SYMBEEO

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DESIGN STUDY

Vendor-neutral requirements for a regional government's data-center and network tender

Complete design on current platforms

CAPABILITY	INDUSTRY	SETTING
Consulting & Engineering	Public Sector	Regional government
DOCUMENT	**VERSION**	**DATE**
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Document control

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Sign-off	"An engagement under this design is signed by the practice lead before the engagement starts."		

Contents

1 · Scope 3
1c · Public implementations this design follows 4
2 · Requirements register 4
3 · Architecture overview 5
4 · Design by subsystem 6
5 · Failure behavior 7
6 · Limits 7
7 · Lessons learned 7
8 · The author 8

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CONVENTIONS

Source tags. [S] figure or clause read from the standards body's or publisher's own current page on Sep 24, 2026 · [S*] figure from the page summary where the page itself could not be opened · [A] assumption about the typical buyer, to be confirmed by the signing engineer · [T] design target taken from the design's stated outcome or derived from it. Every figure carries one tag. No figure comes from any prior engagement, file or asset. A row with more than one tag is counted once: as a published figure if any tag is [S] or [S*], otherwise as an assumption if any tag is [A], otherwise as a design target.

Table 1. Revision history

Date	Version	Change
Sep 27, 2026	1.0	First issue.
Oct 10, 2026	1.1	Approval line now reads: approved by the Founder, issued by Symbeeo. David Morgan remains the author.
Nov 4, 2026	1.2	Wording correction: what the engagement leaves out.
Nov 6, 2026	1.3	Independence reworded: vendor commissions, rebates and incentives are declared.

1 · Scope

Who it is for. The head of digital procurement of a regional government who must put a data-center and campus-network refresh out to open tender, and who needs a technical specification that names no product, survives a bidder's challenge, and lets every bid be scored against the same numbers.

Typical buyer [A]. A regional government with 6,000 staff across 42 buildings, two owned data centers 25 km apart, 900 virtual machines, and a campus network past its vendor's end-of-support date in 2027. The tender will be let as two lots: data center (compute, storage, fabric) and campus network (switching, wireless, network access control).

What is in. Current-state baseline sufficient to size both lots; stakeholder elicitation; a requirements register under ISO/IEC/IEEE 29148:2018; the verification method for every row, written so it can become the bid-evaluation test; a regulatory applicability note; the handover of a signed, hashed register to the tender team. SRA-CON-001 Model A.
What is out. The tender procedure itself and its legal review; bid scoring; any design of either lot (SRA-NET-001 and SRA-DC-001 own that); the contract.

Assumptions. The tender falls under Directive 2014/24/EU as transposed nationally [A]. The client's CMDB is 3 years old and its accuracy is unknown [A]. The procurement team will publish the register as the technical annex without rewording it [A]. The engagement starts when read-only access and scan authorization are granted [A].

Related documents, read Sep 24, 2026. SRA-CON-001, SDD-CON-001, STP-CON-001 (this capability) · IEEE P29148 project page (current edition 29148-2018; PAR approved Sep 10, 2025), https://standards.ieee.org/ieee/29148/12262/ · Directive 2014/24/EU, Article 42 (technical specifications), https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/24/oj/eng · Interoperable Europe Act, Regulation (EU) 2024/903, https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/Interoperable-Europe-Act-Regulation · Cyber Resilience Act reporting obligations, https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cra-reporting · NIS2, Directive (EU) 2022/2555, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2555/oj/eng.

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1c · Public implementations this design follows

Each row is labeled. **Public deployment**: a named operator's real deployment, published and dated by the operator, its vendor or a partner, used where one exists. **Our own design**: the dated vendor or standards documentation this design was built from, where no public deployment of the design exists. Labels and dates checked Sep 27, 2026.

Table 2. Public implementations this design follows

Implementation	Who published it · date	What it settles for this design	URL
Our own design, built from published documentation. Directive 2014/24/EU, Article 42(3) and (4): specifications may be written as performance or functional requirements; unless justified by the subject-matter, they shall not refer to a specific make or source, trade marks, patents or types	European Parliament and Council · Feb 26, 2014	R5 and §4.3: the zero-product-name rule of SRA-CON-001 R6 is also the procurement law this tender runs under, so the register's own quality test doubles as the challenge test	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/24/oj/eng
Our own design, built from published documentation. Interoperable Europe Act, Article 3(1): a public sector body carries out an interoperability assessment before deciding on new or substantially modified binding requirements that affect trans-European digital public services	Regulation (EU) 2024/903, Official Journal of Mar 22, 2024 (date shown on the Interoperable Europe portal page); portal read Sep 24, 2026	R11 and §4.5: whether the refresh triggers an assessment is a finding in the applicability note, not an assumption	https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/Interoperable-Europe-Act-Regulation
Our own design, built from published documentation. ISO/IEC/IEEE 29148:2018 remains the current edition; revision P29148 under an IEEE PAR approved Sep 10, 2025	IEEE Standards Association · 2018 edition published Nov 30, 2018; revision PAR approved Sep 10, 2025; read Sep 24, 2026	R4 and §4.3: the register is written to the 2018 characteristics; the status is checked again before issue	https://standards.ieee.org/ieee/29148/12262/

No public, dated record of a regional government writing vendor-neutral requirements for a data-center and network tender was found on Sep 27, 2026; every row is documentation used to build our own design.

2 · Requirements register

These are the requirements on the engagement, not the tender's requirements; the tender's rows are the engagement's output.

Table 3. Requirements register

#	Requirement	Value	Source
R1	Assessment scope	42 buildings · 2 data centers · 900 VMs; domains data center and campus network	[A]
R2	Inventory coverage	≥ 95 % of in-scope IP-addressable devices reconciled across two sources	[T] from SRA-CON-001 R2
R3	Lifecycle status	100 % of reconciled items carry the vendor's published end-of-sale and end-of-support dates, or "no public date" with the URL searched	[T]

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#	Requirement	Value	Source
R4	Requirement quality	100 % of tender rows meet the 29148:2018 characteristics of an individual requirement	[S] 29148
R5	Product neutrality	zero tender rows name a make, source, trade mark or type	[S] 2014/24/EU Art. 42(4)
R6	Verifiability	every tender row carries one verification method: inspection, analysis, demonstration or test	[S] 29148
R7	Evaluation readiness	every "must" row states a pass value a bid evaluator can check without asking the author	[T]
R8	Tender size	150–220 rows across the two lots	[A]
R9	Traceability	every tender row traces to one stakeholder need and one baseline finding or policy	[S] 29148
R10	Independent review	20 % of rows, minimum 20, re-tested by an architect outside the engagement	[T] from STP-CON-001 T6
R11	Regulatory applicability	NIS2, the Cyber Resilience Act and the Interoperable Europe Act each marked applicable or not, one sentence of basis each	[S] EUR-Lex; European Commission
R12	Independence	any commission, rebate or incentive from a vendor that may bid is declared	[A] Symbeeo policy
R13	Turnaround	register issued ≤ 20 working days after access is granted	[T] from SRA-CON-001 R13
R14	Handover	register version and hash recorded at hand-over; later edits only by change order	[T] from STP-CON-001 T22

Fourteen rows; five carry a published clause or figure, three are design assumptions, six are design targets.

3 · Architecture overview

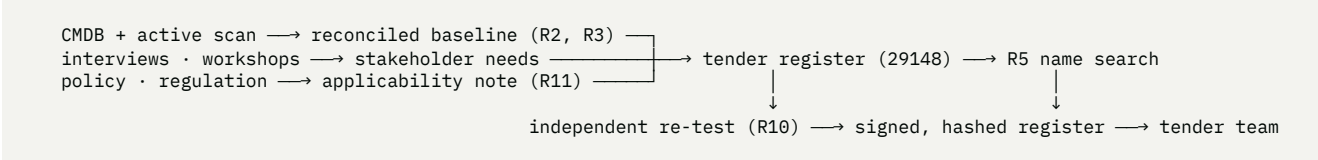


Figure 1. Tender register flow

One register for both lots, every row written as a performance or functional requirement with a pass value, checked twice before the tender team sees it.

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Table 4. Architecture overview

Role	Component (exact name)	Qty	Capacity used	Why this unit
Requirements standard	ISO/IEC/IEEE 29148:2018	1	150–220 rows [A]	Current edition [S]; the characteristics are the row test
Procurement rule	Directive 2014/24/EU, Article 42(3) and (4)	1	every row	Performance or functional form; no make or source [S]
Baseline sources	active scan (SNMPv3, SSH read-only) plus the client CMDB	2	42 buildings, 2 data centers [A]	Two independent sources per device class (SDD-CON-001 §4.1)
Register template	SDD-CON-001 §4.3 columns	1	ID, statement, value, rationale, source, priority, verification method, owner, status	Same columns the evaluators will score against [T]
Independent reviewer	architect outside the engagement	1	20 % of rows, minimum 20 [T]	The tester is not the author (STP-CON-001)

4 · Design by subsystem

4.1 Baseline.

Active scan and the CMDB reconciled on serial number (R2); lifecycle dates from each vendor's own end-of-life page (R3). The baseline sizes the tender: port counts, rack power and VM counts become the capacity rows, taken from what the scan shows rather than what the CMDB says [A]. An item seen by one source only is listed as a finding, not dropped.

4.2 Elicitation.

Interviews: procurement lead, data-center manager, network manager, information security officer, two building managers, finance [A]. One workshop turns the interview notes into needs; one read-through takes the draft register back to the same people. A need nobody owns is held "open", not written [A].

4.3 Writing the tender rows.

Every row is written in performance or functional form, as Article 42(3) permits [S]: "each access port delivers ≥ 30 W to a powered device" [A] rather than a model name. A reference to a standard is allowed where the standard is open (an IEEE 802.3 power class, not a vendor feature name) [A]. Every row carries a verification method (R6) the evaluator can run on a bid: inspection of a datasheet clause, demonstration in a proof-of-concept, or test at acceptance. Rejected: a product-based specification "or equivalent" — Article 42(4) allows it only where no sufficiently precise description is possible [S], and a 220-row register shows one is.

4.4 Neutrality and quality checks.

A text search of all rows against a list of vendor and product names before release (R5); then the independent reviewer re-tests 20 % of rows against the 29148 characteristics (R10). A row that fails either check goes back to its author, not to the tender [A].

4.5 Regulatory applicability.

One sentence each (R11): NIS2, where the region's public administration falls in scope under national transposition; the Cyber Resilience Act, which lands on the bidders' products and so becomes a set of supplier-declaration rows in the

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tender; the Interoperable Europe Act, whose Article 3(1) assessment applies only if the refresh sets binding requirements for a trans-European digital public service [S]. A finding, not legal advice.

4.6 Handover.

The register is signed by the sponsor, hashed, and handed to the tender team with its version (R14). The evaluation team receives the verification column as its scoring sheet. The engagement ends at the handover; Model B governance is not part of this engagement [A].

5 · Failure behavior

Table 5. Failure behavior

Failure	Behavior	Source
Scan authorization refused for some buildings	coverage below R2 for those sites, flagged in the baseline; capacity rows for them carry a stated margin	[A]
A stakeholder asks for a named product	recorded as a need in functional form; the name does not enter the register (R5)	[S] Art. 42(4)
Independent reviewer fails more than 10 % of the sample	whole register re-reviewed, not only the sample	[A]
Register edited after hand-over	edit refused unless a signed change order exists (R14)	[T]
Bidder challenges a row as favoring a make	the row's rationale, source and functional form are the answer; the record is in the register	[A]
Turnaround at risk	open rows listed by owner at the weekly checkpoint; R13 reported red	[A]

6 · Limits

- The register makes a tender comparable; it does not guarantee a bid meets it. Bid scoring is the client's.
- The applicability note is a finding, not legal advice; the client's legal team owns the procurement procedure.
- Capacity rows are only as current as the baseline; a building added after the scan is a change order.
- The row count (R8) is an assumption until the workshop closes.
- 29148 is under revision; the status is checked again before the register is issued.

7 · Lessons learned

None yet — this is a design study; populated after the first build against it.

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8 · The author

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Signed off by Edwin Ozer, Founder.

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SYMBEEO

Each vendor's tool shows you their option. We show you all of them against one requirement.

Compared. Then Delivered.

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Figures are as published by their sources on the dates given in this document; figures marked [A] are assumptions.

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