence, or poor hazard awareness increases risks. Responders may remove PPE during perceived "low-risk" tasks, while training gaps and improper fitting reduce effectiveness. Peer influence also affects compliance, especially in mixed teams where not all members wear full protective gear.
- **Reduced Mobility and Performance:** PPE often limits mobility and precision, hindering tasks requiring fine motor skills. Heavy, full-body gear can cause overheating, fatigue, and reduced focus, especially in hot conditions, impacting response effectiveness during long shifts or extended incidents.
- **Maintenance and Durability:** Regular inspection, maintenance, and decontamination are crucial to keep PPE effective. Frequent use can cause wear, especially in gloves and helmets, while complex cleaning processes for items like respirators may be burdensome. Neglecting these tasks risks reduced functionality and contamination.

22. Do you think there is room for technological development beyond the state of the art?

- Yes
- No

23. What are the main limitations of the current state of the art that your solution aims to address, and what improvements would it introduce compared to existing approaches?

24. Do you rely on any patented technology or standards?

**Note:** Regarding standards, please take into consideration the existing PPE standards and/or certification frameworks (e.g. EN, ISO, NFPA).

- Yes
- No

25. Are there existing patents or intellectual property barriers that could limit your solution's development or deployment?

- Yes
- No

26. Based on your market knowledge, what is the current market value of similar solutions, and what is your projection for the future market value of the proposed solution(s)? (Please justify your answer.)

### **Miscellaneous**

27. Are you familiar with the concept of Pre-commercial Procurement of Innovation (PCP)?

- Yes
- No

28. Would your organisation consider participating in the upcoming ACTIVE PCP procurement (tender) as a solution provider? (Please, select one.)

- Yes, we would likely participate.
- Maybe, we need more information/depends on conditions.
- No, it is unlikely to participate

29. Do you intend to participate as a single entity or as part of a Consortium?

- Single entity
- Consortium
- N/A

30. Does your proposed solution support interoperability with other equipment used by first responders (e.g. SCBA systems, communication devices, sensors, body cameras)?

- Yes
- No

31. What is the estimated manufacturing scalability of your solution?

- Small batch production
- Medium-scale production
- Large-scale industrial production
- N/A

32. What additional information, requirements or conditions would you need to make a good plan for the development and/or deployment of a solution to address the challenge of ACTIVE PCP?

33. Do you have any final suggestions and/or remarks?

### **Partner search**

Many PCP tenderers choose to apply together with international partners in a joint tender (Consortium) to be able to fulfil all of the future tender requirements. So, if you are looking for potential partners to form a Consortium or want to showcase your company so that other interested parties might contact you, have a look at the following [link](#), register your organisation and start networking!

### **Privacy Statement**

Your personal data will be collected, processed, stored, and used by the ACTIVE PCP Consortium solely for the purpose of gathering information from the market within the framework of the ACTIVE PCP project, including participation in the Open Market Consultation (OMC), the preparation of procurement documentation and the overall market analysis. Responses will be processed and

analysed in anonymised form. No identifiable personal data will be shared beyond the ACTIVE PCP Consortium or published in any way that could reveal the identity of respondents.

The processing of personal data is carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR), and where applicable, Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, as well as any other applicable European or national data protection legislation in force.

As a data subject, you have the right to:

- confirm;
- access your personal data;
- request rectification or deletion;
- restrict or object to processing;
- request data portability;
- and withdraw consent at any time, without affecting the lawfulness of processing carried out before withdrawal.

For further details on how your data is processed, please consult the ACTIVE PCP privacy policy: [Terms & Conditions - ACTIVE PCP](#)

To exercise your rights and if you have any questions regarding the use of your data or this questionnaire, please contact: [office@activepcp.eu](mailto:office@activepcp.eu)

- I confirm that I have read and understood the above information, including the data protection and privacy notice, and I consent to the processing of my personal data for the purposes of
- I consent to the processing of my personal data by ACTIVE PCP Consortium, acting on behalf of the ACTIVE PCP project, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), for the purpose of receiving information and updates about activities carried out within the ACTIVE PCP project.

## **DISCLAIMER**

**READ CAREFULLY AND ACCEPT:** I understand that any of the OMC activities IS NOT a call for tenders, NOR a pre-qualification exercise, NOR the request of Expression of Interest; the participation to the OMC of ACTIVE PCP does not oblige any project partner(s) to enter a contractual agreement with any interested party; any public procurement procedure will be conducted separately with an open and advertised public procurement procedure.

***Thank you for completing the questionnaire!***

## Annex 3: Consolidated list of published FAQs

**Q1:** What kind of signature is required for the documents? Digital signature for the electronic submission and hand signature for the cover letter that must be sent by post?

**A1:** No signature is required for the documents submitted on the Innovation Procurement Platform.

For the cover letter that must be sent by post, the hand signature is accepted. Detailed information will be included in the Tender Documents once published for the subsequent Pre-Commercial (PCP) procurement.

**Q2:** Can only SMEs apply and participate in this programme/call?

**A2:** The ACTIVE PCP Open Market Consultation process is open to all types of operators (companies including start-ups, SMEs, large industry, etc.) regardless of their size or governance structure.

However, please note that only entities eligible for Horizon Europe PCP actions (i.e. established in EU Member States and/or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and committing to perform the R&D services within those countries) will be eligible to participate in the subsequent Pre-Commercial (PCP) procurement.

**Q3:** I would like to ask one question regarding the call, as I have not been able to find this information anywhere: how many garments are we expected to prepare by the end of the call? Or is there a specific number required for each phase?

**A3:** Detailed information on the required number of garments will be available as part of the ACTIVE PCP Tender Documents once finalized and officially published

**Q4:** We would appreciate clarification on the funding structure: would the subsidy be granted directly to us, or channelled through your organization? In other words, are we dealing with a standard tender process or a subsidized project framework?

In this context, could you please confirm whether our role would be that of a subcontractor or a directly funded beneficiary?

**A4:** The upcoming Pre-Commercial (PCP) procurement will be implemented through a Call for Tenders to award procurement contracts; the selected tenderers based on best value for money criteria set will be awarded a contract to provide the R&D services procured. Detailed information

will be available as part of the ACTIVE PCP Tender Documentation once finalized and officially published.

**Q5:** Should the funding be granted directly, would it be expected for us to participate independently, or would it be necessary to establish a consortium of collaborating companies in advance?

**A5:** Please see A4. Entities eligible for Horizon Europe PCP actions (i.e. established in EU Member States and/or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and committing to perform the R&D services within those countries) will be eligible to participate solely or in jointly, in the subsequent Pre-Commercial (PCP) procurement

**Q6:** We would like to inquire whether the recording of the session will be made available to participants, in order to review it and be sure we do not miss any important point.

**A6:** Yes, the recording will be made available on the [activepcp.eu](https://activepcp.eu) website under the Open Market Consultation section, along with the presentations in local languages, as well as in English.

**Q7:** Can a research institute or university participate as part of a consortium?

**A7:** Yes. Research institutes and universities (or other R&D organisations) may participate as part of a consortium, where permitted under the Call for Tenders. In PCP procedures it is common for R&D organisations to team up with companies (including manufacturers and technology providers) to jointly deliver the required R&D services. The specific eligibility conditions and consortium requirements will be defined in the Tender Documents once published for the subsequent Pre-Commercial (PCP) procurement.

**Q8:** How detailed will the requirements be? Will they be very open or very specific?

**A8:** The Call for Tenders will include a structured requirements framework, expected to cover a list of requirements across different areas (approximately 100 requirements). The aim is to provide clear guidance on operational needs and performance expectations, while still leaving room for innovation and alternative technical approaches. The final requirements set and their level of detail will be specified in the Tender Documents, once published for the subsequent Pre-Commercial (PCP) procurement.

**Q9:** What role does sustainability play in the award decision?

**A9:** Sustainability considerations may form part of the evaluation, depending on the procurement strategy and the final tender design. The Call for Tenders will clearly describe the award criteria and the weighting applied to each criterion, so that all tenderers are informed in advance how proposals will be assessed. Any sustainability-related requirements and evaluation aspects will be reflected transparently in the Tender Documents once published for the subsequent Pre-Commercial (PCP) procurement.

**Q10:** You referred to heat stress and also mentioned operational scenarios lasting up to five hours. In this context, is there a requirement to anticipate heat stress in advance, taking into account the expected physical activity of the first responder? In other words, beyond real-time monitoring, would there be an interest in incorporating predictive capabilities, for example, using physiological data collected through sensors to assess whether, while a responder may currently be fit for duty, their condition could deteriorate after a certain period of continued activity (e.g. within the next hour)? Would such forward-looking modelling of thermophysiological behaviour be relevant, particularly given the duration of operations you described?

**A10:** This type of predictive functionality is indeed considered highly relevant and is a feature that is already being taken into account. It is closely linked to the broader objective of enhancing situational awareness during operations. In particular, in conditions involving high environmental temperatures or fire exposure, operational capacity can be significantly constrained, and the ability to anticipate physiological stress over time is of clear importance. From an operational perspective, forecasting thermophysiological responses would enable a more effective assessment of first responders' capability to sustain activity over extended periods. In this regard, the thermal regulation performance of protective equipment, especially the fabrics used, represents a critical factor.

At the same time, it is recognised that such predictive capabilities must be assessed in light of current technological feasibility. Ongoing discussions with stakeholders, including fire service representatives, are aimed at identifying realistic thresholds based on what is currently available on the market. Feedback from market operators is therefore essential to determine the level of R&D efforts required and the extent to which such predictive features can be achieved within the scope of the project. The envisaged approach is to establish feasible performance thresholds in the current phase of the project and to progressively improve these capabilities in subsequent development stages or future initiatives. Overall, predictive monitoring of heat stress and operational endurance is considered a key priority for further exploration.

**Q11:** First responders typically operate under well-defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that guide their response to different types of incidents. In the context of the ACTIVE PCP outcomes, could the introduction of new protective equipment or technologies lead to deviations from existing

SOPs? In other words, is it acceptable or envisaged that such innovations may require experimentation beyond current procedural frameworks?

**A11:** The introduction of advanced equipment and capabilities is expected to influence and potentially reshape existing SOPs. Current procedures often reflect existing limitations in equipment and operational capacity, for example, in hazardous environments, first responders may be instructed to withdraw and wait for specialised units. However, enhanced protective solutions could enable responders to safely operate in situations that are currently considered too dangerous. In such cases, SOPs would need to evolve accordingly, as improved equipment directly expands operational possibilities.

Real-life incident scenarios, including complex and multi-hazard environments, have highlighted gaps in current capabilities, particularly in prolonged operations or in remote areas where immediate specialised support may not be available. In these contexts, first responders are often required to take on multiple roles and remain operational for extended periods. Therefore, the development of new technologies is not expected to contradict SOPs, but rather to inform their adaptation. The evolution of procedures is seen as a natural and necessary consequence of improved operational capabilities, with the ultimate objective of enhancing both responder safety and effectiveness in the field.

**Q12:** Could you provide further clarification on the treatment of intellectual property rights (IPR) in cases where a supplier proposes a solution that has already reached a relatively advanced maturity level (e.g. TRL 6 or 7) through significant prior investment? In particular, how are such pre-existing IPRs handled within the procurement framework?

**A12:** A clear distinction is made between background and foreground IPR. Background IPR refers to pre-existing intellectual property developed prior to the procurement. Suppliers will be required to declare these background IPRs as part of their technical offer, while retaining full ownership and the ability to further use and develop them. This also enables procurers to understand any dependencies related to the proposed solution. Foreground IPR, by contrast, relates to the results generated during the implementation of the PCP. These rights remain with the supplier, who retains the ability to commercially exploit the developed solutions. At the same time, procurers are granted usage rights to the results for their own purposes, on a long-term basis. Overall, this approach ensures a balance between protecting suppliers' prior investments and providing incentives for innovation, while also securing access rights for public procurers.

**Q13:** From a practical perspective, how do you envision the deployment of capabilities in hazardous environments? In many such situations, specialised equipment is required to detect chemical, biological, or radiological risks. Is the ambition to equip all first responders (e.g. police officers or firefighters) with such capabilities as part of their standard equipment, or rather to rely on specialised teams? How is this addressed operationally, given that specialised units may not always be the first responders on the scene?

**A13:** CBRN protection involves multiple components, including detection systems, respiratory equipment, and protective gear, which can be deployed through different operational models. The present project focuses specifically on the development of advanced protective equipment based on a smart textile approach, following an “all-hazards” perspective.

The objective is not to replace specialised units, but to enhance the baseline capabilities of first responders through wearable and integrated solutions that support both protection and monitoring (e.g. vital signs, geolocation). While technologies for monitoring already exist on the market, the main challenge lies in effectively integrating these functionalities into protective equipment, particularly within the fabric itself, in a way that remains practical and reliable in operational conditions.

This project should therefore be seen as one component within a broader ecosystem of solutions. Other initiatives may address complementary aspects, such as detection technologies or operational procedures (SOPs). Ultimately, a combination of these elements will be required to develop a comprehensive response approach to everyday CBRN and multi-hazard scenarios.

**Q14:** What is expected to happen after Phase 3 of the ACTIVE PCP? In particular, is there an expectation that a subsequent Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI) will follow, given that suppliers will have developed near-market-ready solutions at that stage?

**A14:** At this stage, it is not possible to confirm whether a PPI will follow the completion of the PCP. This depends on a range of factors, including project outcomes, uptake by end users, and decisions at European Commission level. Both PCPs and PPIs remain relatively limited in number, and future follow-up mechanisms will depend on how the broader policy and funding landscape evolves.

Nevertheless, the PCP is designed as a pathway towards market uptake. It enables the identification of needs, the development of prototypes, and the validation of solutions through pilot testing with end users. This process brings solutions close to market readiness and supports eventual procurement.

In addition, the PCP provides suppliers with significant added value, including direct collaboration with multiple end users across Europe, access to operational feedback, and the opportunity to validate and refine their solutions in real-life conditions. This can strengthen their position for future commercialisation, regardless of whether a formal PPI follows.

Given the large and fragmented nature of the security market, successful solutions may find significant commercial opportunities beyond the PCP itself. Overall, while a follow-up PPI cannot be guaranteed, the PCP is intended to facilitate future deployment and market adoption of the developed solutions.

## Annex 4: OMC Document

### Abbreviations and acronyms

CBRN-E	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive
CET	Central European Time
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FRAND	Fair, Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory
GA	Grant Agreement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HE	Horizon Europe
IPRs	Intellectual Property Rights
OMC	Open Market Consultation
PBG	Public Buyers Group
PCP	Pre-Commercial Procurement
PIN	Prior Information Notice
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
R&D	Research and Development
REA	European Research Executive Agency
RFI	Request For Information
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOTA	State-Of-The-Art
TED	Tenders Electronic Daily
TRL	Technology Readiness Level

## Key definitions

Consortium	Group of public and/or private entities (including public buyers and supporting organisations) that are part of the ACTIVE PCP. For more information: <a href="https://activepcp.eu/">https://activepcp.eu/</a>
Contractor	A company or entity that has been awarded a contract under the PCP.
Lead Procurer	A Public Buyer who acts as a Procurer in the PCP and purchases the R&D services on behalf of itself and other Public Buyers (in this case, KEMEA).
Public Buyer	A public entity that purchases goods or services from the market and is subject to the public procurement regulation.
Technology Provider	A company or entity that develops and/or sells technology in the market.

## Keywords and search terms

A preliminary market analysis has been conducted to confirm whether the identified needs are indeed "unmet" and if there are already solutions available on the market that can meet the aforementioned needs and fulfil the requirements that will be set in the upcoming period or they will already become available before it is possible to complete the planned procurement. The following keywords and search terms below have been utilised to extract, define and specify the preliminary results.

Personal protective equipment
PPE
Protection suits
Body gear
Protective body armour
Chemical protection suit
Biological protection suit
Emergency protection gear
Health protection gear
Tracking of health biometrics
Vital sign assessment
Health status monitoring
Real-time health tracking
Biometric monitoring
Fireproof protection
Flame resistance
Chemical shield layer
User geographic coordinates
Contaminant suits
Hazard gear
Heat resistance
Firefighter helmet
Fire boots
Fireproof hood
Firefighting gloves
Gastight suit
Decontamination
Gas detectors
Full face respirator
Chemical resistant boots
Chemical resistant gloves
Chemical resistance proof
Thermal resistance proof
Liquid splash resistance proof
Mechanical resistance proof
Combined gas & particle filter
CBRN Filter for mask

Butyl rubber gloves
Nitrile chemical gloves
Viton chemical gloves
Anti-fog CBRN visor
Ballistic & CBRN combined visor
Lightweight protective suit
Heat stress reduction
Reusable CBRN suit

## 1. Introduction

ACTIVE PCP (Pre-Commercial Procurement of Innovative Personal Protective Equipment for First Responders) is a European Union-funded project that brings together first responders, public authorities, and technology providers to co-create innovative solutions for next-generation Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for first responders. The project addresses the growing challenge of keeping responders safe and operationally effective amid evolving threats – from CBRN-E incidents and HAZMAT situations to complex emergencies triggered by terrorism, industrial accidents, or natural disasters. Developing effective PPE solutions that meet diverse operational needs across different countries and responder organisations remains difficult, as many off-the-shelf products are inadequate, fragmented, or optimised for single-hazard scenarios. ACTIVE PCP seeks to overcome this gap by actively involving the "demand side" (public safety buyers and end-users such as police, firefighters, and emergency medical services) in defining their unmet needs and steering industry R&D efforts towards those needs.

The action will lead to innovative PPE Solutions that provide:

- a. Improved protection of first responders in **complex and multi-hazard environments**, including CBRN-E, HAZMAT, terrorist attacks, and natural disasters.
- b. Enhanced **usability, comfort, and mobility** of PPE, reducing physical strain, heat stress, and fatigue while enabling sustained operational performance.
- c. Increased **adaptability and versatility** of PPE solutions, allowing responders to operate effectively across different threat scenarios without frequent equipment changes.
- d. Improved **responder safety and situational awareness** through the integration of advanced technologies such as physiological monitoring, environmental sensing, and location tracking.
- e. Strengthened **interoperability** of PPE across agencies and borders, supporting coordinated multi-stakeholder and cross-border emergency operations in line with EU requirements.
- f. Greater **resilience and sustainability** of PPE systems, through reusable, easy-to-maintain designs that reduce dependency on fragile supply chains.

Following the EC Guidelines on Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP), through a competitive series of design, prototype and pilot steps, the ACTIVE PCP will contract suppliers to deliver the creation and deployment of the envisaged PPE Solutions.

As part of the **Open Market Consultation (OMC)**, this document describes the scope and initial needs of the ACTIVE PCP project. The OMC represents a specific phase during the overall PCP methodology, aiming to actively approach the market when the identified needs of the procurers must be communicated openly and clearly to all potentially interested bidders. Market players get the unique opportunity to give feedback on the requirements of the foreseen pre-commercial tender.

In this document, you will find the following sections:

- Understanding ACTIVE PCP – including its Vision, Key Threats and Scenarios

- Scope of the Open Market Consultation (OMC) events & Request for Information (RFI) questionnaire
- Procurement Process
- Initial Market Analysis
- Call for Tenders

## 2. UNDERSTANDING ACTIVE PCP

### ACTIVE PCP VISION

The vision of the **ACTIVE PCP** project builds the foundation for the development of **innovative Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** systems designed to overcome the fundamental shortcomings of current gear. By integrating advanced materials and smart technologies, the project aims to significantly enhance the **safety, operational efficiency, and adaptability** of first responders, providing a leap forward in protection for those facing evolving multi-hazard threats, including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (**CBRN-E**) incidents.

This section elaborates on the shortcomings of the current state of the art and elucidates why existing solutions do not meet the needs of first responder organisations in the field, necessitating a **Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)** process to acquire new R&D services. Based on in-depth assessments, it is evident that an innovative PPE system must be developed to address critical gaps in **usability, comfort, and real-time monitoring**.

Current practices in PPE often fail to address unknown or emerging hazards and lack the adaptability required for diverse operational settings. For instance, many CBRN-E resistant suits cannot withstand heat, and heavy, restrictive designs frequently lead to overheating, fatigue, and reduced motor precision. Furthermore, poorly fitting gear - particularly for **female firefighters** - can compromise protection and lead to non-compliance in the field. The ACTIVE PCP project envisions a solution where equipment is no longer a hindrance but a seamless extension of the responder.

A system that truly impacts the work of emergency teams must provide **enhanced situational awareness**. The ACTIVE PCP vision includes the integration of **miniaturised sensors** within the PPE to track responders' health and environmental hazards in real-time, coupled with secure data transmission. This technological leap ensures that commanders and peers have immediate access to life-saving data, such as physiological strain and location tracking, during complex operations.

To reach the desired quality and efficiency improvements, suppliers must focus on several **Key Innovation Areas**:

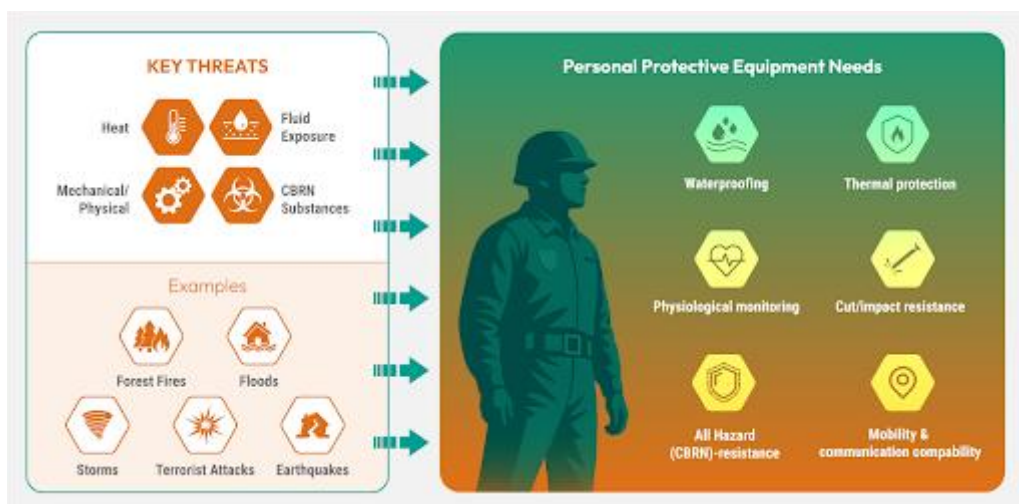
- **"All-Hazard" Fabric Solutions:** Developing lightweight, high-performance materials that provide comprehensive protection across a wide spectrum of CBRN-E and thermal hazards.
- **Adaptive and Modular Design:** Creating configurable systems with interchangeable layers that allow responders to quickly adapt to different roles and threat scenarios without frequent equipment changes.
- **Ergonomics and Comfort:** Utilising stretchable fabrics and advanced ventilation to reduce physical strain and heat stress, enabling sustained performance during extended shifts.
- **Sustainability and Maintenance:** Developing self-cleaning or antimicrobial materials to reduce the heavy logistical burden of decontamination and ensure supply chain resilience through durable, reusable designs.

Furthermore, the solution must prioritise interoperability. ACTIVE PCP aims to strengthen cooperation across European agencies and borders, ensuring that PPE solutions comply with emerging EU standards and certifications. This alignment supports coordinated multi-stakeholder operations and

ensures that first responders from different nations can work together effectively using compatible, high-standard equipment.

Ultimately, improving PPE solutions means to provide:

- Improved protection of first responders in **complex and multi-hazard environments**, including CBRN-E, HAZMAT, terrorist attacks, and natural disasters.
- Enhanced **usability, comfort, and mobility** of PPE, reducing physical strain, heat stress, and fatigue while enabling sustained operational performance.
- Increased **adaptability and versatility** of PPE solutions, allowing responders to operate effectively across different threat scenarios without frequent equipment changes.
- Improved **responder safety and situational awareness** through the integration of advanced technologies such as physiological monitoring, environmental sensing, and location tracking.
- Strengthened **interoperability** of PPE across agencies and borders, supporting coordinated multi-stakeholder and cross-border emergency operations in line with EU requirements.
- Greater **resilience and sustainability** of PPE systems, through reusable, easy-to-maintain designs that reduce dependency on fragile supply chains.



ACTIVE PCP – Conceptual graphic

## Key Threats and Scenarios

As part of its foundational work, the project carried out an *initial* structured needs-assessment process to identify the key threats that responders face in the field, and to translate those threats into concrete innovation requirement (*still in progress, and subject to changes*).

The framework presented here represents the output of that initial assessment — a synthesis of operational realities, environmental hazards, and functional gaps — organised into five major threat categories. For each category, a set of specific innovation needs has been identified, guiding the research and development priorities of the project.

*Understanding this framework is essential for any stakeholder, supplier, or technology partner engaging with the ACTIVE PCP Project, as it forms the basis of all subsequent procurement and evaluation activities.*

## Threat Categories and Associated Innovation Needs

## 1

**CBRN Substances***Exposure to unknown liquids, aerosols, and gases*

Responders operating in environments contaminated by chemical agents - whether industrial accidents, hazardous material incidents, or CBRN scenarios - face significant risks from exposure to unknown or known toxic substances. The inability to identify, resist, or decontaminate quickly can result in injury, secondary contamination, or mission failure.

**Innovation needs identified for this threat:**

1. Chemical resistance against unknown liquid, aerosol, and gas threats
2. Multi-layer or single-layer barrier materials with broad-spectrum chemical protection
3. Integration capacity with existing respiratory protection systems (e.g. gas-tight masks)
4. Donning and doffing capability — allowing rapid and safe removal of contaminated gear
5. Detection and identification via wearable sensors and embedded systems
6. Decontamination-resistant materials that remain functional after decontamination procedures

## 2

**Heat and Thermal Threats***Fire, extreme temperatures, steam, and radiant heat*

Firefighters, industrial rescue teams, and disaster responders frequently encounter elevated temperatures, open flames, and steam. Prolonged exposure to thermal stress not only causes direct burns but also leads to heat-related illness, impairing performance and decision-making during critical operations.

**Innovation needs identified for this threat:**

1. Resistance to high temperatures, open flames, and steam without compromising wearability
2. Heat insulation sufficient to prevent burns, heat stress, and steam scalding
3. Protection against smoke, ash, and airborne particulate matter
4. Flame-retardant and non-melting materials that maintain structural integrity
5. Breathable design to reduce thermal overload during prolonged operations
6. Thermal regulation — active or passive mechanisms to manage body heat accumulation

7. Protection against the absorption and incorporation of smoke, ash, and fine particulates into the garment

### 3 Fluid Exposure

*Rain, flooding, sweat, oils, and biological pollutants*

Fluid exposure is a pervasive challenge across a broad range of response scenarios — from flooding and rainfall to industrial spills and biological incidents. Beyond the immediate physical discomfort, contact with contaminated water or chemical fluids poses serious health risks and can degrade the structural and protective properties of equipment over time.

#### Innovation needs identified for this threat:

1. Waterproof and water-resistant materials with controlled semi-permeability (e.g. to manage perspiration)
2. Protection against contaminated water carrying biological and chemical pollutants
3. Slip-resistant footwear (boots) and stable-grip gloves to maintain traction in wet environments
4. High mobility and low weight — ensuring fluid-resistant gear does not impede operational agility
5. Quick-drying or drainage-capable materials to minimise prolonged fluid contact
6. Anti-fog mask lenses to maintain visibility in humid and wet conditions

### 4 Mechanical and Physical Violence Threats

*Abrasion, cutting, tearing, and puncture*

In both natural disaster environments and security operations, responders are exposed to sharp objects, debris, fragmented materials, and physical confrontation. Mechanical injuries — though sometimes overlooked in favour of more dramatic chemical or thermal risks — represent a significant and consistent source of harm in operational settings.

#### Innovation needs identified for this threat:

1. Mechanical resistance calibrated to different threat levels — from low-hazard debris to high-risk cutting or puncture scenarios
2. Cut-resistant materials offering protection without sacrificing flexibility or dexterity

3. Reinforced padding in critical body areas to mitigate impact and abrasion injuries

5

### Operational Barriers and Limitations

*Systemic and functional constraints on field performance*

Beyond physical and environmental hazards, the fifth threat category acknowledges the operational constraints that compromise the effectiveness of protective equipment in the field. These are not environmental threats in the traditional sense, but systemic barriers — such as equipment incompatibility, poor ergonomics, and limited situational awareness — that can be just as dangerous as external hazards.

#### Innovation needs identified for this threat:

1. High mobility and flexibility to support dynamic tactical response without restriction
2. Enhanced visibility and identification features for responder localisation in complex environments
3. Compatibility with communication systems and situational awareness tools currently in use
4. Ergonomic design optimised for long-duration wear, reducing fatigue and improving performance
5. Rapid adaptability to changing operational conditions — modularity, quick adjustment, and reconfiguration

#### Significance of the Framework

The five threat categories and their associated innovation needs are an initial assessment and they will be further developed before launching the Call for Tender. However, they were not developed in isolation. They reflect the lived experience of operational responders, informed by scenario analysis, expert consultation, and cross-border knowledge exchange among the ACTIVE PCP consortium partners.

Together, they establish a clear and evidence-based foundation for the innovation process. Any solution, prototype, or technology proposed within the ACTIVE PCP framework will be evaluated against its capacity to address one or more of these identified needs — ensuring that innovation remains grounded in real-world requirements and delivers genuine operational value.

This framework will continue to evolve as the project progresses, with refinements based on market engagement, prototype testing, and stakeholder feedback. It represents the starting point — not the ceiling — of what the ACTIVE PCP Project seeks to achieve.

#### Scenarios


The scenarios below have been created to highlight the operational context under which the described key threats and innovation needs should be considered.

The scenarios may be further updated, and they aim to comprehensively include the main operational issues faced by the ACTIVE PCP Public Buyers.

<b>SCENARIO ID</b>	01 - Security and Safety (Mixed)
<b>SCENARIO NAME</b>	Festival Drone-Based Chemical Dispersal
<b>TYPE</b>	🌀 SECURITY/SAFETY-ORIENTED
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Public Event Chemical Attack + Drone-Based Delivery
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>During an open-air festival, several visitors suddenly experience irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract in front of a stage area. The cause is initially unclear; visitors see drones flying around the festival area, dispersing unknown substances.</p> <p>First responding fire and rescue teams must immediately rescue affected persons, provide medical assistance, and secure the area, although the type and extent of the chemical hazard are initially unknown. Only later is the incident classified as a chemical hazardous materials event, and specialised units are requested.</p>
<b>SECURITY THREATS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated drone attack</li> <li>• Potential multiple drones</li> <li>• Terrorist or extremist intent</li> <li>• Secondary strike risk</li> <li>• Mass panic</li> </ul>
<b>SAFETY THREATS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Airborne toxic exposure</li> <li>• Heat exhaustion</li> <li>• Delayed evacuation</li> <li>• Large-scale contamination</li> </ul>
<b>KEY ROLES</b>	<p>Police: Area isolation, threat neutralisation, public order</p> <p>Fire Service: Ventilation, containment, structural safety</p>
<b>THREATS</b>	KEY THREAT 1, KEY THREAT 2, KEY THREAT 4, KEY THREAT 5
<b>DURATION</b>	4-6 hours
<b>CASUALTIES</b>	20–80 persons
<b>AREA</b>	Outdoor

<b>SCENARIO ID</b>	02 - Safety
<b>SCENARIO NAME</b>	Motorway Crash with Delayed CBRN Identification
<b>TYPE</b>	🌀 SAFETY-ORIENTED
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Traffic Accident + Delayed Hazardous Materials (CBRN) Event
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>In a heavy rain day, after a traffic accident between a passenger car and a truck at a motorway rest area, the fire service is dispatched due to a vehicle fire with a person trapped inside. Initially, there are no indications of hazardous materials involved.</p> <p>Upon arrival, the passenger car is fully engulfed in flames, with one person trapped inside. The truck is located in close proximity and shows no visible</p>

	<p>hazardous goods markings. The truck driver is injured and unable to provide information. Due to the immediate threat to life, the first responding crews immediately initiate rescue operations and fire suppression while wearing breathing apparatus.</p> <p>During these operations, firefighters experience irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract, and a colourless liquid is observed on the roadway. Only after the immediate rescue phase is completed is it identified that the truck was transporting damaged IBC containers containing a corrosive chemical. The incident is subsequently classified as a hazardous materials (CBRN) event, and specialised response units are requested.</p>
<b>SECURITY THREATS</b>	Illegal trafficking of unknown dangerous goods (possible explosive devices/substances)
<b>SAFETY THREATS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle fire and explosion risk</li> <li>• Toxic vapor inhalation</li> <li>• Corrosive liquid dermal exposure</li> <li>• Slipping hazard due to chemical + rain</li> <li>• Environmental contamination</li> <li>• Delayed hazard recognition</li> </ul>
<b>KEY ROLES</b>	Fire Service: Ventilation, containment, structural safety
<b>THREATS</b>	KEY THREAT 1, KEY THREAT 2, KEY THREAT 3, KEY THREAT 5
<b>DURATION</b>	1 - 3 hours
<b>CASUALTIES</b>	5
<b>AREA</b>	Outdoor

<b>SCENARIO ID</b>	03 - Security
<b>SCENARIO NAME</b>	Illicit Fentanyl Mega-Lab Explosion + Armed Threat
<b>TYPE</b>	 SECURITY-ORIENTED
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Organised Crime + CBRN Incident + Improvised Chemical Process Hazards
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	During a targeted police operation against a high-capacity clandestine fentanyl production lab hidden inside a residential building, criminals trigger an improvised explosive device (IED) designed to disperse fentanyl powder and volatile precursors. A violent chemical flash-reaction occurs due to uncontrolled acetyl chloride vapours, creating a toxic airborne cloud inside confined spaces. Multiple police officers are exposed while criminals remain armed and mobile within the structure. Fire rapidly propagates through improvised extraction systems, threatening structural integrity and trapping civilians on upper floors.
<b>SECURITY THREATS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed organised-crime group with counter-intervention tactics</li> <li>• Secondary IEDs and booby traps targeting responders</li> <li>• Attempted destruction of chemical evidence and digital records</li> <li>• Possibility of barricaded suspects or hostage-holding</li> <li>• Surveillance blockers &amp; jammers used inside the lab</li> </ul>

<b>SAFETY THREATS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme fentanyl toxicity (airborne micro-particles, dermal exposure)</li> <li>• Highly volatile precursors</li> <li>• Toxic combustion products</li> <li>• Severe respiratory threats in confined areas</li> <li>• Risk of building structure collapse</li> </ul>
<b>KEY ROLES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Police: Armed threat neutralisation, officers rescue</li> <li>2. CBRNE/HAZMAT: Substance ID, confinement, decontamination</li> <li>3. Fire Service: Fire suppression, structural stabilisation</li> <li>4. EMS: High-risk chemical triage</li> <li>5. Command: Scene Safety, Zone control, Monitoring, Coordination</li> </ol>
<b>THREATS</b>	KEY THREAT 1, KEY THREAT 4, KEY THREAT 5
<b>DURATION</b>	2–4 hours
<b>CASUALTIES</b>	5–10 persons
<b>AREA</b>	Indoor

<b>SCENARIO ID</b>	04 - Security and Safety (Mixed)
<b>SCENARIO NAME</b>	Public Facility Chemical Leak & Crowd Exposure
<b>TYPE</b>	🌀 SECURITY/SAFETY-ORIENTED
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Public Safety Incident + Suspicious Chemical Release
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	A public building such as an administrative facility, shopping centre, or railway station, an incident occurs during normal operations. Several people suddenly report irritation of the eyes and respiratory tract, and some show signs of disorientation. At the same time, a suspicious container leaking liquid is reported in a side room.
<b>SECURITY THREATS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible intentional chemical release</li> <li>• Suspicious container possibly linked to sabotage or terrorism</li> <li>• Risk of secondary devices</li> <li>• Panic-induced crowd surge</li> <li>• Potential attacker among civilians</li> </ul>
<b>SAFETY THREATS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toxic inhalation</li> <li>• Dermal chemical exposure</li> <li>• Slipping hazard from leaked liquids</li> <li>• Fire or explosion risk</li> <li>• Secondary contamination spread</li> </ul>
<b>KEY ROLES</b>	<p>Police: Area isolation, threat neutralisation, public order</p> <p>Fire Service: Ventilation, containment, structural safety</p>
<b>THREATS</b>	KEY THREAT 1, KEY THREAT 4, KEY THREAT 5
<b>DURATION</b>	3-5 hours
<b>CASUALTIES</b>	20–80 persons

<b>AREA</b>	Indoor
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### 3. Purpose of the Open Market Consultation

#### Scope and main objectives

This document outlines the objectives and procedures of the Open Market Consultation (OMC) for the ACTIVE PCP project – a forthcoming Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) in the field of innovative Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for first responders, including police, firefighters, and emergency medical services, operating in complex CBRN-E and HAZMAT environments.

The OMC formally commences with the publication of a Prior Information Notice (PIN) in the Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) and concludes on the date indicated in this document, unless terminated earlier by the public buyers. Through this OMC, the ACTIVE PCP Public Buyers Group (PBG) – consisting of KEMEA, acting on behalf of the Hellenic Police (HP) and as Lead Procurer, the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (PAGD), the Fire Department of Dortmund (FDDO) and the Cyprus Fire Service (FCS) - aims to challenge the market to provide input and insights on innovative PPE solutions addressing critical multi-hazard operational scenarios for first responders (see Section 2.5), by improving protection levels, usability, comfort, and technological integration (e.g. health and environmental monitoring).

In this context, the OMC serves to inform technology providers, research institutions, end-users (e.g. police, fire and rescue services, emergency medical services), and other stakeholders about the needs and requirements of the buyers, and to gather their feedback on the ACTIVE PCP challenge. Another key objective is to assess the market's capability to meet these needs and to obtain input on the feasibility of the procurement plans and conditions described in this document (and its annexes). In sum, the OMC seeks to:

1. Validate the state-of-the-art (SOTA) analysis findings and the viability of the preliminary technical and financial assumptions regarding next-generation multi-hazard PPE for first responders.
2. Raise industry awareness about the upcoming PCP and its opportunities.
3. Collect insights from the market to fine-tune the PCP tender specifications.

This OMC is conducted under the law of the Lead Procurer (Greek law).

The contracting authorities involved are not legally bound by any outcome of the OMC. Launching this OMC does not obligate the buyers to initiate a procurement; if a PCP call is subsequently launched, the PBG reserves the right to adjust or refine any element of the challenge and requirements based on OMC feedback. Participation in the OMC is voluntary, open, and non-binding. The OMC is not part of any pre-qualification or selection process, and no advantage or disadvantage will be given to any supplier or group of suppliers as a result of participation.

All information shared during the OMC (excluding any confidential solution details) will be published openly in English on the project website, ensuring transparency and equal treatment of all parties.

Where appropriate, parts of the information received from market parties can be shared with the European Commission (EC) and the granting authority (REA), in line with the Grant Agreement (GA).

#### Who can participate?

The OMC is open to all interested parties - in particular to technology providers (companies including start-ups, SMEs, large industry, etc.) and end-users such as public authorities, first responders, law enforcement agencies, fire and rescue services, and emergency medical services involved in the use or provision of PPE. However, please note that only suppliers eligible for Horizon Europe PCP actions (i.e. established in EU Member States and/or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and committing to

perform the R&D services within those countries) will be eligible to participate in the subsequent PCP procurement.

Participation in the OMC is voluntary and non-binding and is at the own expense and risk of economic operators. An economic operator cannot charge any costs to the PBG for participation in the OMC or for (re-)use of its information in the context of a future procurement procedure.

Participation in this OMC is not a condition for submitting a tender in the subsequent procurement, does not lead to any rights or privileges for the participants, and is not part of any pre-qualification or selection process. The provided input in this OMC will not be used to evaluate future offers and/or proposals.

### Activities & timetable

The ACTIVE PCP OMC will be carried out through a combination of events and interactions designed to promote a two-way dialogue with the market.

- A series of national OMC webinars in different EU languages (Greek, German, Lithuanian and Spanish), organised and broadcasted online from 27 to 30 April 2026, targeting suppliers and end-users in the participating countries.
- An international (main) OMC event in English (hybrid) bringing together suppliers, researchers, and first responder organisations from across Europe.
- A Request for Information (RFI) questionnaire using the EU Survey tool: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/12e747f7-38ad-d2a6-6bdd-8328c5872edb>
- Other activities as deemed necessary within the scope of the project (e.g. matchmaking between suppliers and buyers, training sessions for public buyers and end-users).

The timetable of activities and required actions of the OMC is as follows:

#### OMC activities and timetable

Date	Event
18 February 2026	Publication of the PIN on TED-eNotices2.
17 March 2026	Publication of the OMC document and the online survey questionnaire on the ACTIVE PCP project website and associated channels.
27 April 2026 10:00 - 12:00 CET	OMC webinar in Greek (online).
28 April 2026 10:00 - 12:00 CET	OMC webinar in German (online).
29 April 2026 10:00 - 12:00 CET	OMC webinar in Lithuanian (hybrid).
30 April 2026 10:00 - 12:00 CET	OMC webinar in Spanish (online).
7 May 2026	Hybrid International OMC event in English (Brussels).
20 May 2026 17:00 CET	Deadline for the submission of answers to the questionnaire in the EU Survey
29 May 2026	Publication of the OMC report on <a href="https://www.activepcp.eu/">https://www.activepcp.eu/</a>
29 May 2026	Formal closure of the OMC.

The ACTIVE PCP consortium is entitled to adjust the planned activities and the timetable above, and to include new activities at any time according to the needs and responses of the market. Furthermore,

it may decide to terminate the OMC for its own reasons at any time. In that case, ACTIVE PCP consortium will publish such modifications or termination on TED and the project's website ([Home - ACTIVE PCP](#)).

The events and webinars celebrated within the framework of the OMC will be recorded. In that case, by attending the physical event, you will consent to be recorded. By using your video and microphone during the webinars, you will consent to be recorded. If you do not want your voice and image to be recorded during the webinars, you may ask your questions using the chat. The ACTIVE PCP consortium shall use those records for the purpose of the project only.

In addition, please be aware that photos may be taken during the meetings. The ACTIVE PCP consortium shall use those photos for the project only.

### **Registration**

Registration is required to participate in the OMC webinars and the international hybrid OMC event. Interested participants are asked to register via the online form available on the ACTIVE PCP website (section "Open Market Consultation" / "Tenders"): [Open Market Consultations - ACTIVE PCP](#)

Registration is free of charge. In the registration form, you will be asked to provide basic information (name, organisation, contact details, etc.) and indicate which session(s) you plan to attend (national-language OMC webinars and/or the international OMC event in English). Early registration is encouraged, as it will help the organisers in planning the sessions and logistics.

For the international hybrid event, on-site attendance may be limited by venue capacity, so prior registration is essential (places will be confirmed by the organisers). Priority for on-site participation may be given to organisations that have submitted a completed RFI questionnaire (if applicable). Online participants will receive webinar access details by email after registration. The project will ensure that remote attendees can fully engage with the event (live streaming of presentations and an interactive Q&A/chat for questions).

Please note that by registering, participants agree to the project's [privacy policy](#) regarding the handling of personal data. Personal data will be used solely for the purposes of organising the OMC and will be treated as confidential in compliance with GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679) and any other applicable EU legislation.

### **Procedure**

The OMC starts on the date of its publication in TED and ends on the date set in the timetable, unless terminated earlier.

Interested parties are requested to register through the link provided above in order to participate in the events and receive additional information about the project. The questionnaire should be filled out before the deadline indicated in the timetable above.

The ACTIVE PCP consortium will support interested parties throughout the whole OMC during the events and by answering questions through a Q&A document, which will be published on the project's website.

Additional written contributions in the form of a Request for Information (RFI) questionnaire or other questionnaires (via the EU Survey platform), aiming to collect market information on innovative and commercial solutions, may be requested.

The responses to the questionnaire should not contain any confidential information. As the questionnaire is intended to explore the market "as is", there are no right or wrong answers. The answers provided will be used as input for the procurement strategy and contract conditions.

After processing and analysing the answers, the ACTIVE PCP consortium will disseminate the results to the widest possible audience. Nevertheless, all answers provided by market parties will be anonymised and treated as confidential. The ACTIVE PCP consortium will therefore not provide information about specific answers from economic operators. Only the general findings and a summary of the answers will be provided. The results of this OMC will be published on the project's website.

In case the information provided in this document and annexes needs further clarification, economic operators may ask questions during the events, or via the contact email address ([office@activepcp.eu](mailto:office@activepcp.eu)).

Economic operators who wish to provide additional confidential information during the OMC can send an email to the email address indicated above. The information must be clearly marked as confidential. Confidential information will not be included in the OMC report.

#### **Request for Information (RFI) questionnaire**

- As part of the OMC, the ACTIVE PCP consortium is seeking written feedback from technology providers, system integrators, research institutions, and all relevant stakeholders via a Request for Information (RFI) questionnaire. The RFI is available online via the EU Survey tool [<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/12e747f7-38ad-d2a6-6bdd-8328c5872edb>] and the questions are also listed below for reference.

Please note that taking part in this survey is not a prerequisite for participation in the future PCP and does not give any advantage to any technology provider. ACTIVE PCP will ensure transparency, openness, and equal treatment of all economic operators. All information provided in the questionnaire will be anonymised, summarised and published online in English on the project's website.

Your personal data will be collected, processed, stored and used by the ACTIVE PCP consortium with the sole purpose of gathering information from the market within the framework of the ACTIVE PCP. Personal data will be treated as strictly confidential according to the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council – GDPR). You may exercise your right to access your personal data and the right to rectify such data by contacting: [office@activepcp.eu](mailto:office@activepcp.eu)

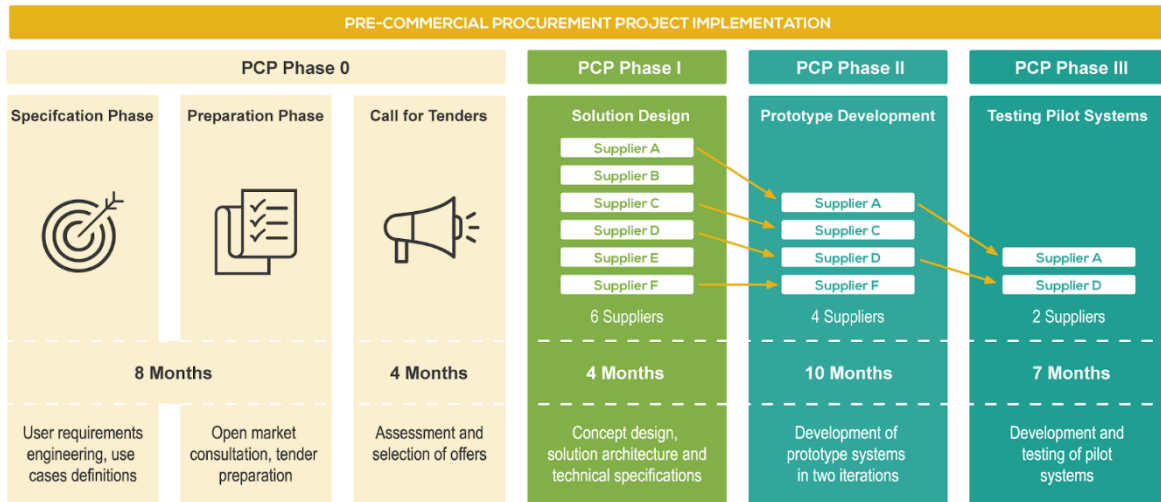
#### **4. The Pre-Commercial Procurement approach**

This OMC concerns an upcoming PCP of R&D services to be performed in their entirety (100%) in the EU Member States and/ or Associated Countries.

PCP is an approach that allows public procurers to buy R&D from several competing technology providers in parallel, to compare alternative solution approaches, and to identify the best value-for-money solutions that the market can deliver to address their needs. In PCP, there is a risk-benefit sharing under market conditions between the public procurer and the technology providers, and a clear separation between the PCP and the deployment of commercial volumes of end-products.

The PCP tender will start with the publication of the contract notice on Ted-eNotices 2 along with the Call for tenders, and its annexes, inter alia the framework agreement, and the phase contracts. After evaluating the offers submitted by the technology providers according to the rules established in the tender documents, the contracts will be awarded, and a contract award notice will be published on Ted-eNotices2. The process will be monitored to ensure sound deployment, integration and validation of the PCP.

The PCP procedure is composed of three phases: solution design, prototyping and original development and testing.



### ACTIVE PCP – Project Implementation

**Phase 1. Solution Design:** During this phase, the contractors will be asked to describe their PPE solution, providing the complete architecture and design thereof and verifying the technical, economic and organisational feasibility of their approach to address the ACTIVE PCP challenge.

**Phase 2. Prototyping:** This phase concerns the development of the first PPE prototypes, which will be tested. Contractors will develop prototypes based on the design documents delivered in the previous phase and test their solutions, including lab tests and controlled trials, to assess technical performance and usability.

**Phase 3. Original Development and Testing:** This phase will validate the final PPE solutions (at least two) in diverse pilot conditions using the detailed scenarios and processes developed in the verification and validation strategy. During phase 3, a feedback mechanism will be established between the PBG and the selected contractors, enabling end-users to request improvements directly. The Public Buyers will request deliverables such as integration and field acceptance reports to confirm that the final solutions have been successfully deployed and validated in real or realistic operational environments.

After each phase, intermediate evaluations will be carried out to progressively select the best of the competing solutions. The contractors with the best-value-for-money solutions will be offered a specific contract for the next phase.

The contractors will retain ownership of the IPRs that they generate during the PCP and will be able to use them to exploit the full market potential of the developed PPE solutions, subject to the specific IPR provisions and FRAND-based exploitation obligations defined in the framework agreement.

For the three phases of the pre-commercial procurement, the table below shows the envisaged distribution of budget, the number of expected suppliers for each of them as well as the planned share of R&D product costs for Phase III (pilots). The final distribution will be agreed also taking into account the feedback received during the OMC. Table 2: PCP phase overview

#### ACTIVE PCP – Estimated budget per phase

PCP PHASE	Duration	Number of contractors (foreseen)	Maximum budget per contractor	Total budget per phase (VAT included)
<b>PHASE 1: Solution design</b>	4 months	6	58.333,33	350.000
<b>PHASE 2: Prototyping</b>	10 months	3	600.000	1.800.000
<b>PHASE 3: Original development and testing</b>	7 months	2	750.000	1.500.000
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.650.000</b>

## Contracts implementation

During the implementation of ACTIVE PCP, effective tools will be used in order to monitor the performance of the R&D suppliers and provide regular feedback during each phase. Each contractor will be assigned a main contact person (their supervisor) appointed by the procurers as the main point of contact. The monitoring process will be divided into three sets of activities, aligned with the project's PCP governance and monitoring framework:

- **Pre-monitoring:** A kick-off meeting per contractor will be scheduled at the beginning of each PCP phase, and the selected contractors will be requested to present their implementation schedule of the phase they are entering. During the same meeting, the supervisor will present the framework for the review. The objective is to establish a close and fruitful communication channel with the contractors, to ensure from the outset that the project is implemented according to the needs of the buyers.
- **Monitoring:** Contract implementation will be monitored and reviewed against the expected outcomes for each phase, with increasing intensity from phase 1 to phase 3. This may include regular meetings (online or on-site), visits to contractor facilities, reviews of documentation and test results, and ad-hoc inspections if R&D progress is at risk. Contractors will be required to report regularly (e.g. monthly) on the status of work, progress achieved, and any issues encountered. All documentation generated by the contractors will be reviewed, and recommendations or focus areas for further work will be identified.
- **Post-monitoring:** At the conclusion of the monitoring activities, the supervisor will provide written feedback for each contractor at each PCP phase, including comments and remarks on the outcomes under review. Monitoring activities will be continued after the PCP is completed, in particular to check whether the contractors are successfully commercialising the R&D results within the call-back period defined in the PCP framework agreement. If that is not the case, the ACTIVE PCP consortium may request that R&D suppliers grant licenses under FRAND terms to other third parties or transfer back ownership of results to the PBG, in line with the agreed IPR conditions.






## PCP-phase 0 – Open Market Consultations

An OMC aims to:

- **inform** potential suppliers (industry) about the ACTIVE PCP opportunities.
- **explain** in detail the pre-commercial procurement process
- **open a dialogue** with market stakeholders about the scope of procurement envisaged in the project, including technical specifications
- **facilitate matchmaking** among potential suppliers in need of support in the building of consortia capable of addressing the needs of the ACTIVE PCP procurers in full.

The Open Market Consultation is organised in the form of different activities that are available in the ACTIVE PCP website: <https://www.activepcp.eu/open-market-consultations/>

- **Local events.** Each procurer will hold an OMC event in their local language to engage with country stakeholders.
- **International webinar.** In addition, an international OMC webinar will be organised in English to welcome participants from any location. Besides, an added value of the international webinar will be a pitching session for market players interested in finding partners for a joint tender.

 <p><b>Greece &amp; Cyprus</b> 27th of April 2026 Language: Greek Location: Online</p>	 <p><b>Austria &amp; Germany</b> 28th of April 2026 Language: German Location: Online</p>
 <p><b>Lithuania</b> 29th of April 2026 Language: Lithuanian Location: Online</p>	 <p><b>Spain</b> 30th of April 2026 Language: Spanish Location: Online</p>
 <p><b>INTERNATIONAL</b> 07.05.2026   Belgium Language: English Location: Brussels, Permanent Representation of Greece in EU</p>	

#### OMC Dates

- **OMC online questionnaire.** Organisations related to ACTIVE PCP are invited to fill in an online questionnaire to let us know about their experience, existing solutions and further feedback on the PCP scope. The questionnaire will be open until **the 20th of May 2026**.
- **Matchmaking platform.** Many PCP tenderers choose to apply together with international partners in a joint tender (consortium) to be able to fulfil all the requirements. The matchmaking will be facilitated by the Innovation Procurement Platform. Find more information here: <https://www.innovationprocurement.com/tenders/36/show/active-pcp-pre-commercial-procurement-of-innovative-personal-protective-equipment-for-first-responders>
- **Management of FAQs.** The questions that might rise during the OMC will be published anonymously in the ACTIVE PCP website with clear answers for any interested party.

#### PCP-phase 1 – Solution Design

During this phase, the contractors will be asked to describe their PPE solution, providing the complete architecture and design thereof and verifying the technical, economic and organisational feasibility of their approach to address the ACTIVE PCP challenge.

- **Expected output:** detailed report describing the solution and a detailed plan for the prototyping and testing activities in Phases 2 & 3.
- **Duration:** 4 months
- **Maximum phase total budget:** €58,333.33 (max. €350.000 per contractor)
- The offers are ranked according to **quality – price ratio**
- **For Phase 1,** 6 contracts are expected to be awarded. Contracts are awarded until the remaining budget for that phase is insufficient to fund the next best tender.

#### PCP-phase 2 – Prototype development

This phase concerns the development of the first PPE prototypes, which will be tested. Contractors will develop prototypes based on the design documents delivered in the previous phase and test their solutions, including lab tests and controlled trials, to assess technical performance and usability.

- **Expected output:**
  - Prototype specification
  - Prototype demonstration
  - Plan for development of a limited volume of solutions for field-testing
  - Updated cost/benefits forecast including a preliminary business plan
- **Duration:** 10 months
- **Maximum phase total budget:** €1.800.000 (max. €600.000 per contractor)
  - The offers are ranked according to quality – price ratio
  - Contracts are awarded until the remaining budget for that phase is insufficient to contract the next best tender
- **For phase 2,** 4 contracts are expected to be awarded. Contracts are awarded until the remaining budget for that phase is insufficient to fund the next best tender.

### PCP-phase 3 – Testing of pilot services

This phase will validate the final PPE solutions (at least two) in diverse pilot conditions using the detailed scenarios and processes developed in the verification and validation strategy. During phase 3, a feedback mechanism will be established between the PBG and the selected contractors, enabling end-users to request improvements directly. The Public Buyers will request deliverables such as integration and field acceptance reports to confirm that the final solutions have been successfully deployed and validated in real or realistic operational environments.

- **Expected output:**
  - Implementation in the 4 testing sites
  - Overall assessment and success verification
  - Updated cost/benefits forecast, including a preliminary business plan
- **Duration:** 7 months
- **Maximum phase total budget:** €1.500,000 (max. €750.000 per contractor)
  - The offers are ranked according to quality – price ratio
  - Contracts are awarded until the remaining budget for that phase is insufficient to contract the next best tender
- A minimum of **2 contracts** are expected to be awarded.

### The Public Buyers Group

The ACTIVE PCP consortium's Public Buyers Group (PBG) consists of four public buyers from four EU Member States (Greece, Lithuania, Germany, and Cyprus). The PBG includes KEMEA acting on behalf of the Hellenic Police (HP), the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (PAGD), the Fire Department of Dortmund (FDDO), and the Cyprus Fire Service (FCS), supported by the Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus (TRC) as affiliated entity for procurement. For the purpose of the PCP, the PBG is represented by KEMEA as the lead procurer, acting in the name and on behalf of all buyers.

**KENTRO MELETON ASFALEIAS – CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES (KEMEA, Lead Procurer – Greece)** – The Center for Security Studies (Kentro Meleton Asfaleias – KEMEA), founded in 2005 by Law 3387, is a scientific, consulting and research organisation overseen by the Minister of Citizen Protection, governed by common law and annually audited by chartered accountants. Its principal purpose is to conduct theoretical and applied research and studies, particularly at strategic level, on security topics and policies. Moreover, it is the think-tank of the Ministry of Citizen Protection on numerous policies such as public order, correctional services, terrorism prevention, crime prevention, integrated border management and civil protection as well as on various other security and societal issues; it also provides advisory and consulting risk-management services to an array of public and private organisations. Specifically, the activities KEMEA is involved in include:

- a) research and development in the context of National and European projects in close cooperation with LEAs, working under the auspices of the Ministry of Citizen Protection,
- b) training of practitioners in new systems and technologies, and
- c) the certification of practitioners in private security professions at the national level.

The main objective of KEMEA is to bring together all national Law Enforcement Agencies (Border Guards, Police, Coast Guard, Fire Service, Civil Protection agency, etc.) and to enable them to collaborate, interconnecting them with corresponding agencies, research institutions and the industry from around Europe. This dedicated approach to exploring synergies, establishing communication links, and working together to produce end-user driven research on all fronts of the Security Sector during the last decade, has earned KEMEA its participation in numerous National and EC R&D projects.

KEMEA is a leading research organization with extensive experience in European security and innovation programmes, specializing in terrorism, law enforcement support, Critical Infrastructure protection, cybersecurity – cybercrime, fight against crime and border security. The organization has successfully coordinated and participated in multiple EU-funded initiatives (H2020, Horizon Europe, ISF), with a strong track record in both Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) and Coordination and Support Action (CSA) projects. In particular, KEMEA has extensive experience and proven leadership in PCPs (PREVENT PCP, iProcureSecurity PCP, SHUTTLE PCP, CIVILnEXt, Broadway), PPI (DrugDetect) and Innovation Procurement projects (PREVENT, INTERCEPT, POWERBASE, EWISA, BroadEU.Net). KEMEA, in PREVENT PCP project, acted as both, Lead Procurer and Public Buyer.

**HELLENIC POLICE (HP – Greece)** - The Hellenic Police is the national law enforcement agency of Greece, operating under the Ministry of Citizen Protection. Its mission is to ensure peace and order, prevent and combat crime, protect the State and the democratic order, and safeguard citizens' safety and social development. HP combines central and regional services, invests in modern training, crime-prevention policies and technology, and participates in a large number of EU-funded security projects, providing real-world operational and end-user feedback for PPE in ACTIVE PCP.

**PRIESGAISRINĖS APSAUGOS IR GELBĖJIMO DEPARTAMENTAS PRIE VIDUAS REIKALU MINISTERIJOS – FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (PAGD – Lithuania)** - PAGD is responsible for state fire supervision, firefighting and rescue operations, and for managing activities of the civil protection system in Lithuania. Its tasks include organising and managing firefighting and rescue of people and property, coordinating emergency prevention and preparedness, and planning national readiness for civil protection in emergencies. PAGD contributes extensive operational experience in fire, rescue and HAZMAT management to the design, testing and evaluation of advanced PPE within ACTIVE PCP.

**STADT DORTMUND – FIRE DEPARTMENT OF DORTMUND (FDDO – Germany)** - The Fire Department of Dortmund is one of the largest fire departments in Germany, responsible for firefighting, rescue and emergency management in a city of about 604,000 inhabitants and participating in supra-local and nationwide CBRN incident response concepts. FDDO operates nine fire and rescue stations, supported by around 1,200 full-time and 1,000 volunteer firefighters, and maintains its own training centre and the Institute for Fire Service and Rescue Technology (IFR), which conducts applied research and development. FDDO and IFR bring strong practical and research expertise, as well as experience from multiple national and EU projects, to support analyses, exercises, pilot activities and evaluations in ACTIVE PCP.

**PYROSVESTIKI YPIRESIA KYPROU – FIRE SERVICE OF CYPRUS (FCS/FSC - Cyprus)** - The Cyprus Fire Service is responsible for fire prevention and extinguishing, rescue of lives, and a wide range of humanitarian and public assistance services across the territory of the Republic of Cyprus. It operates fire stations in all provinces and airports, and a Special Disaster Response Unit (EMAK) with specialised personnel and equipment for complex search-and-rescue and disaster situations, including 24/7 readiness. The Service also advises the public on fire protection and checks building fire-safety

measures, contributing operational know-how and requirements for PPE used in diverse scenarios and environments.

**AFFILIATED ENTITY: TREASURY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS (TRC)** - The Public Procurement Directorate of the Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus acts as the competent authority for public procurement in Cyprus and is affiliated to the Cyprus Fire Service within ACTIVE PCP. It prepares and publishes regulations, manuals, model tender forms and guidance, and reviews procedures for contracts co-financed by EU funds, providing specialised procurement expertise to support the PCP implementation.

## 5. Market analysis: preliminary results

The ACTIVE PCP worked on a preliminary market analysis that served to understand the current state of technology and the innovation gaps relevant to next-generation personal protective equipment for first responders. This section presents the preliminary results of the market analysis, which aims to identify existing technologies that can tackle the procurement challenge and to estimate the TRL thereof. It started with the publication of a survey and a preliminary Open Market Consultation (OMC) at the proposal stage to gather information from potential technology vendors about their products, services, and capabilities in the field of PPE for first responders. Then, as part of the ACTIVE PCP a Patent Landscape and Market Mapping have been started and will be further elaborated until the Call for Tenders publication.

### Patent Landscape Preliminary Results

This section presents the preliminary results of the market analysis, which aims to identify existing technologies that can tackle the procurement challenge and to estimate the TRL thereof. It started with the publication of a Call for Information and market research to gather information from potential technology vendors about their products, services, and capabilities in the field of PPE for first responders.

Preliminary analysis of the patent landscape, conducted via the IPlytics tool, shows that a wide range of technologies already exist in areas relevant to protective equipment and emergency response systems. Most patents focus on improvements in protective clothing and materials, respiratory protection systems, wearable sensors, communication technologies, and modular equipment components. Many of these solutions are already present in the market and are commercially used by emergency responders and industrial safety personnel. These technologies therefore represent relatively mature developments, particularly in areas such as protective garments and breathing apparatus.

Several of the identified patents are partially relevant to the objectives of the ACTIVE PCP project, as they address individual technological elements that are important for next-generation personal protective equipment, including hazard protection, physiological monitoring, and communication capabilities. However, the majority of the patents focus on specific components or incremental improvements, rather than on the development of fully integrated protective systems tailored to the operational needs of first responders.

The analysis also highlights a number of technological gaps. In particular, existing solutions rarely provide integrated systems combining protective materials, environmental sensors, physiological monitoring, communication technologies, and data processing within a single platform.

Overall, while the patent landscape demonstrates a strong foundation of technological innovation, No single patent, standard, or existing solution covers the full range of ACTIVE PCP requirements, and significant opportunities remain for the development of lightweight, interoperable, and digitally connected PPE solutions capable of supporting real-time situational awareness and multi-hazard

protection. Addressing these gaps is essential for meeting the innovation objectives pursued within the ACTIVE PCP initiative.

### Market Mapping Preliminary Results

Complementing the patent analysis, a structured market mapping exercise was conducted to systematically profile the supply landscape across four dimensions: suppliers, solutions, technology domains, and relevant EU-funded projects.

A total of 67 suppliers were identified and mapped, comprising 44 EU-based companies and 23 international players. Of these, 44 are large companies, 23 are SMEs, and 1 is a startup. Supplier coverage across the six ACTIVE PCP protection areas reveals an uneven distribution: mechanical and physical protection is the most represented area (49 suppliers), followed by heat and fire protection (47) and chemical substances (43), while biological (17) and radiological/nuclear (12) protection remain substantially less served by the current market.

At the solution level, 101 products and systems were profiled in detail. The large majority - 90 out of 101 - are commercially available or near-commercial (TRL 9), while only 10 solutions reached the level of advanced prototypes or field-validated systems. This concentration at high TRL confirms that the market offers a mature base for individual components but falls short of integrated multi-hazard systems.

The technology mapping identified 34 technologies across 8 thematic domains: Advanced Materials, Integrated Sensors, Smart/Connected PPE, Detection Technology, Decontamination, Digital & Command Systems, Human Augmentation, and Sustainability & Lifecycle. TRL ranges vary considerably across domains - from early-stage research (TRL 4) to full commercial maturity (TRL 9) - with emerging areas such as Human Augmentation and integrated wearable sensors still concentrated at lower readiness levels.

A review of 25 relevant EU-funded projects (from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe) was also conducted. Of these, 8 were assessed as highly relevant to ACTIVE PCP, including projects such as TeamUP, PROACTIVE, CHIMERA, and iProcureSecurity PCP, which address CBRNe PPE effectiveness, procurement methodology, and end-user co-design. The remaining projects provide medium-level relevance in areas such as training, detection, and biological threat preparedness.

Finally, the preliminary Innovation Gap Analysis synthesised these findings into 9 identified gaps spanning all six protection areas. Two gaps were assessed as critical priority - relating to multi-hazard chemical/thermal ensemble certification and the integration of smart sensor layers into certified fire PPE - while five further gaps were rated as high priority, including embedded chemical detection, biometric monitoring integration, and decontamination interoperability. These gaps confirm that addressing these gaps is essential for meeting the innovation objectives pursued within the ACTIVE PCP initiative.

## 6. Call for Tender

**Table 3: Preliminary Call for Tenders Information**

Topic	Details
Tentative Launch	July 2026
Submission	Online Portal
Proposal Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative</li> <li>• Technical</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial</li> </ul>
<b>Official Language</b>	English
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open to all types of operators (companies or other types of legal entities) regardless of their size or governance structure.</li> <li>Single entity or joint tender offer (consortia)</li> <li>The organisation or consortia of organisations must be able to cover all the requirements unless stated otherwise.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exclusion, Selection, Compliance and Award criteria are yet to be developed.</li> <li>Quality-price ratio will put a focus on quality.</li> </ul>