

Request for Tenders (RFT 290726)

Design and Delivery of an AI Upskilling Programme for Engineers

Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet RFT

Technology Ireland DIGITAL Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and network companies. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund and the European Union through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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1. Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet Overview

1.1 Who We Are

Established in 2010, Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet (“Digital Skillnet”) is the national training network for Ireland’s Digital Technology sector. Our mission is to strengthen workforce development, performance, and competitiveness through innovative, government-backed upskilling solutions. We support upskilling and reskilling initiatives aligned with Ireland’s national skills priorities, with a focus on digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), leadership capability, and organisational change. We support companies in all sectors to accelerate digital capacity, transformation and strategic innovation. Member companies include a combination of indigenous organisations and multinational foreign direct investment (FDI) firms.

The Network Sponsor is Technology Ireland, a federation within Ibec, the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (www.ibec.ie). Our upskilling initiatives are co-funded by the Government of Ireland, the European Union through the European Social Fund ESF+ and Network Companies.

Additional information is available on our website at <https://www.digitalskillnet.ie>

Details on our partners can be accessed at www.skillnetireland.ie

<https://www.ibec.ie> <https://www.ibec.ie/technologyireland>

2. Scope of Work

Artificial intelligence is changing how engineering teams design, develop, support and improve products and services. Organisations require engineers who can apply AI effectively within real engineering workflows while maintaining appropriate standards of quality, security, governance and responsible use.

Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet now seeks to appoint a suitably qualified provider to develop and deliver a scalable AI upskilling programme for engineers. The programme is intended for the wider enterprise market and must be adaptable to different employer contexts, technology environments and engineering practices.

The scope of the assignment comprises two linked phases:

1. The research, design and development of the programme; and
2. The rollout, evaluation and refinement of the programme through six pilot cohorts.

The programme will serve two learner pathways: software engineers and developers, and technical support engineers. It should combine relevant shared learning with differentiated, role-specific learning and practical application.

Tenderers are encouraged to bring their own methodology, pedagogical approach, programme architecture and technical expertise. Proposals will be assessed on the quality, coherence and feasibility of the approach rather than conformity to any particular format. Tenderers should clearly articulate the rationale for their proposed design and how it draws on their experience of comparable AI, engineering and workforce development programmes.

2.1 Programme Parameters

The following parameters are fixed and must be addressed in all proposals:

Parameter	Requirement
Programme development	Programme research, design and development will take place during September 2026.
Pilot delivery	Six pilot cohorts will be delivered between October 2026 and March 2027.
Participant cohort (approximations)	Approximately 25 participants per pilot cohort, representing approximately 150 participants overall.
Learner pathways	Three pilot cohorts for software engineers and developers, and three pilot cohorts for technical support engineers.
Programme structure and duration	Tenderers must propose the programme architecture, duration, number of training days, sequencing and cadence that they consider most effective.

Parameter	Requirement
Delivery mode	Blended delivery, combining online and onsite learning. Onsite locations will be agreed with participating member companies.
Applied learning	The programme must include substantial practical application relevant to the two learner pathways.
Applicable to Multiple Companies	The programme must remain adaptable across participating employers and must not depend on any single proprietary platform, internal system or employer-specific operating model. Proposals must specify how they accommodate a multi-company application of the programme.
Employer inputs	Participating Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet member companies will provide pilot participants, reasonable access to relevant subject-matter expertise and, where agreed, appropriate technical environments or representative materials.
Accreditation or certification	Responses should recommend an appropriate accreditation option and explain its feasibility, awarding body, timeframe and cost implications.
Total budget	

2.2 Required Programme Outcomes

All proposals must demonstrate how they will achieve the following outcomes. Tenderers have flexibility in how these are sequenced, grouped or embedded within their proposed delivery model:

Required Outcome	Applicable Audience	Status
A complete, scalable and transferable AI upskilling programme is developed for use across different employer and engineering contexts. Must be applicable to multiple companies	Programme development	Mandatory
The programme combines an appropriate shared foundation with differentiated learning for software engineers and developers and for technical support engineers. Must be applicable to multiple companies	All participants	Mandatory
Participants develop the ability to apply AI tools and techniques effectively within relevant engineering or technical support workflows.	All participants	Mandatory
Software engineers and developers develop practical capability to use AI across software development and to design or integrate AI-enabled solutions.	Software engineers and developers	Mandatory
Technical support engineers develop practical capability to use AI to support diagnosis, resolution, knowledge retrieval and effective escalation. Must be applicable to multiple companies	Technical support engineers	Mandatory
Participants understand and apply appropriate security, data protection, intellectual property, governance and responsible AI considerations.	All participants	Mandatory
Learning is applied through relevant practical exercises, challenges or projects. Must be applicable to multiple companies	All participants	Mandatory
The programme is evaluated through the pilots and revised to reflect evidence, participant feedback and employer input.	Programme development and pilot rollout	Mandatory

2.3 Illustrative Indicative Programme Outline (Sample)

The following is provided solely as an **illustrative example** of how a programme of this nature might be structured. It is not a specification and tenderers are not required to follow it. It is included to convey the intended combination of shared learning, differentiated learner pathways and practical application. Tenderers should treat this as context, not constraint, and are actively encouraged to propose an alternative structure where their approach and evidence base support doing so.

Proposals that demonstrate genuine innovation in programme design, blended learning, engineering application, cohort sequencing or outcome measurement are welcomed and will be assessed favourably under the Technical Quality criterion. Proposals must specify how they will accommodate a multi-company application of the programme.

Illustrative Programme Element	Applicable Audience
Shared foundations in AI-native engineering, model selection, context and effective use of enterprise AI tools	All participants

Illustrative Programme Element	Applicable Audience
Applied AI within software engineering and development workflows	Software engineers and developers
Applied AI within technical support, diagnosis and knowledge workflows	Technical support engineers
Security, governance and responsible AI in engineering contexts	All participants, differentiated by pathway
Applied workplace challenge, project or capstone	Both pathways
Assessment, evaluation and programme refinement	Both pathways and participating employers

2.4 Platform and Tooling

Tenderers must demonstrate practical experience with relevant enterprise AI development tools and propose an appropriate toolset for the programme. Tool selection must be justified by the learning outcomes and the needs of each learner pathway.

The programme must **remain adaptable across participating employers** and must not depend on any single proprietary platform, internal system or employer-specific operating model. **Proposals must specify how they accommodate a multi-company application of the programme.** Where employer systems, tools or materials are used during a pilot, their use will be agreed in advance and will be subject to applicable security, confidentiality, data protection and access requirements.

3. Eligibility and Qualification Criteria

To be considered eligible, all tenderers must satisfy the following mandatory criteria at the time of submission. Failure to demonstrate compliance with any mandatory criterion will result in exclusion from further evaluation.

3.1 Mandatory Criteria

1. The tenderer must hold a current Tax Clearance Certificate issued by the Irish Revenue Commissioners (or equivalent authority for non-Irish entities).
2. The tenderer must be fully tax compliant and in good standing with all statutory obligations in its country of establishment.
3. The tenderer must not be subject to any of the exclusion grounds set out in Regulation 57 of SI 286 of 2016 (European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016).
4. Where the tenderer is a consortium or joint venture, all parties must satisfy the exclusion ground requirements.

3.2 Technical and Professional Capacity

Tenderers must demonstrate the following minimum technical capacity:

- A minimum of two completed AI training, engineering upskilling or workforce development assignments delivered to corporate clients within the last three years. At least one example must include the design or substantial adaptation of a programme and subsequent delivery. Case studies or client references must be provided.
- At least one named lead technical trainer with demonstrable applied expertise in AI engineering and relevant enterprise AI development tools.
- Access to appropriate programme design, technical training and project management expertise to complete both phases of the assignment within the required timeframe.
- Demonstrable experience delivering advanced technical learning for software engineering or development audiences and for technical support or comparable technical audiences.
- Experience of working within a Skillnet Ireland or other state-subsidised training funding framework is desirable but not mandatory.

4. Evaluation Criteria

Tenders will be evaluated on a Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) basis. The following weighted criteria will be applied:

Criterion	Weight (%)	Sub-criteria summary
Technical Quality – Programme Development, Design and Pilot Approach	35%	Development methodology; alignment to scope and outcomes; learner pathways; applied design and refinement approach
Team Competence and Technical Expertise	25%	Lead technical expertise; programme design and pedagogical expertise; team CVs and capacity
Relevant Experience and Track Record	20%	Comparable case studies; references; enterprise and co-funded programme experience
Price / Value for Money	15%	Cost breakdown; day/session rates; overall value
Measurement and Reporting Methodology	5%	KPIs; assessment and evaluation approach; Skillnet reporting compliance
TOTAL	100%	

4.1 Evaluation Scorecard

Score	Rating	Description
0	Unacceptable	No response provided or response fails entirely to address the criterion.
1–2	Poor	Significant gaps or deficiencies; limited confidence the requirement will be met.
3–4	Acceptable	Meets minimum requirements; some weaknesses present.
5–6	Good	Clearly meets requirements with satisfactory supporting evidence.
7–8	Very Good	Exceeds requirements in some respects; strong evidence and clear differentiation.
9–10	Excellent	Fully exceeds requirements; exceptional evidence and innovation; no weaknesses identified.

4.2 Measurement Methodology

Tenderers must include a clear and proportionate methodology for measuring programme development quality and pilot effectiveness. The methodology should include:

- Readiness and quality of the programme and materials developed;
- Six pilot cohorts delivered, comprising approximately 90 trainees overall;
- Delivery of the agreed number of training days;
- Participant registration, attendance and completion;
- Learner capability before and after the programme;
- Participant and employer feedback on programme quality and relevance;
- Evidence of practical application and workplace relevance; and
- Evidence-based recommendations and refinements following the pilot rollout.

5. Programme Governance and Reporting

5.1 Reporting Requirements

As this programme is co-funded by Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet, the successful tenderer will be required to:

- Register all participants for each training session
- Collect and act on learner feedback
- Provide progress updates during programme development and pilot delivery
- Provide a post-pilot evaluation report including participant feedback, learning outcomes achieved and completion rates
- Comply with Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet requirements, including branding, data protection, reporting and audit readiness.

5.2 Programme Management

The provider must nominate a named Programme Manager who will serve as the primary point of contact throughout the contract. The Programme Manager must be available for a monthly progress call with Digital Skillnet and for an interim and final programme review.

The programme development phase will be subject to review and approval by Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet before pilot delivery commences.

5.3 Deliverables

The following deliverables are required as a minimum:

Phase 1 – Programme Development

1. An inception and discovery plan, including the proposed approach to engagement with Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet and participating member companies.
2. A complete programme architecture and curriculum for the two learner pathways, including programme and module learning outcomes, proposed duration and delivery model.
3. Detailed facilitator and participant materials, practical exercises and assessment resources in editable format.
4. A programme assessment, measurement and evaluation framework.
5. A detailed pilot delivery plan, including proposed dates, facilitator assignments, participant communications, technical requirements and risk management.

Phase 2 – Pilot Rollout, Evaluation and Refinement

1. Delivery of six pilot cohorts, comprising three cohorts for software engineers and developers and three cohorts for technical support engineers, with approximately 15 participants per cohort.
2. Participant registration, attendance, feedback, assessment and completion records for each pilot cohort.
3. Certificates of completion issued to participants who satisfy the agreed attendance and assessment requirements.
4. A post-pilot evaluation report addressing the agreed KPIs, learning outcomes, participant and employer feedback and recommendations for improvement.
5. A revised final programme, including all curriculum, facilitator and participant materials and a final handover report, reflecting the findings of the pilot rollout.

6. Tender Submission Requirements

Tender submission (soft copy only) must be submitted through the eTenders website.

The deadline for receipt of tenders is **17:00 on Friday 26th August 2026**. Late tenders will not be accepted.

Digital Skillnet may shortlist Tenderers for interview based on the written tender before making a final decision on contract award.

6.1 Required Documents

In submitting the proposal, Tenderers must respect all instructions, forms and terms and conditions contained in this RFT. Failure to submit all the required information within the specified deadline may lead to rejection of the tender.

Tenderers must observe the following:

6.2 General Information

Tenderers shall provide the following general information:

- Company name and address
- Company registration number (CRO)
- Name of the contact person
- Telephone number and email address of the contact person
- A brief summary/overview of the company (not brochures or PowerPoint presentations).

6.3 Pricing

Tenderers shall complete the Pricing Schedule provided in Appendix 1 clearly indicating the cost of each individual element outlined, priced inclusive of all fees, and, where applicable additional charges, necessary for completion of the assignment.

6.4 Tender Validity

Tenderers shall indicate the tender validity period, i.e., the period for which the quoted prices are valid – Appendix 2.

6.5 Method Statement

In the method statement, Tenderers shall outline the proposed approach and methodology to the delivery of the project, outlining proposed project stages. The method statement must address both programme development and pilot rollout, evaluation and refinement.

Tenderers should explain the rationale for their proposed programme architecture, duration, learning methodology, learner pathway design, technology approach, applied learning model, accreditation or certification recommendation and approach to collaboration with participating member companies.

6.6 Experience of the Organisation

Tenderers shall provide information on their organisation, outlining details including:

- Please make a statement (preferably no more than two pages) confirming that your organisation has the capacity, relevant experience, expertise, competency, staffing and quality systems required. Please include team structure, expertise and CVs of key personnel, together with evidence of relevant AI engineering, enterprise AI tooling, programme development and technical training expertise.
- List at least two organisations that Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet may contact for reference checking. The services provided should be similar to that being proposed and have been undertaken within the last three years.

6.7 Project Plan and Timeline

- A realistic timeline with clear milestones for programme development, review and approval, pilot preparation, pilot delivery, evaluation, refinement and final handover.
- Defined responsibilities and roles.
- Risk Assessment
- Capacity for collaboration and responsiveness.

6.8 Tender Queries

Every effort has been made to ensure that this RFT contains all the necessary information for completion of tender. However, in the interest of equity for all Tenderers, requests for additional information, clarification on the contents of this RFT and all other

queries of substance (other than those relating to purely factual or procedural matters) must be submitted via the eTenders website by 17:00 on Wednesday 19 August 2026. Responses to all queries received regarding this tender will be made available to all interested parties.

7. Duration of Contract

The contract duration will be for 12 months, with Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet reserving the right to extend the contract for a further 12 months, subject to satisfactory performance, funding availability and strategic fit. Any extension may include the delivery of additional cohorts, but will not create any obligation on Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet to commission additional services.

8. Pricing and Funding

Tenderers must provide:

- A clear, fixed pricing model covering all costs associated with design, delivery, assessment, awarding, marketing, evaluation and reporting
- Transparent cost breakdowns aligned with the Pricing Schedule (**Appendix 1**)
- Tender validity period must be outlined (**Appendix 2**).

Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet is not obliged to award the contract to the lowest-priced tender.

9. Award Criteria Assessment Framework

Criterion 1 – Technical Quality: Programme Development, Design and Pilot Approach – Maximum 35 marks

Sub-criterion	Marks	Weak 0–3	Adequate 4–5	Strong 6–7	Excellent 8–10
1a. Programme development methodology. Does the proposal present a clear, practical and evidence-based approach to discovery, programme development, validation and approval within the required timeframe?	10	Vague or generic approach; development activity is not clearly explained; limited evidence of employer or learner needs being considered.	Basic development process presented; key stages identified but limited detail on validation, collaboration or decision-making.	Clear, well-structured development methodology; appropriate engagement, validation and approval stages; credible within the timeframe.	Highly compelling and evidence-based development approach; excellent integration of technical, employer and learner inputs; clear quality controls and decision points; evaluators are confident that a market-ready programme will be produced.
1b. Alignment to required outcomes and programme coherence. Does the proposed programme present a logical design and credibly explain how all mandatory outcomes will be achieved?	10	Mandatory outcomes not addressed or only partially acknowledged; significant gaps; no credible mapping from design to outcomes.	Most outcomes referenced; basic programme structure and rationale provided; some gaps or inconsistencies.	All mandatory outcomes addressed through a coherent programme; clear rationale, sequencing and mapping to learning outcomes.	All outcomes addressed through a highly coherent and differentiated design; strong rationale grounded in evidence or prior delivery; assessment and workplace application are integrated throughout.
1c. Learner pathway differentiation and applied learning. Does the proposal meaningfully address both learner pathways and provide relevant practical application?	8	One-size-fits-all approach; little meaningful distinction between the two learner groups; practical application absent or superficial.	Both pathways acknowledged; some differentiated content or activity; applied learning included but underdeveloped.	Clear shared and differentiated elements; appropriate depth, practical work and assessment for each pathway.	Sophisticated pathway design with highly relevant role-specific learning, authentic applied challenges and clear links to participant work contexts.
1d. Pilot delivery, evaluation, refinement and pedagogical quality. Does the proposal provide a strong approach to blended pilot delivery and	7	Pilot delivery approach is generic or impractical; limited learner support; evaluation	Workable delivery outline; some learner support and evaluation; limited explanation of how	Clear blended delivery model; appropriate facilitation and learner support; structured	Excellent pilot methodology, learner experience and quality assurance; innovative but practical delivery; systematic use of evidence and employer feedback to

Sub-criterion	Marks	Weak 0–3	Adequate 4–5	Strong 6–7	Excellent 8–10
evidence-based programme refinement?		and refinement absent or superficial.	findings will inform refinement.	evaluation and credible refinement process.	produce a robust final programme.

Criterion 2 – Team Competence and Technical Expertise – Maximum 25 marks

Sub-criterion	Marks	Weak 0–3	Adequate 4–5	Strong 6–7	Excellent 8–10
2a. Lead technical trainer credentials and applied AI engineering expertise. Does the named lead demonstrate the technical depth and relevant training experience required?	10	Minimum relevant experience is asserted but evidence is limited; CV is generic; limited applied AI engineering or enterprise tooling experience.	Adequate applied AI and technical training background; some relevant engineering delivery experience described.	Strong applied AI engineering expertise; relevant experience with enterprise AI development tools and delivery to engineering audiences; supporting evidence is clear.	Exceptional and current technical profile; recognised applied expertise; consistent delivery of comparable or more complex engineering programmes; evaluators have complete confidence in the lead.
2b. Programme design and pedagogical expertise. Does the team demonstrate the ability to convert technical subject matter into an effective, scalable workforce programme?	10	Limited programme design expertise; proposed roles or credentials do not inspire confidence; no evidence of designing advanced technical learning.	Appropriate learning design experience; some evidence of relevant technical programme design; responsibilities broadly described.	Strong programme design and adult learning expertise; clear record of producing applied technical programmes; roles and integration with technical experts are well defined.	Exceptional combination of technical curriculum design, workforce development and learning innovation; strong evidence of scalable programmes achieving measurable outcomes.
2c. Team depth, bench strength and contingency. Is the full team adequately resourced, and is there a credible contingency plan?	5	Only one key person named; no contingency plan or bench identified; single point of failure.	Core team named; roles broadly described; contingency referenced but not credibly planned.	Full team identified with clear roles and responsibilities; realistic capacity and contingency plan; back-up resources have relevant credentials.	Deep bench of appropriately qualified personnel; detailed and credible contingency arrangements; evidence that the team has successfully delivered together under comparable timelines.

Criterion 3 – Relevant Experience and Track Record – Maximum 20 marks

Sub-criterion	Marks	Weak 0–3	Adequate 4–5	Strong 6–7	Excellent 8–10
3a. Quality and relevance of case studies. Do the submitted case studies demonstrate successful design and delivery of comparable AI, engineering upskilling or workforce programmes with verifiable outcomes?	9	Case studies provided but weak relevance; limited programme design or AI engineering specificity; no outcome evidence; references not provided.	Two broadly comparable examples; outcome data limited or only partially verifiable; client contacts provided.	Two strong case studies with clear parallels in programme design, technical complexity, employer context or pilot delivery; outcomes and references provided.	Programmes of comparable or greater complexity with detailed, independently verifiable outcomes; strong evidence of design, technical delivery, refinement and workplace impact; references proactively offered.
3b. Relevant audience and enterprise delivery experience. Has the tenderer successfully delivered advanced learning for relevant engineering and technical	6	Experience is limited to one audience or introductory AI training; little evidence	Some relevant technical audience and enterprise experience; limited explanation of how content was	Clear evidence of successful delivery to relevant software engineering/development and technical support or comparable	Multiple strong examples across both learner types; sophisticated audience differentiation; compelling evidence of

Sub-criterion	Marks	Weak 0–3	Adequate 4–5	Strong 6–7	Excellent 8–10
support audiences using enterprise AI tools?		of enterprise tooling or applied delivery.	differentiated or applied.	audiences; enterprise tools and applied methods are well evidenced.	advanced technical application and measurable learner outcomes.
3c. Skillnet Ireland, co-funded or public-sector training experience. Has the tenderer directly delivered training under a Skillnet Ireland network or equivalent co-funded public programme?	5	No relevant experience; no awareness of co-funded programme compliance requirements.	General awareness of co-funded requirements; limited or no direct Skillnet Ireland experience; willingness to comply stated but not demonstrated.	Direct Skillnet Ireland or equivalent co-funded programme experience; familiarity with reporting, attendance and audit requirements evident.	Extensive Skillnet Ireland programme delivery experience; strong compliance and reporting track record; evidence of clean audit history.

Criterion 4 – Price and Value for Money – Maximum 15 marks

Sub-criterion	Marks	Weak 0–3	Adequate 4–5	Strong 6–7	Excellent 8–10
4a. Completeness and transparency of cost breakdown. Does the Commercial Proposal use the Appendix 1 template fully, with all cost categories itemised and a per-component breakdown provided?	5	Incomplete breakdown; missing cost categories; lump-sum pricing with no visibility of component costs; Appendix 1 template not used.	Basic breakdown provided; some categories insufficiently itemised; per-component breakdown absent or incomplete.	Clear itemisation using the Appendix 1 template; all cost categories addressed; development and pilot delivery costs separated.	Exemplary cost transparency; all costs fully itemised with day rates, unit counts and subtotals; cost drivers explained; straightforward to audit and compare.
4b. Price competitiveness (formula-based).	5	Score below 4 on the formula (price significantly above lowest compliant bid).	Score of 4–5 on the formula.	Score of 6–7 on the formula.	Score of 8–10 on the formula (price at or very close to lowest compliant bid).
4c. Value for money – investment relative to proposed outcomes. Is the proposed cost proportionate to the quality and ambition of the programme?	5	Cost is not justified by the programme proposed; superficial programme at a high price point, or high cost relative to comparable market offerings.	Broadly proportionate; limited evidence that higher-cost elements deliver superior outcomes.	Good balance of cost and programme quality; investment in quality areas is evident and justified.	Compelling overall value proposition; where cost is higher than competitors, the additional investment is clearly justified by superior programme design, demonstrable outcomes or meaningful innovation.

Criterion 5 – Measurement and Reporting Methodology – Maximum 5 marks

Sub-criterion	Marks	Weak 0–3	Adequate 4–5	Strong 6–7	Excellent 8–10
5a. Assessment, measurement and evaluation framework. Has the tenderer proposed a clear and practical methodology for assessing learner capability, programme quality, workplace relevance and pilot-driven refinement?	3	Vague or absent methodology; KPIs acknowledged but no credible baseline, assessment, feedback or refinement approach.	Basic framework referenced; key measures acknowledged but methodology is underdeveloped or relies heavily on the Contracting Authority to design it.	Clear, practical methodology; appropriate baseline and post-programme assessment; participant and employer feedback; data collection and refinement process described.	Sophisticated, credible and proportionate methodology; pathway-specific assessment; clear data collection and reporting plan; strong evidence from comparable programmes; framework could be implemented without significant modification.
5b. Skillnet reporting and compliance plan. Has the tenderer demonstrated understanding of Skillnet reporting requirements and proposed a workable compliance plan?	2	No reference to Skillnet reporting requirements; no awareness of attendance or evaluation obligations.	Acknowledges requirements; limited detail on how compliance will be maintained in practice.	Clear plan for attendance tracking and record retention; familiarity with Skillnet processes evident from	Detailed compliance plan with named responsibility, systems, timelines and contingency; prior Skillnet compliance

Sub-criterion	Marks	Weak 0–3	Adequate 4–5	Strong 6–7	Excellent 8–10
				prior experience or research.	track record evidenced.

Notes

1. Digital Skillnet may shortlist Tenderers for interview based on the written tender before making a final decision on contract award. Specific dates and times may be advised in due course.
2. Digital Skillnet is not obliged to accept the lowest priced tender, any tender, or any tender in its entirety.
3. Digital Skillnet may conclude, following the evaluation of tenders, not to proceed or to proceed with a limited number of elements of the proposal. Digital Skillnet also reserves the right to republish this request for tender.
4. Information supplied by Tenderers will be treated as contractually binding. However, Digital Skillnet reserves the right to seek clarification or verification of any such information.
5. The successful Tenderer(s) will only use consultants identified within the tender, unless otherwise agreed in writing with Digital Skillnet.

10. Ineligibility Under EU Rules

Tenderers, to whom any of the circumstances listed in paragraph 1 of Article 20 of EU Council Directive 93/36/EEC (coordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts) apply, will be excluded from this competition (broadly, these circumstances are bankruptcy, professional misconduct, and failure to pay taxes or social security contributions.)

11. Terms and Conditions

11.1 Pricing

All prices quoted must be fixed and all-inclusive (i.e. including but not being limited to costs and expenses associated with the delivery of the Services), be expressed in Euro only and exclusive of VAT. The applicable VAT should be indicated separately.

Payments for the Services provided throughout the Contract Term shall be made within 40 days of receipt by the Network of a valid invoice.

The invoices in respect of the assignment shall be submitted on completion of milestones, which shall be agreed between Digital Skillnet and the Successful Tenderer.

The invoices in respect of additional services (if any) shall be based on the fees quoted in the relevant Proposal (as accepted by Digital Skillnet) and will be submitted on completion of the services, unless agreed otherwise between the parties.

Tenderers must confirm (in the Statement furnished at Appendix 2) that all prices quoted in the Tender will remain valid for six months commencing from the Tender Submission Deadline ("Tender Validity Period").

11.2 Provision of a valid Tax Clearance Certificate or declaration

Tenderers have fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of taxes under the law or of the relevant State in which the economic operator is established will be a pre-condition for payment.

11.3 Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

Digital Skillnet requires that all information provided pursuant to this invitation to tender be treated in strict confidence by Tenderers. The successful Tenderer shall be required to comply with Digital Skillnet confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements and to comply with all applicable Irish legislation relating to the processing of personal data. The successful Tenderer shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Data Protection Laws, take all reasonable precautions to preserve the integrity of any Personal Data which it processes, prevent any corruption or loss of such Personal Data, and ensure that all personnel who have access to and/or process Personal Data are obliged to keep the Personal Data confidential.

All documentation, data, statistics, drawings, information, patterns, samples or material disclosed or furnished by Digital Skillnet to Tenderers during the course of this Competition:

- a. are furnished for the sole purpose of replying to this RFT.
- b. may not be used, communicated, reproduced or published for any other purpose without the prior written permission of Digital Skillnet.
- c. shall be treated as confidential by the Tenderer and by any third parties (including subcontractors) engaged or consulted by the Tenderer. and
- d. must be returned immediately to Digital Skillnet upon cancellation or completion of this Competition if so requested by the Digital Skillnet.

The Supplier(s) shall be required to hold confidential all information, documentation and other material received, provided, or obtained arising from their participation in this Competition or in respect of this tender and shall not disclose same to any third party except to its professional advisers as necessary for the delivery of the Services.

11.4 Intellectual Property

In the event of being successful in this tender, please note that title rights, copyright and any other intellectual property or other interest whatsoever in material collected or produced in connection with the above assignments, including the bespoke curriculum, programme materials, assessment resources, pilot outputs, evaluation outputs and final refined programme, shall be vested in Digital Skillnet and you will hereby irrevocably and unconditionally waive in favour of Digital Skillnet any and all moral rights conferred on you by the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 (and any amendments or re-enactments thereto) in respect of such material.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, intellectual property demonstrably owned by the successful Tenderer prior to commencement of the assignment shall remain the property of the successful Tenderer. To the extent that any such pre-existing intellectual property is incorporated into or is necessary to use, deliver, reproduce, modify or further develop the programme or any deliverable, the successful Tenderer shall grant Digital Skillnet a perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free, transferable and sub-licensable licence to use, reproduce, adapt, modify, distribute and further develop that pre-existing intellectual property for the purposes of using, delivering and developing the programme and associated materials.

11.5 Freedom of Information Act 2014 (the Act).

Digital Skillnet will endeavour to hold confidential any information provided in this tender, subject to its obligations under law, including the Act. Should the Tenderer wish that any of the information supplied in this tender not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, the Tenderer should, when providing the information, identify the sensitive information and specify the reason for its sensitivity. Digital Skillnet will consult with the Tenderer about this sensitive information before deciding on any Freedom of Information request received. If third parties request information pursuant to the Act, unless this information has been identified as being sensitive, with supporting reasons, then it is likely to be released in response to a Freedom of Information request.

11.6 Conflicts-of-Interest

Any potential conflicts-of-interest involving a Tenderer must be fully disclosed to Digital Skillnet. Failure to disclose a conflicts-of-interest and/or potential conflicts-of-interest may disqualify a Tenderer or invalidate an award of contract, depending on when the conflicts-of-interest comes to light.

11.7 Right of Cancellation

The award of a tender does not give rise to any enforceable rights by the successful Tenderer. Digital Skillnet may cancel the tender process at any time, prior to a contract being entered into.

11.8 No Additional Fees or Costs

No additional fees or costs, other than those quoted by the Tenderer in the Pricing Schedule in Appendix 1 will be paid and any additional fees or costs will be borne by the Tenderer themselves. Digital Skillnet will not be liable in respect of any costs incurred by Tenderers in the preparation of tenders, or any associated work effort.

11.9 Insurance

Tenderers will be required to demonstrate that an appropriate level of Professional Indemnity Insurance is in place prior to any contract being agreed pursuant to this request for tenders.

11.10 Media

No media releases, public announcements or public disclosures relating to this Agreement or its subject matter, including but not limited to promotional or marketing material, shall be made by the Contractor without the prior written consent of the Client.

11.11 Tendering Costs

All costs and expenses incurred by Tenderers relating to their participation in this Competition, including but not being limited to demonstrations and/or presentations, shall be borne by and are a matter for discharge by the Tenderers exclusively.

Appendix 1 – Pricing Schedule

Programme Design *

Design	No of Days Effort	Cost Per Day € (Ex VAT)		Other Costs	Total € (Inc VAT)
Insert Item as Required					
Insert Item as Required					
Insert Item as Required					
Insert Item as Required					
Insert Item as Required					
Accreditation	No of Days Effort	Cost Per Day € (Ex VAT)	Specify Accreditation Type / Awarding Body	Other Costs	Total € (Inc VAT)
Insert Item as Required					
Insert Item as Required					
Insert Item as Required					

* **Indicative cost:** €70,000 – €90,000 inc VAT

Rollout of Pilot Programmes *

Design	No of Days	Cost Per Day € (Ex VAT)	Other Costs	Total € (Inc VAT)
Insert Item as Required				
Insert Item as Required				
Insert Item as Required				
Insert Item as Required				

* **Indicative cost per individual unit of cohort delivery** : €35,000 –€45,000 (inc VAT)

Appendix 2 – Tender Validity

I,, confirm that the prices quoted are valid for a period of

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 3 – Declaration

[Tenderers shall complete and return the following form of Tenderers' Statement printed on the Tenderers' headed notepaper and signed by the Tenderer.]

Tenderers' Statement

TO: Ibec - Technology Ireland Digital Skillnet (the "Contracting Authority")

Having examined your Request for Tenders (the "RFT") including the Instructions to Tenderers, the Selection and Award Criteria, the Requirements and Specifications, and the Terms and Conditions of the Services Contract, we hereby agree and declare the following:

1. We understand the nature and extent of the Services required to be delivered as described in Specification of Requirements at Appendix 1 to the RFT.
2. We accept all of the Terms and Conditions of the RFT and agree if awarded a Services Contract to execute the Contract.
3. We accept all the Selection and Award Criteria as set out in the RFT.
4. We agree to provide the Contracting Authority with the Services in accordance with the RFT and our Tender.

We agree that, if awarded any Contract, we shall, in the performance of such contract, comply with all applicable obligations in the field of environmental, social and labour law.

5. We confirm that we have complied with all requirements set out in the RFT.
6. We confirm that all prices quoted in our Tender will remain valid for 6 months commencing from the Tender Deadline.
7. We shall, if awarded any Services Contract under the RFT, have in place on the Effective Date of the Services Contract all insurances (if any) as required by the RFT.
8. We confirm that all Data Subjects whose Personal Data is provided in our Tender have consented to the processing of such Personal Data by us, the Contracting Authority, the Evaluation Team and the supplier of the etenders.gov.ie website, for the purposes of our participation in this Competition or that we otherwise have a legal basis for providing such Personal Data to the Contracting Authority for the purposes of our participation in this Competition and that we will provide evidence of such consent and / or legal basis to the Contracting Authority upon request.
9. We do not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).
10. The origin of goods connected to our Tender, if any, are not subject to the prohibitions set out in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).
11. The subcontractor(s) on whose capacity we rely as part of our Tender (where the value of that subcontract exceeds 10% of the value of the Services Contract) does not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same).

SIGNED: _____

Authorised Signatory: _____

Print name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____