

RFT – 6946663– PROJ 10285 Request for Tender for Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the Provision of Irish Language Translation Services

Clarification Response Log

Message Ref No	Clarification Response Ref.	Date Response Issued	RFT Section	Question	Contracting Authority Response
538179	541435	14 Nov 2025		For each Lot, please confirm the status of the following technologies: Q1. CAT tools with translation memory (SDL Trados, memoQ, Phrase, Wordfast, Crowdin) Q2. Machine Translation/Generative AI autocomplete, suggestion features within CAT tools (translator retains control) Q3. Machine Translation engines producing complete translations (Google Translate, DeepL, etc.) with human post-editing (MTPE) Q4. Generative AI producing complete translations (OpenAI, Claude, etc.) with human postediting (AITPE)	A1. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above systems are permissible for use across all three lots. A2. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above is not permissible for Lot 1 and Lot 3. A3. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above is not permissible for Lot 1 and Lot 3 A4. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above is not permissible for all Lot 1 and Lot 3.

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				Q5. Generative AI as a research tool for terminology and context (not producing translation text)	A5. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above is permissible for all Lots. However, this must not be used for direct translations <u>i.e. to be used for research purposes only.</u>
				Q6 AI-integrated search engines (Google Search, Bing) and conversational AI chat (ChatGPT, Claude) for research	A6. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above is permissible for all Lots. However, this must not be used for direct translations <u>i.e. to be used for research purposes only.</u>
				Q7. Operating system-level AI features (Apple Intelligence, Microsoft Copilot)	A7. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above is permissible for all Lots. However, this must not be used for direct translations <u>i.e. to be used for research purposes only.</u>
				Q8. Grammar, spell-checking and other QA tools with AI components	A8. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above is not permissible for Lot 1 and Lot 3. The above must be completed by a human translator and editor.
				Q9. Terminology management systems with AI-powered suggestions	A9. Tenderers should note by way of this clarification the above is permissible for all

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					Lots. However, this must not be used for direct translations <u>i.e. to be used for research purposes only.</u>
539888	541435	14 Nov 2025		Please see the below clarification questions: Q1. Can the Authority confirm when they expect to issue an outcome for this framework competition? Q2. Can the Authority confirm when the new framework is intended to go live? Q3. With regard to the Previous Experience contract Examples: a. In addition to Irish-only examples, will the Authority accept examples of relevant contracts/organisations where the language requirement is non-Irish translations? b. Can the same contract example be used across Lots, where it meets the requirements for each?	A1. It is expected that prospective Tenderers will be notified of the Outcome in Q2 2026. A2. It is envisaged that this Agreement will be activated prior to the expiry of the current arrangement on the 30th of June 2026 to ensure no gap in service arises. A3a. No. The three references <u>must relate to the provision of Irish language translation Services</u> similar in nature and scope to those described in Appendix 1 of this RFT and must demonstrate that the Services provided are / were similar in scope to the Lot(s) applied for. A3b. Yes, this is permitted as long as the Reference Service Contract provided

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					demonstrate their ability to provide Services similar in nature and scope to those described in Appendix 1 of this RFT, for each relevant Lot.
540376	541435	14 Nov 2025	Appendix 1 1.3.2 (d)	The RFT specifies: • Normal Priority Translations: 1 working day for every 1,500 words of source text • High Priority Translations: 1 working day for every 2,000 words of source text Whilst we note that shorter timelines may occasionally be required and will be agreed case-by-case, the RFT does not clarify how these turnaround times apply when multiple documents are submitted. Possible Interpretations It seems to us that two interpretations are possible: Interpretation A: All documents are expected to be turned around within the timeframe without reference to how many other documents are being processed for the framework client. <i>Example: 10 documents of 1,500 words are uploaded by various employees of the Framework Client on Monday and all are expected to be complete by end of</i>	Answer to all clarification questions (1 – 4) listed across: Tenderers should refer to section 1.3.2 (c) Booking, Confirmation and Tracking where the process for priority and non-priority translations is outlined. This information should be considered as part of the overall response to 1.3.2.(d) Turnaround Times. The Contracting Authority will evaluate, and award marks based on the quality and completeness of each individual tenderer's response using the scoring methodology set out in the RFT at section 3.3. Part A Service Proposal.

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				<i>day Tuesday (15,000 words in one working day). There is theoretically no limit to how many documents the Framework Client could upload.</i> Interpretation B: Documents form a queue based on the daily guaranteed capacity (1,500 words, or 2,000 words for High Priority), with the turnaround time applied sequentially. <i>Example: 10 documents of 1,500 words are uploaded by various employees of the Framework Client on Monday. Those documents are queued and delivered over the next 10 working days (1,500 words per day).</i> Under the current framework (which used the same language), we have operated on the basis of Interpretation B. However, as this is a new framework, we would appreciate the clarification to ensure all tenderers are operating from the same understanding. Clarification Requested 1. Which interpretation is correct? 2. If Interpretation A is correct, in our response to Section 1.3.2(d) are we expected to lay out our own upper limit or qualify that scaling capacity to meet large volumes is best effort?	

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				3. If Interpretation A is correct, and given that no provider can honestly guarantee unlimited capacity, how will responses that seek to set a ceiling be scored in comparison to those who don't address the issue? 4. If Interpretation B is correct, no further clarification is required.	
541788	543718	18 Nov 2025	Part 2 2.21	In relation to paragraph 2.21.2 of the RFT, the insurance requirements state that 'the territorial limits and jurisdiction of its insurance policies include Ireland'. What effect does this have on companies not based in Ireland and who have no employees in Ireland? Will it be sufficient that the insurer and the insurance covers the territorial limits of Ireland? If not, can you explain why this would not be the case and the legal basis for this? The application of this condition would prevent competition from parties outside Ireland and would be seen as a restriction on trade, with its application open to legal challenge. Do you accept that this condition should not be applied in this instance?	Following consultation with the State Claims Agency, please be advised that unless an entity is domiciled in Ireland and/or their employee contracts are governed by Irish law, there should be no requirement for an entity domiciled outside of Ireland to be purchasing an Employers Liability (EL) policy where the jurisdiction limits are extended to include Ireland. However, Tenderers should note that an Employers Liability (EL) policy would need to have extended Territorial / Geographical Limits to include Ireland if their employees are temporarily in Ireland in the course of their employment. With regards to the other insurances listed, the jurisdictional limits must include

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					Ireland.
542071	543718	18 Nov 2025	Part 3 3.2.B (ii)	Would the ATII Certified Legal Translator qualification (https://www.atii.ie/find-a-professional/about-certified-translation/) be accepted as meeting one of the "minimum of two qualifications" required for Lot 3 translators under Section 3.2.B(ii) of the RFT? The RFT states that translators may have qualifications "or their equivalents," but as the ATII Certified Legal Translator is not explicitly listed.	Tenderers attention is drawn to the Section 3.2.B(ii) that states <i>"For the avoidance of doubt: Where a Tenderer is relying on equivalence to meet the minimum academic qualifications specified in this RFT, it is the responsibility of the Tenderer to clearly demonstrate equivalence, for example confirmation from QQI provided as a supporting document. A mere statement or inference of equivalence is not sufficient"</i>
543427	543718	18 Nov 2025		The tenders specify that we must quote for proofreading services as well - where the client will supply translation to us. How will we know the source of the translation? Our experience in this area is that we receive translations from - department staff who have translated text and occasionally AI translated texts. How are we to handle the different types of translation? AI is often not proof readable. It can require a full retranslation.	Any assignment issued to a Service Provider for proofreading will need to be reviewed and assessed for suitability for proofreading. The Service Provider should communicate to the Framework Client if the assignment is deemed not suitable for proofreading and/or requires a full retranslation, in order to deliver the relevant assignment.

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543770	546360	20 th Nov 2025	Part 1 Introduction	For Lot 1, please could you provide data on how many contracts and the value of each contract were awarded over the duration of the last framework split by NASF and mini-comps For Lot 2, please could you provide data on how many contracts and the value of each contract were awarded over the duration of the last framework split by NASF and mini-comps Please could you confirm how many suppliers applied for each lot during the last procurement process?	Tenderers' attention are drawn to Part 1 Introduction section 1.7 that states; The Contracting Authority estimates that the aggregate expenditure on the Services to be covered by the proposed Framework Agreements may amount to some €10.5m (excl. VAT) over the Term and any possible extensions. Lot 1 estimated value over the Term: €6m Lot 2 estimated value over the Term: €4m Lot 3 estimated value over the Term: €0.5m Tenderers must understand that this figure is an estimate only based on current and future expected usage.
544047	546360	20 th Nov 2025	3.2.B (i)	I am writing to you regarding the stipulation that 'In respect of the information required above, Tenderers must provide comprehensive details of each of the named customer organisations, confirming (i) to (viii) of the above list within the table provided in TRD A'. In the case of my company contracts from our major clients are subject to NDAs. In light of this, it would be	All tenderers must complete the tables "Services Reference Contracts" as requested in TRD A and Section 3.2.B (i) of the RFT in full i.e. (i) to (viii). In particular, tenderers attention is drawn to the following text in the RFT "The

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				extremely difficult for us to provide the information requested without breaking the agreed NDA. Can you provide us with advice on how best to address this in the tender application?	Contracting Authority may contact any or all customers referenced in the Tender submission in response to section 3.2.b.(i) for verification purposes without prior notice to Tenderers as a condition of the award a Framework Agreement place” It is a matter for each Tenderer to decide which reference service contract examples to provide, to complete this section of the TRD A in full.
546111	546360	20 th Nov 2025	3.2.B (ii)	In relation to translator requirements under Lot 3, the 'Kings Inns Advanced Diploma in Lawyer-linguistics and Legal Translation (Irish)' is mentioned. These are two separate qualifications, i.e. the Advanced Diploma in Lawyer-Linguistics, and the Advanced Diploma in Legal Translation. Can you clarify if either of these qualifications is acceptable?	By way of this clarification the following qualifications will be acceptable for Lot 3 – Translation and / or Proofreading of Legal Text and Documents; Lot 3 – Translation and / or Proofreading of Legal Text and Documents Minimum of two of the following qualifications (or their equivalents); Foras na Gaeilge Seal of Accreditation (Translator or Editor) <u>OR</u> Qualification in Modern Irish at Level 7 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications (i.e. one of these qualifications will count

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					towards the Minimum of two qualifications required for this Lot). • TEG Certification – Minimum Level C1 (must have achieved a. Minimum of 80% in Comprehension (comprehension refers to the ability to understand spoken and written Irish), Writing and Use of Irish); • Post Graduate Diploma in Irish Translation at Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications; • <u>Kings Inns Advanced Diploma in Lawyer-linguistics and Legal Translation (Irish)</u> • <u>Kings Inn Advance Diploma in Legal Translation</u>
549517			26 th November 2025	Thank you for your clarification response to message reference 543770 but please could you provide further details as to how many clients called off via the framework over the previous framework period? Also, please could you provide details on the number and values of contracts that were	Please see response to these questions across at Clarification Response no. 546360 earlier in this clarification log. In addition, tenderers should note the change in both Structure and Scope of the new Framework Agreement. Furthermore, the “previous Framework” referenced remains active within an expiry

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				awarded via direct drawdown rotation mechanism versus mini-competitions?	date of June 30 th , 2026. Due to commercially sensitive information, disclosure of information relating to this contract will not be released as it may prejudice activities under the current Framework.