

Scientific High-throughput and Unified Toolkit for Trace analysis by forensic Laboratories in Europe

Press Release – Roissy, 13 March 2019

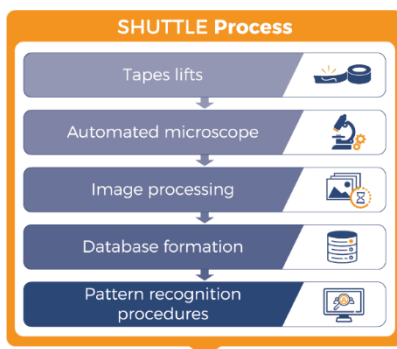
Open call for participation in European funded security project: In May 2019, the SHUTTLE project will launch a call for tender to select the potential service suppliers that will build its European toolkit for microscopic traces analysis.

The aim of the European funded SHUTTLE project is to develop a toolkit which facilitates the microtraces analysis collected in crime scenes. The development of this toolkit shall be realised through a Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) action which means that the public authorities within the SHUTTLE project invite the commercial sector to make an offer for the required Research and Development (R&D) services in order to develop the toolkit. After a first Infoday where the consortium probed the industry interest and was informed by service suppliers about the state-of-the-art, the official call for tender will follow in May 2019. Any interested solution supplier is invited to participate. The suppliers of the best tenders will be awarded a contract to produce a concept design, and eventually a prototype and a larger range of products in the next step.

SHUTTLE stands for “Scientific High-throughput and Unified Toolkit for Trace analysis by forensic Laboratories in Europe” and is a research project supported by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. It brings together a transnational consortium of eight European forensics laboratories with the aim to develop a European toolkit which enables a more objective and scientific analysis of microscopic traces collected on crime scenes.

Microscopic traces analysis limitations and the SHUTTLE concept

Microscopic traces analysis currently relies on the “Microscopist eyes”. It is time-consuming, selective and hardly objective due to the complexity of the process. The SHUTTLE toolkit will contain tools which will help solving these difficulties. Each of them, as well as their fluent interaction, will be required for optimal operation.



Further specific analyses
(DNA, RAMAN, FTIR, GRIM and ICP-MS (glass), SEM(X))

- A **microscopic grade tape**
- An **automated microscope** that will form the eyes of the SHUTTLE toolkit to acquire high quality images of the recovered traces
- **Algorithms for image processing** that will form the brain of the SHUTTLE toolkit to classify more accurately the identified traces
- A **database and search algorithms**, that will form the memory of the SHUTTLE toolkit to facilitate future data analyses and comparisons

Next to the aim of providing a powerful and versatile toolkit which solves the major issues in forensic sciences, the SHUTTLE toolbox shall improve the information exchange and the synergy between different criminal research laboratories to fight against international crime. It will thereby contribute to strengthening the forensic collaboration across countries.

Procurement of products & services not yet existent in the market

SHUTTLE is a user-driven project that seeks to catalyse innovation by allowing public authorities to invest cost effectively in innovation by sharing costs and lessons learnt. This PCP action is coordinated and jointly carried out by the SHUTTLE partners. The forensic laboratories organize and manage the procurement of R&D services through a three-phases competitive selection process involving risks/benefits sharing under market conditions. After the call for tender in May, the tenders will be reviewed by the consortium and three suppliers (Industry, Research Institutes etc.) will be awarded a contract (ca. January 2020) to produce a concept design. In the second phase, the providers of the most promising concept designs will be invited to build a prototype and, after an operational validation process, possibly build a larger range of products in the third phase.

Open Market Consultation: Input of the market needed to refine the tender

As for now, the SHUTTLE consortium has defined preliminary requirements for the SHUTTLE toolkit. Since November 2018, an Open Market Consultation (OMC) is running to raise awareness on the SHUTTLE procurement process regarding the development of traces analysis toolkit and to collect valuable insights on industry expectations and skills which will be used to refine the tender specifications.

All solution suppliers interested in participating to the SHUTTLE procurement phases are therefore invited to attend the SHUTTLE Webinar and complete the Request for Information as well as the Q&A section on the SHUTTLE website. At the end of the OMC, the final SHUTTLE Toolkit requirements will be compiled and published in the SHUTTLE tender in May 2019.

SHUTTLE Webinar, 20th March 2019

This half-day seminar will present the project's vision, the SHUTTLE toolkit technical specifications and the tendering process. Attendance is free but [registration](#) is mandatory.

Request for Information

After the webinar, please take a few moments to complete the following [Request for Information](#) to provide your feedback on the project.

SHUTTLE's Q&A section

Ask questions using the [Q&A section](#) of the SHUTTLE Public Website

One Open Market Consultation information day was already held in Roissy the 30th- 31st January 2019. The [presentations and videos](#) of the event are publicly available and can be found on the SHUTTLE public website.

SHUTTLE key facts and partners

The SHUTTLE project, which started on 1st May 2018, runs for four years and is supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme with 10.5 million Euro.

The SHUTTLE consortium consists of 8 partners from 6 countries:

- Ministère de l'intérieur, France

- Netherlands Forensic Institute, Netherlands
- Kentro Meleton Asfaleias, Greece
- Lietuvos Teismo Ekspertizes Centras, Lithuania
- Ministério da Justiça, Portugal
- Ministry of Public Security - Israeli Police, Israel
- Stichting Hogeschool van Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ARTTIC S.A.S, France

Horizon 2020 Programme

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation will be complemented by further measures to complete and further develop the European Research Area. These measures will aim at breaking down barriers to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation.

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Any organisation, in particular public forensic laboratories, can also express their interest using the [Contact page](#).



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