



Schedule of Clarifications

Provision of Training and Learning Development Programme Services

Tender Procedure: Light Touch Regime

CfT ID: 8725336

Clarifications – Tranche 5

Issued on 07 August 2026

Msg ID	Query	DMI Position/Response
746136	Can you confirm if there is an incumbent in place for this service?	There is currently an incumbent in place.
746576	With regard to the RFT for the Provision of Training and Learning Development Programme Services issued 27.07.26, would the Contracting Authority be able to adjust the annual turnover requirement to a more proportionate amount to enable SME participation in the competition?	The Contracting Authority is prepared to adjust the turnover requirements as set out at Section 3.2.A of the RFT to the following Tenderers must confirm (by way of a self-declaration) that either: (i) the average annual turnover of the Tenderer in each of the last three completed financial years is equal to or exceeds €180,000 (excl. VAT); or (ii) the Tenderer has achieved a cumulative turnover of at least €540,000 (excl. VAT) across the last three completed financial years. Where the Tenderer has been established for less than three financial years, it must demonstrate either: (i) an average annual turnover of at least €180,000 (excl. VAT) for each completed financial year during which it has been established; or (ii) a cumulative turnover equivalent to €180,000 (excl. VAT) multiplied by the number of completed financial years during which it has been established. The successful Tenderer shall, upon request by the Contracting Authority, provide appropriate documentary evidence in support of the above requirement in a form that is acceptable to the Contracting Authority.
747460		The Contracting Authority acknowledges the Tenderer's observation. The references to "cleaning services" contained within the Request for Tender (RFT) documentation and the Tender Response Template (TRT) are typographical errors. The RFT and the TRT have now been amended to correct these references. Tenderers are requested to disregard any references to "cleaning services" in the original documentation and instead read them as references to the services the subject of this procurement competition. The original RFT and TRT have been withdrawn and an amended RFT and TRT are issued with this clarification and supersede the previously issued versions.

		Tenderers should ensure that their tender submissions are prepared using the revised documentation.
	Is your Learning Platform capable of delivering the requirements or is one of the requirements to develop a platform or upgrade what you already have?	DMI has an existing learning-delivery platform, the Manufacturing Skills Platform (MSP). This RFT does not require the Contractor to build or upgrade a platform. The scope is limited to learning design, content development, skills-pathway development and related advisory/consultancy services (see Appendix 1, Section 3). Under Appendix 1, Section 6(v) Interoperability and hosting, deliverables must be provided in formats compatible with DMI's existing learning-delivery and hosting platforms, and in editable source formats, so that content can be maintained and integrated without dependence on any single provider's proprietary tools. Tenderers should therefore price and scope their response on the basis of producing platform-agnostic, interoperable content for deployment on DMI's existing platform(s), rather than platform build or development.
	Do you expect independent certification for the Yellow and Green Belt training and if so, do you have certification yourselves for Yellow and Green Belt Training or do you need the supplier to provide this?	DMI does not currently require independent third-party certification of the Yellow Belt or Green Belt programmes as a condition of this Contract. The requirement is for the successful Tenderer to design and finalise these programmes (in fully online and work-integrated formats as applicable) to a launch-ready standard, as set out in Appendix 1, Work Package 2. If a Tenderer wishes to propose an accreditation or certification pathway (its own or via a third party) as part of its methodology, this may be described in their response to the award criterion Approach & Methodology to Service Delivery.
748814	Can we please request an extension to allow us more time to create a full proposal response – requesting to extend to 17th August.	Original Response: The Contracting Authority is not in a position to accede to a request for an extension. Tenderers are advised this procurement process is being conducted under Regulation 74 of the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016, the Light Touch Regime. Updated Response: In light of the volume and nature of queries received from economic operators, the Contracting Authority is prepared to extend the deadline for receipt of Tenders to 17 August 2026 at 12:00 (noon). For the avoidance of doubt, a revised RFT reflecting this correction is issued with this tranche of response.

750206	Regarding Work Integrated Upskilling and industry engagement you state a requirement is: Provision of industry feedback on two automation programme proposals, with revision and development support as required. Can you please clarify what you mean by this? Have two automation programme proposals been developed or have they to be developed? If the requirement is to develop them please provide an objective and deliverables for each. Can you also clarify what you mean by revision and development support? Is this revision and development of the automation proposals based on the industry feedback gathered? If this is not the requirement can you please give further detail on what this requirement entails.	Two automation programme proposals have already been developed by DMI. These are separate from the two blended skills courses referenced later in Work Package 3, which specifically address (i) optimising equipment performance and (ii) using IIoT data to inform decisions and capture critical equipment data. The requirement under this RFT is for the Contractor to provide industry review and feedback on the two existing automation programme proposals (i.e. expert input from an industry perspective on their commercial, technical or market viability) and, following that review, to provide revision and development support to progress the proposals in line with the feedback gathered. Tenderers should note that this requirement relates to review and refinement of existing proposals, not the origination of new automation programme proposals.
750213	With respect to Work Package 1, can you provide the estimated number of pathways and the learning duration of each pathway required, i.e. transversal skills, digital manufacturing and AI literacy For Work Package 3, what is the nature of the 2 automation programme proposals - what documentation is available to review; what is the expected duration of each of the two blended skills courses. With respect to the two courses, has industry needs research already been carried out and, if so, is this available to the provider? For Work Package 4, please clarify what is required for the expansion of the openly accessible catalogue. If it is addition of courses, please quantify the number of courses expected to be added over the duration of the contract and if there are any expectations around the duration of the additional courses. Are there any courses ready for integration with the platform? If so, how many and of what learning duration are they? And what level of integration has to be delivered? How many new courses, of what learning duration do you expect to be delivered within the terms of the contract?	<u>WP 1: Pathway Numbers and Durations</u> The RFT does not fix the number or duration of pathways in advance. Section 5 (Indicative Volume) confirms the requirement is delivered on a time-and-material basis, with the mix and prioritisation of deliverables agreed and re-prioritised over the Term against the indicative 75 consultant days per month set out in Appendix 1, Section 5. Rather than a fixed schedule of pathways set in advance, the volume and sequencing of pathways across each category (transversal skills, digital manufacturing and AI literacy) will be managed through ongoing communication and delivery planning between DMI and the Contractor over the Term, in line with Appendix 1, Section 6(vii) (Governance and Reporting). For planning purposes, DMI's typical micro-learning pathway comprises between 8 and 14 micro-modules. DMI is also developing longer-form programmes with different scope and structure alongside these pathways, so tenderers should expect a mix of pathway lengths and formats to be prioritised over the Term rather than a single standard pathway size. <u>WP 3: Automation Proposals and Blended Courses</u> The two automation programme proposals vary in nature and have been designed by DMI's subject-matter experts. Documentation for both proposals will be shared with the successful Contractor and will be further developed collaboratively with them following appointment.

		DMI is aiming to have both the automation programmes and the two blended skills courses up and running within the next 6–13 months. Durations vary across these programmes, and the successful Contractor will have the ability to influence the final duration and structure of each as part of the collaborative development process. Some industry needs research has already been gathered for the two blended skills courses, with further research still to be carried out. This research will be shared with the successful Contractor. <u>WP4: Open Access Resource Hub Expansion</u> Expansion of the Open Access Resource Hub is intended to ensure that new, relevant resources are identified, categorised and added to the catalogue on an ongoing basis over the Term, rather than being confined to the addition of formal courses. The number and duration of resources added will depend on the availability of relevant manufacturing content over the Term, and is not fixed in advance. Resources ready for integration are not necessarily courses in that they may include a range of resource types identified as suitable for inclusion. The level of integration required is limited to metadata/listing and categorisation (library-type work) rather than full platform hosting or content redevelopment.
750232	RFT §1.4 and §1.5 provide for an initial term of 24 months with a maximum of one extension of up to one year. The contract notice states an estimated duration of 36 months. Clause 5 of the draft Services Contract provides for extensions of up to 12 months with a maximum of two such extensions. Please confirm the initial term and the maximum number and length of extensions.	The initial term will be for a period of 24 months with a maximum of one extension of up to one year. This will be amended in the Services Contract that will be executed with the successful Tenderer
	RFT §1.6 states an estimated expenditure of €1,485,000 (excl. VAT) over the Term and any possible extensions. The Pricing Schedule computes the Total Contract Price over 75 indicative days per month for 24 contract months, being 1,800 days. Please confirm whether the €1,485,000 estimate relates to the 24-month initial term only, or to the term including any extension. Please also confirm whether the Blended Day Rate submitted is held fixed for any extension period.	The €1,485,000 estimate relates to the 24-month initial term only. The Blended Day Rate submitted is held fixed for any extension period.

	Item 5 of the TRT Document Return Checklist refers to a completed Pricing Schedule comprising 'Sections A (core), B (ad hoc) and C (factory-floor)'. The Pricing Schedule issued with the RFT contains a single line for a Blended Day Rate and no such sections. Please confirm that the issued Pricing Schedule is the complete and only pricing document required.	The reference to the Pricing Schedule comprising 'Sections A (core), B (ad hoc) and C (factory-floor)' is a typographical error. The Contracting Authority confirms that the issued Pricing Schedule is the complete and only pricing document required. For the avoidance of doubt, a revised TRT reflecting this correction is issued with this tranche of response.
	RFT §2.2.1(a) requires the electronic European Single Procurement Document (eESPD). The pack includes a Microsoft Word ESPD. Please confirm whether tenderers should submit the eESPD generated through eTenders, the completed Word ESPD, or both. Please also confirm whether an eESPD used in a previous procurement procedure may be submitted with the confirmations set out at §2.2.1(a).	Tenderers may submit the eESPD either through the facility available on eTenders or by submission of the MS Word ESPD. It is acceptable to submit an eESPD used in a previous procurement procedure with the confirmations set out at §2.2.1(a).
	RFT §3.1 lists the Appendix 4 Declaration among the documents the Contracting Authority reserves the right to request, and §3.3.3(a) makes it a condition of award to be produced within seven days of request. Item 4 of the TRT Document Return Checklist lists a signed Appendix 4 as a document to be included in the tender upload. Please confirm whether Appendix 4 must be submitted with the Tender or only on request. Please also confirm whether, for a tenderer established outside Ireland, a declaration sworn before a notary or equivalent officer in the tenderer's country of establishment is acceptable.	Appendix 4 must be submitted with the Tender. A declaration sworn before a notary or equivalent officer in the tenderer's country of establishment
	RFT §3.3.2 states that the sum of the weighted scores for Q1 to Q3 gives an overall Quality score out of 600, added to a Price score out of 400 to give a Total Score out of 100. The award criteria table at §3.3.1 lists Q1 at 400 marks, Q2 at 300 marks and C1 at 300 marks, totalling 1,000, and there is no criterion Q3. Please confirm that the award criteria table at §3.3.1 governs.	It is confirmed that the award criteria table at §3.3.1 governs. For the avoidance of doubt, a revised RFT reflecting this correction is issued with this tranche of response.
	Appendix 1 §6(ii) requires digital learning content to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 'at the level required by the Contracting Authority'. Please confirm the required WCAG version and conformance level, for example WCAG 2.1 Level AA.	MSP is using Moodle, which holds a WCAG 2.2 Level AA. https://moodle.com/accessibility/ However, any custom plugins used by DMI (e.g certificates) are unaudited and would need to be verified to meet WCAG. Furthermore, 3rd party SCORM content (Articulate Rise) is out of scope for WCAG

		level, Rise may have their own conformance position. Video captions/transcripts are content-dependent, not a platform guarantee.
	Criterion B1 requires two contracts completed within the last three years. Please confirm whether a contract that commenced within the last three years and remains in delivery, with substantial deliverables completed and accepted, may be submitted as a reference. Please also confirm that reference contracts held by a subcontractor on whose capacity the tenderer relies for B1 will be accepted, subject to the eESPD and undertaking required at §3.1 and §3.2.B.	A contract that commenced within the last three years and remains in delivery, with substantial deliverables completed and accepted, may be submitted as a reference. Reference contracts held by a subcontractor on whose capacity the tenderer relies for B1 will be accepted, subject to the eESPD and undertaking required at §3.1 and §3.2.B.
	Schedule C 'Charges' and Schedule D 'Service Levels' are issued as placeholders marked '[Insert when completing contract]'. Please confirm the intended invoicing frequency and payment period in days, and whether service levels or key performance indicators will be imposed on the successful tenderer post-award.	It is intended that invoicing frequency will be monthly and the payment period will be 30 days on receipt of a valid invoice. Service levels and/or key performance indicators will be imposed on the successful tenderer post-award where appropriate and necessary.
	The Contracting Authority has confirmed that an incumbent is in place, and the RFT requires an undertaking to comply with the TUPE Regulations together with an indemnity. Please confirm whether the Contracting Authority considers that a transfer of undertakings arises on this contract and, if so, whether employee liability information will be made available to tenderers.	The Contracting Authority has not made a determination as to whether the European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertakings) Regulations 2003 (as amended) ("TUPE Regulations") apply to this procurement. It is the responsibility of each Tenderer to satisfy itself as to the applicability, or otherwise, of the TUPE Regulations and to price its tender accordingly. The inclusion within the RFT of provisions relating to compliance with the TUPE Regulations and the associated indemnities is intended to protect the interests of the Contracting Authority should the Regulations be found to apply. Such provisions should not be taken as confirmation by the Contracting Authority that a relevant transfer will arise. Based on the information currently available to the Contracting Authority, it is not anticipated that the TUPE Regulations will apply to this contract. Accordingly, the Contracting Authority does not hold employee liability information for the purposes of this procurement and does not propose to issue such information to Tenderers.
	The Services are to be provided on a time and material basis at approximately 75 consultant days per	The Contractor's Services will not be delivered on a fully remote basis. On-site presence at the Contracting Authority's

	month, with collaborative subject-matter-expert review cycles and regular review meetings. Please confirm whether any minimum on-site presence at the Contracting Authority's Limerick premises is expected within those days, or whether the Services may be delivered remotely with attendance at agreed review points.	premises, and/or attendance requirements linked to specific clients or subject-matter experts, will apply as needed over the Term, in addition to remote working. The precise balance between on-site and remote delivery will depend on the client and subject-matter-expert engagement required for particular deliverables, rather than being fixed as a minimum number of days.
	We believe that the amount of clarifications remaining justify and extension of the deadline in order to ensure fair competition. Could the deadline be extended to the 17th?	In light of the volume and nature of queries received from economic operators, the Contracting Authority is prepared to extend the deadline for receipt of Tenders to 17 August 2026 at 12:00 (noon). For the avoidance of doubt, a revised RFT reflecting this correction is issued with this tranche of response.