

Document Version	QSQ v1.0 <u>v1.2</u> (GNI 19 September <u>12 December</u> 2024)
Qualification System Title	Front-end Engineering Design (FEED), Client Engineer <u>Partner</u> , and Engineering Peer Review <u>and Specialist Technical Advisor</u> for Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve Qualification System Questionnaire
Tender Reference	24 / 026

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM QUESTIONNAIRE (QSQ)

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PARTICULARS**A. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND QUALIFICATION SYSTEM**

A1	Contracting Entity	Gas Networks Ireland means GNI and any subsidiary, holding company or affiliated company of GNI, including GNI (UK) Limited
A2	Tender Reference	24 / 026
A3	Procedure	Formation of a Qualification System

A4	Scope of Qualification System	The objective of this QSQ is to qualify Applicants onto the Qualifications System for the following lots for GNI Ireland and GNI (UK): Lot 1 - Front-end engineering design for the strategic gas reserve facility. The strategic gas reserve facility is expected to be an FSRU based LNG import terminal, fixed marine jetty with all associated onshore facilities (including control room, gas treatment, metering, odourisation etc.). The FSRU will have a storage capacity of not less than 135,000m³. In addition to the strategic gas reserve facility, lot 1 may include the design of a high-pressure gas pipeline to connect to the existing gas network, and an above ground grid tie-in installation. Lot 2 - Client EngineerPartner for the project (as outlined above) to oversee FEED, construction contract(s), procurement and construction for the project (up to successful commissioning, completion and operation of the project) - it is anticipated this may cover the first year of operation. Lot 3 - Engineering Peer Review and Specialist Technical Advisor for the project, including peer review of FEED, peer review of contract documentation, peer review of construction contractor's design deliverables, peer review of commissioning and operation plans. Lot 3 may also include small discreet packages of specialist technical advisor input required for the project covering any technical and delivery disciplines. See Appendix 1 for further details regarding the lots. Applicants may apply for qualification in one or more lots subject to the following restriction: Applicant can only be awarded one lot. Each lot will be awarded to a separate Applicant. Applicants should also be aware the Applicant who is ultimately awarded the contract for lot 2 will be restricted from contracting for other elements of the project, including partnering with other suppliers (e.g. will not be permitted to act as the Contractor's Designer) Admission to the Qualification System is subject to Applicants meeting the minimum requirements and passing the Pass/ Fail criteria and minimum scoring criterion set out in this Qualification System Questionnaire (QSQ). The details of how the Qualification System will operate are set out in Appendix 2 (Operation of the Qualification System).
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		Applicants should note that from time to time over the term of the Qualification System, the Contracting Entity, at its sole discretion but without altering the overall nature of the Qualification System, may modify the Qualification System to reflect changes in its requirements. The conditions under which such an option may be exercised by the Contracting Entity will be outlined in the relevant call off competition document.
A5	Term of the Qualification System	Ten years from the date of its establishment unless terminated earlier by the Contracting Entity. Applicants may apply for inclusion on the Qualification System at any stage during this period.

B SUBMISSION OF QSQ RESPONSE

B1	Date and Time	The QSQ Response must be submitted through the eTenders system not later than 12:00 hours (local time) on Wednesday 20th September 2034 unless amended by way of clarification. QSQ Responses can be submitted at any time while the Qualification System is open. The Contracting Entity has immediate requirements which may be tendered in the near future. Applicants who are interested in participating in the Initial Competition must submit their completed QSQ through the eTenders system not later than 12:00hrs (local time) on Monday 14th October 2024 unless amended by way of clarification. The Contracting Entity may, but shall not be obliged to, run an Initial Competition.
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B2	Submission of QSQ Response	No submissions will be possible after the deadline. All submissions are electronic, as such NO paper copies will be accepted or read. The QSQ Response must be <u>submitted</u> through the eTenders system before the deadline (i.e. Applicants must press the <u>submit</u> button). Applicants should ensure all attachments have been added before submitting. Applicants should allow sufficient time to upload document(s). Applicants are advised that, depending on the size of the documentation, the submission/upload process may take some time. Any technical problems with the eTenders system or questions of the functionality in the eTenders system should be directed to the eTenders helpdesk. Applicants should contact eTenders helpdesk either via email irish-eproc-helpdesk@eurodyn.com or by phone +353 81 800 1459 during office hours (09:00am – 17:30pm Irish time).
B3	Format of QSQ Response	In order to avoid potential file corruption, file names must not exceed 21 characters. The Contracting Entity is not responsible for corruption in electronic documents. Applicants must ensure that electronic documents are not corrupt. All QSQ Responses must be compiled such that they can be read using PDF or Microsoft Office. Applicants are asked to indicate in their QSQ Response the lots in respect of which they are seeking qualification. Applicants should also indicate their preference as to which lot they would prefer to be awarded at award stage if they successfully qualify in more than one lot. Please adhere to the structure of the QSQ for ease of evaluation. Each section requires a separate section <u>clearly named</u> by section name. Policies & additional documentation can be annexed separately. Please <u>name all appendices</u> according to the: • relevant section; • the relevant appendix number; and • a descriptive name. The Contracting Entity reserves the right not to evaluate information provided unless clear and specific reference has been made to the pass/fail criteria or sub-criteria to which the information relates.

C. CLARIFICATIONS/QUERIES

C1	Queries/Requests for Clarifications	All queries relating to any aspect of this competition must be directed to the messaging facility on www.etenders.gov.ie. For the avoidance of doubt, Applicants may not contact the Contracting Entity directly regarding any aspect of this competition. Applicants should ensure that they register their interest in this competition, by clicking the "Accept" button on www.etenders.gov.ie, in order to receive all the responses to queries and other updates in relation to this competition.
C2	Final Time and Date for Receipt of Queries	Queries/ requests for clarifications must be submitted through the eTenders system not later than 12:00 hours (local time) on Tuesday 12th September 2034, unless amended by way of clarification. Queries/ requests for clarifications related to the Initial Competition must be submitted through the eTenders system not later than 12:00hrs (local time) on Monday 07th October 2024, unless amended by way of clarification.

D. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS (Pass/Fail)

D1	Turnover and Financial Statements	The Minimum Requirement is that the Applicant must demonstrate an average annual turnover, in the last 2 years or pro-rata for a company established within the last 2 years, of at least: Lot 1: €15,000,000 Lot 2: €40,000,000 Lot 3: €100,000 If applying for more than one lot, the Applicant must demonstrate an average annual turnover of the highest valued lot they are applying for. Note that Applicants may apply for one or more lots but an Applicant can only be awarded one lot. The Applicant should attach to the QSQ Response copies of the following documents for the entity/entities responsible for financial standing: 1) Financial Statements (including Income Statement/Profit & Loss and Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet) for each of the two financial years immediately preceding the date noted at Item B1 of these Particulars. Copies of audited accounts should be furnished unless an audit exemption has been claimed for any of the required periods in accordance with applicable law. If so, the Applicant should attach copies of management accounts (including the statements included above) for the relevant years together with confirmation from their accountant that the relevant audit exemption has been properly claimed; and
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		2) If at the time of application, the previous year's financial statements have yet to be audited, a letter from the entity's accountant certifying the turnover figure for that year should be provided. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to provide audited financial statements to the Contracting Entity once these become available. Where the Applicant is unable, for a valid reason, to provide the specified documentation set out above, the Applicant must inform the Contracting Entity of that valid reason as to why the documentation cannot be supplied, and provide other suitable alternative documentation to prove, to the satisfaction of the Contracting Entity, their turnover. <u>Resources of other entities</u> Applicants should note that if they <u>intend to rely on the financial capacity of another entity to satisfy this Minimum Requirement</u> they could, for example, submit with their QSQ Response a duly executed undertaking in the format requested in Section 4.3.1 from those entities that they will place the necessary resources at the disposal of the Applicant. Additionally, the Applicant should attach the financial documents referenced above for the supporting entity/entities with their QSQ Response. A maximum of two entities are permitted to combine their respective turnovers in order to satisfy the minimum turnover requirement. The Contracting Entity reserves the right to request further information to demonstrate the turnover of the Applicant
D2	Relevant Experience	The Minimum Requirements are: Lots 1 and 3: that the Applicant must provide evidence that it has undertaken at least <u>three</u> contracts that were similar in nature, scale and complexity and carried out in a similarly demanding environment to the Contract the scope of which is outlined at Item A4 of these Particulars. Lot 2: that the Applicant must provide evidence that it has undertaken at least two contracts were<u>one contract</u> similar in nature, scale and complexity and carried out in a similarly demanding environment to the Contract the scope of which is outlined at Item A4 of these Particulars.
D3	Health & Safety	The Minimum Requirements are: (1) that the response to (A) complies with all applicable law; and (2) that an accurate response is provided by the Applicant in respect of (B) and (C). (A) <u>Safety Statement, Health and Safety Policy or equivalent</u> The Applicant shall supply a copy of its Safety Statement (if registered in the Republic of Ireland) or a copy of its Health and Safety Policy (if registered in the UK) or equivalent (if registered elsewhere). <u>(B) Enforcement Actions</u>

The Applicant shall provide, for itself and each member (joint venture / consortium) of the Applicant, details of the number of enforcement actions or prosecutions against the Applicant by the HSA, the HSE or local authorities (in the UK) or other equivalent safety regulator in the last 5 years (up to the date 7 calendar days before the latest date for submission of the response to this QSQ). If there are none, enter '0' in the No. column in table below.

Enforcement	No.	Details
Prosecutions		
Prohibition Notices/Orders		
Improvement Notices		
Improvement Plans		

(C) HSA Accident / Incident Performance

The Applicant shall provide details in the table below of its' accident / incident performance (including joint ventures and sub contractors¹ working on your behalf) for each of the **last 5 years** (up to the date 7 calendar days before the latest date for submission of the response to this QSQ). Insert 0 if no incidents recorded or NA if data is unavailable. If data is unavailable the Applicant should provide an explanation in the Applicant's Response box [below].

Incident Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Man-hours Worked						
Fatalities (absolute)						
Fatalities (per 100,000 man-hours)						
Reportable (>3 day) Accidents (absolute)						
Reportable(>3day) Accidents (per 100,000 man-hours)						
Lost Time (≤3 day) Accidents (absolute)						
Lost Time (≤3 day) Accidents (per 100,000 man-hours)						
First Aid Cases (absolute)						
First Aid Cases (per 100,000 man-hours)						
Reportable Dangerous Occurrences (HSA/HSE) (absolute)						

¹ For the purposes of this document, the term sub-contractors and sub-consultants are used interchangeably and refer to third party entities appointed by an Applicant to carry out certain works.

		Reportable Dangerous Occurrences (HSA/HSE) (per 100,000 man-hours)																
D4	Environmental	The Minimum Requirement is that an accurate response is provided by the Applicant in respect of the following: <u>A) Environment</u> Has the Applicant (and in the case of a Group Applicant, any member of the Group Applicant) been subject to any environmental action or prosecution by local authorities, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Northern Irish or Scottish Environment Agency or any other environmental body in the last five years? If yes, provide details, or if no, state None (confirm by entering "0" in the No. column in the table below). <table><tr><th>Enforcement</th><th>No.</th><th>Details</th></tr><tr><td>Prosecutions</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>								Enforcement	No.	Details	Prosecutions			Other		
Enforcement	No.	Details																
Prosecutions																		
Other																		
D5	Quality Assurance	The Minimum Requirement is that the Applicant must: Lots 1 and 2 A) be certified to ISO 9001:2015 and provide an up to date copy of their ISO certificate, showing the expiry date and scope of the certificate; B) supply an up to date copy of their Quality Management System Manual; and C) provide a copy of a Quality Management Plan which they have previously used on a project that is similar to this project (the scope of which is outlined at Item A4 of the Particulars). Lot 3 A) provide information on the measures in place to ensure the delivery of a quality service and demonstrate a commitment to quality assurance. Provide details of quality assurance policies and systems for example by way of an externally certified system, or an equivalent in-house quality control process or system and B) provide details of how their organisation will manage and ensure the quality of the services delivered including a reference to continual quality improvement and how their organisation may add value to the overall services.																
D6	Compliance with requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 or equivalent legislation	Commercial organisations that carry on a business or part of a business in the UK, supply goods or services and have an annual turnover of £36 million or more ("relevant commercial organisations") are required under																

		section 54 of the UK's Modern Slavery Act to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement as defined by section 54 of the Act, The Minimum Requirement is either: (1) that the Applicant states "N/A" to all questions (because it is not a "relevant commercial organisation" as defined above and the country in which it is incorporated does not have equivalent legislation to the Act) or, (2) where the Applicant states "Yes" to question (A), it provides sufficient evidence that it is compliant with the annual reporting requirements contained in section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act or (3) the Applicant responds "Yes" to question (C). (A) Is the Applicant a relevant commercial organisation as defined by section 54 ("Transparency in supply chains etc.") of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ("the Act")? Yes ☐ N/A ☐ (B) If "Yes", is the Applicant compliant with the annual reporting requirements contained within section 54 of the Act? Yes ☐ Please provide the relevant URL ... No ☐ Please provide an explanation Where the Applicant fails to provide sufficient evidence of compliance with the annual reporting requirements contained within section 54 of the Act (where applicable), this may result in the Applicant being eliminated without further consideration of its QSQ Response. (C) If the country in which the Applicant is incorporated has equivalent legislation to the Act, is the Applicant compliant with the requirements of that Act? Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
D7	Employee Related Matters	A) The Minimum Requirement is either that the Applicant states "None" in response to the question below or, where it states "Yes", it provides sufficient evidence that appropriate action has been taken as a result of any unlawful discrimination or findings by the Workplace Relations Commission, the Equality Commission in Northern Ireland, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (Scotland) or any comparable body in any other jurisdiction. In the last three years immediately preceding the date noted at Item B1 of these Particulars, has any finding of unlawful discrimination been made against the Applicant (or any parent company) by any court, employment tribunal, employment appeal tribunal or any comparable body in any other jurisdictions? And/or has the Applicant (or any parent company) been the subject of formal investigations by the Workplace Relations Commission, the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland or

	Article 5k(1) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/576) concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine	the Equality and Human Rights Commission (Scotland) or any comparable body in any other jurisdiction on grounds of alleged unlawful discrimination? If "Yes", give details, including any corrective steps taken as a consequence of the findings. If "No", please state "None". Where the Applicant fails to provide sufficient evidence that appropriate action had been taken this may result in the Applicant being eliminated without further consideration of its QSQ Response. B) Subject to Article 5k(1) of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/576), the Contracting Entity shall be prohibited from awarding a public contract: a. a Russian national, or a natural or legal person, entity or body established in Russia; b. a legal person, entity or body whose proprietary rights are directly or indirectly owned for more than 50 % by an entity referred to in point (a); or c. a natural or legal person, entity or body acting on behalf or at the direction of an entity referred to in point (a) or (b), including, where they account for more than 10 % of the contract value, subcontractors, suppliers or entities whose capacities are being relied on within the meaning of the public procurement directives. If any of the conditions set out in Article 5k.1 of the Council Regulation apply, the Applicant <u>shall</u> be excluded from the competition, unless specific grounds for derogation exist in accordance with Article 5k.2 of the Council Regulation (1) Do you (or if applicable, a subcontractor, supplier or entity whose capacities are being relied on), fall under one of the definitions under Section 5k.1 of the Council Regulation (refer to (a), (b), (c))? Yes ☐ No ☐
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E. PASS/FAIL CRITERIA

Pass/Fail Criteria	Weighting/ Maximum marks available	Minimum mark required
This table is a summary only of the pass/fail criteria. Applicants should refer to details as set out in Section 5. The weighting/ maximum marks available and the minimum mark required is as noted in the columns to the right.		
Financial Standing		
Financial Standing lot 1 and lot 2	100	60 marks

Financial Standing for lot 3	100	30 marks
Relevant Experience	Pass/ Fail	Pass
Health and Safety	Pass/ Fail	Pass
Environmental		
Environmental for lot 1 and 2	Pass/ Fail	Pass
Environmental for lot 3	50	50% (25 marks)
Sustainability		
Sustainability for lot 1 and lot 2	50 marks	50% (25 marks)
Sustainability for lot 3	50 marks	50% (25 marks)
Information Security	Pass/ Fail	Pass
Data Protection	Pass/ Fail	Pass

F. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

F1	Insurance requirements	If successful, the insurance requirements for Contracts issued from this Qualification System at Call for Competition stage are envisaged to be as follows (detailed requirements will be set out in the CFC): • The Contractor shall effect and maintain Public Liability Insurance for a period with a limit of indemnity of not less than €6,500,000 (six million, five hundred thousand euro) per claim or series of claims arising out of one event and unlimited in the aggregate • The Contractor shall effect and maintain Employers Liability Insurance with a limit of indemnity of €13,000,000 (thirteen million euro) per claim or series of claims arising out of one event and unlimited in the aggregate. • The Contractor shall effect and maintain Professional Indemnity with a limit of indemnity of not less than €6,500,000 (six million, five hundred thousand euro) per any one claim and limited in the annual aggregate.
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G. DEFINITIONS

Applicant	means the interested party/parties seeking to qualify for inclusion in the Qualification System and includes both the Applicant and any other entities being relied on by the Applicant to qualify, such as sub-contractors or suppliers.
Contracting Entity	the entity named in Item A1 of the Particulars.
FSRU	Floating Storage Regasification Unit
Initial Competition	the first competition, if any, which the Contracting Entity may (at its absolute discretion) run pursuant to this Qualification System.
Minimum Requirements	means the minimum requirements identified in Section D of the Particulars.

Principal Applicant	the party identified in section 4.1 of a Joint Venture Applicant's QSQ Response
Qualification System	the qualification system to be formed pursuant to this QSQ (if any is formed).
Qualified Applicant	an Applicant who has been admitted to the Qualification System.
Qualification System Questionnaire (QSQ)	this qualification system questionnaire

Important Notice

This QSQ is issued by the Contracting Entity for the purposes of a competition for the award of the Contract.

This QSQ is a summary of available information and no reliance shall be placed on any information or statements contained herein, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is or shall be made in relation to the completeness, accuracy or functioning of the information contained in this QSQ, nor as to the reasonableness of any assumption made in preparing this information.

Neither the Contracting Entity nor any subsidiary or holding company of the Contracting Entity or a subsidiary of any such holding company, nor its advisers, consultants, contractors, servants and/or agents shall have any liability or responsibility in relation to the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of such information or any statements made. For the avoidance of doubt, Applicants should not assume that any such information or statements shall remain unchanged - the information provided herein is preliminary only and will be superseded by the ITN when it is published.

Neither the Contracting Entity nor any subsidiary or holding company of the Contracting Entity or a subsidiary of any such holding company, nor its advisers, consultants, contractors, servants and/or agents shall have any liability or responsibility in relation to any system issues with the e-tenders portal, either due to network congestion or poor network speeds, or otherwise.

The Contracting Entity is not bound by any anomalies, errors or omissions in this QSQ. Neither the issue of this QSQ nor any information or statement in this QSQ shall constitute or result in the basis of a contract or part of a contract between the Contracting Entity and any Applicant. The Contracting Entity shall not be obliged to enter into a contract with any Applicant. Save for any confidentiality obligations imposed on the Applicant, no legal relationship or other obligation shall arise between the Applicant and the Contracting Entity unless and until a Contract in relation to the subject of this competition has been formally executed in writing by the Contracting Entity and the successful Applicant in this competition and any conditions precedent to the effectiveness of such documents (if any) have been fulfilled. If the competition is divided into lots, each lot shall constitute a separate contract for the purposes of Regulation 8(2) of SI 131 of 2010, as amended by SI 193 of 2015.

The Contracting Entity reserves the right at any time to take such steps as it considers appropriate in respect of the competition, which may include (but are not limited to):

- to change the basis of, or the procedures (including the timetable) relating to, the tender process;
- to reject any, or all, of the QSQ Responses;
- not to invite an Applicant to proceed further;
- not to furnish an Applicant with additional information; or
- to abandon the competition

and no expense incurred by any person in responding to this QSQ will be reimbursed.

The Contracting Entity reserves the right to amend this document, its requirements and any information contained herein at any time by notice, in writing, to the Applicants. Reference to this QSQ shall include all information contained in this document and any other information (whether written, oral or in machine-readable form) or opinions made available at any time during the competition by or on behalf of the Contracting Entity, any subsidiary or holding company of the Contracting Entity or a subsidiary of any such holding company, its advisers, consultants, contractors, servants and/or agents in connection with this competition.

The Contracting Entity does not make any guarantee in regard to any contract award and/or the volume or value of works, services or supplies to be procured.

Irish law is applicable to this document. The Irish courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction in relation to any disputes arising from this document.

DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

As part of your QSQ Response, you may provide personal data relating to yourself, employees or other third parties. In this QSQ, "Data Protection Law" means all applicable data protection law including the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) and the Data Protection Act 2018; and the terms 'personal data', 'process', 'controller', 'processor' and 'data subject' shall have the meanings given to them under Data Protection Law.

Where you provide personal data relating to third parties, you must ensure that such third parties are made aware of the contents of this Data Protection Notice in full.

Where such personal data is provided, the relevant controller is the Contracting Entity. If you have any questions about our use of your personal data, please use the eTenders messaging system to raise these with the Contracting Entity.

We generally process the following personal data as part of QSQ Responses:

- name;
- contact details;
- qualifications;
- curriculum vitae;
- company / project organigram;
- any other personal data provided by you as part of your submission.

We collect personal data from you directly, and from the following sources:

- your employer (where relevant);
- other members of your consortium;
- any other source of personal data referred to in this QSQ.

Any personal data provided will be processed for the purposes of the QSQ process. Our legal basis for processing such personal data in accordance with the provisions of this Data Protection Notice is that it is necessary for the exercise of official authority vested in us.

We may disclose your personal data to various recipients in connection with the tender process, including:

- your employer;
- other members of your consortium;
- third party service providers of Gas Networks Ireland, such as advisors and contractors; and
- other potential recipients identified in this QSQ.

In connection with the above we may transfer your personal data outside the European Economic Area, including to a jurisdiction which is not recognised by the European Commission as providing for an equivalent level of protection for personal data as is provided for in the European Union (a "**Third Country**"). If and to the extent that we do so, we will ensure that appropriate measures are in place to comply with our obligations under applicable law governing such transfers, which may include entering into a contract governing the transfer which contains the 'standard contractual clauses' approved for this purpose by the European Commission or, in respect of transfers to the United States of America, ensuring that the transfer is covered by the EU-US Privacy Shield framework (or any replacement framework). Further details of the measures that we have taken in this regard are available on request from the Contracting Entity.

If you are unsuccessful as part of the tender process, such personal data will be retained until three years after the conclusion of the tender process. If you are successful, and join the Qualification System, such personal data will be retained in accordance with PD/97, Gas Network Ireland's data management policy.

Any data subjects in respect of which we hold or process personal data have rights in relation to their personal data, including the right to request access to their data and, in certain circumstances to request rectification, erasure or restriction of the processing of their personal data. All such data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with the Irish supervisory authority, the Data Protection Commission. The provision of such personal data is not a contractual requirement, however, failure to provide sufficient information may affect the completeness of your QSQ Response.

SECTION 1: CONTRACTING ENTITY ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Gas Networks Ireland: established pursuant to section 5 of the Gas Regulation Act 2013. It carries out activities with respect, inter alia, to the construction, operation and maintenance of and the provision of services with respect to Gas Networks Ireland's transmission and distribution networks used to transport natural gas to and in Ireland and includes all businesses carried out or to be carried out by the networks business from time to time and any subsidiaries of Gas Networks Ireland from time to time across the island of Ireland.

Gas Networks Ireland is certified to both the Environmental Management system, ISO14001 and the Energy Management System, ISO50001. Tenderers should note that the evaluation of Tenders may include elements that relate to environmental and energy performance of services, materials, methodology and equipment proposed by the Tenderers.

For more information, please see Gas Networks Ireland's website, which can be found at www.gasnetworks.ie.

GNI (UK) Limited: a wholly owned subsidiary of Gas Networks Ireland, registered in England and Wales. The principal activity of the company is the transportation of natural gas (1) together with GNI, through two pipelines from Moffat in Scotland to Ballough in Ireland; and (2) from Belfast to Derry (through the North-West Pipeline) in Northern Ireland, and from Gormanston, Ireland to Belfast (through the South-North Pipeline).

GNI (UK) Limited is certified to both the Environmental Management system, ISO14001 and the Energy Management System, ISO50001. Tenderers should note that the evaluation of Tenders may include elements that relate to environmental and energy performance of services, materials, methodology and equipment proposed by the Tenderers.

Aurora: a carrier-neutral operator specialising in Fibre Optic network services for customers seeking a future proof high bandwidth solution. Aurora is focused on the design and build of bespoke dedicated fibre network solutions. Since its establishment by Bord Gáis in 2000, Aurora has been increasingly recognised as the leading provider of fibre networks to carriers and service providers. Aurora also provides private fibre solutions to large corporate, public sector and financial services organisations. As a division of Gas Networks Ireland, Aurora combines telecommunications expertise with that of advanced network design, construction and project management to offer a best-in-class fibre network.

For more information, please see Aurora's website, which can be found at www.auroratelecom.ie

SECTION 2: INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Conditions of Submission of QSQ Response

2.1 By submitting a QSQ Response an Applicant agrees and confirms:

- a) that it has examined and understood this QSQ;
- b) that it may not, subsequent to its QSQ Response, make any changes to the information provided to the Applicant without written consent of the Contracting Entity and that any such consent must be sought from the Contracting Entity in writing and the Contracting Entity may decide, at its absolute discretion, whether to accept or reject the change;
- c) the Applicant may be requested by the Contracting Entity to provide further information to support its QSQ Response;
- d) the Contracting Entity is not bound to accept any application by way of a QSQ Response which it may receive;
- e) the Contracting Entity shall not be liable in any way for any costs incurred in the preparation or in the submission of the Applicant's QSQ Response;
- f) none of the information provided to the Applicant or received from the Applicant shall constitute a contract or part of a contract between the Contracting Entity and any Applicant (save for any confidentiality obligations imposed on the Applicant) and that the Contracting Entity reserves the right not to follow up this QSQ in any way and/or to change the tender procedure and/or terminate discussions at any time;
- g) no legal relationship or other obligation shall arise between any Applicant and the Contracting Entity unless and until a contract has been formally executed in writing by the Contracting Entity and a successful Applicant and any conditions precedent to the effectiveness of such documents have been fulfilled.

QSQ Response

2.2 The Contracting Entity reserves the right, but shall not be obliged, to reject any QSQ Response which does not fully comply with the requirements set out in this document. If a QSQ Response fails to so comply, the Contracting Entity shall be entitled (but shall not be obliged) to take such steps as it considers appropriate, at its sole discretion, including (but not limited to):

- (a) to reject the QSQ Response as non-compliant;
- (b) without prejudice to the Contracting Entity's right to reject the QSQ Response:
 - (i) to meet with, raise issues and/or seek clarification from the Applicant in respect of its QSQ Response;
 - (ii) to request the Applicant to provide the Contracting Entity with information or items which have not been provided or have been provided in an incorrect form; and/or
 - (iii) to waive a requirement which, in the opinion of the Contracting Entity, is minor or procedural.

Notwithstanding the above, the Contracting Entity does not have the discretion to accept late submissions. See Item B2 of the Particulars.

2.3 The Applicant should ensure that the Applicant's QSQ Response is comprehensive and clear, as qualification may be based solely on this without any call to interview. However, the Contracting Entity retains the right, at its discretion:

- (a) to call all, some only or none of the Applicants to make a presentation to the Contracting Entity for the purpose of clarifying their respective QSQ Responses; and/or
- (b) to require, all, some only or none of the Applicants to facilitate a site visit and / or system audit to provide further clarification in support of their respective QSQ Responses.

- (c) to request the Applicant to provide the Contracting Entity with information or items which have not been provided or have been provided in an incorrect form; and/or
 - (d) to waive a requirement which, in the opinion of the Contracting Entity, is minor or procedural.
- 2.4 Neither the Contracting Entity nor any of their respective servants, consultants, agents or advisers will be responsible for any expense incurred in the preparation and delivery of the QSQ Response or in attendance at interview (if required).
- 2.5 All information requested must be provided in the English or the Irish language (accompanied by an English translation).
- 2.6 Answers must be provided to all questions in the QSQ. If a question is not relevant to an Applicant "Not Applicable" or "n/a" should be inserted.
- 2.7 All financial data is to be given in Euro (€) or Sterling (UK). Where the data is not given in Euro (€) or Sterling (UK), then the average European Central Bank foreign exchange rate for the financial period will be used when translating all income statement values and the rate as at the period end will be used when translating balance sheet values.
- 2.8 An Applicant may not make any changes to the information in its QSQ Response without the prior written consent of the Contracting Entity. Such consent must be sought from the Contracting Entity in writing and the Contracting Entity may decide, at its absolute discretion, whether to accept or reject the change.
- 2.9 Under procurement rules, where information or documentation to be submitted by an Applicant is or appears to be incomplete or erroneous, or where specific documents are missing, the Contracting Entity may request the Applicant concerned to submit, supplement, clarify or complete the relevant information or documentation within an appropriate time limit, provided that the request is compliant with the principles of equal treatment and transparency. The Contracting Entity considers that given the nature of the Qualification System procedure and the ability of Applicants to re-apply where a submission has been rejected due to incomplete or erroneous information or documents or where specific documents are missing, the Contracting Entity may request Applicants to submit, supplement, clarify or complete the relevant information or documentation contained in the QSQ where appropriate.
- 2.10 To ensure equality of treatment in the assessment of the QSQ Responses, limits are placed on the size, format, and the amount of information Applicants may submit in respect of the pass/fail criteria. Additional information submitted by the Applicant in excess of any stated limit shall not be considered by the Contracting Entity nor shall it be included in the quotation evaluation/assessment process, i.e. where a maximum of 10 pages are specified the Contracting Entity shall only consider the information presented in the first 10 pages of that response section and additional pages shall not be read or assessed. Similarly, where three examples of projects are requested only the first three projects listed/provided shall be considered as part of the assessment.
- 2.11 A minimum font size of 10-point Arial or equivalent shall be used in submission text. References to an A4 page are to one side of an A4 page (i.e. a double-sided page counts as 2 A4 Pages). For readability purposes, spreadsheets, drawings and diagrams only, (e.g. programmes, flow-charts), may be presented on A3 pages. Each A3 page shall count as 2 A4 pages, however the previous restriction on font size shall not apply to A3 pages.

Amendments, Clarifications and Queries

- 2.12 If the Contracting Entity is of the opinion that a clarification and/or amendment is required to be made to this document, and/or additional information is required to be issued, then the Contracting Entity shall be entitled to make any such clarification and/or amendment and/or issue such additional information, at any time, provided that, in respect of the Initial Competition only, this shall be prior to the date for submission of the QSQ Response as noted at Item B1 of the Particulars.

- 2.13 Subject to any applicable legal requirements, the Contracting Entity will not enter into any correspondence with an Applicant in relation to its QSQ Response except to seek clarification of the Applicant's QSQ Response, or in response to an Applicant's request to make a change, enquiry or request for clarification as referred to below.
- 2.14 No communication may be entered into with any employee of the Contracting Entity, or any subsidiary of the Contracting Entity in relation to this QSQ.
- 2.15 Verbal queries or requests for clarification will not be considered by the Contracting Entity. In respect of the Initial Competition, a written response will be emailed to enquiries received on or before the Final Time and Date for Receipt of Queries/Requests for Clarification noted at Item C2 of the Particulars. The Contracting Entity may at its absolute discretion, but shall not be obliged to, reply to queries received after that time and date.
- 2.16 All such queries received, together with replies and clarifications on the points raised, may be circulated to all Applicants. If an Applicant believes a query/request and/or its response relates to a confidential or commercially sensitive aspect of its QSQ Response that Applicant must mark the query/request as "confidential" or "commercially sensitive". If the Contracting Entity, at its discretion, is satisfied that the query/request and/or its response should be properly regarded as confidential or commercially sensitive, the nature of the query/request and its response shall be kept confidential (subject to any applicable legal requirements).
- 2.17 If the Contracting Entity is of the opinion that it would be inappropriate to answer the query/request on a confidential basis, it will notify the Applicant and require the Applicant to either withdraw the query or to raise any objection within 3 working days (being a day on which banks are normally open for business in Dublin) of such notification and state the grounds for its objection. If the Applicant does not withdraw the query/request or raise any objection within the specified period, or the Contracting Entity is of the opinion that, notwithstanding the objection of the Applicant, the query/request is not confidential or commercially sensitive, the Contracting Entity may issue the query/request and its response to all of the Applicants.

Ambiguities

- 2.18 Applicants shall immediately notify the Contracting Entity should they become aware of any ambiguity, discrepancy, error or omission in this QSQ. The Contracting Entity shall, upon receipt of such notification, notify all Applicants of its ruling in respect of any such ambiguity, discrepancy, error or omission. Such ruling shall be issued in writing, shall form part of the competition documents.

Conflict of Interest

- 2.19 Any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest involving an Applicant (including any parent, subsidiary or associated company of the Applicant or any director, partner or person in an equivalent position in the Applicant) must be fully disclosed to the Contracting Entity on submission of the Applicant's QSQ Response. In the event of any conflict or potential conflict of interest, the Contracting Entity shall, in its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action, which may, without limitation, include exclusion of the Applicant from the competition. Any registerable interest involving the Applicant or any of its sub-contractors and any of the members of the Board of the Contracting Entity or (where applicable), its subsidiaries or its parent company or other subsidiaries of a parent company, members of the Government, members of the Oireachtas, or employees of the Contracting Entity, its subsidiaries its parent company or other subsidiaries of the parent company or relatives of those employees must be fully disclosed in the response to this QSQ. In the event of such information only coming to their notice after the submission of QSQ Response, it should be communicated to the Contracting Entity immediately upon it becoming known to the Applicant. The terms 'registerable interest' and 'relative' shall be interpreted as per section 2 and schedule 2 of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 (as amended).

Code of Business Conduct

- 2.20 The Contracting Entity's purchasing activities of goods and services are carried out in accordance with best business practice. The Contracting Entity complies with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies issued by the Department of Finance (the 'Code of Practice') and with the Charter on Ethics in Public Procurement issued by the Forum on Public Procurement in Ireland. The Contracting Entity complies with applicable tendering and purchasing procedures and is committed to fairness, transparency and integrity in all business dealings. The Contracting Entity does not engage in any practice which distorts or is likely to distort fair and open competition in the procurement /tender process or which involves any improper or unethical business practices.
- 2.21 It is a requirement of the Contracting Entity that all third party suppliers who engage with the company at any stage in the "procure to pay" process (tendering, contracting, ordering, certification, invoicing, payments) do so in compliance with best practice and with honesty and integrity. If the Applicant is dissatisfied in relation to the Contracting Entity's tendering and purchasing procedures it shall immediately bring this to the Contracting Entity's attention.

Confidentiality

- 2.22 All documents issued and information given to the Applicants shall be treated by the Applicants as confidential (including any applicable information/ documents subsequently provided to Qualified Applicants at the next stage of the competition).
- 2.23 Applicants shall not release details of the documents or any information subsequently provided to them at the next stage of the competition, other than on a confidential basis to those who have a legitimate need to know or whom they need to consult, for the purpose of preparing their QSQ Response. Applicants must procure that their personnel and all other of their employees and advisers having access to such information are subject to the same rules as set out in section and must take all reasonable steps to ensure that its personnel, employees and advisers are made aware of and comply with such rules.
- 2.24 Applicants shall not at any time release information concerning this competition for publication in the press or on radio, television, screen or any other medium.
- 2.25 The Contracting Entity is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 together with other legislation governing access to information. The provisions of any such legislation will supersede the stated position of the parties. Subject to the following, all documents submitted by an Applicant will be treated as confidential by the Contracting Entity:
- (a) the requirement on the Contracting Entity to disclose information under any applicable legal requirements, including obligations under Freedom of Information legislation;
 - (b) the right of the Contracting Entity, at any time, to publicise, or otherwise disclose, to any third party, information regarding the competition, the identity of Applicants (including details of their respective members, representatives, advisers, consultants, contractors, servants and/or agents), shortlisted or preferred Applicants, the tender process or the award of places on the Qualification System;
 - (c) notwithstanding the generality of the foregoing, the right to disclose information to:
 - i. referees as part of the reference verification process; and
 - ii. other state/semi-state entities (including other Gas Networks Ireland group entities) for the purpose of disclosing details of the contract performance of the successful applicant.

Documents will not be returned to the Applicant.

Tax Clearance Certificate and Insurance Requirement

- 2.26 It shall be a condition of the award of any contract that may be awarded by the Contracting Entity pursuant to the Qualification System that that the successful tenderer (if the successful tenderer is a group, each member of the group), produces promptly a Tax Clearance Certificate, or in the

case of a non-resident, a statement from the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland confirming suitability on tax grounds.

- 2.27 It shall be a condition of the award of any contract that may be awarded by the Contracting Entity pursuant to the Qualification System that the successful tenderer shall have in place insurance which meets the Contracting Entity' requirements. Further details of the Contracting Entity' insurance requirements are provided in section F1 of the particulars section.
- 2.28 An Applicant who successfully qualifies to participate in any competition to be run under the Qualification System may be required to provide evidence to demonstrate that it can comply with the conditions noted at Sections 2.26 and 2.27 above when submitting its tender in this competition. Further details will be included in the tender documents which will issue to Qualified Applicants invited to participate in any such competition.

SECTION 3: CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

Compliance and Minimum Requirements

- 3.1 The Applicant's response to the questions in Section 6 (Exclusion Criteria) will be assessed in the first instance by the Contracting Entity. In accordance with the instructions in Section 6 (Exclusion Criteria), Applicants to whom any of the exclusion criteria apply may be deemed ineligible and may be eliminated from the competition. No further consideration will be given to the QSQ Response of any Applicant so eliminated.
- 3.2 An Applicant whose QSQ Response is not rejected following consideration by the Contracting Entity of the responses to Section 6 (Exclusion Criteria) will then be assessed for compliance with the Minimum Requirements as set out at Item D of the Particulars. In order to be considered for qualification the Applicant must satisfy **all** of the Minimum Requirements specified at Item D of the Particulars. If the Contracting Entity is not satisfied (acting reasonably) that any Applicant meets all of the Minimum Requirements, the Applicant shall be eliminated from the competition and no further consideration shall be given to its QSQ Response.
- 3.3 An Applicant who, in accordance with the procedure described above,
- has been deemed eligible; and
 - has satisfied the Minimum Requirements,
- will then have its QSQ Response evaluated in accordance with the criteria stated at Item E of the Particulars.
- 3.4 Details of the information required to be provided by an Applicant in respect of each of the pass/fail criteria set out at Item E of the Particulars (inclusive) are set out in Section 5 below. The allocation of marks in respect of each of the noted criteria is as set out at Item E of the Particulars.

Pass/Fail Criteria

- 3.5 The Applicant's response to each question (other than in relation to financial capacity/standing) will be assessed in order to ascertain whether the level of detail, qualifications, experience, documentation, certification and/or content of the response is appropriate for the nature, complexity and size (by reference, if relevant, to the lots applied for by the Applicant) of the scope of the Qualification System (as described above in Item A4 of the Particulars).
- 3.6 Where applicable, marks will be allocated based on the information and explanations provided in Applicants' written responses. Each question will be scored 0-100% of the marks available for the question based on the following bands:

Score	Indicator
90-100%	Excellent – response demonstrates exceptional evidence of capability
70-89%	Above Average - response demonstrates convincing evidence of capability
50-69%	Average – response demonstrates some capability
30-49%	Below Average - response lacks convincing evidence of capability
11-29%	A poor response - limited or poor evidence of capability
0-10%	Failed to address the question

- 3.7 There are minimum pass marks in respect of certain questions and certain selection criteria. If the Applicant's response to one of the questions or pass/fail criteria fails to meet the minimum pass mark, that Applicant may be excluded from further consideration.

Resources of other entities

- 3.8 QSQ Responses may be submitted by single entities, by groups of service providers or an entity relying on subcontractors. Where the QSQ Response is from a Joint Venture Applicant, the Principal Applicant nominated in the Applicant's submission is responsible for ensuring that all parties to the consortium comply with this QSQ and the Qualification System itself, if relevant. The Contracting Entity will not act as an arbitrator between members of a consortium/joint venture. A group will not be required to convert into a specific legal form in order to submit a QSQ Response, but may be required to do so prior to award of a contract. In addition to the requirements under Section 4.3 (Resources of Other Entities), the Contracting Entity reserves the right, amongst other solutions, to require that a contract be entered into with each member of the group on the basis of joint and several liability, to contract with one member of the group as prime contractor to whom the other members will be sub-contractors or to require joint liability from supporting entities in the case of critical tasks. Once qualified, the composition of the group may only be changed with the consent of the Contracting Entity.
- 3.9 Save where expressly stated to the contrary in this QSQ, in order to demonstrate the Applicant's economic and financial standing, resources and/or technical and/or professional experience and abilities, the Applicant or any member of a Joint Venture Applicant) may rely on the resources/capacities of other entities, whatever the legal nature of the link between the Applicant and those other entities (including, for example, but not limited to, reliance on a parent company's resources/capacities). Please note that previous experience gained by:
- (a) an individual while working for a third party entity;
 - (b) a third party joint venture partner, where the Applicant did not supervise or carry out the work/services in question; and
 - (c) a third party designer where the Applicant was the design build contractor but not the designer that did the design
- cannot be relied upon unless the third party entity itself is relied upon.
- Previous experience of a the Applicant in managing third party sub- contractors/ sub-consultants for an item of work, where the Applicant can show that it managed those third party sub-contractors/ sub-consultants and supervised their work, can be relied upon.
- 3.10 If the Applicant is relying on the resources/capacities of another entity or entities, it must provide confirmations from those entities in the form required in Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 (or in such other format as is deemed acceptable in form and substance to the Contracting Entity, at its sole discretion).
- 3.11 Where the Applicant is relying on the resources of another entity, or is a consortium or joint venture, the entit(ies) identified in Section 4 as being relied upon for a question shall respond to the relevant question.
- 3.12 Where more than one response is provided for any one section, each response will be marked. Applicants should not submit responses that they do not intend to be included in the assessment.
- 3.13 If sufficient evidence to allow full assessment of the given criteria is not provided the Applicant or a member of an Applicant will be assessed based on its own financial and economic standing and/or resources and/or technical and/or professional experience and abilities. A contractual commitment in the form of a guarantee or in such other form as the Contracting Entity may specify may be required at contract stage in favour of the Contracting Entity from any such supporting entity.

Prohibition on Related Companies

- 3.14 If this competition is split into lots, two related companies may not apply for the same lot if:
- (a) one company is the other's holding company; or

- (b) more than half in nominal value of one company's equity share capital (within the meaning of section 7(11) of the Companies Act 2014 (as amended)) is held by the other company or by members of the other company; or
- (c) one company is entitled to exercise or control the exercise of more than one half of the voting power at any general meeting of the company; or
- (d) the businesses of the companies have been so carried on that the separate business of each company, or a substantial part thereof, is not readily identifiable.

SECTION 4: APPLICANT'S ORGANISATION

Section 4.1 – Applicant/Principal Applicant Details

4.1

The information requested below shall be provided by the Applicant (or the Principal Applicant **only** in the case of a Joint Venture Applicant). Responses to this section are for information purposes only and will not be scored.

VAT Registered Name of Applicant:

If the Applicant is registered in a non-EU country, the Applicant's proper legal name can be provided here.

VAT Registered Number of Applicant:

This can be left blank if the Applicant is registered in a non-EU country.

Please verify your VAT Registered Name and Number are correct using the following website:
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/

If a registered company:

Registered number of Applicant at relevant registration office:

Tender Correspondence Information:

Address:

Applicant's Contact Name:

Contact's Position:

Telephone No.:

E-mail Address:

Section 4.2 – Application by a Joint Venture Applicant

4.2

(Refer to Sections 3.8 to 3.13 of the QSQ.)

If an Applicant is a Joint Venture Applicant, the Applicant must provide the additional information set out in the table below. If it is intended that a joint venture will be incorporated but it has not yet been formed, please provide proposed details in table below.

1) VAT Registered Name of Principal Applicant. If registered in a non-EU country, the proper legal name can be provided.			
2) Legal entities (VAT Registered Names) within the consortium or JV. If registered in a non-EU country, the proper legal name can be provided.			
3) VAT Registered Numbers of the legal entities within the consortium or JV This can be left blank if the Applicant is registered in a non-EU country			
4) Relevant ownership / participation division (%) within the consortium or JV			
5) Area of Responsibility –include relevant section number from the QSQ			
6) Questions responded to by the entity			

Notes:

- (a) VAT Registered Name of the Principal Applicant as per Section 4.1 above, only one entity can be named.
- (b) The VAT Registered Names and Numbers of all legal entities within the Joint Venture Applicant. Please verify your VAT Registered Name and Number using the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/
- (c) Relevant ownership/participation percentage split, for example this may be 50/50 or 33/33/33.
- (d) Details of which entity is putting forward the experience and capabilities in response to the questions. If an entity which does not form part of the consortium / JV is proposed as being fully / partly responsible the extent of the entity's participation should be listed in Section 4.3.

Enter the questions that the entity responded. The entity that is relied upon in relation to a particular question is to provide the response to that question. If more than one response is provided, the responses will each be weighted equally when applying the marks.

Section 4.3 – Resources of Other Entities

4.3

(Refer to Sections 3.8 to 3.13 of the QSQ.)

Where the Applicant is relying on the resources of another entity (who is not a member of the consortium / JV) e.g. subcontractor, subsidiary, parent company, etc., the Applicant shall provide in this QSQ Response:

- (i) The information relevant to the area, section and question to which they are being relied upon; and
- (a) Evidence from the entity proving that those resources will be available to the Applicant for the duration of the Qualification System and (unless the resources relate to financial standing/capacity) that the entity being relied upon will perform those elements of a contract for which the resources or capacities relied upon are required. That evidence could be in the form of the undertakings set out in Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 (on a letter with the company letter head of the company being relied upon) as applicable.

Entity (VAT Registered Name)	Area of Responsibility - include relevant section number	Questions the Entity Responded

4.3.1 Financial Standing letter

Dear Sir,

Re: 24/026 - Provision of Front-end Engineering Design (FEED), Client ~~Engineer~~[Partner](#), and Engineering Peer Review [and Specialist Technical Advisor](#) for Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve
QSQ Response Submission by **Applicant name**
Financial Resources

We understand that **Applicant name**, is relying on our financial standing in the above competition and requires confirmation that those financial resources are available to it.

Accordingly we confirm that we can provide the financial resources identified in the QSQ Response to facilitate **Applicant name's** participation in the competition. In addition if they are successful in the competition and appointed, then we will provide a guarantee to you that those financial resources will be made available for the duration of the Qualification System.

Yours faithfully,

**authorised representative of
guarantor of financial resources**

4.3.2 Resources/Technical Ability letter

Dear Sir,

Re: 24/026 - Provision of Front-end Engineering Design (FEED), Client ~~Engineer~~[Partner](#), and Engineering Peer Review [and Specialist Technical Advisor](#) for Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve
QSQ Response Submission by **Applicant name**
Resources/Technical Ability

We understand that **Applicant name**, is relying on our resources/technical ability in the above competition and requires confirmation that those resources are available to it.

Accordingly we confirm that we can provide the resources identified in the QSQ Response to facilitate **Applicant name's** participation in the competition. In addition if they are successful in the competition and appointed, then we will provide a guarantee to you that those resources will be made available for the duration of the Qualification System. We also confirm that we will perform those elements of a contract for which the resources or capacities relied upon are required.

Yours faithfully,

**authorised representative of
guarantor of technical ability/resources**

SECTION 5: – INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY APPLICANT

The Applicant should answer each question and/or respond to each request for information or documents. If the question or request does not apply to the Applicant, “Not Applicable” or “N/A” should be inserted.

LOT 1: FRONT END ENGINEERING DESIGN (FEED)

5.1 FINANCIAL STANDING (100 marks)

The Contracting Entity will evaluate either:

- a. OPTION (A) D&B CREDIT REPORT; or
- b. (if a D&B credit report cannot be sourced) OPTION (B) FINANCIAL METRICS.

There is no detrimental impact on scoring if one option is used instead of another.

OPTION (A) D&B CREDIT REPORTS

Under Option A, an Applicant must receive a combined score of 60 marks across section 5.1.1 and 5.1.2.

The Applicant (or the entity / entities being relied on / responsible for economic and financial standing in the particulars) should submit a current Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) credit report. The D&B credit report should be sourced by the Applicant within **six months** prior to the date noted at Item B1 of the Particulars. Where the Applicant does not provide a D&B Credit Report, the Contracting Entity shall directly source a D&B credit report and utilise this in the evaluation of the Applicant. In the case of a consortium / joint venture, where an Applicant provides a D&B credit report for more than one entity, these will be scored in accordance with the relevant ownership / participation division (%) within the consortium / joint venture as set out in Section 4.2.

D&B Credit Reports will be scored based on the below scoring tables.

5.1.1 (A) Net Worth (70 marks available)

D&B (or equivalent) Net Worth Credit Rating Marks	
5A - 4A	70
3A	60
2A	50
1A	40
A	30
B	25
C	20
D	15
<u>E-H</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>N (Negative Tangible Net Worth)</u>	<u>0</u>

0 (Rating undisclosed – refer to section (ii) Financial Metrics)

0

5.1.2 (A) Risk Indicator (30 marks available, with a minimum requirement of 20 marks)

D&B Risk Indicator Rating Marks	
1	30
2	25
3	0
4	0

OPTION (B) FINANCIAL METRICS

Under Option B, an Applicant must receive a combined score of 60 marks across section 5.1.3 and 5.1.4.

Where a D&B Credit Report is not available, Applicants will be scored based on the Tangible Net Worth as per the most recent audited financial statements [submitted in response to Particular D1] (in line with the D&B Net Worth rating). The risk indicator rating will be determined by various metrics outlined below and applied to the audited financial statements.

5.1.3 (B) Tangible Net Worth (70 marks available)

Net Worth		
From	To	Marks
> €25,000,000		70
€10,000,000	€24,999,999	60
€2,000,000	€9,999,999	50
€1,000,000	€1,999,999	40
€500,000	€999,999	30
€250,000	€500,000	25
€150,000	€249,000	20
€100,000	€149,999	15

5.1.4 (B) Financial Ratios (30 marks available, with a minimum requirement of 20 marks)

Financial Ratios applied to the audited financial statements will determine the applicable risk indicator.

5.1.4.1 (B) Profitability (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Profitability = EBITDA/Turnover	< 0%	0
	> 0% & ≤ 5%	0
	> 5% & ≤ 10%	8.5

	> 10%	10
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5.1.4.2 (B) Liquidity (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Current Ratio = Current Assets/ Current Liabilities	< 1	0
	> 1 & ≤ 1.2	0
	> 1.2 & ≤ 2	8.5
	> 2	10

5.1.4.3 (B) Gearing (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Debt Ratio = Total Debt/ Total Assets	> 60%	0
	≥ 40% & 60%	0
	≥ 20% & 40%	8.5
	> 0 & 20%	10

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify whether the Applicant has provided a D&B Credit Report (Option A) or its most recent audited financial accounts (Option B) and identify documents attached

5.2 RESOURCES (Please note that the criteria at 5.2.1 is not scored and the criteria at 5.2.2 will be considered a Pass/ Fail).

5.2.1 What is the number of permanent employees of the Applicant? (Information only, not scored)

Please also provide a breakdown of numbers by nominated discipline as listed below:

- Project Management
- Process Engineering
- Pipeline Engineering
- Marine Engineering
- Civil/Structural Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Instrumentation & Controls
- Technical Safety
- Estimating
- Commissioning
- Construction

5.2.2 Applicant shall submit a CV for each of the following positions satisfying the criteria as listed below. (A pass mark will be awarded to an Applicant who provides a CV for each position listed which demonstrates the required criteria).

Project Manager:

Project Manager with demonstrated experience in delivering FEED design for an FSRU based LNG import facility. Qualification and Experience Level required:

- BEng/BSc in a relevant engineering discipline
- Minimum 15 years' experience

Process Engineering Lead:

Process Engineer and demonstrated experience in leading the delivery of process engineering discipline for the FEED design of an FSRU based LNG import facility. Qualification and Experience Level required:

- BEng/BSc in Process Engineering
- Minimum 15 years' experience

Marine Lead

Marine/Maritime Engineer and demonstrated expertise in leading delivery of FEED design for marine civil infrastructure to support an FSRU based LNG import facility. Qualification and Experience Level required:

- BEng/BSc in Civil (or Structural) Engineering
- Minimum 15 years' experience

The same candidate cannot be submitted for more than one position.

5.3 EXPERIENCE (Please note that this section will be considered a Pass/ Fail)

The following section contains the details required for each case study in relation to this section. A pass mark will be awarded to an Applicant who provides three case studies which demonstrates the required experience and which meets the criteria set out below.

Applicant to provide three (3) case studies of projects, completed in last 10 years, one of which in the last 5 years, demonstrating previous experience gained in a successfully completed contract for the provision of Front End Engineering Design (FEED) for:

- FSRU based LNG import terminal, marine jetty and all associated onshore facilities (including control room, metering, etc.). Reference shall have had with a minimum upper bound send out rate of 500mmscfd or greater. Design FSRU shall have been a vessel with a LNG storage capacity of not less than 135,000m³.

For the case study to be considered, the Applicant must have directly delivered a minimum of 70% of the total engineering services value.

Each case study must

- Be a max of four (4) A4 pages per case study
- Clearly indicate which company acted as contract signatory for the case study project
- Outline specific problems and challenges encountered in that case study project
- Not be the same as another case study submitted, any duplicate case studies will only be counted as one

The minimum requirements for each case study includes:

- Engineering services value
- Client organisation and contact details (including names of key personal)
- Applicant organisation (including organisation chart and roles and responsibilities of the key personal)
- Applicant delivery organisation (including names of subcontractors, consortia partners and details of relationship between all members)
- CAPEX value
- Percentage of engineering services that were subcontracted or performed by other members in the case of a consortia
- Nature of project and summary of the services, including its objectives, constraints, design and interface challenges encountered
- Design contract start and end dates
- Consortium members or sub-consultants involved, including details of the size of the team managed by the Applicant, and any key suppliers for the design

References and confirm your willingness for GNI to approach them if it chooses to do so.

5.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY (Please note that this section will be considered a Pass/ Fail)

5.4.1 The Applicant shall provide details of three (3) similar projects completed within the last ten (10) years, for works similar in nature where they carried out the role of FEED Designer, The Applicant shall clearly demonstrate that they conducted or have been responsible for, as a minimum the following activities:

- Marine Traffic/Collision Risk Assessment
- HAZID, HAZOP & SIL
- QRA Analysis
- Gas dispersion modelling

Responses will include details of the jurisdiction the development was implemented as well as details of any applicable codes and standards applied.

Each case study must

- be a max of two (2) A4 pages per case study
- relate directly to the specific problems and challenges encountered in that case study.
- not be the same as another case study submitted, any duplicate case studies

(A pass mark will be awarded to an Applicant who can demonstrate experience in the listed activities and satisfies the listed criteria).

5.4.2 Please provide an overview of the processes that your organisation has in place to ensure safe travel for work for employees. Please support your response by providing evidence.

5.4.3 The Applicant shall provide evidence of how the company assess the competency of staff engaged in a project. The response shall show a well established, clearly defined process within the Applicants organisation. Where sub-consultants are utilised please provide evidence of how their competency is also assessed.

5.5 ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY

Criteria at 5.5.1 to 5.5.3 (Environmental) will be each considered a Pass/ Fail.

Criteria at 5.5.4 to 5.5.6 (Sustainability) will be 50 marks in total and an Applicant is required to achieve a cumulative score of 50%/ 25 marks.

Environmental

5.5.1 The Applicant shall furnish a copy of its Environmental Policy Statement (it should be signed, indicating the role of signee and dated). **(Pass/ Fail)**

5.5.2 Does the Applicant have an Environmental Management System and or Energy Management System? Please evidence of this e.g. a copy of the associated Environmental Manual, Energy Manual or other related documentation / evidence that would indicate responsible environmental management is in place. **(Pass/ Fail) (max 4 A4 pages)**

5.5.3 Is the Environmental Management System and Energy Management System certified by a third party to a recognised standard or system (e.g. ISO 14001, EMAS, ISO 50001)? If so, the Applicant should provide a copy of the certificate(s), the applicable areas and scope and for how long the system has been certified **(Pass/ Fail) (max 4 A4 pages)**

Sustainability

5.5.4 The Contracting Entity has committed to halving its carbon emissions by 2030. The Applicant should detail and provide documented evidence of the steps which are being taken by its organization to quantify and reduce their carbon emissions. **(15 marks) (max 4 A4 pages)**

5.5.5 The Contracting Entity is currently developing a sustainability framework in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to help ensure we respond effectively to the challenges we face. The Applicant should detail and provide documented supporting evidence on the steps being taken to ensure their activities are being carried out sustainably. **(15 marks) (max 4 A4 pages)**

5.5.6 Ethical Practice and Human Rights: The Applicant shall confirm their commitment to conducting business in an ethical manner with regards to this contract, referencing any relevant policies, practices and procedures in place. The response should consider, but should not be limited to, the following:

- (i) That the Applicant is not complicit in the abuse of human rights and / or child labour
 - (ii) Presentation of factual information and maintenance of accurate and true records
 - (iii) Avoids activity leading to conflict of interest
 - (iv) The steps in place (incl. management, monitoring and auditing processes) to ensure the Applicant's suppliers (or suppliers' suppliers) do not support or engage in unethical practice.
- (20marks) (max 4 A4 pages)**

LOT 2: CLIENT ~~ENGINEER~~PARTNER (Client Engineer)

5.6 FINANCIAL STANDING (100 marks)

The Contracting Entity will evaluate either:

- a) OPTION (A) D&B CREDIT REPORT; or
- b) if a D&B credit report cannot be sourced) OPTION (B) FINANCIAL METRICS.

There is no detrimental impact on scoring if one option is used instead of another.

OPTION (A) D&B CREDIT REPORTS

Under Option A, an Applicant must receive a combined score of 60 marks across section 5.6.1 and 5.6.2.

The Applicant (or the entity / entities being relied on / responsible for economic and financial standing in the particulars) should submit a current Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) credit report. The D&B credit report should be sourced by the Applicant within six months prior to the date noted at Item B1 of the Particulars. Where the Applicant does not provide a D&B Credit Report, the Contracting Entity shall directly source a D&B credit report and utilise this in the evaluation of the Applicant. In the case of a consortium / joint venture, where an Applicant provides a D&B credit report for more than one entity, these will be scored in accordance with the relevant ownership / participation division (%) within the consortium / joint venture as set out in Section 4.2.

D&B Credit Reports will be scored based on the below scoring tables.

5.6.1 (A) Net Worth (70 marks available)

D&B (or equivalent) Net Worth Credit Rating Marks	
5A	70
4A	60
3A	50
2A	40
1A	30
A	25
B	20
C	15
D	10
<u>E – H</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>N (Negative Tangible Net Worth)</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>O (Rating undisclosed – refer to section (ii) Financial Metrics)</u>	<u>0</u>

5.6.2 (A) Risk Indicator (30 marks available, with a minimum requirement of 20 marks)

D&B Risk Indicator Rating Marks	
1	30
2	25
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>

OPTION (B) FINANCIAL METRICS

Under Option B, an Applicant must receive a combined score of 60 marks across section 5.6.3 and 5.6.4.

Where a D&B Credit Report is not available, Applicants will be scored based on the Tangible Net Worth as per the most recent audited financial statements [submitted in response to Particular D1 (in line with the D&B Net Worth rating)]. The risk indicator rating will be determined by various metrics outlined below and applied to the audited financial statements.

5.6.3 (B) Tangible Net Worth (70 marks available)

Net Worth		
From	To	Marks
> €50,000,000		70
€25,000,000	€49,999,999	60
€10,000,000	€24,999,999	50
€2,000,000	€9,999,999	40
€1,000,000	€1,999,999	30
€500,000	€999,999	25
€250,000	€500,000	20
€150,000	€249,000	15
€100,000	€149,999	10

5.6.4 (B) Financial Ratios (30 marks available, with a minimum requirement of 20 marks.)

Financial Ratios applied to the audited financial statements will determine the applicable risk indicator.

5.6.4.1 (B) Profitability (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Profitability = EBITDA/Turnover	< 0%	0
	> 0% & ≤ 5%	0
	> 5% & ≤ 10%	8.5
	> 10%	10

5.6.4.2 (B) Liquidity (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Current Ratio = Current Assets/ Current Liabilities	< 1	0
	> 1 & ≤ 1.2	0
	> 1.2 & ≤ 2	8.5
	> 2	10

5.6.4.3 (B) Gearing (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Debt Ratio = Total Debt/ Total Assets	> 60%	0
	≥ 40% & 60%	0
	≥ 20% & 40%	8.5
	> 0 & 20%	10

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify whether the Applicant has provided a D&B Credit Report (Option A) or its most recent audited financial accounts (Option B) and identify documents attached

5.7 RESOURCES (Please note that the criteria at 5.7.1. is not scored and the criteria at 5.7.2 will be considered a Pass/ Fail)

5.7.1 What is the current total number of permanent employees of the Applicant? (**Not scored, information only**)

5.7.2 The Applicant shall demonstrate the necessary capacity in core disciplines listed below. The Applicant should furnish [2the required](#) nominations (**max 23 A4 page CVs**) of personnel available for each of the below listed positions. Same person cannot be submitted for multiple roles. (**A pass mark will be awarded to an Applicant who provides [the required number of](#) CVs for each of the required core disciplines which demonstrate the required criteria**)

Project Manager – 2 CV's required

- Demonstrated experience in ~~delivering Owner's Engineer~~managing Client Partner project services from design stage through to construction and commissioning/handover
- BEng/BSc in relevant technical discipline
- Minimum 15 years' experience

Process Lead – 2 CV's required

- Demonstrated experience in delivering Process FEED/Detailed design for an ~~FSRU-based~~ LNG ~~import~~ facility.
- BEng/BSc in process/chemical engineering or other relevant discipline
- Minimum 12 years' experience

Pipeline Lead – 2 CV's required

- Demonstrated experience in delivering FEED/Detailed design for an onshore HP Gas pipeline
- BEng/BSc in mechanical engineering or other relevant discipline
- Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field

Marine/Maritime Lead – 2 CV's required

- Demonstrated expertise ~~in leading delivery of~~as marine discipline lead for FEED/Detailed design ~~for~~of marine civil infrastructure to support berthing and mooring of LNG vessels with capacity greater than ~~135,000m³~~120,000m³ or vessels with a length overall (LOA) of >200meters
- BEng/BSc in Civil (or Structural) Engineering or other relevant discipline
- Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field

Technical Safety Lead – 1 CV required

- Demonstrated expertise in leading delivery for the following activities for a hydrocarbon processing import, export or storage facility:
 - HAZID, HAZOP & SIL
 - QRA Analysis
 - ~~Gas dispersion modelling~~
- Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field

Civil/Structural FSRU Lead – 1 CV required

- Demonstrated ~~expertise in leading delivery of FEED/Detailed design for an onshore industrial facility~~experience in the technical delivery assurance of an FSRU new build or LNG carrier to FSRU conversion project.
- BEng/BSc in ~~civil/structural engineering~~relevant technical discipline
- Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field

Mechanical Lead

- ~~Demonstrated expertise in leading delivery for the following activities for a hydrocarbon processing, import, export or storage facility~~
- ~~BEng/BSc in mechanical engineering~~
- ~~Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field~~

Electrical Lead

- ~~BEng/BSc in electrical engineering~~
- ~~Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field~~

Instrumentation & Control Lead

- ~~Demonstrated experience in delivering from design stage through to construction and commissioning/handover for hydrocarbon processing storage, import or export facility.~~
- ~~Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field~~

Commissioning Lead – 1 CV required

- ~~Demonstrated experience in delivering from design stage through to construction and commissioning/handover for hydrocarbon storage, import or export facility.~~
- ~~Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field~~

Construction Lead – 1 CV required

- Demonstrated experience in delivering from ~~design~~construction stage through to ~~construction and~~-commissioning/handover as construction manager for hydrocarbon storage, import or export facility.
- Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field

Contracts Lead – 1 CV required

- Demonstrated experience in delivering ~~Owners Engineer project~~Client Partner contract administration and procurement services from design stage through to construction and commissioning/handover
- Minimum 12 years' experience in relevant field

~~A typical organisation chart should also be submitted in support.~~

5.8 EXPERIENCE (Please note that this section will be considered a Pass/ Fail).

The following section contains the details required for each case study in relation to this section. A pass mark will be awarded to an Applicant who provides two case studies which demonstrates the required experience and which meets the criteria as set out below.

5.8.1 Applicant to provide two (2) case studies of projects, completed in last 10 years, for delivering the Client Partner/Client's Engineer/PMC Services Role. The case studies shall meet the following criteria:

- ~~1) LNG import terminal, marine jetty and all associated onshore facilities. Reference shall have had with a minimum upper bound send out rate of 500mmscfd or greater. Design vessels for the import terminal shall not have been less than 135,000m3;~~
- ~~or:~~
- 21) Civil / Energy / Infrastructure project delivered in Ireland with a CAPEX of > €150 million.
- or
- 2) LNG terminal, marine jetty and all associated onshore facilities. Reference case study shall have had storage capacity of not less than 120,000m3;

For the case study to be considered, the Applicant must have directly delivered a minimum of 50% of the total engineering services value.

Each case study must

- ~~-Be a max of four (4) A4 pages per case study~~
- ~~-clearly indicate which company acted as contract signatory for the case study project.~~
- ~~-relate directly to the specific problems and challenges encountered in that case study.~~
- ~~-not~~Not be the same as another case study submitted, any duplicate case studies will not be considered
- The~~Contain the following~~ minimum case study requirements ~~include:~~
 - ~~-Engineering services value of each of the Case Study.~~
 - ~~=~~ Design contract start and end dates.
 - ~~=~~ CAPEX for the case study
 - Client organisation and contact details (including names of key personal) for the case ~~studies~~ above study.
 - Applicant organisation (including organisation chart and roles and responsibilities of the key personal) for the case ~~studies above study~~
 - ~~=~~ Consortium members or sub-consultants involved, including details of the size of the team managed by the Applicant, and any key suppliers.
 - ~~-Applicant delivery organisation (including names of subcontractors, consortia partners and relationship between all members)~~
 - ~~-CAPEX for case studies above~~
 - Percentage of engineering services that were subcontracted or performed by other members in the case of a consortia (confirming Applicant delivered minimum of 50% of the total engineering services value)

- Nature of project and summary of the services, ~~including its objectives, constraints, design and interface challenges encountered.~~
- ~~-Design contract start and end dates.~~
- ~~-Consortium members or sub-consultants involved, including details of the size of the team managed by the Applicant, and any key suppliers for the design.~~
- = References and confirm your willingness for GNI to approach them if it chooses to do so.

5.9 HEALTH AND SAFETY (Please note that this section will be considered a Pass/ Fail),

Health and Safety

5.9.1 The Applicant shall provide details of three (3) similar projects in nature to this project (the scope of which is outlined at Item A4 of the Particulars), completed within the last ten (10) years which clearly demonstrate that they conducted or have been responsible for the following activities in a terminal facility design or implementation phase:

- HAZID, HAZOP & SIL
- QRA Analysis

Responses will include details of the jurisdiction the development was /implemented in as well as details of any applicable codes and standards.

Each case study must

- be a max of two (2) A4 pages per case study
- relate directly to the specific problems and challenges encountered in that case study.
- not be the same as another case study submitted, any duplicate case studies

(A pass mark will be awarded to an Applicant who can demonstrate experience in the listed activities and satisfies the listed criteria).

5.9.2 Please provide an overview of the processes that your organisation has in place to ensure safe travel for work for employees. Please support your response by providing evidence.

5.9.3 The Applicant shall provide evidence of how the company assess the competency of staff engaged in a project. The response shall show a well established, clearly defined process within the Applicants organisation. Where sub-consultants are utilised please provide evidence of how their competency is also assessed

Project Supervisor Design Process

5.9.4 The Applicant shall provide a written declaration using the template provided at Appendix 3 that the Applicant either:

- i) has the competence to undertake the role of Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) as required under Irish Health and Safety legislation² and which they can produce evidence of at a later stage; OR
- ii) they will engage with a partner firm who is competent to undertake this role.

5.10 ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY

Criteria at 5.10.1 to 5.10.3 (Environmental) will be each considered a Pass/ Fail.

Criteria at 5.10.4 to 5.10.6 (Sustainability) will be 50 marks in total and an Applicant is required to achieve a cumulative score of 50%/ 25 marks.

² S.I. No. 291 of 2013, Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (as amended)

Environmental

5.10.1 The Applicant shall furnish a copy of its Environmental Policy Statement (it should be signed, indicating the role of signee and dated). **(Pass/ Fail)**

5.10.2 Does the Applicant have an Environmental Management System and Energy Management System? Please evidence of this e.g. a copy of the associated Environmental Manual and Energy Manual or other related documentation evidence that would indicate responsible environmental management is in place. **(Pass/ Fail) (max 4 A4 pages)**.

5.10.3 Is the Environmental Management System and Energy Management System certified by a third party to a recognised standard or system (e.g. ISO 14001, EMAS, ISO 50001)? If so, the Applicant should provide a copy of the certificate(s), the applicable areas and scope and for how long the system has been certified. **(Pass/ Fail) (max 4 A4 pages)**.

Sustainability

5.10.4 The Contracting Entity has committed to halving its carbon emissions by 2030. The Applicant should detail and provide documented evidence of the steps which are being taken by its organization to quantify and reduce their carbon emissions. **(15 marks) (max 4 A4 pages)**.

5.10.5 The Contracting Entity is currently developing a sustainability framework in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to help ensure we respond effectively to the challenges we face. The Applicant should detail and provide documented supporting evidence on the steps being taken to ensure their activities are being carried out sustainably. **(15 marks) (max 4 A4 pages)**.

5.10.6 Ethical Practice and Human Rights:

The Applicant shall confirm their commitment to conducting business in an ethical manner with regards to this contract, referencing any relevant policies, practices and procedures in place.

The response should consider, but should not be limited to, the following:

(i) That the Applicant is not complicit in the abuse of human rights and / or child labour

(ii) Presentation of factual information and maintenance of accurate and true records

(iii) Avoids activity leading to conflict of interest

(iv) The steps in place (incl. management, monitoring and auditing processes) to ensure the Applicant's suppliers (or suppliers' suppliers) do not support or engage in unethical practice. **(20 marks). (max 4 A4 pages)**

LOT 3: Engineer Peer Review [and Specialist Technical Advisor](#)

5.11 FINANCIAL STANDING (100 marks)

The Contracting Entity will evaluate either:

a) OPTION (A) D&B CREDIT REPORT; or

b) if a D&B credit report cannot be sourced) OPTION (B) FINANCIAL METRICS.

There is no detrimental impact on scoring if one option is used instead of another.

OPTION (A) D&B CREDIT REPORTS

Under Option A, an Applicant must receive a combined score of 30 marks across section 5.11.1 and 5.11.2.

The Applicant (or the entity / entities being relied on / responsible for economic and financial standing in the particulars) should submit a current Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) credit report. The D&B credit report should be sourced by the Applicant within **six months** prior to the date noted at Item B1 of the Particulars. Where the Applicant does not provide a D&B Credit Report, the Contracting Entity shall directly source a D&B credit report and utilise this in the evaluation of the Applicant. In the case of a consortium / joint venture, where an Applicant provides a D&B credit report for more than one entity, these will be scored in accordance with the relevant ownership / participation division (%) within the consortium / joint venture as set out in Section 4.2.

D&B Credit Reports will be scored based on the below scoring tables.

5.11.1 (A) Net Worth (70 marks available)

D&B Net Worth Rating Marks	
5A – 2A	70
1A	70
A	70
B	70
C	50
D	30
E – H	20
N (Negative Tangible Net Worth)	0
O (Rating undisclosed – refer to section (ii) Financial Metrics)	0

5.11.2 (A) Risk Indicator (30 marks available, with a minimum requirement of 10 marks.

D&B Risk Indicator Rating Marks	
1	30
2	25
3	10
4	0

OPTION (B) FINANCIAL METRICS

Under Option B, an Applicant must receive a combined score of 30 marks across section 5.11.3 and 5.11.4.

Where a D&B Credit Report is not available, Applicants will be scored based on the Tangible Net Worth as per the most recent audited financial statements [submitted in response to Particular D1 (in line with the D&B Net Worth rating)]. The risk indicator rating will be determined by various metrics outlined below and applied to the audited financial statements.

5.11.3 (B) Tangible Net Worth (70 marks available)

Tangible Net Worth		
From	To	Marks
> € 2,000,000		70
€ 1,000,000	€1,999,999	70
€ 500,000	€999,999	70
€ 250,000	€499,999	70

€ 150,000	€249,999	50
€ 100,000	€149,999	30
€ 0	€99,999	20

5.11.4 (B) Financial Ratios (30 marks available, with a minimum of 10 marks required.)

Financial Ratios applied to the audited financial statements will determine the applicable risk indicator.

5.11.4.1 (B) Profitability (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Profitability = EBITDA/Turnover	< 0%	0
	> 0% & ≤ 5%	5
	> 5% & ≤ 10%	8.5
	> 10%	10

5.11.4.2 (B) Liquidity (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Current Ratio = Current Assets / Current Liabilities	< 1	0
	> 1 & ≤ 1.2	5
	> 1.2 & ≤ 2	8.5
	> 2	10

5.11.4.3 (B) Gearing (10 marks)

Criteria	Range	Marks
Debt Ratio = Total Debt / Total Assets	> 60%	0
	≥ 40% & 60%	5
	≥ 20% & 40%	8.5
	> 0 & 20%	10

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify whether the Applicant has provided a D&B Credit Report (Option A) or its most recent audited financial accounts (Option B) and identify documents attached

5.12 RESOURCES (Please note that this section will not be scored.)

5.12.1 What is the current total number of permanent employees of the Applicant? **(Information only, not scored)**

5.13 EXPERIENCE (Please note that this section will be considered a Pass/ Fail).

The following section contains the details required for each case study in relation to this section. A pass mark will be awarded to an Applicant who provides three case studies which demonstrates the required experience and which meets the criteria as set out below.

5.13.1 An Applicant shall provide three (3) case studies of projects, completed in the last 10 years, which demonstrate experience of technical due diligence and/or peer review engineering services on a capital energy project with capex of more than €150million.

For the case study to be considered, the Applicant must have directly delivered a minimum of 80% of the total engineering services value.

Each case study must

- Be a max of four (4) A4 pages per case study
- clearly indicate which company acted as contract signatory for the case study project.
- relate directly to the specific problems and challenges encountered in that case study.
- not be the same as another case study submitted, duplicate case studies will only be considered once.

The minimum case study requirements include:

- Engineering services value of each of the case study
- Client organisation and contact details (including names of key personal) for case studies above.
- Applicant organisation (including organisation chart and roles and responsibilities of the key personal) for case studies above
- Applicant delivery organisation (including names of subcontractors, consortia partners and relationship between all members)
- CAPEX for case studies above
- Percentage of engineering services that were subcontracted or performed by other members in the case of a consortia
- Nature of project and summary of the services, including its objectives, constraints, design and interface challenges encountered.
- Design contract start and end dates.
- Consortium members or sub-consultants involved, including details of the size of the team managed by the Applicant, and any key suppliers for the design.

References and confirm your willingness for GNI to approach them if it chooses to do so.

5.14 HEALTH AND SAFETY (Please note that this section will be considered a Pass/ Fail).

5.14.1 Please provide information on the approach that is undertaken by your organisation to ensure that hazards are reviewed and associated risks assessed, controlled and communicated prior to any visits to sites/premises. Please include an example from a previous site visit as part of the response.

5.14.2 Please provide an overview of the processes that your organisation has in place to ensure safe travel for work for employees. Please support your response by providing evidence.

5.15 ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY (The Applicant is required to achieve a cumulative score of 50% (50 out of the available 100 marks) across the six criteria.

Environmental

5.15.1 The Applicant shall furnish a copy of its Environmental Policy Statement (it should be signed, indicating the role of signee and dated). **(20 marks).**

5.15.2 Does the Applicant have an Environmental Management System and Energy Management System? Please evidence of this e.g. a copy of the associated Environmental Manual and Energy Manual or other related documentation evidence that would indicate responsible environmental management is in place. **(15 marks). (Max 4 A4 pages)**

5.15.3 Is the Environmental Management System and Energy Management System certified by a third party to a recognised standard or system (e.g. ISO 14001, EMAS, ISO 50001)? If so, the Applicant should provide a copy of the certificate(s), the applicable areas and scope and for how long the system has been certified. **(15 marks) (Max 4 A4 pages).**

Sustainability

5.15.4 The Contracting Entity has committed to halving its carbon emissions by 2030. The Applicant should detail and provide documented evidence of the steps which are being taken by its organization to quantify and reduce their carbon emissions. **(15 marks) (Max 4 A4 pages)**

5.15.5 The Contracting Entity is currently developing a sustainability framework in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to help ensure we respond effectively to the challenges we face. The Applicant should detail and provide documented supporting evidence on the steps being taken to ensure their activities are being carried out sustainably. **(15 marks) (Max 4 A4 pages)**

5.15.6 Ethical Practice and Human Rights:

The Applicant shall confirm their commitment to conducting business in an ethical manner with regards to this contract, referencing any relevant policies, practices and procedures in place.

The response should consider, but should not be limited to, the following:

- (i) That the Applicant is not complicit in the abuse of human rights and / or child labour
 - (ii) Presentation of factual information and maintenance of accurate and true records
 - (iii) Avoids activity leading to conflict of interest
 - (iv) The steps in place (incl. management, monitoring and auditing processes) to ensure the Applicant's suppliers (or suppliers' suppliers) do not support or engage in unethical practice.
- (20 marks) (Max 4 A4 pages)**

OTHER PASS/FAIL CRITERIA

The following sections are required to be answered by applicants of all Lots.

5.16 INFORMATION SECURITY (Please note that this section will be considered a Pass/ Fail).

5.16.1 Do you have or are you aligned to ISO 27001 or any other information security standards or accreditations? What Information Security policies are in place? Do they cover incident and breach management with reference to individual responsibilities for identifying and reporting Information and Security Incidents? **(Max 2 A4 pages).**

5.16.2 Can you outline the steps of how you manage Incidents for Information Security and Cyber Security? Please include details of the reporting and escalation process and timeline of actions that you have taken for any serious Information Security incidents that have occurred in the past. **(Max 2 A4 pages).**

5.16.3 How do you manage Information Security and Cyber Security risks? Do you have a process in place to track and monitor risks to ensure that mitigations are implemented by risk owners or escalated to leadership level as required? **(Max 2 A4 pages).**

5.16.4 How do you address management of Client Data in your organisation? Please provide outline of controls that would be put in place to secure data at rest and in transit, examples may include cryptographic controls or access controls **(Max 2 A4 pages)**.

5.16.5 Do you have provisions in place for personnel Information Security training? **(Max 2 A4 pages)**.

5.17 DATA PROTECTION (Please note that this section will be considered a Pass/ Fail),

5.17 Has your organisation **or any subsidiaries or sub-contractors (while working on YOUR behalf)**:

- been fined, or
- been penalised or
- been subjected to an enforcement

by a Data Protection Authority in the last 3 years?

Please note that **all** parts of this question **must** be answered. If you answer 'yes' to **any** section of this question further details are to be provided as part of your response.

SECTION 6: – EXCLUSION CRITERIA

THIS SECTION 6 MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT / PRINCIPAL APPLICANT ONLY AS IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 4.1. IT IS NOT A REQUIREMENT TO SIGN THIS SECTION 6.

COMPETITION REF	24/026 Front-end Engineering Design (FEED), Client EngineerPartner , and Engineering Peer Review and Specialist Technical Advisor services for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve
APPLICANT NAME	

6.1 Subject to the provisions of Regulation 57 of the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016 (in this Section 6, the **Regulations**):

(a) if any of the conditions set out in Regulation 57(1) or 57(3) of the Regulations apply to:

- (a) the Applicant
- (b) any member of the Applicant, in the case of a Joint Venture Applicant,
- (c) any entity being relied upon in accordance with section 3.8 of this QSQ; or
- (d) any member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of such organisations or any person who has powers of representation, decision or control therein

the Applicant shall be excluded from the competition.

(b) if any of the conditions set out in Regulation 57(8) of the Regulations apply to:

- (a) the Applicant
- (b) or any member of the Applicant, in the case of a group/consortium
- (c) or any entity being relied upon in accordance with section 3.8 of this QSQ.

the Applicant may be excluded from the competition.

- (c) Applicants must complete the questionnaires in Sections 6.2 and 6.3 below. The Contracting Entity will accept Part III of the European Single Procurement Document (**ESPD**) in response to this Section 6.

6.2 Applicants must complete the below questionnaire.

6.2.1 OFFENCES Within the past five years, has the Applicant (or any member of your proposed consortium, if applicable, or any entity being relied upon for the purposes of Section 3.8 of the QSQ), or any member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of such organisation or any person having powers of representation, decision or control therein been convicted of any of the following offences?	Please indicate your answer by marking 'X' in the relevant box.	
	Yes	No
(a) participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;		
(b) corruption, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA as well as corruption as defined in the national law of the contracting entity or the economic operator;		
(c) fraud within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;		
(d) terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA respectively, or inciting or aiding or abetting or attempting to commit an offence, as referred to in Article 4 of that Framework Decision;		
(e) money laundering or terrorist financing, as defined in Article 1 of Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council; or		
(f) child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in Article 2 of Directive 2011.		
If the answer to any of the above questions is "yes", please provide full details, including date of conviction, identity of person convicted, and details of any measures taken to demonstrate reliability despite the existence of a relevant ground for exclusion.		

6.2.2 NON PAYMENT OF TAXES Within the past five years, in respect of the Applicant, (or any member of your proposed consortium, if applicable, or any entity being relied upon for the purposes of section 3.8 of the QSQ)	Please indicate your answer by marking 'X' in the relevant box.	
	Yes	No
(a) Has it been established by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of Ireland or the legal provisions of the country in which the economic operator in question is established (if outside Ireland), that such economic operator is in breach of obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions?		
If the answer to any of the above question is “yes”, please provide further details. Please confirm whether the relevant economic operator has paid, or has entered into a binding arrangement with a view to paying, including, where applicable, any accrued interest and/or fines?		

6.3 The Contracting Entity may also exclude any Applicant that answered 'yes' to any of the following situations:

Within the past three years, please indicate if any of the following situations have applied, or currently apply, to the Applicant or any member of the Applicant, in the case of a group/consortium or any entity being relied upon in accordance with Section 3.8 of this QSQ	Please indicate your answer by marking 'X' in the relevant box.	
	Yes	No
(a) a violation by the Applicant of applicable obligations referred to in Regulation 18(4) of the Regulations (applicable obligations in the fields of environmental, social and labour law that apply at the place where the works are carried out or the services provided that have been established by European Union law, national law, collective agreements or by international, environmental, social and labour law listed in Schedule 7 of the Regulations);		
(b) the Applicant is bankrupt or is the subject of insolvency or winding-up proceedings, where its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by the court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business activities are suspended or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under national laws and regulations;		
(c) the Applicant is guilty of grave professional misconduct, which renders its integrity questionable;		
(d) the Applicant has entered into agreements with other economic operators aimed at distorting competition;		
(e) a conflict of interest within the meaning of Regulation 24 of the Regulations (which includes any situation where a relevant staff member has directly or indirectly a financial, economic or other personal interest which might be perceived to compromise his or her impartiality and independence in the context of the procurement procedure);		
(f) a distortion of competition from the prior involvement of the Applicant in the preparation of the procurement procedure, as referred to in Regulation 41 of the Regulations;		
(g) the Applicant has shown significant or persistent deficiencies in the performance of a substantive requirement under a prior public contract, a prior contract with a contracting entity or a prior concession contract which led to early termination of that prior contract, damages or other comparable sanctions;		
(h) the Applicant has been guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying the information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of the pass/fail criteria, has withheld such information or is not able to submit the supporting documents required pursuant to Regulation 59 of the Regulations;		

Within the past three years, please indicate if any of the following situations have applied, or currently apply, to the Applicant or any member of the Applicant, in the case of a group/consortium or any entity being relied upon in accordance with Section 3.8 of this QSQ	Please indicate your answer by marking 'X' in the relevant box.	
	Yes	No
(i) the Applicant has undertaken to unduly influence the decision-making process of the Contracting Entity to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the procurement procedure or to negligently provide misleading information that may have a material influence on decisions concerning exclusion, selection or award;		
If the answer to any of the above questions is “yes”, please provide details.		

SECTION 7: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

COMPETITION REF	24/026 Front-end Engineering Design (FEED), Client EngineerPartner , and Engineering Peer Review and Specialist Technical Advisor services for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve
APPLICANT NAME	

THIS DECLARATION MUST BE DULY SIGNED AND SUBMITTED AND IS PART OF THE APPLICANT'S QSQ RESPONSE. WHERE APPLICANT IS A JOINT VENTURE / CONSORTIUM, A SEPARATE DECLARATION MUST BE SIGNED BY EACH MEMBER AS WELL AS ANY ENTITY BEING RELIED UPON FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 3.8 OF THE QSQ. FAILURE TO COMPLETE THIS DECLARATION WILL EXCLUDE THE APPLICANT'S QUALIFICATION SYSTEM RESPONSE.

If any conflict of interest arises in respect of the Applicant (including any parent, subsidiary or associated company of the Applicant or any director, partner or person in an equivalent position in the Applicant, or any equivalent person in any entity being relied upon for the purpose of section 3.8 of the QSQ) with regards to this competition, it must be fully disclosed to the Contracting Entity on submission of its QSQ Response.

Without prejudice to the generality of the above, the following must (without limitation) be disclosed in respect of the persons named in the above paragraph:

- if any such person is engaged in any service or operation which relates or may relate in any direct way to the outcome of this competition;
- any registerable interest involving the such person or any sub-contractors and any of the members of the Board of Ervia, GNI or GNI (UK) Limited, members of the Government, members of the Oireachtas, or employees of Ervia, GNI or GNI (UK) Limited.
- any situation involving any such persons and any staff members of the Contracting Entity (who are involved in the conduct of the procurement procedure or may influence the outcome of that procedure) which might be perceived to compromise the impartiality and independence of the procurement procedure.

Is there a conflict of interest (as described above)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please describe:

--

Continued over /

All potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed. Persons or companies engaged in any service or operation which relates or may relate in any direct way to the outcome of this competition may be excluded from applying or being involved in the procurement. Any decision of the Contracting Entity in this regard shall be final.

In the event of such information only coming to the Applicant's notice after the submission of a QSQ Response, it should be communicated to the Contracting Entity immediately on it becoming known to the Applicant. The terms 'registerable interest' and 'relative' shall be interpreted as per section 2 and schedule 2 of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 (as amended).

I certify that the information provided above is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that the provision of inaccurate or misleading information in this declaration will invalidate my / our QSQ Response.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Position in Applicant company / entity:

SECTION 8: QSQ RESPONSE CHECKLIST

Applicants should refer to the checklist below in relation to the information that must be included with their Qualification Submission. Applicants should insert the name of the entity responsible for answering each of the questions. The below checklist is for guidance purposes only and the Contracting Entity does not accept any responsibility for any omission from this checklist or from the QSQ Responses. Applicants are advised to read this QSQ and any Appendices in full in order to ensure they provide a comprehensive response to the Contracting Entity's requirements.

LOT 1

SECTION OF QSQ:	ITEM TO BE PROVIDED:	ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANSWERING	CHECK
	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS		
Section D1	Turnover and financial statements: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D2	Relevant Experience: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D3	Health & Safety: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D4	Environmental: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D5	Quality Assurance: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D6	Modern Slavery: Complete declaration in Section D6	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D7	Employee Related Matters: Complete declarations in Section D7	Insert Entity Name	☐
	ORGANISATION		
Section 4	Complete Section 4	Insert Entity Name	☐
	PASS/FAIL CRITERIA		
Section 5.1	Financial Standing: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.2	Resources: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.3	Experience Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.4	Health and Safety: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.5	Environmental and Sustainability: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.16	Information Security: Respond to section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.17	Data Protection: Respond to section	Insert Entity Name	☐
	EXCLUSION CRITERIA		
Section 6	Complete declaration in Section 6.	Insert Entity Name	☐
	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION		

SECTION OF QSQ:	ITEM TO BE PROVIDED:	ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANSWERING	CHECK
Section 7	Complete declaration in Section 7.	Insert Entity Name	☐

LOT 2

SECTION OF QSQ:	ITEM TO BE PROVIDED:	ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANSWERING	CHECK
	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS		
Section D1	Turnover and Financial statements: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D2	Relevant Experience: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D3	Health & Safety: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D4	Environmental: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D5	Quality Assurance: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D6	Modern Slavery: Complete declaration in Section D6	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D7	Employee Related Matters: Complete declarations in Section D7	Insert Entity Name	☐
	ORGANISATION		
Section 4	Complete Section 4	Insert Entity Name	☐
	PASS/FAIL CRITERIA		
Section 5.6	Financial Standing: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.7	Resources: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.8	Experience: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.9	Health and Safety: Respond to this section and complete declaration in Appendix 2	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section, 5.10	Environmental and Sustainability: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.16	Information Security: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.17	Data Protection: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
	EXCLUSION CRITERIA		
Section 6	Complete declaration in Section 6.	Insert Entity Name	☐
	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION		

SECTION OF QSQ:	ITEM TO BE PROVIDED:	ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANSWERING	CHECK
Section 7	Complete declaration in Section 7.	Insert Entity Name	☐

LOT 3

SECTION OF QSQ:	ITEM TO BE PROVIDED:	ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANSWERING	CHECK
	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS		
Section D1	Turnover and financial statements: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D2	Relevant Experience: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D3	Health & Safety: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D4	Environmental: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D5	Quality Assurance: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D6	Modern Slavery: Complete declaration in Section D6	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D7	Employee Related Matters: Complete declarations in Section D7	Insert Entity Name	☐
	ORGANISATION		
Section 4	Complete Section 4	Insert Entity Name	☐
	PASS/FAIL CRITERIA		
Section 5.11	Financial Standing: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.12	Resources: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.13	Experience: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.14	Health and Safety: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.15	Environmental and Sustainability: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.16	Information Security: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.17	Data Protection: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
	EXCLUSION CRITERIA		

SECTION OF QSQ:	ITEM TO BE PROVIDED:	ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANSWERING	CHECK
Section 6	Complete declaration in Section 6.	Insert Entity Name	☐
	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION		
Section 7	Complete declaration in Section 7.	Insert Entity Name	☐

APPENDIX 1 LOTS SCOPE OF QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

The scope of this QS is for the provision of Front-end Engineering Design (FEED), Client [EngineerPartner](#), and Engineering Peer Review [and Specialist Technical Advisor](#) services for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve for GNI Ireland and GNI (UK).

GNI is undertaking an exercise to investigate a potential strategic gas emergency reserve in Ireland as required by the Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 - Annex 2 Securing Ireland's Gas Supplies (published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications on 14 November 2023).

There is presently no gas storage solution available which is of a scale capable of meeting Ireland's gas demand during a peak period, in the event that the largest interconnector (IC2) was to fail. Further, it is not prudent for Ireland to develop a permanent storage solution that is not compatible with the development of renewable hydrogen and inconsistent with our objective to decarbonise our economy to be climate neutral no later than 2050.

Based on preliminary analysis of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, it is anticipated that a floating reserve (FSRU) will best meet the Government's criteria for the Strategic Gas Reserve. However, this will be examined in detail by GNI with a substantive proposal by Q2 2024. The optimum solution to deliver this strategic reserve project will be subject to final approval by Government. The project is the delivery of the optimum solution for the strategic reserve. The scope of services may involve the provision of engineering services.

The provision of engineering services is envisaged to have three (3) lots. Each lot is described below, these are the lots and scope which GNI is currently planning to tender for services to be delivered in the island of Ireland.

Lot 1	Front-end engineering design for the strategic gas reserve facility. The strategic gas facility is expected to be an FSRU based LNG import terminal, fixed marine jetty with all associated onshore facilities (including control room, gas treatment, metering, odourisation etc.). The FSRU will have a storage capacity of not less than 135,000m3. In addition to the strategic gas reserve, lot 1 may include design of a high-pressure gas pipeline to connect to the existing gas network, and an above ground grid tie-in installation.
Lot 2	Client EngineerPartner for the project (as outlined above) to oversee FEED, construction contract(s) procurement and construction for the project (up to successful commissioning, completion and operation of the project) - it is anticipated this may cover the first year of operation.
Lot 3	Engineering Peer Review and Specialist Technical Advisor for the project, including peer review of FEED, peer review of contract documentation, peer review of construction contractor's design deliverables, peer review of commissioning and operation plans. Lot 3 may also include small discreet packages of specialist technical advisor input required for the project covering any technical and delivery disciplines.

APPENDIX 2 OPERATION OF THE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

1. General

During the term of the Qualification System, the Contracting Entity may commence competitions for contracts by inviting all of the Qualified Applicants (for the particular lot if the Qualification System is divided into lots) to participate in the relevant competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Contracting Entity may, at its discretion, conduct a further qualification stage in respect of each contract, which may involve a shortlisting process in order to limit the number of Qualified Applicants invited to tender for the contract in question (see further paragraph 3 - Further Qualification Stage/Shortlisting prior to Award of Contracts - below).

For the avoidance of doubt, the Contracting Entity also reserves the right to procure work, supplies and services falling within the scope of Appendix 1 through other means and admission to the Qualification System shall not be a guarantee that any Applicant will be awarded a contract.

Applicants may request entry to the Qualification System at the times indicated in B1 of the Particulars section.

If the Qualification System is divided into lots, the Contracting Entity reserves the right to add additional lots to the Qualification System.

2. Notification of Opportunities

The Contracting Entity will publish information regarding each call off competition by means of a notice to the Qualified Applicants (for the relevant lot if the Qualification System is divided into lots). Details of the award process by negotiated procedure (in particular relevant deadlines and details of any further qualification assessment or shortlisting stage) will be set out at that stage.

3. Further Qualification Stage/Shortlisting prior to Award of Contracts

The fact that an Applicant can satisfy the Contracting Entity with regard to the criteria set out in the QSQ does not necessarily mean that such Applicant will be considered to be suitable for all or any contracts awarded pursuant to the Qualification System.

During the term of the Qualification System, the Contracting Entity may (but is not obliged to) conduct a further qualification process (which may involve performing a shortlisting process in order to limit the number of Qualified Applicants from whom tenders will be invited for a particular call for competition). If the Contracting Entity chooses to perform such additional qualification/shortlisting process it envisages that it will do so having regard to the following selection criteria (the specific weightings of which will be notified to Qualified Applicants). For the avoidance of doubt one or more of the selection criteria may be assessed on a scored basis, may be weighted at zero, may be designated as "pass/fail" or may be designated as a minimum requirement):

- (i) Demonstrating that the Qualified Applicant continues to meet the minimum requirements set out in the QSQ by which the Qualified Applicant was admitted to the Qualification System and that none of the exclusion criteria in section 6 of the QSQ apply to the Qualified Applicant.
- (ii) Minimum level of turnover.
- (iii) Satisfactory financial standing (having regard to the contract in question).
- (iv) Possession of required level of insurance, having regard to the contract in question.
- (v) Suitability of the personnel and/or sub-contractors that the Qualified Applicant proposes to use to operate the contract. (Applicants should note that sub-contracting may not be permitted in respect of some contracts).
- (vi) Possession of any other consent, approval or license that may be required in respect of call for competition in question.

- (vii) Such other objective rules and criteria as may be updated having regard to the call for competition in question.

Qualified Applicants should note that they may be required to achieve:

- (i) a minimum mark for any of the qualification/shortlisting criteria, and/or
- (ii) a minimum mark out of the total marks available at further qualification/shortlisting stage, in order to be taken through to the contract award stage of the relevant competition.

The Contracting Entity reserves the right to require that Qualified Applicants submit their further qualification submission (if any) at the same time as their tender submission in respect of any required for the call for competition. Alternatively, the Contracting Entity reserves the right to require any further qualification/shortlisting information to be provided in advance of being invited to tender for the call for competition (and may treat such submission as being the first stage in any restricted or negotiated procedure). In either case the Contracting Entity will notify Qualified Applicants accordingly at the relevant time.

It is envisaged that Qualified Applicants will be permitted to team up with other Qualified Applicants for the purpose of competing in a call for competition, subject to any conditions that may be imposed by the Contracting Entity having regard to the contract in question.

4. Award Stage

The invitation to submit a tender ("ITT") in respect of such for the call(s) for competition will be issued to those Qualified Applicant(s) who:

- (i) have been selected following a further qualification stage in respect of the call for competition for which the Contracting Entity has chosen to conduct a further qualification phase or shortlisting process; or
- (ii) have been admitted to the Qualification System (where the Contracting Entity does not intend to conduct a further qualification/shortlisting process).

The ITT is envisaged to contain greater detail about the scope, the draft contract, supporting material, and detailed information regarding the award process (including timeframes for response) and award criteria. The Contracting Entity currently envisages that the outline award criteria to be included in the ITTs for contract(s) will include (but may not necessarily be limited to) most economically advantageous tender (which may be price only), which may be divided into sub-criteria having regard to the features of the call for competition in question.

APPENDIX 3 Form of Declaration to be used for section 5.9.4, Lot 2

[Note to Applicants: Please delete option A or B as appropriate when returning the completed declaration]

Dear Sir,

Re: Provision of Front-end Engineering Design (FEED), Client ~~Engineer~~Partner, and Engineering Peer Review and Specialist Technical Advisor for Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve

QSQ Response Submission by [*Applicant name*]

Project Supervisor Design Process

We, [*Applicant name*] hereby confirm that:

- A) we hold the competence to undertake the role of Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) as required under Irish Health and Safety legislation and will produce evidence of same as required at the next stage of the competition if admitted to the Qualification System;

OR

- B) We will engage with a partner firm who is competent to undertake this role.

Yours faithfully,

[]

authorised signatory of [*Applicant name*].

