

REQUEST FOR TENDER

MULTI-PARTY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Title:	The establishment of 7 multi-party framework agreements for the delivery of training services
Contracting Authority:	Engineering Skillnet, IBEC
Procedure:	Single Stage Procedure in accordance with Title III of Public Sector Directive 2014/24/EU
eTenders/OJEU ref:	8809450
Issue Date:	10 th August 2026
Closing Date for Queries:	Friday 28 th August 2026 (12:00 hours Irish Time)
Closing Date for Tender Submission:	Wednesday 9 th September 2026 (12:00 hours Irish Time)
Submissions and Queries via:	eTenders only
Categories: Tenderers should carefully read instructions for responding to Section 4 Selection Criteria and Section 5 Award Criteria beneath	Category No 3 Operational Excellence & Leadership
	Category 3.1 AI and Data-driven Problem Solving and Performance Measurement: Process metrics and KPI's, statistical thinking, data integrity and visualisation, data interpretation and decision- making, process capability and variation, problem-solving methodologies.
	Category 3.2 Certified Project Management: Fundamentals and Strategic Project/Change Management (PMP/Agile),
	Category 3.3 Lean and Continuous Improvement: Yellow, Green, and Black Belt methodologies applied to Job-Shop, Batch, and Quick Response Manufacturing (QRM).
	Category No. 4: Regulation, Standards & Risk Management
	Category 4.1 Auditing:

	Internal and Lead Auditor training for ISO 9001, 14001, 45001, 50001, and 27001.
	Category 4.2 Industry Standards: Compliance for ISO, EN 1090 (Steel), CE/UKCA marking, IATF, AS9100, and GWO safety standards.
	Category 4.3 Quality & Validation: Applied statistics, GD&T, and digital-first tools (LabVIEW) for automated testing and data acquisition/analysis.
	Category 4.4 Asset Risk: Machinery safety (ISO 12100/13849), multi-vendor interoperability, and component interchangeability to minimize critical downtime.

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Disclaimer

This 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.

Note

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.

The Contracting Authority has provided a Tender Response Document as a separate document for tenderers to use in preparing their response to this tender. This document and format must be used.

Tender Documents Provided and Response Documents to be Used

The Contracting Authority has provided the following documents:

TITLE OF DOCUMENT	PURPOSE
This Request for Tender	For information to help formulate tender response
Appendix 1 Selection Criteria Response Document Categories 3 and 4	MANDATORY For use by Tenderers
Appendix 2 Award Criteria Response Document Categories 3 and 4	MANDATORY For use by Tenderers
Appendix 3 Pricing Schedule Categories 3 and 4	MANDATORY For use by Tenderers
Appendix 4 FWA Multi Party Framework Terms and Conditions	For information and agreement with successful Tenderers
Appendix 5 Professional Services Agreement	For information and agreement with successful Tenderers

Tenderers are also reminded that **Clarification Documents** may also have been issued by the Contracting Authority during the tender submission period. It is incumbent on tenderers to ensure

they regularly monitor eTenders and review any Clarifications published and take the responses into account in the preparation of their submission.

It is recommended to upload your response as a **Zip file** in order to protect the integrity of file names and ensure your company name/subset of your name (to identify the response) is included in the title of all files submitted.

1 About the Contracting Authority

1.1 The Contracting Authority

The Engineering Skillnet, IBEC, (hereinafter referred to as the “Contracting Authority”) is the authority responsible for this procurement.

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

1.2 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 framework agreement / 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 contract elements. The consortium must appoint a single point of contact who will assume overall responsibility for delivery, and who is authorised to sign the framework agreement / contract on behalf of all consortia members. The Contracting Authority will not act as an arbitrator between members of consortia.

2 Scope of the Framework Agreement

2.1 Type of Framework

The Contracting Authority proposes to engage in a competitive process for the establishment of a number of framework agreements. A framework agreement constitutes a means of establishing overall terms and conditions in accordance with which, for a specified duration, individual contracts may or may not be awarded.

This competition relates to the establishment of seven (7) multi-party framework agreements with up to ten Economic Operators per subcategory. Thereafter contracts will be awarded in accordance with the rules contained herein.

2.2 Scope of Requirements under the Framework

2.2.1 The Scope of the Framework

Wide ranging training is required and divided into the following Categories with 4 sub-categories defined under each primary category – each being awarded as a separate lot.

- **Category No 3: Operational Excellence & Leadership**
- **Category No 4: Regulation, Standards & Risk Management**

NOTE: Category 1: Advanced Technical & Digital Engineering and Category 2: Infrastructure, Renewables & Sustainability are being awarded under a separate tender process – eTenders Ref: 8806588 comprising a total of 8 frameworks being established.

The frameworks will be used for technical up-skilling and transversal development of adult learners working in industry to include certified pathways (QQI and NFQ – all levels) and uncertified/bespoke training such as but not limited to hands-on workshops, blended/modular programmes, and Work-Based Learning.

Training can take place at various locations nationwide in person or online

Provision of training aims to develop a highly skilled workforce for green and digital transitions across manufacturing, fabrication, civil infrastructure, and heavy engineering sectors included but not limited to the following:

- Agricultural and Marine,
- Automotive, Aerospace and Defence,
- Engineering and Building services,
- Energy and Environment,
- Industrial Automation,
- Materials handling,
- Metal fabrication and Processing,
- Packaging, Paper and Print
- Precision Engineering

There is no guarantee of additional contracts, but where they arise, the Contracting Authority will consult the members of the framework agreement in accordance with the rules of operation outlined in this Request for Tender.

2.3 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 Tender Submission	As specified on title page
Clarification/verification meetings (if anticipated)	September
Award decision	September
Framework Agreement Commencement	October

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.

2.4 Numbers admitted to the Framework

The framework agreement will be established as a multi-party framework agreement with up to Ten (10) members per subcategory, subject to that number meeting the minimum criteria and rules. In the absence of sufficient numbers qualifying for admittance to the framework, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to establish the framework with the qualifying parties, even where this may result in only one party qualifying.

2.5 Duration of the Framework Agreement

The Framework will be for a maximum period of seven (7) years commencing with a three (3-year) term.

The Contracting Entity reserves the right at its sole discretion to extend the Framework, subject to satisfactory performance, budget availability and ongoing business for an additional two (2-year term) on two (2) occasions up to the seven (7) years maximum

2.6 Estimated Value for the Framework Agreement(s)

It is envisaged that maximum spend under this framework arrangement will not exceed €1,400,000 excluding VAT.

It is emphasised, however, that this figure is provided strictly for indicative purposes only as there is no guaranteed expenditure under the framework agreement.

The precise value of each framework is not known. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to award contracts under each framework, keeping within the total framework arrangement value.

2.7 Awarding Contracts under the Framework Agreement

Multi-party framework agreement contracts may be awarded as follows:

When contracts arise over the duration of the framework they may be awarded in accordance with the following:

- (a) For contracts with a value of less than €10,000 (excl. VAT) these may be awarded directly by the application of specific criteria (e.g. previous experience, sectoral experience, rotation) by inviting the most appropriate member of the framework to submit a tender offer on foot of a Request for Tender;
- (b) For contracts with a value above €10,000 (excl. VAT) tenderers (at least 5), subject to that number qualifying will be identified by:
 - (i) rotation,
 - (ii) random selection or
 - (iii) selection of the 5 most relevant qualified members of the framework.

In the case of mini-tender, five (5) framework members shall be invited to tender on the basis of a specification. Contracts will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender evaluated using the specific award criteria, which will be made known to those invited to participate in the mini-tender.

Where rates offered are considered to be outside the budget the Contracting Authority reserves the right to negotiate with tenderers on each occasion.

2.8 Right to tender outside of the Framework

The Contracting Authority intends to use the framework for the procurement of requirements falling within its scope during the specified period; however, it reserves the right to go outside the framework for the procurement of any requirement without reference to the Framework Member(s). Admission to a framework does not guarantee the award of any contract to any Economic Operator, nor does it give the member(s) the right to be consulted in respect of, or tender for, any contract.

2.9 Compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the Framework Agreement

Admission to the framework agreement will be conditional upon acceptance of the Contracting Authority's Framework 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.

2.10 Award to Runner Up

If for any reason, it is not possible to admit to the framework agreement one or more of the tenderers invited following the conclusion of this competitive process, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to invite the next highest scoring tenderer(s) to join the framework agreement as appropriate, at any time during the tender validity period.

If, following the award of any contract under this framework agreement, the Framework Member cannot, for whatever reason, deliver the required services to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority; the Contracting Authority reserves the right to award the contract to the next highest-ranked tenderer emerging from the process at any time during the contract tender validity period.

3 Specification of Requirements

3.1 Scope of Requirements under the Framework Agreement

Wide ranging training is required and divided into the following Categories as outlined above.

- **Category No 3: Operational Excellence & Leadership under the following sub-categories:**
 - Category 3.1 AI and Data-driven Problem Solving and Performance Measurement: Process metrics and KPI's, statistical thinking, data integrity and visualisation, data interpretation and decision- making, process capability and variation, problem-solving methodologies.
 - Category 3.2 Certified Project Management: Fundamentals and Strategic Project/Change Management (PMP/Agile),
 - Category 3.3 Lean and Continuous Improvement: Yellow, Green, and Black Belt methodologies applied to Job-Shop, Batch, and Quick Response Manufacturing (QRM).
- **Category No. 4: Regulation, Standards & Risk Management**
 - Category 4.1 Auditing: Internal and Lead Auditor training for ISO 9001, 14001, 45001, 50001, and 27001.
 - Category 4.2 Industry Standards: Compliance for ISO, EN 1090 (Steel), CE/UKCA marking, IATF, AS9100, and GWO safety standards.
 - Category 4.3 Quality & Validation: Applied statistics, GD&T, and digital-first tools (LabVIEW) for automated testing and data acquisition/analysis.
 - Category 4.4 Asset Risk: Machinery safety (ISO 12100/13849), multi-vendor interoperability, and component interchangeability to minimize critical downtime.

The frameworks will be used for technical up-skilling and transversal development of adult learners working in industry to include certified pathways (QQI and NFQ – all levels) and uncertified/bespoke training such as but not limited to hands-on workshops, blended/modular programmes, and Work-Based Learning.

Training can take place at various locations nationwide in person or online

Provision of training aims to develop a highly skilled workforce for green and digital transitions across manufacturing, fabrication, civil infrastructure, and heavy engineering sectors included but not limited to the following:

- Agricultural and Marine,
- Automotive, Aerospace and Defence,
- Engineering and Building services,

- Energy and Environment,
- Industrial Automation,
- Materials handling,
- Metal fabrication and Processing,
- Packaging, Paper and Print
- Precision Engineering

There is no guarantee of additional contracts, but where they arise, the Contracting Authority will consult the members of the framework agreement in accordance with the rules of operation outlined in this Request for Tender.

3.2 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 framework. 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
- 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

4 Selection Criteria

The Contracting Authority is using the **Single Stage Procedure with Negotiation** for the award of this framework agreement, 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 tenderer's 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 Use of the European Single Procurement Document

In accordance with Directive 2014/24/EU, tenderers may have compiled accepted as evidence of compliance with *Section 4.3* on condition that all information a European Single Procurement Document (ESPD), either electronically via the eESPD on eTenders or as a separate uploaded attachment with the tender response, which will be self-declared will be provided promptly on request at any time prior to an award decision.

4.2 Relying on the standing of other Entities

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 framework agreement / contract on behalf of all consortia members. The Contracting Authority will not act as an arbitrator between members of consortia.

4.3 General Declarations and Financial 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 the 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 consortium members if applicable.

Financial and Economic Standing

Tax Compliance	Confirmation that the tenderer / all parties associated with the tenderer are fully tax compliant. Please refer to the tax rules contained in the Tender Response Document.
Financial Capacity	Information on turnover with provision of evidence of financial standing, by way of auditor's letter/other objective means, ensuring that 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 will be required prior to the award of any contract.
Insurance	Tenderers are required to confirm and state their levels of cover for the following insurances:

Insurance Type Required

Employer's Liability	€13 million
Public Liability	€6.5 million
Professional Indemnity	€2.0 million

Declaration

Complete the Declaration of Bona Fides as per Art. 57 of Directive 2014/24/EU as implemented by Regulation SI 284 of May 2016 and 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 the jurisdiction of supply, compliance with equivalent legislation as applicable in the country of establishment / operation is required.

Complete the Article 5K Declaration regarding the EU regulation 2022/576 on restrictive measures in the Context of Russian Actions in the Ukraine.

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 the tender being considered inadmissible.

4.4 Technical Capacity Requirements

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.

Quality Assurance Management System

Tenderers must provide information which demonstrates a commitment to quality assurance and details of quality assurance policies and systems and whether externally certified. Please complete the TRD.

Approach to Environmental and Sustainability Measures

Applicants must provide details of their approach to promoting sustainable practices and limit environmental impacts. Applicants are required to detail how any policies and procedures are practically implemented in their day-to-day business

Previous Experience

Tenderers are required to demonstrate instances within the last three years where they have successfully delivered contracts/services of a relevant nature and comparable scale on two (2) occasions for each Category applied for. The contracts referenced for consideration should provide comprehensive information to demonstrate the approach and methodology used to enable the Contracting Authority to determine their comparability to the requirements of this contract.

The contracts listed should be chosen to demonstrate your firm's approach and methodology, skills, efficiency, experience and reliability in the relevant areas of expertise.

All fields should be completed in full. If 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 entity to judge the similarity of these contracts to the services required.

Note: If applying for more than one Category tenderers should submit evidence of two contracts for each Category

Tenderers are required to respond to the Selection Criteria (Section 4 above) on the Tender Response Document Appendix 1 (you only need to complete once).

5 Award Criteria

Only tenders which 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 framework will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous compliant tender taking into account the following award criteria and weightings. Please refer to the Framework Terms and Conditions for details of the award criteria which would apply in the case of mini-tenders under the framework agreement.

Criterion A	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
	30%	3000	n/a
Title	Cost		
Description	Tenderers must complete Pricing Schedule Appendix 3 Assumptions: Price based on an average daily rate (not less than 4 hours contact time).		
Criterion B	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
	30%	3000	50%
Title	Approach and Methodology to delivery of Training Services		
Description	Tenderers are required to demonstrate how they propose to deliver training services including: • Design / development of content appropriate to audience • Planning and delivery of training • Assessment and Feedback • Post-training support • Reporting and engagement with the client		
c	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
	30%	3000	1500
Title	Quantity and Balance of Resources		
Description	Tenderers must demonstrate access to skilled personnel, give details of personnel, their specific relevant skills and qualifications to deliver training services under each category. If applying for more than one category, a separate Tender Response Document (Appendix 2) is required for each category. Please note that the skills outlined may reside in the same person. CVs should be provided for each nominated resource.		
Criterion A	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
	10%	1000	500
Title	Contract Management		
Description	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 framework. 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.		

	Tenderers are required to outline: • How a good working relationship will be maintained with the Contracting Authority • What reports and reviews of performance are proposed. • Proposals to deal with disputes, complaints or concerns that cannot be adequately resolved • Proposed discussions with the Contracting Authority on ways of improving efficiency regarding service delivery in general and providing suggestions for improvement and cost savings
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Tenderers should ensure in their tenders that they provide detailed information in respect of all aspects of the framework award criteria as stated above. This will enable the awarding authority to assess fully the extent of their offers.

Note: If applying for more than one Category Tenderers are required to submit a separate Tender Response Form Appendix 2 for Award Criteria listed in Section 5 above in respect of each Category for which you are applying.

5.1 Methodology for scoring Qualitative Criteria

Score	Category	Description
90 – 100%	Exceptional	An exceptional response demonstrating extensive understanding offering full assurance to client – fully supported with no reservations.
80 – 89%	Excellent	An excellent response demonstrating excellent understanding offering assurance to client – fully supported.
70 – 79%	Very good	A very good response demonstrating very good understanding offering assurance to client – strongly supported.
60 – 69%	Good	A good response demonstrating good understanding offering assurance to client – well supported.
50 – 59%	Acceptable	An acceptable response demonstrating a minimum understanding offering assurance to client - satisfactorily supported.
Less than 50% is unacceptable and considered ineligible from further consideration		

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

5.2 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.

5.3 Verification/Negotiation

Award of contract/membership of the framework 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.

The Contracting Authority also reserves the right to negotiate on contract costs where it considers improved value for money could be achieved. This may occur for contracts awarded directly, and/or tenders received on foot of mini-tenders.

5.4 Clarification of Abnormally Low Tenders

If the Contracting Authority considers the tender submission to be commercially unsustainable or otherwise problematic considering 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 based on it being considered abnormally low.

5.5 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 establishment of the framework and award of any contract.

6 Instructions for Tenderers

6.1 Closing Date for Tenders

The closing date for tender submission is 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. Tenders that are received late or via other means will not be considered in this public procurement competition.

It is important to note that only persons who have downloaded and accepted a document can upload a submission.

6.2 Submission of Tenders

The Contracting Authority is using the postbox facility on eTenders, and tender responses 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, 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 new eTenders platform. Tenderers should consider the fact that upload speeds vary. In order to submit a response to the electronic postbox, please note that you must ensure you have submitted the response completely. It is advisable to familiarise yourself with the new 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

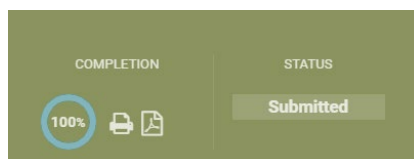
6.2.1 Accessing Documents

It is important to note that you must ensure you **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

6.2.2 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 an email directly to the inbox of the person submitting the response, 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.

6.3 Queries

The closing date for submitting queries is 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.

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 the Tender Deadline

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 eTenders) to all parties who have expressed an interest in the notice via eTenders no later than six calendar days before the original closing date.

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.

6.5 Tender Validity Period

To allow sufficient time for tender assessment a tender validity period of [12 months] 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 Tenders / Amending Tender Documents

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.

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 or as between other pricing documents (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.

6.12 Change in the composition of a Tender

Where a change in composition of a tender arises, this must be notified in writing to the Contracting Authority and formally approved by them.

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 service provider.

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

Potential outcomes can be:

- Establishment of Framework/Award of Contract
- Letter of Regret
- Decision not to proceed with the establishment of the Framework

The following information will be provided in the Letter of Regret – name of successful tenderer designate; the applicable standstill period (for EU tenders only); scores of tenderer being notified and that of the successful tenderer; the features and characteristics of the successful tenderer where they scored higher marks in specific criteria.

In the case of EU tenders only, the Contracting Authority will undertake not to award the contract for a period of at least 14 (or whatever period is stated in the notification letters) calendar days from the date of notification of unsuccessful tenderers ('standstill period').

6.18 Award Notices

Following the award of contract, an award notice will be dispatched to the Official Journal of the European Union announcing the results of the competition. It should be noted that it is standard practice for the Contracting Authority to include the price of the winning tender or the range of prices of tenders received in the publication of the award notice as required under European procurement rules.

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 and throughout the delivery of all contracts.

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 successful tenderer's staff to the Contracting Authority staff will be availed of during the course of the contract or prior to the handing over of the finished work/product.

6.24 Currency and Payments

The currency and invoices 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 on the basis of both VAT exclusive and VAT inclusive costs, clearly identifying the applicable rate of VAT.

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 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 ("General Data Protection Regulation" (GDPR)) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, 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 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 factors which might arise particularly in relation to supply-chain and other risk factors.