



Document Version	QSQ v 2.2 (JM 21 December 2020) (GNI 15 October 2021)
Qualification System Title	Hydrogen Consultancy Services
Tender Reference	23-001

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM QUESTIONNAIRE (QSQ)

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PARTICULARS

A. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

A1	Contracting Entity	Gas Networks Ireland
A2	Tender Reference	23-001
A3	Procedure	Formation of a qualification system
A4	Scope of Qualification System	The objective of this QSQ is to qualify Applicants onto the Qualifications Systems for the following, divided into the following lots for GNI Ireland and GNI (UK): Lot 1 - Hydrogen Safety Case Lot 2 - Hydrogen Engineering Services including Material Testing Lot 3 — Hydrogen Commercial, Regulatory, Economic & Strategic Services See Appendix 1 for more details regarding the requirements. Admission to the Qualification System is subject to Applicants meeting the minimum requirements and minimum scores set out in this QSQ. The details of how the Qualification System will operate are set out in Appendix 2 (Operation of the Qualification System). 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. Applicants may apply for qualification in one or more lots.
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 12:00hrs (local time) on Tuesday 12th July 2023, unless amended by way of clarification. QSQ Responses can be submitted at any time while the Qualification System is open. Applicants who are interested in participating in the Initial Competition must submit their completed QSQ by 12:00hrs (local time) on Wednesday 16th August 2023. The Contracting Entity may, but shall not be obliged to, run an Initial Competition.
B2	Submission of QSQ Response	No submissions will be possible after the deadline for this initial competition. All submissions are electronic, as such NO paper copies will be accepted or read. The QSQ Response must be submitted through the eTenders system before the deadline (i.e. Applicants must press the submit 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. Please adhere to the structure of the QSQ for ease of evaluation. Each section requires a separate section clearly named by section name. Policies & additional documentation can be annexed separately. Please name all appendices 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.
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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 must be submitted through the eTenders system not later than 12:00 hours (local time) on Friday 04th August 2023, unless amended by way of clarification.

D. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS (Pass/Fail)

D1	Turnover (Pass/Fail)	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: €600,000 • Lot 2: €450,000 • Lot 3: €450,000 If applying for more than one lot, the Applicant must demonstrate an average annual turnover of the cumulative value pertaining to all selected lots. 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 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. (only include if there are objectively justifiable reasons for making this a condition) The Contracting Entity reserves the right to request further information to demonstrate the turnover of the Applicant
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D2	Relevant Experience / not used	Not Applicable																																																									
D3	Health Safety, Quality and Environmental	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), (C) and (D). (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). (B) <u>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 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. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Enforcement</th><th>No.</th><th>Details</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Prosecutions</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Prohibition Notices/Orders</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Improvement Notices</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Improvement Plans</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> (C) <u>HSA Accident / Incident Performance</u> The Applicant shall provide details in the table below of its' accident / incident performance (including joint ventures and subcontractors 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]. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Incident Type</th><th>2018</th><th>2019</th><th>2020</th><th>2021</th><th>2022</th><th>Total</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Man-hours Worked</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Fatalities (absolute)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Fatalities (per 100,000 man-hours)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Reportable (>3 day) Accidents (absolute)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Reportable(>3day) Accidents (per 100,000 man-hours)</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Enforcement	No.	Details	Prosecutions			Prohibition Notices/Orders			Improvement Notices			Improvement Plans			Incident Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	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)						
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D4	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 ☐ NOTE: If the Applicant answers “N/A” to all questions, or answers Yes to question (C) it has passed this minimum requirement and there is no need to refer this to supply chain legal. If the Applicant answers “Yes” to question (A), send its response to the lawyer that reviewed the QSQ for confirmation of whether the Applicant has passed this minimum requirement.
D5	Employee Related Matters	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 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.

E. PASS/FAIL CRITERIA

Pass/Fail Criteria	Maximum Marks Available (marks and percentage of total)	Minimum percentage required to pass
This table is a summary only of the pass/fail criteria (and does not include the sub-criteria in Section 5) Applicants should refer to details as set out in Section 5. The maximum and minimum marking is as noted in the column to the right. <i>Insert details of the criteria as per Section 5</i>		NOTE there may also be minimum pass marks for sub-criteria questions
Finance Section 5.1	100 marks = 10%	50%
Resources (Section 5.2)	250 marks = 25%	50%
Experience (Section 5.3)	450 marks = 45%	50%
Quality Assurance (Section 5.5)	50 marks = 5%	50%
Environmental & Sustainability (Section 5.5.2)	50 marks = 5%	50%
Information Security (Section 5.5.3)	50 marks = 5%	50%
Data Protection (Section 5.5.4)	50 marks = 5%	60%
TOTAL	1000 = 100%	

F. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

F1	Insurance requirements	The Applicant is to provide a letter from their insurers/brokers stating the following: We, the insurers/brokers to <i>[insert name of Applicant]</i> hereby confirm that the following type and level of cover can be arranged on the Applicant's behalf: <i>(i) The Contractor shall effect and maintain Public Liability Insurance with a limit of indemnity of not less than €6.5m per claim or series of claims arising out of one event and unlimited in the aggregate</i> <i>(ii) 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.</i> <i>(iii) The Contractor shall effect and maintain Professional Indemnity with a limit of indemnity of not less than €2,000,000 (two million euro) per any one claim and in the annual aggregate.</i>
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G DEFINITIONS

Applicant	entities seeking to respond to this QSQ.
Contracting Entity	the entity named in Item A1 of the Particulars.
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.
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 (other than GNI (UK)).

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 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.
- 2.10 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

- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 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.

- 2.15 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).
- 2.16 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

- 2.17 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

- 2.18 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

- 2.19 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.
- 2.20 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

- 2.21 All documents issued and information given to the Applicants shall be treated by the Applicants as confidential. Applicants shall not release details of the documents 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.
- 2.22 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.
- 2.23 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:
 - d. referees as part of the reference verification process; and
 - e. 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

- 2.24 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 (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.
- 2.25 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's requirements. Further details of the Contracting Entity's insurance requirements are provided in section F1 of the particulars section.
- 2.26 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 2.24 and 2.25 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 pass/fail 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 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 management contractor in managing third party subcontractors for an item of work, where the management contractor can show that it managed those third party subcontractors 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/question, each response will be marked and allocated an equal weighting in order to allocate the marks (e.g. if three responses are received for a particular section which has a maximum mark of 120 Marks, each response will be scored out of 40 marks with the results added together to give the overall result for that section). **Accordingly, 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

3.16 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

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

(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:

- VAT Registered Name of the Principal Applicant as per Section 4.1 above, only one entity can be named.
- 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/
- Relevant ownership/participation percentage split, for example this may be 50/50 or 33/33/33.
- 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

(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
- (ii) 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,
reference

Re: *[Insert tender reference and title]*
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: *[Insert tender reference and title]*
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

5.1 FINANCIAL STANDING (100 marks with a minimum 50% pass mark) 10% of overall score

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

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.

(A)5.1.1 Net Worth (70 marks available)

D&B Net Worth Rating Marks	
5A – 2A	70
1A	50
A	40
B	30
C	25
D	20
E – H	0
N (Negative Tangible Net Worth)	0
O (Rating undisclosed – refer to section (ii) Financial Metrics)	0

(A)5.1.2 Risk Indicator (30 marks available)

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

OPTION (B) FINANCIAL METRICS

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 (delete if D1 is not used)] (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.

(B)5.1.1 Tangible Net Worth (70 marks available)

Tangible Net Worth		
From	To	Marks
> € 2,000,000		70
€ 1,000,000	€1,999,999	50
€ 500,000	€999,999	40
€ 250,000	€499,999	30
€ 150,000	€249,999	25
€ 100,000	€149,999	20
€ 0	€99,999	0

(B)5.1.2 Financial Ratios (30 marks available)

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

(B)5.1.2.1 Profitability (10 marks)

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

(B)5.1.2.2 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

(B)5.1.2.3 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

Section 5.2: RESOURCES (250 marks with a minimum 50% pass mark)**LOT 1:**

- 5.2.1 The Applicant shall provide a current organisation chart for the Applicant showing the current senior management team of the Applicant. The organogram should show clear lines of responsibility and accountability for the variety of disciplines carried out. For a joint venture / consortium the organogram should show the lines of responsibility and accountability within the proposed grouping. **(35 no. marks available)**

Maximum number of pages A4 pages 2

- 5.2.2 The Applicant shall provide completed CV reference data sheets (Appendix 4) for key personnel who fulfil the following roles in the organisation:

- (i) Safety case development and support for hydrogen production, storage, transportation or supply
- (ii) Network safety assessments, basis/ case for safety or safety case activities to demonstrate the safe transition of a natural gas network with hydrogen or hydrogen blends
- (iii) ALARP demonstration or comparable level of risk acceptance for hydrogen activities
- (iv) Assessment of end user equipment and hydrogen operations
- (v) Specialist risk assessment (e.g. QRA, SCTA, MRA)
- (vi) Process hazard assessments (e.g. HAZID, HAZOP, HAZCON)

In each CV Reference Data Sheet, a maximum of three reference projects should be nominated and the individual's particular role and responsibilities highlighted to demonstrate their experience on contracts of a similar nature and complexity to those anticipated to be awarded under the Qualification System, including Hydrogen specific experience. **30 marks per CV = 180 marks (cumulative for 5 CVs)**

Marks will be awarded to each CV on the basis set out in the CV reference data sheet.

Maximum number of A4 pages 2 **(2 pages maximum per CV reference data sheet)**

- 5.2.2 The Applicant should furnish details of their hydrogen technical and safety competencies. This should also include experience in relevant technical and safety hydrogen technical experience in the UK, EU / international hydrogen safety case arena. **(35 marks)**

Maximum number of A4 pages 2

LOT 2

- 5.2.1 The Applicant shall provide a current organisation chart for the Applicant showing the current senior management team of the Applicant. The organogram should show clear lines of responsibility and accountability for the variety of disciplines carried out. For a joint venture / consortium the organogram should show the lines of responsibility and accountability within the proposed grouping. **(35 no. marks available)**

Maximum number of pages A4 pages 2

- 5.2.2 The Applicant shall provide completed CV reference data sheets (Appendix 4) for key personnel who fulfil the following roles in the organisation:

- (i) Metallurgy and welding expert
- (ii) Supplier Qualification
- (iii) Training and Technical Competency
- (iv) Mechanical Testing
- (v) Standard assessment and specification development
- (vi) Review and development of operational procedures
- (vii) Materials expert (specifically compatibility with Hydrogen)

In each CV Reference Data Sheet, a maximum of three reference projects should be nominated and the individual's particular role and responsibilities highlighted to demonstrate their experience on contracts of a similar nature and complexity to those anticipated to be awarded under the Qualification System, including Hydrogen specific experience. **(25 marks per CV = 175 marks (cumulative for seven CVs))**

Marks will be awarded to each CV on the basis set out in the CV reference data sheet.

Maximum number of A4 pages 2 **(2 pages maximum per CV reference data sheet)**

- 5.2.3 The Applicant shall furnish details of their Material Testing Facilities specifically in relation to Hydrogen. Details should include testing capabilities for tensile, fatigue, fracture toughness and other relevant testing for Steel and PE and in a pressurised Hydrogen environment. **(40 marks)**

Maximum number of pages A4 pages 2

LOT 3

- ~~5.2.1 The Applicant shall provide a current organisation chart showing the current senior management team of the Applicant. The organogram should show clear lines of responsibility and accountability for the variety of disciplines carried out. For a joint venture / consortium the organogram should show the lines of responsibility and accountability within the proposed grouping. **(35 no. marks available)**~~

~~Maximum number of pages A4 pages 2~~

- ~~5.2.2 The Applicant shall provide completed CV reference data sheets (Appendix 4) for key personnel with experience in (at least 2) the following:~~

- ~~i. Techno-economic assessments for hydrogen projects~~

- ~~ii. Financial modelling of energy projects~~
- ~~iii. Techno-Economic feasibility studies of renewable energy projects~~
- ~~iv. Experience of working in a regulated market~~

~~In each CV Reference Data Sheet, a maximum of three reference projects should be nominated and the individual's particular role and responsibilities highlighted to demonstrate their experience on contracts of a similar nature and complexity to those anticipated to be awarded under the Qualification System, including Hydrogen-specific experience. (125 marks per CV = 250-215 marks (cumulative))~~

~~Marks will be awarded to each CV on the basis set out in the CV reference data sheet.~~

~~Maximum number of A4 pages 2 (2 pages maximum per CV reference data sheet)~~

5.3: EXPERIENCE (450 marks with a minimum 50% pass mark)

Lot 1

- 5.3.1 As per the Particulars, the Applicant is to provide an overview of their experience, outline of their approach and methodology to develop the work programme necessary to execute the scope requirements of Lot 1. The entity that performed the contract in question must be the entity that is relied upon by the Applicant in its answer **(450 marks)**.

Note 1: References may be requested from any party involved in the referenced projects.

100 marks

Maximum number of A4 pages 10

- 5.3.2 The Applicant should provide details of two examples to detail their experience where they have completed HAZOP of Natural Gas, hydrogen or blended Systems and two examples where they have completed a HAZID of Natural Gas, hydrogen or blended Systems in the last three years. The applicant also needs to provide the number of studies completed over the last three years

Note 1: References may be requested from any party involved in the referenced projects.

25 marks per example = 100 marks cumulatively

Maximum number of A4 pages 10

- 5.3.3 The Applicant should provide details of two examples to detail their experience where they have completed specialist risk assessments such as quantified risk assessments (QRAs) of Natural Gas, hydrogen or blended Systems in the last three years. The applicant also needs to provide the number of studies completed over the last three years

Note 1: References may be requested from any party involved in the referenced projects.

50 marks per example = 100 marks cumulatively

Maximum number of A4 pages 10

- 5.3.4 The Applicant should provide details of two examples of network safety assessments, basis/ case for safety or safety case submissions completed to demonstrate the safe transition of a Natural Gas Network with Hydrogen or Hydrogen blends that have been undertaken within the last three years. The examples shall provide an overview of the assessments, demonstrate how the requirements of the assessments were determined (e.g. regulator engagement, Standards or guidance) detail the activities undertaken as part of the assessments, detail how the output was presented and explain any qualification or certification for Hydrogen service provided to the operator. Any efficiencies in relation to minimising or leveraging industry requirements or results shall be detailed.

75 marks per example = 150 marks cumulatively

Maximum number of A4 pages 10

Lot 2

- 5.3.5 In line with the requirements of the Scope as defined in Appendix 1, the Applicant is to provide an overview of their experience in relation to the scope requirements of Lot 2. The entity that performed the contract in question must be the entity that is relied upon by the Applicant in its answer **(450 marks)**.

Note 1: References may be requested from any party involved in the referenced projects.

150 marks

Maximum number of A4 pages 10

- 5.3.6 Tx Network Material Testing. The applicant should provide details of two examples of mechanical testing completed to determine transmission material properties in Hydrogen. They shall have been undertaken by the Applicant within the last three years. The examples shall demonstrate how the requirements of the testing were determined e.g. as per Standards and detail the testing undertaken and results

30 marks per example = 60 marks cumulatively

Maximum number of A4 pages 5

- 5.3.7 Dx Network Material Testing. The applicant should provide details of two examples of mechanical testing completed to determine distribution material properties in Hydrogen. They shall have been undertaken by the Applicant within the last three years. The examples shall demonstrate how the requirements of the testing were determined e.g. as per Standards and detail the testing undertaken and results.

30 marks per example = 60 marks cumulatively

Maximum number of A4 pages 5

- 5.3.8 Network Assessment. The applicant should provide details of two examples of network assessments undertaken to determine the compatibility of a Natural Gas Network with Hydrogen or Hydrogen blends that have been undertaken within the last three years. The examples shall provide an overview of the assessments, demonstrate how the requirements of the assessments were determined e.g. as per Standards, detail the activities undertaken as part of the assessments, and explain any qualification or certification for Hydrogen service provided to the operator. Any efficiencies in relation to minimising mechanical testing requirements shall be detailed.

30 marks per example = 60 marks cumulatively

Maximum number of A4 pages 5

- 5.3.9 Training. The applicant should provide details of two examples of Hydrogen training or competency assessments they have provided within the last three years. The examples shall demonstrate how competency requirements were established, examples of competency profiles and topics of training.

30 marks per example = 60 marks cumulatively

Maximum number of A4 pages 5

5.3.10 Operational processes and advice on Standards. The applicant should provide details of two examples, of either:

Assessments of Natural Gas operational procedures or the development of new Hydrogen operational procedures to support a transition from NG to Hydrogen or Hydrogen blends that have been undertaken within the last three years. The examples shall provide details of the procedure developed and demonstrate the process used for reviewing existing procedures and the development of new procedures in line with safety considerations for Hydrogen.

Or the assessment and selection of Hydrogen standards (and development of specifications) to ensure the application of good practice and the latest industry developments.

30 marks per example = 60 marks cumulatively

Maximum number of A4 pages 5

Lot 3

~~5.3.11 As per the Particulars, the Applicant is to provide an overview of their experience in relation to the scope requirements of Lot 3. The entity that performed the contract in question must be the entity that is relied upon by the Applicant in its answer (450 marks).~~

~~**Note 1:** References may be requested from any party involved in the referenced projects. (125 marks)~~

~~Maximum number of A4 pages 5~~

5.3.12

~~The Applicant should provide details of two examples to detail their experience where they have completed Techno-economic assessments for hydrogen projects in the last three years. At least one of those examples to demonstrate experience in a regulated market.~~

~~**Note 1:** References may be requested from any party involved in the referenced projects.~~

~~**(50 marks per example = 100 marks cumulatively)**~~

~~Maximum number of A4 pages 10~~

5.3.13

~~The Applicant should provide details of two examples to detail their experience where they have completed Financial modelling of energy projects in the last three years. At least one of those examples to demonstrate experience in a regulated market.~~

~~**Note 1:** References may be requested from any party involved in the referenced projects.~~

~~**(50 marks per example = 100 marks cumulatively)**~~

~~Maximum number of A4 pages 5~~

5.3.14

~~The Applicant should provide details of two examples to detail their experience where they have completed Techno-Economic feasibility studies of renewable energy projects in the last three years. At least one of those examples to demonstrate experience in a regulated market.~~

~~**Note 1:** References may be requested from any party involved in the referenced projects.~~

~~**62.5 marks per example = 125 marks cumulatively**~~

~~Maximum number of A4 pages 5~~

5.4: HEALTH AND SAFETY NOT USED

5.5: OTHER PASS/FAIL CRITERIA

5.5.1 QUALITY ASSURANCE (50 marks with a minimum 50% pass mark)

This section is required to be answered by applicants of all Lots.

- 5.5.1.1 Is the Applicant accredited to a Management System e.g. ISO9001 or equivalent? If so, the Applicant should provide a copy of the certification, the applicable areas and for how long the system has been certified? **(10 marks)**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

- 5.5.1.2 The Applicant must provide its controlled Procedures Index, showing current status of each and also furnish a representative sample of its standard quality procedures. **(10 marks)**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

- 5.5.1.3 The Applicant must provide documented evidence of how it has managed its internal audit process on previous similar contracts. The Applicant should also document how it ensured that non-conformities were dealt with in a timely manner through its CAPA (Corrective Action & Preventive Action) closed loop process? **(10 marks)**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

- 5.5.1.4 Please provide documented evidence of how your company documented, maintained and implemented Project Specific Quality Plans (including inspection and testing) and how you monitored such plans for adequacy, suitability and effectiveness. **(10 marks)**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

- 5.5.1.5 Have you appointed a person or group of people within your company for handling contract specific quality issues in previous contracts? If yes please describe. **(10 marks)**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

5.5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY (50 marks with a minimum 50% pass mark)

This section is required to be answered by applicants of all Lots.

5.5.2.1 The Applicant shall furnish a copy of its Environmental Policy Statement (it should be signed, indicating the role of signee and dated). **(5 marks).**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

5.5.2.2 Does the Applicant have an Environmental Management System? Please evidence of this e.g. a copy of the associated Environmental Manual or other related documentation / evidence that would indicate responsible environmental management is in place. **(5 marks).**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

5.5.2.3 Is the Environmental Management System certified by a third party to a recognised standard or system (e.g. ISO 14001, EMAS)? 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. **(10 marks).**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

5.5.2.4 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. **(10marks).**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

5.5.2.5 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. **(10 marks).**

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

5.5.2.6 Ethical Practice and Human Rights:

The Tenderer 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 Tenderer 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 Tenderer's suppliers (or suppliers' suppliers) do not support or engage in unethical practice. **(10 marks)**.

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE – identify document attached

5.5.3 INFORMATION SECURITY, (50 marks with a minimum 50% pass mark)

This section is required to be answered by applicants of all Lots.

5.5.3.1 Do you have or are you aligned to ISO 27001 certification? 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? **(10 marks)**

5.5.3.2 Can you outline 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. **(10 marks)**

5.5.3.3 How do you manage Information Security and Cyber Security risks? **(10 marks)**

5.5.3.4 How do you address management of Client Data in your organisation? **(10 marks)**

5.5.3.5 Do you have provisions in place for personnel Information Security training? **(10 marks)**

Max 2 A4 pages per question

5.5.4 DATA PROTECTION (50 marks with minimum 60% pass mark)

This section is required to be answered by applicants of all Lots.

5.5.4.1 The Applicant is to provide details of the approach to information security that it has adopted. Please describe how the Applicant's approach works throughout implementation and onward into service delivery. Please include aspects such as data protection, risk assessment and management, and staff and third party supplier management. The Applicant should demonstrate that for all information assets there are effective formal policies and procedures in place - subject to regular review, audits and health checks, with actions and mitigation plans in place.

Please note that providing policies or procedures will **not** be deemed to sufficiently answer these questions and will not be read as part of your submission. We require explanation from your organisation as to how you will comply with the GDPR requirements and meet the GDPR obligations of Ervia / GNI. Embedded links will also not be reviewed.

Q1: GDPR

Please demonstrate the data protection controls in place within your organisation, (and with your third party / sub-contractor providers), to protect GNI data, and which meet the standards compatible with EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and Irish Data Protection Acts. Please provide in your response, specific reference to the data protection organisational structures and training, along with any other substantial data protection measures in place. (Please note provision of policies alone will not be a sufficient response to this question). **(10 marks)**

Q2: Location - Data held by your organisation

Where will Gas Networks Ireland data held by your organisation or by your third party and or sub-contractor providers be hosted geographically? Please provide specific details (specifying whether the data will be hosted in the EEA or elsewhere, the exact city and county location proposed, and including primary and secondary locations). **(10 marks)**

Where the data held by your organisation or by your third party and or sub-contractor providers will be hosted outside the EEA, please also explain the legal basis on which you propose to rely (e.g. Standard Contractual Clauses, Binding Corporate Rules, EC Adequacy Decisions, etc.) to enable your organisation to transfer Ervia/Gas Networks Ireland data outside the EEA. Please also demonstrate any appropriate mechanisms which you propose to put in place between yourselves and Gas Networks Ireland. **(10 marks)**

NOTE: Tenderers should note that the successful tenderer will be under a contractual and legal obligation to fully comply with GDPR. Therefore, if the successful tenderer's response falls short of full compliance with applicable law in any respect, it shall be obliged to take such steps as are necessary to ensure compliance, at no additional cost to Gas Networks Ireland.

Q3: Privacy by Design

- (a) Demonstrate your understanding of the types of Gas Networks Ireland data that will be processed (including hosted and stored) by your organisation?
- (b) Will all of your employees and contractors who have access to Gas Networks Ireland data and/or systems be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA). **(10 marks)**

Q4: Privacy by Default

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 or no marks can be awarded. **(10 marks)**

Maximum number of A4 pages 2

5.5.5 NOT USED

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	23-001 Hydrogen Consultancy Services
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
(c) participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;		
(d) 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;		
(e) fraud within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;		
(f) 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;		
(g) money laundering or terrorist financing, as defined in Article 1 of Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council; or		
(h) 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 questions 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; or		

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	23-100 Hydrogen Consultancy Services
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.

SECTION OF QSQ:	ITEM TO BE PROVIDED:	ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANSWERING	CHECK
	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS		
Section D1	Financial statements	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D2	Experience: Reference contracts, using the project reference data sheet(s) (Appendix 3)]	Insert Entity Name	NOT USED
Section D3	HSQE: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D4	Modern Slavery: Complete declaration in Section D4	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section D5	Employee Related Matters: Complete declaration in Section D5	Insert Entity Name	☐
	INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS		
Section F1	Confirmation that insurance is in place or can be arranged	Insert Entity Name	☐
	ORGANISATION		
Section 4	Complete Section 4		☐
	PASS/FAIL CRITERIA		
Section 5.1	Financial Standing: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.2	Resources: Respond to this section, including CV reference data sheet(s) (Appendix 4)	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.3	Experience: Respond to this section,	Insert Entity Name	☐
Section 5.4	Health and Safety: Respond to this section, / [NOT USED]	Insert Entity Name	NOT USED
Section 5.5	Other Pass/Fail Criteria: Respond to this section	Insert Entity Name	☐
	EXCLUSION CRITERIA		
Section 6	Complete declaration in Section 6.		☐
	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION		
Section 7	Complete declaration in Section 7.		☐

APPENDIX 1 LOTS SCOPE OF QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

The scope of this QS is for Provisions Hydrogen Consultancy Services for GNI Ireland and GNI (UK)

Lot 1 – Hydrogen Safety Case

Services:

- Proactively engage with GNI to identify gaps and address any areas identified that facilitate the introduction of hydrogen blends.
- Support assessment of the impacts on gas transmission and distribution assets
- Support assessment of the impacts on downstream end users
- Support assessment of hydrogen generation or storage
- Support, undertake or complete interim safety reports, basis of safety assessments and safety cases
- Provide technical safety support in the demonstration the transition from natural gas to trials and ultimately to the national roll-out of hydrogen blends and 100%
- Be required to meet DECC, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), HSE (UK) and other stakeholders as required by GNI.
- ALARP demonstration (ROI & UK) or comparable level of risk acceptance.
- Training, competency assessment and certification of personnel.
- Hydrogen experts (e.g., to develop or support the development of technical, safety and operational processes).
- Risk assessment (Qualitative, quantitative and semi-quantitative).
- HAZID, HAZOP, HAZCON & LOPA study facilitation.
- Functional safety
- Human factors / organisational studies.
- Process safety assessments and reviews.
- Project risk.

Lot 2 – Hydrogen Engineering Services including Material Testing

Provision of services in relation to Hydrogen and Hydrogen Blends for Transmission (steel) and Distribution (Steel and PE) Networks, including but not limited to:

- Mechanical testing including but not limited to tensile, fatigue, toughness, fracture and hardness.
- Material testing in accordance with the requirements of Hydrogen Standards such as ASME B31.12 with the availability to mechanical testing facilities capable of testing specimens in a Hydrogen environment under pressure.
- Testing of full scale components in a Hydrogen environment to verify correct operation in Hydrogen service.
- Linepipe & Fittings Material specification, PQQ & tender evaluation.
- Assistance to Gas Network Ireland (GNI) in all aspects of material/equipment procurement, including but not limited to advising on Standards, development of GNI technical specifications based standards, technical input into GNI procurement documentation e.g. PQQ and ITT, review of tender submissions to ensure compliance with technical specifications, technical recommendation of vendors, review of MIPs/QITPs and attendance at pre-production meetings, assessment of vendor deviations (pre-production, during production and post-production) and recommendation on acceptability. Attendance and evaluation of weldability testing. The applicant will be expected to provide competencies to meet the requirements of the lot, including but not limited to the mechanical testing, NDT, welding and metallurgical.
- Material Failure Investigation.
- Supplier technical audit. The applicant shall be capable of providing assistance to GNI in all aspects of supplier technical audit and new supplier approval, including but not limited to, audit of suppliers through desktop review of documentation and site audits to confirm compliance of supplier with specified standard and recommendation to GNI of the suitability of the supplier. Audits of existing suppliers to confirm compliance with specifications and GNI recommendations. Assessment of vendor deviations (pre-production, during production and post-production) and recommendation on acceptability. The applicant will be expected to have the manufacturing, mechanical testing, NDT, welding and metallurgical competencies to perform this role.

- Metallurgical and Welding expertise. The applicant will be expected to be able to advise on welding issues and documentation including but not limited to WPS, WPQR, NDT requirements and procedures. Assist in the development of GNI supplementary technical specifications based on ISO or EN or other industry standards.
- Corrosion and Coating services, including but not limited to assessment and inspection of corrosion and recommendations of mitigation measures and procedures.
- Fitness-for –Service Assessment.
- Training & Technology Transfer in relation to new materials and manufacturing and installation procedures.
- Mechanical Testing, NDT and destructive testing.
- Approval and certification of PE pipe for pRCP.
- Quality Management Systems and Technical Auditing of suppliers.

Provision of services in relation to the assessment and certification or qualification of existing Natural Gas Transmission (Steel) or Distribution Networks (Steel and PE) for Hydrogen or Hydrogen / Natural Gas blends, including but not limited to:

- Advising on requirements for the transitioning of Transmission and Distribution networks, pipelines and installations to Hydrogen or Hydrogen blends.
- Identifying minimum testing requirements.
- Qualifying or certifying networks.

Provision of Hydrogen Technical Experts (including secondment), to lead and support activities including but not limited to:

- The development of operational processes.
- The assessment of Hydrogen on infrastructure assets.
- The assessment and selection Standards.
- Advising on gas quality.
- Development of the technical requirements for new Hydrogen infrastructure

Provision of Technical Training services for Hydrogen, including but not limited to:

- Determining competency requirements and associated competency profiles.
- Development and provision of training programmes.
- Assessment of personal.

~~Lot 3 – Hydrogen Commercial, Regulatory, Economic & Strategic Services~~

~~Services:~~

- ~~• Network Transition Strategy support to plan the transition of the GNI network from Natural gas to 100% and blends of Renewable gases.~~
- ~~• Technical & Economic assessments of potential business opportunities.~~
- ~~• Development of economic models.~~
- ~~• Market analysis and modelling.~~
- ~~• Regulation assessments and impact review of potential hydrogen changes.~~
- ~~• Review and development of hydrogen strategies in the areas of commercial strategy for regulated and non-regulated markets.~~
- ~~• Scenario planning and modelling for potential developments across different timelines.~~

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 PROJECT REFERENCE DATA SHEET

Reference Projects Data Sheet for	Lot Number:	Name of Applicant:
Reference Project 1 (Repeat as necessary)		
Company involved in the project		
Reference project title		
Date undertaken, duration and year of completion		
Overall Project Value (excl. VAT)		
Project Value applicable to the company (excl. VAT)		
Main Duties and Responsibilities of the company		
Relevance to the Contracting Entity's requirements and other relevant information		

APPENDIX 4 CV REFERENCE DATA SHEET

CV Reference Data Sheet for	Lot Number:	Name:		Key Position for which this person is being put forward as an example	
Relevant qualifications & No. years relevant experience [20% of possible marks]					
Reference project title	Reference Project 1	Reference Project 2		Reference Project 3	
Year of Completion					
Overall Project Value (excl. VAT)					
Project Value applicable to employee's company (excl. VAT)					
Experience on projects of similar nature and complexity including, main duties and responsibilities of Employee in respect of reference projects [80% of possible marks]					
Other relevant information					