

Oerlikon Metco General Terms And Conditions Of Purchase (The Netherlands)

These Terms and Conditions can be found on the Internet under www.oerlikon.com/metco.

1. General

- 1.1. These General Terms and Conditions of Purchase (hereinafter "PURCHASE TERMS") apply to all purchases of OERLIKON METCO (hereinafter "SCOPE OF SUPPLY"), unless OERLIKON METCO has expressly agreed otherwise in writing. "OERLIKON METCO" means the company pertaining to the Oerlikon Metco Business Unit which provided the PURCHASE ORDER as defined in section 1.2.2.
- 1.2. In case of contradiction between contract documents, i.e. the PURCHASE ORDER of OERLIKON METCO plus all documents referred to therein (the said documents hereinafter called "CONTRACT"), the following order of precedence shall apply:
 1. Negotiated, agreed and mutually signed document
 2. OERLIKON METCO'S Purchase Order (hereinafter "PURCHASE ORDER")
 3. OERLIKON METCO'S PURCHASE TERMS
 4. OERLIKON METCO'S request for offer
 5. SUPPLIER'S offer
 6. SUPPLIER'S Sales Terms and Conditions.
- 1.3. All documents making part of the CONTRACT can be changed only in a written, mutually signed document.
- 1.4. OERLIKON METCO may regard as binding upon the SUPPLIER, all written data and information submitted by SUPPLIER in connection with the tendering or placing of a PURCHASE ORDER process, unless such data and information is clearly marked as being non-binding.
- 1.5. Unless otherwise agreed, delivery shall be made DDP. Trade terms like DDP, FOB, CIF, EX WORKS etc. shall be interpreted in accordance with the INCOTERMS 2000 as published by the International Chamber of Commerce, or after replacement thereof the current version of the Incoterms at the date of the PURCHASE ORDER.

2. Offers in reply to invitations

- 2.1. All offers shall be without cost for OERLIKON METCO, even if they have been submitted on OERLIKON METCO'S request.
- 2.2. Unless otherwise agreed upon, offers shall be open for acceptance for 90 days following receipt by OERLIKON METCO.

3. Purchase Orders, Data Delivered by Oerlikon Metco

- 3.1. PURCHASE ORDERS shall be valid only if they are placed in writing on OERLIKON METCO'S official form and transmitted to the SUPPLIER by either, facsimile, mail or e-mail. Any oral agreement, amendment or change of any PURCHASE ORDER shall be valid only if confirmed by OERLIKON METCO in writing. Documents such as but not limited to sketches, drawings, comments and specifications, shall form an integral part of the CONTRACT insofar as they are expressly mentioned as such in a PURCHASE ORDER.
- 3.2. The CONTRACT shall be deemed to have been entered into upon receipt of the PURCHASE ORDER, unless SUPPLIER objects against the PURCHASE ORDER in writing within five (5) working days after receipt of the PURCHASE ORDER. Upon SUPPLIER'S start of the execution of the PURCHASE ORDER, the PURCHASE ORDER shall in any case be deemed to have been accepted by the SUPPLIER.
- 3.3. SUPPLIER shall be obliged to refer to OERLIKON METCO should SUPPLIER perceive an error or point requiring clarification regarding essential parts of the CONTRACT, particularly in respect of quantity, price, or term. SUPPLIER is responsible for becoming acquainted with all essential data and circumstances as well as the respective intended purpose.

4. Subcontracting

SUPPLIER shall not subcontract all or substantial work on any goods or services to be supplied under the CONTRACT without prior written approval of OERLIKON METCO and shall submit to OERLIKON METCO a list containing all subcontractors. SUPPLIER must provide to subcontractors all necessary information such that all purchasing requirements will be fulfilled, including key characteristics where

required. This provision shall not apply to purchases of standard commercial products, nationally advertised products, or raw materials.

5. Prices and Payment

- 5.1. Unless otherwise specified in the PURCHASE ORDER, the prices agreed shall be fixed prices and shall remain unchanged until completion of the CONTRACT and shall include packaging and freight costs, taxes and duties except Value Added Taxes. Price adaptations to changes in raw material prices are permitted if foreseen in the PURCHASE ORDER.
- 5.2. Value added taxes (VAT), sales taxes or other taxes, as well as packaging and freight costs shall be stated separately in the invoice.
- 5.3. Where the price is not definitely and unambiguously agreed upon, OERLIKON METCO shall be entitled to return the SCOPE OF SUPPLY or parts thereof.
- 5.4. Unless otherwise agreed upon, the purchase price shall be paid within sixty (60) days net after acceptance of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY and issuing of invoice, whichever date is later.
- 5.5. If OERLIKON METCO makes advance payments, SUPPLIER shall, at OERLIKON METCO'S written request, provide an irrevocable first demand bank guarantee in the amount of the advance payments, issued by a first class bank acceptable to OERLIKON METCO.
- 5.6. On delay of requested certificates of material, quality documents, or other documents pertaining to the SCOPE OF SUPPLY, OERLIKON METCO shall be entitled to extend any agreed payment period appropriately.
- 5.7. OERLIKON METCO reserves the right to set off counter-claims of OERLIKON METCO or affiliated Oerlikon companies against payments owed to SUPPLIER. SUPPLIER shall only be entitled to assign claims against OERLIKON METCO to third parties with OERLIKON METCO'S prior written approval, which OERLIKON METCO shall not refuse unreasonably.
- 5.8. OERLIKON METCO shall be entitled to a discount of two percent (2%) on the invoice amount, excluding the amounts to be stated separately in accordance with section 5.2 above, for payment within fourteen (14) days after the invoice receipt.

6. Free Issue Materials / Tooling

- 6.1. The title to materials and/or tools (such as dies, jigs, fixtures, patterns, gauges, molds, test equipment) supplied by OERLIKON METCO ("FREE ISSUE MATERIALS") for execution of an order shall remain with OERLIKON METCO even following machining or processing. Such materials and/or tools shall be marked as OERLIKON METCO'S property and shall be stored separately until machined or processed. On demand by OERLIKON METCO, machining waste from FREE ISSUE MATERIALS shall be returned to OERLIKON METCO. The SUPPLIER has to notify OERLIKON METCO immediately of any faulty or insufficient quantity of material; otherwise this defense shall be forfeited. FREE ISSUE MATERIALS made available by OERLIKON METCO must be used exclusively for the execution of the PURCHASE ORDER placed by OERLIKON METCO. They must neither be copied nor used for other purposes except in case SUPPLIER has obtained OERLIKON METCO'S prior written approval.
- 6.2. If tooling and tool design is provided by SUPPLIER on the PURCHASE ORDER, it will be priced separately and when finished must be invoiced separately, unless otherwise agreed. If the cost of tooling and tool design is to be amortized and included in the unit price of goods being supplied under present and future orders, then the invoice must state the total cost of the tooling, the number of units the tooling cost is to be amortized over, and the portion charged to past orders as well as the portion charged to the current orders. Tooling and tool drawings paid for by OERLIKON METCO become OERLIKON METCO'S property and are to be used exclusively to perform OERLIKON METCO'S PURCHASE ORDERS unless otherwise expressly authorized in writing by OERLIKON METCO. OERLIKON METCO reserves the right to accelerate payment on tooling being amortized for the purpose of ownership.
- 6.3. Tooling and tool designs belonging to OERLIKON METCO, independent of whether provided by OERLIKON METCO or delivered by SUPPLIER, as well as FREE ISSUE MATERIALS, shall be at OERLIKON METCO'S disposal for any purpose, and the SUPPLIER agrees to deliver such

tooling, tool designs and FREE ISSUE MATERIALS on request of OERLIKON METCO at no expense, except shipping expenses. The said tooling, tool designs and FREE ISSUE MATERIALS shall be insured by SUPPLIER against damage and loss, and the SUPPLIER agrees to be responsible for normal maintenance, storage, damage or loss of tooling while on consignment in his facility, at no expense to OERLIKON METCO.

7. Date of delivery and consequences of delays

- 7.1. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. The date of delivery shall be deemed to have been met, if:
- for EX WORKS deliveries, readiness for dispatch of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY including all documents, has been announced to OERLIKON METCO (department responsible for the CONTRACT) before expiry of the delivery date;
 - in all other cases, the SCOPE OF SUPPLY, including all documents, has arrived at the place of destination and/or the performance of the services has been accepted by OERLIKON METCO before expiry of the delivery date.
- 7.2. Foreseeable delays in delivery shall be notified immediately, stating the reasons and the expected duration of the delay, regardless of whether the whole or part of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY is concerned.
- 7.3. In cases of delayed delivery, OERLIKON METCO shall be entitled to pursue all claims provided by law, irrespective of whether the SUPPLIER has notified the delay or a penalty has been agreed upon.
- 7.4. Subject to section 7.3 above, if a fixed date has been agreed upon for the execution of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY, and if this date will not be observed due to reasons attributable to SUPPLIER or its subcontractors, OERLIKON METCO reserves the right to (i) either terminate the CONTRACT and to ask for the reimbursement of all up-front and down payments made, after having given SUPPLIER a last opportunity to fulfill its obligations, or (ii) ask the SUPPLIER to hand over the commenced work against payment of the value which this work has for OERLIKON METCO.
- 7.5. If the delivery date has not been met, and provided OERLIKON METCO does not exercise its rights described in section 7.4 above, SUPPLIER shall pay a penalty for the delay in addition to the damages caused by the delay. This penalty shall amount to one and a half percent (1.5 %) per full week of the purchase price for the entire SCOPE OF SUPPLY. The aggregate penalty for delay shall not exceed nine percent (9%) of the entire purchase price. Penalties paid shall be deducted from actual damages claimed by OERLIKON METCO.
- 7.6. SUPPLIER shall not be entitled to use the non-arrival of essential documents, FREE ISSUE MATERIALS or other objects to be supplied by OERLIKON METCO as a defense to a claim for delay, unless the same had been demanded in good time from OERLIKON METCO, or, if dates of delivery had been agreed, a reminder had been sent in due time to OERLIKON METCO.

8. Packaging, Shipment

- 8.1. Unless otherwise agreed upon, the SCOPE OF SUPPLY shall be shipped DDP to the place of destination. SUPPLIER shall be liable for suitable and appropriate packaging, protecting the goods against damage and corrosion during shipment, and, where applicable, any subsequent short term storage (i.e. up to a maximum of sixty (60) days). Where special packaging is agreed, OERLIKON METCO'S instructions have to be observed. SUPPLIER shall be liable for damages due to improper packaging and/or failure to conform to OERLIKON METCO'S instructions.
- 8.2. OERLIKON METCO reserves the right to return packaging material against credit of the amount charged to OERLIKON METCO. The cost of return shipment shall be for account of OERLIKON METCO.
- 8.3. Where special care is required during unpacking, SUPPLIER shall notify OERLIKON METCO about the specifics thereof in due course. In particular, a suitable and conspicuous warning shall be attached to the packaging.

9. Compliance with applicable laws

- 9.1. SUPPLIER warrants that it will comply with all applicable laws, statutes, rules, regulations or orders in the performance of the CONTRACT, and shall provide all documents required for the export from the place of

production and import to the place of end-use, such as but not limited to certificates of origin, export licenses, material safety data sheets.

10. Delivery / Export Control

- 10.1. Partial deliveries and/or deliveries made prior to the agreed date of delivery shall not be permitted without OERLIKON METCO'S express prior written approval.
- 10.2. SUPPLIER undertakes to inspect the goods before shipment to ensure that they comply in all respects, including but not limited to quality and quantity, with the PURCHASE ORDER. Only material which has passed the inspection shall be delivered.
- 10.3. Each shipment has to include a detailed delivery note containing OERLIKON METCO'S references, confirmation of the herein above mentioned inspection, and in particular **OERLIKON METCO'S purchasing order number**. For shipments to different delivery addresses, OERLIKON METCO requires separate delivery notes.
- 10.4. Unless otherwise agreed upon, the invoice, in duplicate, and the second document marked as "COPY", has to be sent to OERLIKON METCO by separate mail. Any costs caused by non-compliance shall be borne by the SUPPLIER.
- 10.5. All correspondence (letters, delivery notes, invoices etc.) must show OERLIKON METCO'S purchasing order number, order date, article designations with indication of quantities, delivery notes also with indication of gross and net weight. The delivery note must indicate OERLIKON METCO'S delivery address according to the CONTRACT.
- 10.6. The SUPPLIER hereby represents and warrants that it is, and will remain in compliance with the requirements of all applicable export laws and regulations, including but not limited to the U.S. Export Administration Regulations and International Traffic in Arms Regulations. Such requirements include, but are not limited to obtaining all required authorizations or licenses for the export or re-export of any controlled item, product, article, commodity, software or technology. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the SUPPLIER hereby represents and warrants that it has not been, and is not currently, debarred, suspended or otherwise prohibited or restricted from exporting, re-exporting, receiving, purchasing, processing or otherwise obtaining any item, product, article, commodity, software or technology regulated by any agency of the United States or any other state. The SUPPLIER agrees to indemnify and hold harmless OERLIKON METCO from any costs, penalties or other losses caused by, or related to, any violation or breach of the warranties contained in this provision.

11. Transfer of ownership and risk

- 11.1. Transfer of ownership shall take place at the time when the SCOPE OF SUPPLY or parts thereof have been finished. Between transfer of ownership and delivery, SUPPLIER will store the SCOPE OF SUPPLY without costs to OERLIKON METCO and mark them as owned by OERLIKON METCO. Furthermore, SUPPLIER undertakes to store and insure the SCOPE OF SUPPLY as if the ownership would not have been transferred.
- 11.2. Risk shall pass to OERLIKON METCO at the time of acceptance of the delivery at the agreed place of delivery.
- 11.3. Should the requested shipment documents not be supplied in accordance with the CONTRACT and/or OERLIKON METCO'S instructions, the goods shall be stored at the SUPPLIER'S charge and risk until arrival of the same.

12. Termination for Convenience, Cancellation for Default

- 12.1. **Termination for Convenience**
Work may be terminated under the CONTRACT by OERLIKON METCO at the sole discretion of OERLIKON METCO in whole or in part at any time by written notice. In this case, OERLIKON METCO shall reimburse the SUPPLIER'S actual and non-cancelable expenses, which it necessarily incurred for the appropriate execution of the CONTRACT until the termination, all as determined by generally accepted accounting principles. Such reimbursable expenses shall not include the business profit, fixed overhead, royalties, development cost for serial machines and other similar cost of the SUPPLIER. In consideration of the payment made, SUPPLIER shall deliver or assign to OERLIKON METCO any work in progress, and OERLIKON METCO shall be entitled to use said work in progress at its own discretion.

12.2. Cancellation for Default

In the event SUPPLIER shall be adjudged bankrupt, make a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors, enters into a company voluntary arrangement or an individual voluntary arrangement, or if a receiver, administrator or liquidator is appointed on account of SUPPLIER'S insolvency, or if SUPPLIER ceases to trade, or fails to pay debts, or in the event SUPPLIER is in default of any provisions or requirements under the CONTRACT, OERLIKON METCO may, by written notice to SUPPLIER, without prejudice to any other rights or remedies which OERLIKON METCO may have under the CONTRACT, cancel further performance by SUPPLIER under the CONTRACT. In the event of such cancellation, OERLIKON METCO may complete the performance of the PURCHASE ORDER by such means as OERLIKON METCO selects, and SUPPLIER shall be responsible for any additional costs incurred by OERLIKON METCO in so doing, SUPPLIER shall deliver or assign to OERLIKON METCO any work in progress as OERLIKON METCO may request and shall grant OERLIKON METCO the right to use or have used all SUPPLIER documentation required for the completion of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY. Any amounts due to SUPPLIER for goods and services completed by SUPPLIER in full compliance with the terms of the CONTRACT prior to such termination shall be subject to set off of OERLIKON METCO'S additional costs of completing the CONTRACT and other damages incurred by OERLIKON METCO as a result of SUPPLIER'S default. Termination under this section 12.2 shall be without prejudice to OERLIKON METCO'S right to claim damages available to it at law.

13. Inspection, Drawings, Test Certificates, Operating Instructions Spare Parts

- 13.1. OERLIKON METCO or its representatives shall be entitled, with reasonable notice, to carry out inspections and ongoing examinations of the production to reject faulty parts during manufacturing. Inspections or examinations shall not relieve SUPPLIER from its exclusive responsibility for the whole SCOPE OF SUPPLY. During the execution of the CONTRACT, SUPPLIER shall allow free access to OERLIKON METCO or any designated third party to the manufacturing plants as well as to those of its subcontractors during reasonable business hours.
- 13.2. OERLIKON METCO'S approval of final construction drawings shall not relieve SUPPLIER of its responsibility for the SCOPE OF SUPPLY.
- 13.3. Final construction drawings, test certificates, maintenance and operating instructions and spare parts' lists required for the proper maintenance of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY shall be handed over to OERLIKON METCO in the quantities and languages requested before or on the delivery of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY at the latest.
- 13.4. SUPPLIER undertakes to deliver to OERLIKON METCO spare parts related to the SCOPE OF SUPPLY, at OERLIKON METCO'S request, within ten (10) years after acceptance as described in section 14 hereof.

14. Acceptance, Warranty and Guarantees

- 14.1. Unless otherwise agreed upon in writing, acceptance of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY shall take place after delivery at the place of destination or after placing into operation, whichever occurs later. Payment for work in whole or part will not constitute acceptance.
- 14.2. SUPPLIER expressly warrants that the entire SCOPE OF SUPPLY covered by the CONTRACT will conform to the specifications, drawings, samples, performance guarantees, or any kind of description furnished by or specified by OERLIKON METCO, and will be merchantable of good material and workmanship and free from defects. SUPPLIER expressly warrants that the material covered by the CONTRACT will be fit and sufficient for the purpose specified. If certificates, test reports or similar documents form part of the agreed SCOPE OF SUPPLY, the data contained therein shall be deemed as warranted characteristics, even if such certificates etc. originate from subcontractors.
- 14.3. Unless otherwise agreed upon in writing, SUPPLIER expressly warrants that in executing the CONTRACT, SUPPLIER and the subcontractors have applied the principles of quality assurance according to the relevant ISO or equivalent standards. Quality records have to be safely archived for the period required by the applicable law for the respective goods, however not less than ten (10) years after acceptance as defined in section 14.1 hereof.
- 14.4. Should SUPPLIER fail to meet its obligations under the warranties or guarantees during the warranty and guarantee period, SUPPLIER shall at OERLIKON METCO'S option forthwith remedy the defects on the spot, or have them remedied at SUPPLIER'S costs. Should SUPPLIER fail to remedy defects forthwith or in case of emergency, OERLIKON

METCO shall be entitled to remedy the defects itself or cause them to be remedied by a third party, in each case at the SUPPLIER'S charge and risk.

- 14.5. OERLIKON METCO shall not be obliged to inspect the SCOPE OF SUPPLY or parts thereof immediately. Defects will be notified after detection. SUPPLIER hereby waives the defense of late notification.
- 14.6. Unless otherwise agreed in the CONTRACT, and if the SCOPE OF SUPPLY encompasses erection and/or commissioning services, the warranty and guarantee period shall be 24 months from date of acceptance of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY. In all other cases, the warranty and guarantee period shall extend twelve (12) months from acceptance by OERLIKON METCO or putting into commercial operation of the part(s) or materials provided under the PURCHASE ORDER, whichever occurs later. For repaired or replaced goods, the warranty and guarantee period shall start anew from the date at which they are put into operation.

Goods produced by other materials than those specified, or by defective materials, shall be replaced by SUPPLIER free of charge within five (5) years from delivery.
- 14.7. Where substitute delivery is made, the items originally delivered to OERLIKON METCO shall be left with OERLIKON METCO for use free of charge until impeccable substitute delivery is ready for operation to OERLIKON METCO. The same shall apply in case of whole or partial termination of the contract due to faulty supply.
- 14.8. In the event of disputes on quality parameters, an expert opinion will be obtained. Unless otherwise agreed upon in writing, the opinion of TNO Industrie en Techniek, The Netherlands, will be requested. The parties undertake to accept the findings of the agreed expert or TNO as the case may be. The costs of the expert opinion will be borne by the party at fault, or if neither party is at fault, as the expert shall decide.
- 14.9. SUPPLIER will defend and indemnify OERLIKON METCO and its directors, officers, and employees, and the successors and assignees, and OERLIKON METCO'S customers (OERLIKON METCO and each of the aforementioned persons and/or companies referred to as "OERLIKON METCO Indemnitee"), and hold each OERLIKON METCO Indemnitee harmless from and against any and all liabilities, damages, settlements, penalties, fines, costs or expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and other expenses of litigation) arising out of any claim, complaint, suit, proceeding or cause of action brought against a OERLIKON METCO Indemnitee by a third party alleging damage, personal injury, death or otherwise, arising from or occurring as a result of (i) Product defects, (ii) any breach by SUPPLIER of its representations and warranties and obligations under this Agreement, (iii) the negligent, fraudulent or wilful acts, omission or misrepresentations of SUPPLIER, or (iv) SUPPLIER'S violation of any applicable law in the performance of its obligations under the CONTRACT.

15. Work carried out in Oerlikon Metco's works or at site

If work is carried out in OERLIKON METCO'S or its customer's works, or on construction or erection sites, these PURCHASE TERMS shall be supplemented by OERLIKON METCO'S or its customer's safety instructions and rules for external companies. SUPPLIER shall request them and acknowledge receipt in writing. Furthermore, SUPPLIER shall instruct its employees, consultants, etc. to comply with such instructions and rules.

16. Intellectual Property and Secrecy

- 16.1. OERLIKON METCO retains all intellectual property rights on all documents, such as but not limited to drawings, sketches, calculations, models, which OERLIKON METCO hands over to SUPPLIER before or after the conclusion of the CONTRACT. SUPPLIER will use these documents for the exclusive purpose of executing the CONTRACT. Without OERLIKON METCO'S prior written approval, SUPPLIER shall **NOT** be entitled to manufacture products based on these documents for third parties, or to copy such documents, or to make them known in whatever way to third parties, which are not directly involved in the execution of the CONTRACT or parts thereof. On demand, all documents, together with all copies or reproductions thereof, shall immediately be handed over to OERLIKON METCO. After completion of the delivery, or should the SCOPE OF SUPPLY not be delivered, SUPPLIER shall immediately return all documents to OERLIKON METCO without OERLIKON METCO'S request. SUPPLIER however shall be entitled to retain one copy for legally or contractually required archiving purposes.

- 16.2.** SUPPLIER warrants that the SCOPE OF SUPPLY and any component part thereof shall not infringe any intellectual property rights of third parties. In the event of any infringement relating to the SCOPE OF SUPPLY, OERLIKON METCO may, in its sole discretion, ask SUPPLIER to procure the right to use the relevant equipment without impairing its suitability, or modify or replace it to make the use by OERLIKON METCO or its customer non-infringing.
- 16.3.** SUPPLIER undertakes to provide OERLIKON METCO all documents and information produced in connection with the SCOPE OF SUPPLY. OERLIKON METCO shall have an unrestricted right to use said documents for the purposes of operation, maintenance, repair, training and enlargement of the SCOPE OF SUPPLY.
- 16.4.** OERLIKON METCO and/or its customer shall not be mentioned in any publications for advertising purposes without OERLIKON METCO'S prior written approval.

17. Force Majeure

- 17.1.** SUPPLIER shall not be liable for any non-performance, loss, damage, or delay due to war, riots, fire, flood, strikes or labor difficulty, governmental actions, acts of God, acts of OERLIKON METCO or its customer, delays in transportation, or other causes beyond the reasonable control of SUPPLIER. In the event of delay in performance due to any such cause, the date of delivery or time for completion will be extended to reflect the length of time lost by reason of such delay. If the grounds for Force Majeure continue for more than two (2) months, either OERLIKON METCO or SUPPLIER may terminate the CONTRACT upon seven (7) days written notice to the other party.
- 17.2.** In case of termination due to force majeure SUPPLIER shall be entitled to be compensated in case of termination, for the work done prior to termination and the expenses for non-cancelable procurements. OERLIKON METCO shall be entitled to receive all work results for which it has paid.

18. Miscellaneous

18.1. Applicable Laws and Jurisdiction

The CONTRACT is construed and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of The Netherlands under exclusion of the conflict of law rules. Nothing contained in these PURCHASE TERMS shall limit the rights of OERLIKON METCO available under the applicable law. In case of a dispute, the parties shall make their best endeavors to solve such dispute amicably. If this should not be possible, the parties shall submit the dispute to the courts at OERLIKON METCO'S place which shall have exclusive jurisdiction. OERLIKON METCO reserves the right to take proceedings against SUPPLIER where SUPPLIER resides or carries on business. All disputes shall be settled in accordance with the provision of the CONTRACT and the documents pertaining thereto.

18.2. Assignment

Any attempt to assign, transfer, or delegate any of the rights, duties or obligations herein to a third party without prior written consent of the other party shall render such attempted assignment or transfer null and void. OERLIKON METCO'S affiliated companies shall not be considered third parties for this purpose.

18.3. Waiver of Rights

OERLIKON METCO'S or SUPPLIER'S failure to exercise any of its rights shall not constitute or be deemed a waiver or a forfeiture of such rights.

18.4. Severability

If a provision of the CONTRACT is determined to be void or unenforceable, this finding shall not render other provisions void or unenforceable, and OERLIKON METCO and SUPPLIER shall make their best endeavors to replace such provision by a valid one covering the original commercial intention as far as legally possible.

18.5. Conflict Minerals

Conflict minerals are defined by the SEC as columbite-tantalite (coltan), cassiterite, gold, wolframite, or their derivatives, which are limited to tantalum, tin, gold and tungsten. Conflict minerals originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ("DRC") or an adjoining country, collectively defined as the "Covered Countries" may sometimes be mined and sold, "under the control of armed groups", to "finance conflict characterized by extreme levels of violence". Some of these minerals can make their way into the supply chains of the products used around the world, including those in the thermal spray industry.

OERLIKON METCO expects our VENDORS to have in place policies and due diligence measures that will enable us to reasonably assure that products and components supplied to us containing conflict minerals are DRC conflict free. OERLIKON METCO expects our VENDORS to comply with the EICC Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiccoalition.org/standards/code-of-conduct/>) and conduct their business in alignment with OERLIKON METCO's supply chain responsibility expectations.

OERLIKON METCO expects our VENDORS to cooperate in providing due diligence information to confirm the tantalum, tin, tungsten and gold in our supply chain are conflict free. VENDORS are expected to implement a supply chain system of controls and transparency through the use of due diligence tools created by the Conflict-Free Sourcing Initiative ("CFSI") or other industry wide initiatives which includes the Conflict Minerals Reporting Template ("CMRT"), a supply chain survey designed to identify the smelters and refiners that process the necessary conflict minerals contained in our products.

OERLIKON METCO direct VENDORS that have smelter and refiner facilities within their supply chain that have not received a "conflict free" designation from an independent third party audit program are encouraged to participate in such a program and request country of origin and chain of custody information.