

CFT #4688326 – CL3028DPS

Dynamic Purchasing System for the Supply of Schoolbooks incl eBooks to Community and Comprehensive, and Voluntary Secondary Schools (excluding ETB schools) within the Free Education Scheme

CL3028DPS – Clarification Set 3	
Q1	The CPV Codes shown on the DPS - do they include also each of their subset of CPV codes on the tree?
A1	Where a subset of CPV codes exist under a stated CPV code on the Contract Notice, then yes, this procurement includes those CPV subsets. That said, the purpose of the CPV codes is to assist the market and contracting authorities in the categorisation of goods being sourced under this procurement, and to define and expand the description of the subject of the contract. Where suppliers have selected and attached specific CPV codes to their ETenders account profile, the non-selection of any CPV stated in this competition does not exclude them from participation in any part of this procurement.
Q2	Are Exam Papers included and if so which CPV code do they fall under?
A2	Yes, Exam Papers are included in this procurement. Exam papers fall under the CPV code 22111000 School books. Please also see our reply to Question 1 above.
Q3	Is there are a limit of the number of suppliers allowed for each lot?
A3	There is no limit to the number of suppliers to be admitted to each lot
Q4	Does each school have final determination on preferred supplier?
A4	We are currently in Stage 1 of this tender process where suppliers are applying for admittance to their preferred Lots. At Stage 2 individual schools will issue an Invite to tender, via Etenders, for their specific requirements to all suppliers admitted to their specific Lot under Stage 1. Schools will then evaluate all received tender submissions to determine the most economically advantageous tender and then proceed to place a contract with the successful tenderer.
Q5	Can a company with 2 years' trading experience submit an application with another company which meets all of the required criteria (ie. turnover, trading experience and accounts) where both companies share some of the same directors.
A5	Firstly, under section 3.2.1 of the Request for Applicants to Participate document, an Applicant firm is required to be in existence for at least 6 months. Please refer to Section 2.5 of the Instructions to Applicants in the same document for information regarding the

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	submission of an application as part of a consortium and also the Financial Capacity section of Part 3 Selection Criteria on page 24.
Q6	What would happen in the event of a change in trading status (e.g. in the event of a sale) for the main contractor, in this instance is the sub-contractor able to assume responsibilities for the undertakings of the main contractor.
A6	The individual trading circumstances for each approved DPS Member and their subsequent participation in the DPS would need to be determined on a case-by-case basis. Where a subcontractor is involved, the same would apply. However, a subcontractor would not automatically assume the role of the main contractor as a DPS member in any circumstance where the main contractor would cease to exist, and would need to submit a new application in their own name for approval for their subsequent participation in the DPS.
Q7	Is it possible for an SME currently involved in this industry which meets all criteria bar the 3 years trading to submit an application that would be accepted into the framework in its own right. Specifically, in what circumstances can such a partially qualifying SME make a valid submission to this framework.
A7	Per the answer to Qn 5 above, an Applicant firm is required to be in existence for at least 6 months. To clarify, details of the previous three years trading levels is required where the organisation is trading for at least three years or longer.
Q8	Could you please clarify the lots restrictions requirement. There seems to be contradicting information in the tender documents. Is it the case that a tenderer is permitted to only apply to a maximum of 12 lots? This is mentioned in the tendering documentation but on the eTenders platform it is mentioned the maximum number of lots that can be applied for is 22?
A8	Per Section 1.4 (Page 5) of the RFATP document, the maximum number of Lots that can be applied for under Category A Printed Schoolbooks is 12 Lots. This threshold could not be applied on the ETenders platform due to system restrictions that prevent the limit being retrospectively changed to accommodate all the provisions of Section 1.4 in the event where a minimum of 3 applicants are not admitted to every lot. If an application is received where more than 12 Lots have been applied for under Category A, then the application will be rejected and a new application will have to be submitted.
Q9	Schools have always had the choice to purchase directly from individual publishers, but clearly only materials published by that particular Publisher – does the new lotting system allow this long-standing industry practice to continue?

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A9	As part of the pre-market consultation with the IEPA, it was explained that Publishers could only apply to the National Lot for eBooks i.e. Lot 22.
Q10	How much is being allocated for each of Primary, Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle and what is the allocation at each level per pupil?
A10	As of 20th January, this information is not yet available.
Q11	When will the funds be released to schools for Primary, Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle?
A11	As of 20th January, this information is not yet available.
Q12	Have the guidelines been drawn up and if so, can the publishers be sent an advance copy?
A12	Scheme Guidelines are currently being drafted for Post-Primary Schools. These guidelines will not be shared with publishers in advance of an announcement.
Q13	As new titles published for 2025 and pricing updated – we suggest submitting new lists in full for all product available to schools, from each publisher?
A13	This task is underway and has not been finalised.
Q14	At Post-Primary there was just JC funding last year – will there be a new separate list by subject for LC and is there a set format?
A14	There will be a separate list for LC however as of 20th January, this is not yet available.
Q15	What date will these lists of titles be required, uploaded and made available to schools?
A15	As of 20th January, this information is not yet available.
Q16	When will the approved suppliers for the DPS lots be announced?
A16	The DPS applicant suppliers will be notified directly once they have been admitted to the DPS.
Q17	If you are not an approved supplier on a lot; can you see the mini competition tenders from schools uploaded for the different Lots?

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A17	No. You will only receive notification for competitions in the lot you are admitted to.
Q18	Are schools going to be made aware of the approved suppliers that sit on their particular lot?
A18	Yes
Q19	When can schools start uploading their mini competitions to the eTenders system?
A19	This is dependent on the launch and announcement of the Schoolbooks Scheme. As soon as the Scheme is launched, schools will commence the tender process.
Q20	Do all schools that have received 50k+ funding have to use the eTenders process for ordering schoolbooks?
A20	All Voluntary Secondary and Community and Comprehensive Post-Primary schools that estimate their total spend on schoolbooks is > €50,000, excluding VAT, will be required to procure schoolbooks using the DPS. ETB schools will continue to use the established framework.
Q21	How will the eBook lot work for schools if they require titles from multiple publishers?
A21	They can approach each admitted supplier in the Lot for the eBook title as required.
Q22	In relation to booklists, if and when we publish future books or ebooks, how do we add them to the booklist? What is the process and contact point?
A22	The purpose of the booklist is to provide schools with a comprehensive list of book resources currently available from all publishers to assist each individual school in compiling their own tender specification to complete the Stage 2 Invite to Tender phase of this DPS. It is not intended that the list be exhaustive, and a mechanism will exist within the contract to facilitate the purchase of additional books by schools that were not specified in the original tender, but for whatever reason a requirement may arise during the school year. It is envisaged that this booklist will be revised and updated annually over the life of the DPS to ensure accuracy of the books available. Publishers will be contacted in that regard to provide updates and revisions to their booklists.

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Q23	Are / will schools be prohibited from purchasing books or ebooks that are not listed on the DPS system?
A23	See answer to Q22 above. The purpose of this booklist is to provide schools with a resource to assist schools in compiling their tender documents. Schools will be able to add additional books to this list as they see fit, either in their tender, or to purchase them at a later date through the successful tenderer, based on their own individual requirements.
Q24	We heard mention of a 'panel' of ebook suppliers for ETB schools - how does this relate to this DPS system?
A24	This DPS relates to all Community and Comprehensive, and Voluntary Secondary Schools (excluding ETB schools) within the Free Education Scheme. The Panel for eBooks is a specific procurement arrangement for use by ETB schools only. They are two completely separate and unrelated procurements.
Q25	If a company wins a tender under the DPS, is this for a 5-year contact? or do other DPS members have the opportunity to bid in the following years for the business?
A25	The DPS itself has a term life of 5 years. During the Invite to tender process by the individual schools, they will set out the contract term in their own tender documents. They will have autonomy to set this contract duration, and it may be for one year or longer. It will not necessarily align with the DPS term.