



OPEN PROCEDURE
REQUEST FOR TENDER FOR A CONTRACT
FOR BELOW EU THRESHOLD ONLY

Scope of Contract	Provision of Professional Services for The Two Rivers Catchment, Community & Climate Project, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal.
Procedure	Open Procedure – National Level
Key Dates	
Issue Date	24/07/2026
Closing Date for Queries	30/07/2026
Closing Date for Tender Submissions	14/08/2026 at 12 noon
Contact for Queries	<u>By email only to:</u> climatereadydonegal@donegalcoco.ie Please use the subject line: “Tender Query – The Two Rivers Catchment, Community & Climate Project, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal. Queries may only be submitted until 30th July at 12 noon. Queries will be responded to no later than 31st July at 4pm.
Format for submission of tenders	Via www.etenders.gov.ie only
Please note that information relating to this Request for Tender, including clarifications and changes, will be published on the Irish Government Procurement Opportunities Portal www.etenders.gov.ie. Registration is free of charge and there is no charge for documents.	

Please note that the Contracting Authority accepts no responsibility for information relayed (or not relayed) via third parties.

Please note that the Contracting Authority has supplied a Tender Response Document (and where relevant a separate pricing document) which must be used in the tender response. The documents should be uploaded as a Zip file on eTenders to protect the integrity of file names.

CONTENTS

1	ABOUT THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY	5
1.1	The Contracting Authority	5
1.2	Disclaimer	5
1.3	Use of eTenders	5
1.4	Use of a Tender Response Document	5
1.5	Small and Medium Enterprise Participation.....	6
2	OVERVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENT	7
2.1	High Level Scope.....	7
2.2	Anticipated Timeline.....	7
2.3	Termination of Contract	8
2.4	Compliance with the Terms and Conditions	8
2.5	Award to Runner Up	8
3	DETAILED SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.....	9
3.1	Project Aim	9
3.2	Context	9
3.3	Scope of Services	10
3.4	Duration	12
3.5	Indicative budget.....	12
3.6	Contract Management	12
4	SELECTION CRITERIA (PASS/FAIL).....	13
4.1	Relying on the Standing of Other Entities.....	13
4.2	General, Legal and Financial Requirements	13
4.3	Technical Capacity Requirements.....	15
5	AWARD CRITERIA.....	16
5.1	Methodology for Calculating the Cost Score	18
5.2	Methodology for Calculating Scoring of Qualitative Criteria.....	18
5.3	Post Tender Clarification.....	19
5.4	Verification Meetings.....	19
5.5	Clarification of Abnormally Low Tenders	19
5.6	Right to Confirm Suitability.....	19
6	INSTRUCTIONS FOR TENDERERS.....	20
6.1	Submission of Tenders	20
6.1.1	Accessing Documents	20
6.1.2	Submitting your Response	20

6.2	Closing date for Tenders.....	21
6.3	Queries	21
6.4	Extension of Tender Period.....	21
6.5	Tender Validity Period.....	21
6.6	Discrepancies between Documents	21
6.7	Formatting of Tenderers / Amendment of Tender Documentation.....	22
6.8	Collusive Tendering	22
6.9	Confidentiality	22
6.10	Clarification of Tenders	22
6.11	Correction of Errors.....	22
6.12	Change in the Composition of a Tenderer.....	23
6.13	Interference and Inducement to Purchase	23
6.14	Conflict of Interest.....	23
6.15	Publicity	24
6.16	Right Not to Award.....	24
6.17	Notification of Tender Evaluations.....	24
6.18	Award Notices.....	24
6.19	Policy on Personal Debriefings	24
6.20	Copyright	24
6.21	Brand Names, etc.	25
6.22	Environmental Aspects	25
6.23	Knowledge and Skills Transfer.....	25
6.24	Currency and Payment	25
6.25	Irish Legislation and Law.....	25
6.26	Anti-Competitive Conduct	25
6.27	Accessibility / Dignity at Work	25
6.28	Withholding Tax	26
6.29	Freedom of Information.....	26
6.30	Late Payment.....	26
6.31	Data Protection	26
6.32	Changes in Legislation.....	27
6.33	International Procurement Instrument-IPI.....	27
6.34	Responsibility of Successful Party	27

1 ABOUT THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

1.1 The Contracting Authority

Donegal County Council, herein after referred to as the Contracting Authority, is the authority responsible for this procurement.

Further information is available at our corporate website www.donegalcoco.ie

1.2 Disclaimer

This Request for Tenders (RFT) document issued herewith ("the Document") is for information only and does not constitute, and shall not be interpreted as, an offer for sale, prospectus, or the basis of a contract.

Tenderers are recommended to read the documents thoroughly. While all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the information set out in the Document is accurate and up to date, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is or will be made or given in relation to the accuracy or the completeness of any information contained in the Document or otherwise provided by or on behalf of the Contracting Authority (in writing or otherwise) to any interested party or its advisers. No responsibility or liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of reliance on these documents, or for the information contained in these documents or for any omission is or will be accepted by the Contracting Authority or by any of its officers, employees, agents or professional advisers. No officer, employee, agent, or professional adviser of the company has any authority to give or make any representation or warranty, express or implied, in relation to such information. The Contracting Authority's officers, employees, agents, and professional advisers expressly disclaim any and all liability arising out of such documentation or information and any errors or omissions in or from the documents and information.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to discontinue the procurement process at any time.

1.3 Use of eTenders

Please note that information relating to this Request for Tender, including clarifications and changes, will be published on the Irish Government Procurement Opportunities Portal www.etenders.gov.ie. Registration is free of charge and there is no charge for documents. Please note that the Contracting Authority accepts no responsibility for information relayed (or not relayed) via third parties. In order to submit a response, it is mandatory to have **ASSOCIATED** your company with the competition using the eTenders log in.

1.4 Use of a Tender Response Document

The Contracting Authority have provided a Tender Response Document (TRD) as a separate document for tenderers to use in preparing their response to this tender. This document and format must be used. Tenderers should note that personalisation of the TRD is not allowed, and they must not add their branding/colours to the TRD.

Please note that in addition to this RFT and the TRD, the following documents form part of the tender documentation:

- Any Clarification documents issued by the Contracting Authority during the tender submission period. Tenderers must ensure they regularly monitor eTenders and review any Clarification documents published.
- It is recommended to upload your response as a Zip file in order to protect the integrity of file names

1.5 Small and Medium Enterprise Participation

It is the policy of the Contracting Authority to promote participation by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on a fair and equal basis.

SMEs are encouraged to explore the possibilities of forming relationships with other SMEs or with larger enterprises to meet the financial, economic or technical capacity requirements of the competition, if required.

Tenderers may include individuals, partnerships, limited companies, groupings or any combination of the foregoing with or without legal personality. However, a grouping if successful will be required to establish legal personality to enter the contract.

Tenderers are reminded that they may rely on the resources of other entities to establish the requirements on condition that they can prove to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority that they will have these resources at their disposal when necessary.

If the tender is from a consortium / joint venture, Tenderers must ensure that all the relevant information is provided and where necessary, provide the information requested separately for each party. Relevant information relates to where a tenderer is relying on the resources to qualify (e.g. turnover, personnel, previous experience) and/or to deliver the contract. The consortium must appoint a single point of contact who will assume overall responsibility for delivery, and who is authorised to sign the contract on behalf of all consortia members. The Contracting Authority will not act as an arbitrator between members of consortia.

2 OVERVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENT

2.1 High Level Scope

Donegal County Council are participating in the EU Interreg NPA MINDSET Project¹. The project, through Mission Oriented Innovation techniques (MOI), has developed a portfolio of climate “missions” that have been co-created by community and stakeholders alike to improve resilience to the impacts of climate change at a local level. Donegal County Council are now progressing a selection of these “missions” (climate actions) using funding provided by the Interreg NPA MINDSET project, hereafter referred to as MINDSET. The focus of the MINDSET project is Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, which is one of the designated Decarbonising Zones in the County².

This project aims to pilot one of the missions developed by community and stakeholders through the MINDSET Project. The Project is called ***“The Two Rivers Catchment, Community & Climate Project, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal”***.

Its overall aim is to support the enhancement of the ecological health, climate resilience and community stewardship of the Glentogher-Donagh and Glenagannon river catchments through an integrated programme of catchment mapping, community engagement, citizen science and habitat restoration.

Donegal County Council wish to procure a professional services provider to deliver this project over a 13-month period. The project involves catchment assessments and GIS mapping, design and delivery of educational and awareness activities, the establishment of a local catchment stewardship group, development and coordination of a source-to-sea citizen science monitoring programme, and the implementation of a pilot riparian habitat restoration project. The overall objective is to improve biodiversity, water quality and climate resilience while empowering local communities, schools and stakeholders to play an active role in the long-term management and protection of their river environments within the Carndonagh Decarbonising Zone².

2.2 Anticipated Timeline

The following indicative timeline is envisaged for this procurement:

Issue RFT	As specified on title page
Closing date for Queries	As specified on title page
Closing date for Receipt of Tenders	As specified on title page
Award decision	August 2026
Contract Commencement	September 2026

¹ <https://www.ernact.eu/Project.aspx?ProjectId=153>

² [Decarbonising Zone | Donegal County Council](#)

The dates provided above are estimates at the time of publication of the Request for Tender. The Contracting Authority will endeavour to run the process to this timetable, but this cannot be guaranteed.

2.3 Termination of Contract

The Contracting Authority reserves the right at its sole discretion to terminate any contract where, due to matters outside its control, including but not limited to, increased costs arising from any changes in the Customs Union, which render the commercial arrangement uncompetitive. Termination of any Contract will be carried out in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the relevant contract.

2.4 Compliance with the Terms and Conditions

Award of contract will be subject to the successful tenderer agreeing to the Contract Terms and Conditions as appended at the relevant Appendix.

Tenderers are required to review these terms and conditions and indicate their acceptance thereof as part of their tender submission. Any reservation with regard to these terms should be submitted as a query in accordance with the procedure described in the Instructions to Tenderers (Section 6) of this document.

2.5 Award to Runner Up

If for any reason, it is not possible to award the contract to the designated successful tenderer emerging from this competitive process, or if having awarded a contract, the successful tenderer fails to deliver the contract in accordance with the terms and conditions, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to award the contract to the next highest scoring tenderer based on the terms advertised at any time during the tender validity period. This shall be without prejudice to the right of the Contracting Authority to cancel this competitive process and/or initiate a new contract award procedure at its sole discretion.

3 DETAILED SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS

The Contracting Authority invites tenders for the award of a contract as specified hereunder.

3.1 Project Aim

The overall aim of the project is to support the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the biodiversity and climate resilience of Carndonagh's rivers — the Glentogher-Donagh and Glenagannon —through community-led climate action, education, and collaborative river stewardship"

3.2 Context

Donegal County Council's Climate Action Unit, through its Climate Action Plan and Decarbonising Zone initiatives, works in partnership with a range of local stakeholders to support community-led action on climate change, environmental protection, and biodiversity enhancement. In Carndonagh Decarbonising Zone, this collaborative approach is facilitated through ECO Carn and Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP), a network comprising community organisations, schools, statutory bodies, and other local stakeholders committed to raising awareness and delivering practical environmental and climate actions.

In 2025, Donegal County Council took part in IDP's TASC People's Transition: Carndonagh initiative, which sought to empower local communities to shape and lead the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future. This approach promoted local ownership of climate action priorities and supports the development of community-led projects that deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits.³

Building on the outcomes of this community engagement process, Donegal County Council has further supported local climate action through its participation in the EU-funded Interreg MINDSET project, which aims to strengthen community capacity and accelerate locally driven sustainability initiatives.

The Two Rivers Catchment, Community & Climate Project was initially identified through the People's Transition process as a key community priority for Carndonagh and further developed through MINDSET. The project will support the protection, restoration and enhancement of the Glentogher-Donagh and Glenagannon Rivers in Carndonagh. It seeks to enhance climate resilience, by supporting and celebrating the biodiversity and ecological value of the town's two rivers, while fostering greater community stewardship and engagement in the management and preservation of these important environmental assets.

As Contracting Authority, Donegal County Council is seeking to deliver this project in partnership with local stakeholders and the wider community.

The successful tenderer will work with local stakeholders to develop a source-to-sea understanding of both river catchments while fostering long-term community engagement in river conservation and climate adaptation.

³ [TASC Publications | TASC - Think-tank for Action on Social Change](#)

3.3 Scope of Services

3.3.1 The Study Area

The Study Area for the Project is shown in Figure 1. It constitutes the EPA's Water Framework Directive River Sub-catchments DONAGH_010; DONAGH_020; DONAGH_030; GLENNAGANNON_010 and GLENNAGANNON_020⁴. The GIS Polygon Shapefile is provided with these Tender Documents. See also www.catchments.ie



Figure 1: Study Area – Red Line Denotes Sub Basin Boundaries.

⁴ [EPA Maps](#)

3.3.2 Work Packages

The successful contractor will be required to deliver the following Work Packages. Tenderers are asked to consider the project objectives and provide an appropriate methodology (see Tender Response Document) for each Work Package within the budget available (see Section 3.4).

Work Package 1 - River Catchment Mapping (GIS Shapefile of Catchment Boundaries provided of the Study Area)

Undertake GIS mapping of the Glentogher-Donagh and Glenagannon catchments, including:

- River habitats and ecological features.
- Floodplains and areas vulnerable to flooding.
- Fish migration barriers and opportunities for connectivity improvement.
- Invasive species distribution.
- Pressures impacting river health, water quality and biodiversity.
- Key opportunities for restoration and climate resilience measures.

Work Package 2 - Community Education and Awareness Programme

Design and deliver an engaging programme of educational activities focused on project objectives. The programme should include workshops, guided walks, talks and public engagement events.

Work Package 3 - Catchment Group Development and River Stewardship

In collaboration with the ECO Carn members, support the establishment and development of a local river catchment stewardship group.

Work Package 4 - Citizen Science and Youth Engagement

Develop and implement a pilot source-to-sea citizen science programme that engages young people, schools, residents and community groups.

Work Package 5 - Riparian Habitat Restoration Pilot

Identify a Pilot Site (selected river reach) within the Study Area.

Develop and implement a riparian restoration programme at the pilot site to demonstrate the benefits of locally led climate and biodiversity actions to showcasing the benefits to the community.

Make recommendations for ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the work carried out.

3.3.3 Work Package Deliverables

- Catchment mapping report and GIS outputs.
- Delivery of Community education and awareness programme.

- Citizen science monitoring framework and baseline findings.
- Support for the establishment of a local catchment stewardship group.
- Riparian restoration plan and implementation at a pilot site to be agreed, demonstrating nature-based solutions for riverbank enhancement, biodiversity improvement and climate resilience.
- Final project report outlining activities undertaken, outcomes achieved and recommendations for future actions.

3.3.4 Outcome

The project will create a stronger community connection to the Glentogher-Donagh and Glenagannon Rivers, improve local understanding of climate resilience and river ecology, enhance biodiversity through targeted restoration measures at a pilot site, and establish a sustainable framework for long-term river stewardship within the Carndonagh Decarbonising Zone River catchments.

3.3.5 Project Steering Group

The successful tenderer will work closely with and report to the Project Steering Group consisting of Donegal County Council, Ernact (MINDSET Project Lead Partner) the River Basin Management Service (formerly named LAWPRO) the ECO Carn network, and Inishowen Development Partnership.

3.4 Duration

The contract will be for a period of 13 months, September 2026 – October 2027.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right at its sole discretion to extend the contract, subject to satisfactory performance, budget availability and ongoing business needs. The number and duration of extensions will be 1 for a period of 6 months.

3.5 Indicative budget

The indicative budget for the contract is €35,000 including VAT (€28,455 ex VAT).

3.6 Contract Management

The Contracting Authority requires tenderers to nominate a dedicated contract manager who will act as the main point of contact for the duration of the contract. This person shall have the authority to deal with all matters in relation to contracts and be responsible for the satisfactory delivery of the **services** required. The duties of the contract manager will include the following:

- Overall responsibility for a good working relationship with the Contracting Authority;
- Provide regular reports on performance as agreed with the Contracting Authority;
- Meet as and when required to review and examine performance in adherence to an agreed Service Level Agreement and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs);
- Deal with disputes, complaints or concerns that cannot be adequately resolved;

- Proactively discuss with the Contracting Authority ways of improving efficiency regarding service delivery in general and providing suggestions for improvement and cost savings.

NOTE: Tenderers will note that contract management activities will be non-billable.

4 SELECTION CRITERIA (PASS/FAIL)

The Contracting Authority is using the **open** procedure for the award of this contract, therefore, while all interested parties may submit a tender, only those demonstrating that they have the required level of financial and technical capacity will have their tender considered. In order to demonstrate a tenderers' qualifications, tenderers are required to provide the information set out below in the Tender Response Document (TRD) which is based on a self-declaration model, however tenderers are required to provide the minimum information required.

4.1 Relying on the Standing of Other Entities

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged to explore the possibilities of forming relationships with other SMEs or with larger enterprises to meet the financial, economic or technical capacity requirements of the competition, if required.

Tenderers are reminded that they may rely on the resources of other entities to establish the requirements on condition that they can prove to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority that they will have these resources at their disposal when necessary.

If the tender is from a consortium / joint venture Tenderers must ensure that all the relevant information is provided and where necessary, provide the information requested separately for each party. The consortium must appoint a single point of contact who will assume overall responsibility for delivery, and who is authorised to sign the contract on behalf of all consortia members. The Contracting Authority will not act as an arbitrator between members of consortia.

4.2 General, Legal and Financial Requirements

Tenderers are required to provide information on the following in the Tender Response Document. The criteria and rules outlined below are assessed on a pass/fail basis. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in your tender being considered inadmissible.

General Information	
Provide contact and general information on the tendering organisation - company name, address and contact details for individual responsible for this tender and company overview as well as information on sub-contractors and/or consortium members if applicable.	
Declarations	
• Complete the Declaration of Bona Fides as per Art. 57 of Directive 2014/24/EU as implemented by SI 2814 of May 2016 as contained in the Tender Response Document. • Complete the Declaration regarding compliance with relevant statutory obligations as contained in the Tender Response Document. Where tenderers are established and operating outside of Ireland compliance with equivalent legislation as applicable in the country of establishment / operation is required. • Complete a European Single Procurement Document (ESPD), either electronically via the eESPD on eTenders or as a separate uploaded attachment with the tender response will be accepted as evidence of compliance.	
Tax compliance, Financial Capacity and Insurances	
Tax	Confirmation that the tenderer / all parties associated with the tenderer are fully tax compliant in accordance with the rules of the Irish Revenue Commissioners and in their country of establishment.
Financial Standing	(a) Confirmation that the tendering party turnover exceeded [€200,000] during one of the last three years or pro-rata if more recently established firms are tendering – however the firm must have been in existence for at least 6 months. (b) Confirmation of financial standing ensuring the tendering party has the financial capacity to pay its debts identified on the current statement of assets and liabilities as being the debts as they fall due. Evidence of both statements will be required prior to the award of any contract.
Insurance	Confirmation of the following insurances being in place: • Employer's Liability - €13 million • Public Liability - €6.5 million • Professional Indemnity - €1million

4.3 Technical Capacity Requirements

Tenderers are required to provide information on the following in the Tender Response Document. The criteria and rules outlined below are assessed on a pass/fail basis. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in your tender being considered inadmissible.

Previous Contracts / Experience

Tenderers must provide information clearly demonstrating successful delivery of [2] instances of previous comparable experience/projects, involving the features as defined in the TRD. These projects should be within the last 8 years. The contracts referenced for consideration should provide comprehensive information to enable the Contracting Authority to determine their comparability to the requirements of this contract and to demonstrate the firm's skills, efficiency, experience and reliability in the relevant areas of expertise.

Note #1: All fields in the TRD should be completed in full. In the event that the information requested on the value of contracts or identity of clients is considered confidential, tenderers must ensure that they provide sufficient information to allow the Contracting Authority to judge the similarity of these contracts to the services required.

Note #2: In completing the table for each reference project, Tenderers must provide sufficient information to allow the Contracting Authority to evaluate whether all of the requirements at above have been met and whether the services have been successfully delivered.

Note #3: Where the tenderer is a grouping relying on the resources of others to meet the previous experience requirement, one of the projects must be from the 3rd party identified in the TRD.

Note #4: Tenderers will note that they are to provide contact details for referees for each reference project. The Contracting Authority has the right to contact the referees to verify the information being provided, without further reference to the Tenderer. It is the responsibility of Tenderers to satisfy themselves that the nominated contact person is in a position to provide a reference if contacted by the Contracting Authority. Tenderers should note that the Contracting Authority may at its discretion contact all referees or referees for the successful Tenderers only. Tenderers must note that this is a pass/fail criterion and the Contracting Authority may deem a tender inadmissible based on the feedback received from the referees indicated in the submission, where applicable.

Health & Safety Management System

Tenderers must provide information which demonstrates operation of health & safety systems and procedures in line with all relevant Safety Health & Welfare at Work legislation. Please complete the TRD. Evidence of compliance will be required as condition of contract award.

5 AWARD CRITERIA

Only tenders that meet the Selection Criteria and are confirmed as valid and responsive to the specifications set out in this document will be evaluated against the award criteria. Tenderers should ensure that they have submitted sufficient relevant information to allow their tenders to be assessed under each of the award criteria set out below.

The contract will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous compliant tender taking into account the following award criteria and weightings. Tenderers should note that the qualitative award criteria are assessed first.

Please note that the maximum marks available is 100

Criterion A		Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks Required
		40%	40	N/A
Title	Cost			
Description	Please complete the Form of Tender provided in the Tender Response Document. Please ensure that all costs are catered for including customs duties, tariffs, etc.			
Criterion B		Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
		20%	20	8
Title	Technical & Professional Ability			
Description	Please provide details of the qualifications and experience of team member(s) proposed, specifically in relation to GIS based catchment mapping, stakeholder and community engagement, Water Framework Directive, river riparian restoration projects on biodiversity, hydromorphology, water quality as they pertain to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Provide a corresponding team Organisational chart showing project roles and responsibilities including Project Manager.			
Criterion C		Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
		35%	35	14
Title	Methodology for Project Delivery including Programme.			
Description	Tenderers are required to:			

	Provide a methodology for each Work Package outlining how you will meet the project objectives and required deliverables, including health and safety management. Provide a clear proposal of the services offered per work package. 3000 words max. Provide a programme Gantt chart showing assigned resources for each task.		
Criterion D	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
	5%	5	-
Title	Green Criteria		
Description	Tenderers are required to demonstrate their commitment to environmental sustainability. This includes but is not limited to, showing their company's commitment to reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency and using products/services which do not have a negative effect on the environment. Additionally, tenderers should outline any initiatives or practices they have implemented to minimize their carbon footprint and support achieving the climate action targets of 2030 and a more sustainable economy. 500 words max.		

NOTE 1: Tenderers should ensure in their tender submission that they provide detailed information in respect of all aspects of the contract award criteria as stated above. This will enable the awarding authority to assess fully the extent of their offers.

5.1 Methodology for Calculating the Cost Score

The following formula will be applied to the cost score:

The lowest cost tender that also meets all the minimum requirements of the qualitative award criteria will receive the maximum score achievable under this criterion. The scores of the other valid tenders will be calculated using the following formula:

Lowest Cost from a Bona Fide Tender	A
Maximum Marks available for Cost	B
Cost for the tender being evaluated	C
Formula employed	$\frac{A \times B}{C}$

5.2 Methodology for Calculating Scoring of Qualitative Criteria

Scoring Band	Description
1 (81% - 100%)	An excellent response that fully meets requirements and provides comprehensive, detailed and convincing assurance that the Tenderer will deliver on the Contracting Authority's requirements to an excellent standard.
2 (61% - 80%)	A good response that demonstrates real understanding of the requirements and assurance that the Tenderer will deliver on the Contracting Authority's requirements to a good standard.
3 (41% - 60%)	A satisfactory response which demonstrates a reasonable understanding of the requirements and gives reasonable assurance of delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements to an adequate standard but does not provide sufficiently convincing assurance to award a higher mark.
4 (21% - 40%)	An average response where some capabilities to meet the requirements are detailed however reservations exist. Lacks full credibility and/or convincing detail, and there is a significant risk that the delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements will not be successful.
5 (1% - 20%)	A poor response where limited information was provided and serious reservations exist. This may be because, for example, insufficient detail is provided, and/or the response has fundamental flaws, is seriously inadequate or seriously lacks credibility with a high risk of non-delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements.
6 (0%)	No response or response completely fails to address the criterion under consideration.

Marks in the score ranges outlined above can be awarded where responses so merit additional marks.

Note: where there is a tie-break, the economic operator with the highest quality score will be awarded the quotation. In a case where the overall qualitative scores are identical the

economic operator with the highest score on the highest weighted qualitative criterion will be awarded the quotation.

All information regarding the evaluation process or potential outcomes shall remain confidential until after the conclusion of the quotation process.

5.3 Post Tender Clarification

At the discretion of the Contracting Authority, tenderers may be invited, in writing, to clarify certain aspects of their tender, particularly where information or documentation to be submitted appears to be incomplete or erroneous. However, all such requests will be made in full compliance with the principles of equal treatment and transparency and avoid any distortion of competition.

5.4 Verification Meetings

Award of contract may be subject to attendance at a verification meeting. It would be essential that the key personnel assigned to this contract should be available and present at this meeting. If required, tenderers will be notified of the date, time, agenda and format for such meetings as soon as possible.

A visit to the Tenderer's premises may be required to clarify any questions or queries regarding the tender offer.

5.5 Clarification of Abnormally Low Tenders

If the Contracting Authority considers the tender submission to be commercially unsustainable or otherwise problematic in light of the tendered price or any other financial matter (including proposed indicative hours), the tenderer shall be invited to provide clarification to the Contracting Authority in respect of all elements of the tender submission that the Contracting Authority deems relevant. Any failure to satisfactorily comply with such a request, or to satisfactorily address the Contracting Authority's concerns, may, at the discretion of the Contracting Authority, result in the elimination of the tender in question on the basis of it being considered abnormally low.

5.6 Right to Confirm Suitability

Tenderers should note that the Contracting Authority reserves the right to confirm that the financial and technical capacity of the tenderer is valid and unchanged prior to the award of any contract.

6 INSTRUCTIONS FOR TENDERERS

6.1 Submission of Tenders

The Contracting Authority is using the Tender Postbox facility and tenders must be submitted electronically via the eTenders postbox facility on www.etenders.gov.ie only. Only Tenders submitted to the electronic postbox will be accepted. Tenders submitted by any other means (including but not limited to by email, fax, post or hand delivery) will **not** be accepted.

Tenderers must ensure that they give themselves enough time to upload and submit all required documentation before the closing date/time noting the use of the eTenders platform. Tenderers should consider the fact that upload speeds vary. In order to submit a response to the electronic post-box, please note that you must ensure you have submitted the response completely. It is advisable to familiarise yourself with the platform prior to the closing date.

Below we provide an overview of the key steps. Please note that the Contracting Authority take no responsibility for these steps being the totality of the steps required as different processes may require different actions.

If in doubt, please ensure you contact the eTenders helpdesk as follows:

Email: irish-eproc-helpdesk@eurodyn.com

Phone: +353-818001459

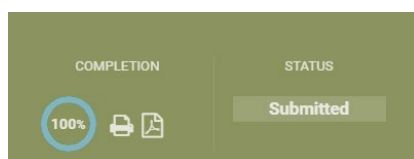
6.1.1 Accessing Documents

It is important to note that you must **ASSOCIATE** your company with this competition in the first instance. To do this you must do the following:

- (a) Log-in to the system
- (b) Locate the competition using the Advanced Search by Contracting Authority or Resource ID
- (c) Click on the hyperlink for the competition which will bring you to the CfT Workspace
- (d) In the Show CfT Menu for the competition click on the “Expression of Interest” in the drop down menu
- (e) Complete the “Association with the CfT” tab.
- (f) This will then provide you with a link to “Tender” under the Show CfT Menu

6.1.2 Submitting your Response

In responding to a competition without an electronic ESPD, a number of steps are required. The final step involves clicking on a Submit button and receiving the following status:



If you do not receive a message similar to above and a confirmation email, you have not submitted your response.

Please note that the screen may say **OFFLINE**, this is a technical feature of eTenders and does not mean you cannot submit. Also please note you may see the percentage field also saying 100% before you submit, this still requires you to go through the submit button.

Please upload your response as a **ZIP FILE** to protect the integrity of the file names.

It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to ensure that their tender is complete and is uploaded in accordance with the instructions provided on eTenders prior to the deadline as per the front page.

6.2 Closing date for Tenders

The closing date for tender submission	as specified on the title page
--	--------------------------------

It is the responsibility of the tenderer to ensure that their tender is complete and is uploaded / submitted by the designated deadline.

6.3 Queries

The closing date for submitting queries	as specified on the title page
---	--------------------------------

All queries regarding this tender should be through the messaging facility on www.etenders.gov.ie, including any omissions which would prevent tenderers from submitting a comprehensive tender. Please submit queries as soon as possible and before the query closing date. The Contracting Authority is not obliged to respond to questions received after this date.

In circulating responses, queries will be edited to avoid disclosing the identity of the querist and will be circulated to all parties who have expressed an interest in the procurement on the eTenders website.

6.4 Extension of Tender Period

The Contracting Authority reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to extend the closing date for receipt of tenders by giving notice in writing (by post or electronic means) to all parties who have expressed an interest in the notice via eTenders no later than six days before the original closing date.

6.5 Tender Validity Period

To allow sufficient time for Tender assessment a Tender Validity period of **180 days** is required, this period commencing on the closing date by which the Tenders are to be returned.

6.6 Discrepancies between Documents

A pdf version of the Request for Tender has been made available on eTenders. This document will be considered as the primary source document in this procurement process, word versions of documents where they are provided are being made available to assist tenderers in responding to the tender competition. Where there is a discrepancy between a

pdf version and a word version, the pdf version will take precedence. Tenderers are requested to notify the Contracting Authority immediately of any anomaly. Where applicable the Contracting Authority will issue amended versions.

6.7 Formatting of Tenderers / Amendment of Tender Documentation

Tenderers must ensure they use the Tender Response Document (TRD) when preparing their submission.

Tenderers are prohibited from amending any text or content of forms or declarations or templates provided as part of this tender competition in their tender responses. Where amendments have been identified, the Contracting Authority may at its discretion eliminate the tenderer from further consideration. Likewise, failure to use the template documentation provided particularly in relation to costing / pricing may result in tenders being eliminated.

6.8 Collusive Tendering

If any Tendering Party is found to have, at any time, offered to give or to have agreed to offer or give to any person, any bribe, gift, gratuity, commission or consideration of any kind as an inducement or reward for taking or forbearing to take any action in relation to the obtaining of its Tenders, or for showing or forbearing to show any favour or disfavour to any person in relation to its Tenders, the bid submitted by such Tendering Party shall be automatically disqualified and the circumstances surrounding such action shall be referred to the appropriate authority.

6.9 Confidentiality

After the official opening of Tenders, information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of Tenders and recommendations will not be disclosed to tenderers or other persons not officially concerned with such process until the award decision with the successful Tenderer has been announced and in conformity with national laws.

Tenderers shall treat the details of all documents supplied to them in connection with this contract as private and confidential and shall not disclose the contents to a third party without the permission of the Contracting Authority.

Any effort by the Tenderer to influence the Contracting Authority or their staff in the process of examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of Tenders and in decisions concerning the award of the contract may result in the rejection of that Tender.

6.10 Clarification of Tenders

The Contracting Authority is entitled, but not obliged, to seek clarification of tenders, including pricing breakdowns in the course of the evaluation process. No change in the price or substance of the Tender shall be sought, offered or permitted. To assist in finalising the tender evaluation, selected tenderers may be invited to attend clarification meetings with the Contracting Authority.

Tenderers will be responsible for any costs incurred by them in the event that they are required to attend clarification or other meetings or make a presentation of their proposals.

6.11 Correction of Errors

Detailed pricing of all tenders will be examined for errors that might alter the tender pricing as determined from the figures on the Form of Tender and electronic versions of the tender (if applicable). In general, the following approach will be applied to manifest errors - where there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total amount derived from the multiplication of the unit price and the quantity, the unit price as quoted will normally govern.

The amount stated in the tender form will be adjusted by the Contracting Authority in accordance with the above procedure and, with the agreement of the tenderer, shall be considered as binding upon the tenderer. Without prejudice to the above, a tenderer not accepting the correction of their tender as outlined may have their tender rejected.

Where the Total Quote function has been activated on eTenders and a discrepancy arises between the amount in the Total Quote box and the tender submission, the amount in the tender submission shall take precedence.

Once the tender submission deadline has expired, no new information can be introduced. This includes cost elements.

6.12 Change in the Composition of a Tenderer

Where a change in composition of a tenderer arises, this must be notified in writing to the Contracting Authority and formally approved by them. Where the original party to the tender was critical to the tenderer meeting some or all selection criteria, any replacement party must meet or exceed the same selection criteria standard.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right, but is not obliged, to disqualify any Tenderer that makes any change to its composition after submission of a Tender.

6.13 Interference and Inducement to Purchase

Any effort by the tenderer to unduly influence the Contracting Authority, relevant agency personnel or any other relevant persons or bodies in the process of examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of tenders and in decisions concerning the Award of Contract shall have their tender rejected. The presumptions (including as to any gift, consideration or advantage) and other provisions under the Criminal Justice Act 2018, and all other measures for the time being governing the subject-matter in any applicable jurisdiction, shall be applicable.

6.14 Conflict of Interest

Any conflict of interest involving a tenderer (or tenderers in the event of a consortium bid) must be fully disclosed to the Contracting Authority. Any registrable interest involving the tenderer and the Contracting Authority or employees of the Contracting Authority or their relatives must be fully disclosed in the tender submission or should be communicated to the Contracting Authority immediately upon such information becoming known to the tenderer, in the event of this information only coming to their notice after the submission of a bid and prior to the award of the contract. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest may disqualify a tenderer or invalidate an award of contract, depending on when the conflict of interest comes to light.

6.15 Publicity

Tenderers shall not undertake (or permit to be undertaken) at any time, whether at this stage or after the award of the contract, any publicity activity with any section of the media in relation to this tender/agreement other than with the prior written consent of the Contracting Authority. Such consent shall extend to the content of any publicity. For the purposes of this paragraph, the word “media” includes (but is not limited to) radio, television, newspapers, trade and specialist press, the Internet and email accessible by the public at large and the representatives of such media.

The Contracting Authority will have the right to publicise or otherwise disclose to any third-party information regarding this process and the agreement.

6.16 Right Not to Award

The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to accept the most economically advantageous tender or any tender. It also reserves the right to accept or reject in whole or in part any or all tenders received, and, in particular, to source the requirement with more than one provider.

The invitation to tender is issued in good faith; however, the Contracting Authority at its sole discretion shall not be obliged to award a contract or proceed to further stages in the procurement process and reserves the right to cancel the procurement process.

6.17 Notification of Tender Evaluations

All information regarding the evaluation process or potential outcomes shall remain confidential until after the conclusion of the tender process.

All tenderers will be informed of the outcome of their tenders following tender evaluation and any necessary clarifications.

Potential outcomes can be:

- Award of Contract
- Letter of Regret
- Decision not to proceed with the Award of Contract

6.18 Award Notices

Following the award of the contract, an award notice will be dispatched to eTenders announcing the results of the competition.

6.19 Policy on Personal Debriefings

Based on the provision of the information to unsuccessful tenderers as outlined above and due to resourcing constraints, the Contracting Authority will not be offering individual debriefing meetings to unsuccessful bidders.

6.20 Copyright

The Contracting Authority will have copyright ownership of any material developed for use by the Contracting Authority under the terms of this tender. The service provider may have a non-exclusive license to use such material but only for its own purposes (to be agreed with the successful tenderer).

6.21 Brand Names, etc.

Please note in relation to this tender document; where reference is made to a particular make, source, process, trademark, type or patent, that this is not to be regarded as a de facto requirement. In all such cases it should be understood that the reference in question is accompanied by the words "or equivalent".

6.22 Environmental Aspects

The Contracting Authority is committed to the principles of environmental management in its activities, and it encourages the implementation of sustainability principles in its procurement practices. Tenderers/contractors should make all reasonable efforts to minimise adverse environmental impact in the methods of service delivery and in materials used.

6.23 Knowledge and Skills Transfer

It will be a condition of the contract that opportunities for the transfer of skills and/or knowledge from the Tender/Tender's staff to the Contracting Authority staff will be availed of during the course of contracts awarded.

6.24 Currency and Payment

The currency in which all prices and rates shall be tendered, and which payments under the contract will be paid, shall be Euro (€). All prices and rates quoted should be exclusive of VAT, with the applicable rate of VAT clearly indicated.

A schedule of payments will be agreed with the successful tenderer and invoices shall be submitted in accordance with the terms agreed with the Contracting Authority.

6.25 Irish Legislation and Law

Tenderers should be aware that national legislation applies in other matters such as Employment, Working Hours, Official Secrets, Data Protection and Health and Safety. Tenderers must have regard to statutory terms relating to minimum pay and to legally binding industrial or sectoral agreements in the Contracting Authority tenders and in delivering contracts awarded to them. The contract(s) awarded on foot of this tender process will be governed by Irish law.

6.26 Anti-Competitive Conduct

Tenderers should take notice of the Competition Act 2002 (as amended, the "2002 Act"), which makes it a criminal offence for tenderers to collude on prices or any other aspects relating to this procurement competition.

6.27 Accessibility / Dignity at Work

The successful tenderer(s) shall comply with all relevant legislation relating to dignity at work. As a public body and employer, the Contracting Authority is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity for all personnel.

In line with the Disability Act 2005, accessibility requirements should be clearly stated in request for tenders / quotations where applicable. Under Section 27 of the Act the Contracting Authority is required to ensure that both the goods supplied, and services provided to it are accessible to persons with disabilities.

6.28 Withholding Tax

Where applicable, payments shall be subject to Irish 'Professional Services Withholding Tax' at the prevailing rate (currently at 20%) as laid down by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland. Non-residents may be able to reclaim such deducted Tax from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland, International Claims Section located currently at Government Buildings, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland (Tel: +353 (0) 67 63400).

6.29 Freedom of Information

All responses to this Request for Tender will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the tenderer except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the response or as may be required under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014, EU and Irish Government Procurement Procedures, or in response to questions, debates or other parliamentary procedures in or of the Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament).

Tenderers are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in response to this request for tenders should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity. However, any blanket or all-encompassing request for exemption from disclosure is not acceptable; tenderers must identify explicitly any such information and give relevant reasons for considering it to be economically sensitive or confidential in nature. If this is the case, tenderers should specify the information that is sensitive and the reasons for its sensitivity. The Contracting Authority cannot guarantee that any information provided by tenderers, either in response to this tender or in the course of any contract awarded as a result thereof, will not be released pursuant to the Contracting Authority's obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014, or to those under EU and Irish Government Procurement rules. The Contracting Authority accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any information provided which is subsequently released, or in respect of any consequential damage suffered as a result of such disclosure.

6.30 Late Payment

The Contracting Authority operates in accordance with EU Directive 2011/7/EU on combating Late Payment in commercial Transactions transposed into national legislation as S.I. 580 of 2012 and amended by S.I. No. 281 of 2016.

6.31 Data Protection

"Data Protection Laws" means all applicable national and EU data protection laws, regulations and guidelines including but not limited to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (the "General Data Protection Regulation"), the Data Protection Act, 2018 and any guidelines and codes of practice issued by the Data Protection Commission or other supervisory authority for data protection in Ireland from time to time.

The Contracting Authority will be a Controller (where Controller has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) in respect of any Personal Data (where Personal Data has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) required to be provided by the Tenderer in response to this Request for Tender.

The Tenderer, as Controller in respect of any Personal Data provided by it in its Tender, is required to confirm by way of statement in the “Declarations” section of the accompanying Tender Response Document that all Data Subjects (where Data Subject has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) whose Personal Data is provided by the Tenderer have consented to the processing of such Personal Data by the Tenderer, the Contracting Authority, the Evaluation Team and the supplier of the eTenders website, for the purposes of the participation of the Tenderer in this Competition or that the Tenderer otherwise has a legal basis for providing such Personal Data to the Contracting Authority for the purposes of its participation in this Competition.

6.32 Changes in Legislation

As a condition of award, it shall be the sole responsibility of the tenderer (in the event of success in this competition) to fulfil the obligations under the Contract.

6.33 International Procurement Instrument-IPI

The Contracting Authority would refer Tenderers in particular to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2022/1031 on the access of third country economic operators, goods and services to the Union’s public procurement and concession markets and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union economic operators, goods and services to the public procurement and concession markets of third countries (International Procurement Instrument – IPI), and to their obligation to comply therewith. In particular, tenderers and candidates should note in Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1031, the obligations for a Contracting Authority in the context of a procurement procedure where the EU Commission has adopted an IPI measure.

6.34 Responsibility of Successful Party

As a condition of award, it shall be the successful tenderer’s sole responsibility to ensure they have taken account of all obligations under the Contract including supply chain and related risk factors.