

Clarifications: An TOBAR – Invitation to tender for creation of an educational Website to Aid THE TEACHING OF Irish in English-MEDIUM PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

1. We are currently reviewing the An Tobar tender and would appreciate clarification regarding the “Irish language experience” award criterion.

The RFT states that the ability to deliver services in both Irish and English is “preferable but not essential”. However, the award criteria table assigns 1,000 marks to Irish language experience and specifies a minimum required score of 600.

Could you please confirm whether achieving 600/1,000 under this criterion is a mandatory pass requirement, and whether a tenderer without previous Irish-language projects can still submit a compliant tender?

Yes, a tenderer without previous language experience can submit a tender. A tenderer without previous experience can show how they intend to ensure effective provision of the Irish language.

2. The bilingual requirement is described as "preferable but not essential". Is a fully bilingual user interface (navigation, buttons, filters, admin panel) expected, or does that apply to the content pages only?

A fully bilingual website is required. The admin section is preferable but not essential.

3. Section 8.5 lists secure authentication. Is that for admin and content editors only, or do students, teachers and parents also need individual accounts?

Admin and content editors only.

Could you confirm what the annual inspection by the National Disability Authority involves in practice: an NDA-led audit of the live site, or a self-certification submitted to the NDA?

NDA-led audit of the live site.

4. Content migration and population

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Please confirm the extent to which the successful tenderer will be responsible for migrating and/or populating existing content and resources into the new An Tobar website. If migration is required, can COGG provide an approximate indication of the current volume of pages, documents, videos, audio files and other resources?

No migration required - all content will be uploaded by COGG.

5. Bilingual content and terminology

Please confirm that COGG will provide all required Irish- and English-language content in final approved form, including translations and agreed terminology for navigation, filters, buttons and other interface elements.

Yes – COGG will provide this.

6. Hosting requirements

Please confirm whether website hosting is expected to be provided by the successful tenderer and, if so, whether hosting costs for the full contract period are to be included within the stated overall budget of €75,000 inclusive of VAT.

Yes, the successful tenderer will be expected to host the site for the duration of the contract and this is to be included in the budget.

7. Accessibility inspection requirement

The tender refers to the website being required to “pass annual inspection by the National Disability Authority”. Could COGG please clarify what specific inspection, audit or certification process is envisaged under this requirement, and whether COGG will arrange and fund any external audit or certification separately?

The NDA will audit the site on a monthly basis and the site must pass their inspection. COGG will not arrange for additional external audits as these are not recognised by the NDA.

8. Authentication and user accounts

The specification refers to secure authentication and data protection requirements relating to minors. Please confirm whether the new website is expected to include registered user accounts, logins or authenticated areas for teachers, pupils or other users. If so, please outline the anticipated user groups and principal functionality required.

No, it is not.

9. Resource library scale and search/filtering requirements

To assist tenderers in proposing an appropriate search and filtering architecture, please provide an approximate indication of the number of resources expected to be available at launch and the anticipated rate or scale of future growth.

At launch, we anticipate approximately 3000 educational resources, comprising 1,500 primary level resources and 1500 secondary level resources. These figures are estimates as the final number of resources available at launch may be higher depending on the content available at the time of launch. We also anticipate that the resource library will continue to grow on an ongoing basis as new and updated educational content is developed and uploaded.

Tenderers should therefore propose a search and filtering architecture that can support an initial resource library in the region of 3000 resources, with the flexibility to accommodate future growth beyond this volume without requiring fundamental redevelopment of the underlying search or filtering functionality.

10. Optional fourth contract year

The Contract Notice provides for a three-year contract with an option to extend to a fourth year, while the pricing schedule requests costs for Years 1–3 only. Please confirm how tenderers should price the optional fourth year and whether this cost will form part of the tender evaluation.

This cost will not form part of the tender evaluation. Please feel free to price as appropriate.

11. Third-party software and licensing

The draft contract refers to the Contractor granting COGG a perpetual, transferable and royalty-free licence in respect of third-party software incorporated into the website.

Please confirm that this requirement does not apply to proprietary third-party software, plugins, hosted services or other licensed components that are supplied subject to the relevant third party's standard licence terms.

All 3rd party software licensing (plug-ins etc) should be included in the budget.

12. The RFT states the budget is €75,000 VAT inclusive, while the contract notice published on TED states an estimated value of €75,000 excluding VAT — which figure should we price against?

VAT inclusive

13. The RFT describes a three-year contract of one year development plus two years maintenance, with an option to extend by up to one year, should the Pricing Schedule cover three years, and should the optional extension year be priced separately?

Yes.

14. Is the "Padlet COGG" navigation tab intended as a link out to an existing Padlet, as an embedded view within An Tobar, or as content to be migrated into the new site?

Link to our Padlet account.

15. Is there existing content or an existing site to be migrated into An Tobar, and if so in what format and approximately what volume?

There isn't an existing site to be migrated into an Tobar.

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16. User accounts/authentication: The spec references "secure authentication." Is there a requirement for registered user accounts (teachers, students logging in), or is this site entirely public-facing?

Just admins within COGG will be able to login.

17. Hosting jurisdiction: If hosting is required, must the platform be hosted on Irish/EU infrastructure? (Relevant to GDPR compliance for minors)

Hosting is required but no minors will be using the site.

18. Annual NDA accessibility audit: Will COGG commission the NDA audit independently, or is the tenderer expected to fund/arrange this as part of the contract?

COGG will arrange this. The tenderer will be expected to remediate any structural issues. COGG will be responsible for the uploaded content.

19. Maintenance scope (Years 2–3): Is the maintenance retainer expected to cover bug fixes and security updates, or is hosting and general support also required?

Yes, all of the above.

20. Could you please clarify whether hosting of the An Tobar needs to be factored in to cost? I'm guessing it does, but just want to confirm in case there is some prior HEA.net agreement.

Yes.

21. Irish language experience - evaluation threshold

The specification states that Irish language capability is "preferable but not essential". However, the award criteria include "Irish language experience" with a weighting of 10 per cent and a stated minimum of 600/1000. Please confirm whether the 600/1000

minimum operates as a pass/fail elimination threshold for this criterion, or whether it applies to the overall aggregate score. If it is a per-criterion elimination threshold, please clarify how this is reconciled with the statement that Irish language capability is not essential.

A tenderer without previous experience can show how they intend to ensure effective provision of the Irish language.

22. Irish language content

The documentation states that no automated translation services are to be used. Please confirm whether Irish language content (learning resources, interface labels, metadata) will be supplied by the Contracting Authority, or whether the creation and/or human translation of that content falls within the tenderer's scope of supply and must be priced accordingly.

COGG will be responsible for this.

23. Estimated value and contract scope

Please confirm whether the estimated value of EUR 75,000 relates to the initial design and development phase only, or to the full three-year contract term including ongoing support, maintenance and hosting.

Full three years

24. VAT treatment

Please confirm whether the Contracting Authority is registered for VAT and whether the reverse charge mechanism under Article 44 of Directive 2006/112/EC will apply to a supplier established in another EU Member State. If the reverse charge does not apply, please confirm whether tender prices should be stated inclusive of VAT chargeable in the supplier's Member State, or exclusive of all VAT.

We are not registered for VAT

25. Professional Services Withholding Tax

Please confirm whether payments under this contract will be subject to Professional Services Withholding Tax (PSWT) and, if so, what documentation a non-resident supplier with no permanent establishment in Ireland is required to provide.

Payments will not be subject to Professional Services Withholding Tax (PSWT).

26. Can COGG provide an estimate of the anticipated number of resources to be migrated and managed within the platform at launch, broken down by PDFs, Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, images, audio resources and video resources?

It is difficult to provide an exact figure at this stage as resources are still being developed and the final volume and format of resources to be migrated at launch have not yet been confirmed. However, COGG currently anticipates approximately 3000 resources will be available and managed within the platform at launch. The majority of these are expected to be PDF documents, with additional resources comprising Word documents, Power Point presentations, images and audio and video files.

27. Should tenderers include fully managed hosting and infrastructure costs within their pricing submission, or will hosting be provided separately by COGG?

Hosting and infrastructure costs to be included

28. Is there an existing repository, website or content source from which resources will be migrated, or will the platform primarily be populated with new content following implementation?

No all new resources – no migration

29. Should search functionality index resource metadata only, or should it support full-text searching of uploaded documents and resources?

Full text searching would be preferable.

30. Will all resources require both Irish and English versions, or will certain content types be published in a single language only?

Irish language only.

31. Are there any existing systems, platforms or services that COGG anticipates integrating with during the contract term?

Not at the moment

32. Submission format. Please confirm the required file format and any maximum page limit for the tender response, and whether a presentation stage is anticipated, so we structure and size our submission correctly.

Any format is accepted, no maximum. A presentation stage will be held for tenderers who make the shortlist.

33. Does the €75k inclusive budget cover the full three years including all support?

Yes

34. Are authenticated user/student accounts actually required, and if so what functionality/data is stored?

No – not required

35. And will COGG provide all Irish translations and approved bilingual content, including interface terminology?

Yes

36. Budget realism vs scope

The €75,000 (VAT inclusive) covers a 3-year term (1 yr build + 2 yrs maintain) is our understanding correct?

Yes

37. Can we confirm that infrastructure and third party plugin cost is out of this €75,000?

This will be within the 75000 Budget

38. Content and resource population (this is usually the hidden cost bomb)

What is the estimated volume of resources expected at launch (e.g., number of items per class level/theme across Primary and Secondary)? *Drives storage, tagging taxonomy design, and CMS content-model effort.*

Primary level there will be resources provided for 8 classes with approximately 10 units per class (Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st Class, 2nd Class, 3rd Class, 4th Class, 5th Class, 6th Class). Each unit will comprise approximately 10 lesson plans, together with accompanying teaching and learning resources. This amounts to approx 1500 resources at primary level.

At second level, there will be 6 year groups with approximately 10 units per class. Each unit will comprise approximately 10 lesson plans, together with accompanying teaching and learning resources (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Year). This amounts to approx 1500 resources at 2nd level.

These figures are estimates as the final number of resources available at launch may be higher or lower depending on the content available at the time of launch. We also anticipate that the resource library will continue to grow on an ongoing basis as new and updated educational content is developed and uploaded.

39. Is there an existing Irish-language resource archive/website being migrated, or is this greenfield content?

Greenfield – all new resources

40. Who owns the effort of digitizing legacy print resources, if any exist?

There are none

41. Is subcontracting permitted?

No

42. Language and translation

Section 3 states no automated translation tools may be used. Does COGG provide professionally translated Irish-language content for all site copy, labels, and resources, or must the tenderer source/manage human translation services?

COGG will provide

43. Is the bilingual requirement full parity (every page/resource in both languages) or Irish for UI/navigation only, with resources themselves possibly being Irish-only by nature (since it's an Irish-teaching site)?

Site will be bilingual – resources Irish only

44. Design and branding

The Primary section references "a provided layout (Canva reference)" will this Canva file (and any brand guidelines, logo files, colour palette) be shared with tenderers, and at what fidelity is it expected to be followed (pixel-accurate build vs. general design direction)?

<https://canva.link/ce79iz41s84lyvv> Just an example – doesn't have to be strictly adhered to

45. Section 3.1 lists colours as "to be confirmed" is a full brand identity/style guide being developed separately, or is that in scope for the tenderer to propose?

Scope for tenderer to propose. No style guide is being developed separately

46. Technical platform and hosting

Does COGG have a mandated hosting environment or procurement framework (e.g., OGCIO, a specific Irish government cloud/hosting policy, data-residency requirement within Ireland/EEA)?

No.

47. Is there a preferred or restricted technology stack (e.g., must avoid certain CMS platforms, or must integrate with an existing COGG/Dept. of Education system)?

No.

48. Are hosting, domain, SSL, and CDN costs (e.g., for video delivery) expected to be excluded from the €75k, or invoiced separately to COGG?

Included

49. Users, authentication and data protection for minors

What specific measures are expected under "data protection for minors" is this simply GDPR-standard handling of no-PII-collected content, or does it imply account creation, parental consent flows, etc.?

No minors will be logging into the site

50. Support, maintenance and SLA

How many named individuals require back-end CMS training, and is refresher/ongoing training expected annually across the 3-year term, or a one-time session at launch?

6 people – one time session with e-mail follow ups for the duration of the contract

51. Compliance and audit remediation

If the annual NDA accessibility inspection identifies non-conformances, is remediation covered under the existing maintenance contract, or treated as a separate change request/cost?

Remediation will be covered by the tenderer - the site cannot be launched unled it passes WCAG law and the NDA scans

52. Presentation and procurement logistics

Section 11 mentions tenderers "may be required to make a presentation" with key personnel present, face-to-face or online — is this decided per-tenderer, and if in-person, is it in Dublin?

Face to face or online - probably be in Dublin

53. Scope, Functionality and User Experience

Front-End User Accounts: Does the platform require front-end accounts for students, teachers, or parents (e.g., to save resources, track progress, or access restricted content), or is authentication required for administrative back-end access only?

administrative back-end access only

54. "Language Classes" and "Training": Do these content types involve active session delivery, bookings, or LMS-type functionality, or are they simple pages featuring downloadable resources?

simple pages featuring downloadable resources

55. "Punann Teanga" (Language Portfolio): Is this button intended to link to an existing external national tool/system, or is it a new custom web feature to be built within this project?

The button/tab is intended to provide access to a new section within the platform, containing educational resources created by the COGG team. It is not intended to link to an existing external national tool or system.

56. "Comórtais" (Competitions): Does the competitions section require a dynamic form to collect entry submissions, and if so, who submits them — schools, teachers, or individual pupils?

This section does not require a dynamic form to collect entry submissions. It will be used to advertise competitions.

57. Search and Indexing Engine

Search Language Behavior: Should the search engine return results in both Irish and English regardless of the active language selected by the user, or only in the current browsing language?

Current browsing language

58. Document Content Indexing: Is search expected to index text *inside* uploaded files (such as PDF or PowerPoint content), or only titles, descriptions, metadata, and assigned filter tags?

Inside if possible but not essential

59. Translation and Content Management

Multilingual Management Tooling: Does the ban on automated translation exclude manual multilingual content-management plugins (e.g., WordPress plugins where every translation is human-authored), or does it rule out that entire category of tooling?

Human authored should be fine

60. Localization Support: Does COGG have an internal team of Irish-language editors ready to populate all bilingual fields, or is the Tenderer expected to provide translation/localization services within the project scope?

Yes we do

61. Content Population and Migration: Will COGG staff handle the initial upload and tagging/categorization of resources, PDFs, audio/video files, and news items prior to launch, or is initial content population/migration expected from the Tenderer in Year 1?

COGG will provide

62. Technical Architecture, Media and Integrations

Third-Party Integrations and Embeds: What third-party tools or widgets need to be directly embedded into the website (e.g. Padlet boards, PDF viewers, social media feeds, media players, or analytics platforms)?

Open for your interpretaion

63. Resource Volumes and File Types: Approximately how many resources are expected at launch and full build-out across image, video, audio, PPT, Word, and PDF file types?

There will be approximately 3000 resources at the full launch. However, this is an estimate at present as the resources are currently being developed.

64. File Size Limits: What is the maximum expected individual file size, particularly for video and audio uploads?

Unable to answer – some resources are big and some are small

65. Curricular Structure: Approximately how many Aonaid per year group, and how many Ceachtanna per Aonad, are expected at launch and full build-out?

At Primary level there will be resources provided for 8 classes with approximately 10 units per class (Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st Class, 2nd Class, 3rd Class, 4th Class, 5th Class, 6th Class). Each unit will comprise approximately 10 lesson plans, together with accompanying teaching and learning resources. This amounts to approx 1500 resources at primary level.

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These figures are estimates as the final number of resources available at launch may be higher or lower depending on the content available at the time of launch. We also anticipate that the resource library will continue to grow on an ongoing basis as new and updated educational content is developed and uploaded.

66. Hosting Data Residency: Is there a mandatory hosting data residency location (e.g. Ireland/EU), or an existing infrastructure where the platform must be deployed?

Must be withing Ireland / EU

67. Irish language experience criterion (Award Criteria table, weighting 10 per cent, minimum score 600/1000)

Could you please clarify what evidence is expected to satisfy this criterion? Specifically: if a tenderer has no prior projects directly involving the Irish language, will this result in failing to reach the minimum score of 600 on this specific criterion, and consequently in automatic disqualification of the tender, regardless of the overall score achieved across all criteria?

No – if a tenderer has no previous experience they can still show how they intend to implement to provision of the Irish language on the site.

68. Bilingual delivery requirement (Irish Language section of the RFT)

The RFT states that it is "preferable but not essential" for tenderers to have the capability to deliver the service through both Irish and English, and that COGG will provide advice and support in this regard. Could you confirm what this support consists of in practice? Specifically, is it a requirement that the tenderer's own team include an Irish-speaking member, or is it acceptable for the tenderer to deliver the technical platform while COGG provides the Irish-language content, translation and proofreading?

COGG will provide the Irish language content, translations and proofreading as well as advice and support.

69. Tender submission procedure

We are unable to locate the submission functionality for this competition on the etenders.gov.ie platform. Could you please clarify how exactly the tender should be submitted? In particular, would submission by email be an acceptable method for this competition?

Send to eolas@cogg.ie

70. Irish-language resource content — ownership and translation.

Appendix 1 requires a professionally bilingual (Irish and English) website with no automated translation. Please confirm whether COGG will supply and approve all Irish-language resource content — including resource text, media, and any associated accessibility text (e.g. captions or transcripts for audio and video) — with the contractor responsible for the bilingual interface, navigation and the platform itself; or whether the contractor is also expected to translate or author Irish-language resource content. This determines how the bilingual delivery and accessibility work is scoped.

COGG will provide this.

71. Pupil data and authentication. We understand the core website to be a public-access resource platform, with secure authentication provided for COGG administrators/CMS users only, and no individual pupil or student accounts or pupil personal data held on the platform in the initial scope (noting that personalised learning pathways and LMS integration are listed as optional future enhancements). Please confirm this understanding is correct, so that the data-protection and safeguarding measures for minors are sized appropriately.

This is correct

72. Primary (Bunscoil) design reference. Section 4.1 of the specification states that the Primary Resources section is "based on provided layout (Canva reference)."

This layout does not appear to be included in the tender documents. Please provide the referenced Canva layout/design so our Primary-section proposal can be aligned to it.

<https://canva.link/ce79iz41s84lyvv>

73. Regarding The Terms and Conditions of Services Agreement, **Section 4 (Scope of Services)**, including the content repository, primary and post-primary education sections, and **Section 4.2 (Bilingual Delivery)**: will COGG provide the text and educational content for the website, or is the Contractor expected to produce this content?

COGG will provide

74. Irish language experience criterion (Award Criteria table, weighting 10 per cent, minimum score 600/1000)

Could you please clarify what evidence is expected to satisfy this criterion? Specifically: if a tenderer has no prior projects directly involving the Irish language, will this result in failing to reach the minimum score of 600 on this specific criterion, and consequently in automatic disqualification of the tender, regardless of the overall score achieved across all criteria?

No – if a tenderer has no previous experience they can still show how they intend to implement to provision of the Irish language on the site.

75. Content provision

Will COGG provide all final text, images, documents, audio and video content required for the initial launch?

Yes

76. Languages and translation

Will all content be provided in both Irish and English? Will COGG be responsible for translation, linguistic review and final approval?

Site will be bilingual - uploaded content in Irish only. COGG responsible for translation, linguistic review and final approval

77. Pages and templates

Please confirm the estimated number of content pages and unique page templates required at launch.

At Primary level there will be resources provided for 8 classes with approximately 10 units per class (Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st Class, 2nd Class, 3rd Class, 4th Class, 5th Class, 6th Class). Each unit will comprise approximately 10 lesson plans, together with accompanying teaching and learning resources. This amounts to approx 1500 resources at primary level.

At second level, there will be 6 year groups with approximately 10 units per class. Each unit will comprise approximately 10 lesson plans, together with accompanying teaching and learning resources (1st , 2nd , 3rd , 4th , 5th , 6th Year). This amounts to approx 1500 resources at 2nd level.

These figures are estimates as the final number of resources available at launch may be higher or lower depending on the content available at the time of launch. We also anticipate that the resource library will continue to grow on an ongoing basis as new and updated educational content is developed and uploaded.

78. Design scope

Should the main website, Primary Resources section and Secondary Resources section have separate visual concepts and template sets? How many design concepts and review rounds are expected?

Yes, separate visual concepts. Unable to say how many design concepts and review rounds are expected but we would like to have as little as possible.

79. Resource volume

Please provide the estimated number of resources to be available at launch, broken down by PDFs, Word files, PowerPoint files, images, audio and video.

Primary level there will be resources provided for 8 classes with approximately 10 units per class (Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st Class, 2nd Class, 3rd Class, 4th Class, 5th Class, 6th Class). Each unit will comprise approximately 10 lesson plans, together with accompanying teaching and learning resources. This amounts to approx 1500 resources at primary level. They will predominantly be in PDF format but there will also be accompanying powerpoint, images and audio visual files.

At second level, there will be 6 year groups with approximately 10 units per class. Each unit will comprise approximately 10 lesson plans, together with accompanying teaching and learning resources (1st , 2nd , 3rd , 4th , 5th , 6th Year). This amounts to approx 1500 resources at 2nd level. They will predominantly be in PDF format but there will also be accompanying powerpoint, images and audio visual files.

These figures are estimates as the final number of resources available at launch may be higher or lower depending on the content available at the time of launch. We also anticipate that the resource library will continue to grow on an ongoing basis as new and updated educational content is developed and uploaded.

80. Migration and content upload

Is migration from existing websites, shared drives, Padlet, Canva or other repositories required? Who will upload, classify and validate the initial content?

COGG will upload and classify – no migration

81. Search scope

Should search cover only resource metadata or also page text and the full content of PDF, Word and PowerPoint files?

Full content if possible

82. Users and Authentication

Please confirm whether the platform will be fully public, except for CMS administrator access, or whether front-end accounts will be required for teachers, students, parents/guardians or other users. If user accounts are required, please specify the user types and roles, registration and approval process, login or SSO requirements, personalised features such as saved resources, age restrictions and parental consent requirements, and the personal data to be collected and stored.

No front end accounts – just admins within COGG

83. CMS workflow

How many CMS users and roles are expected? Are content review, approval, scheduled publishing, version history and audit logs required?

6 CMS roles

**content review, approval, scheduled publishing, version history and audit logs
required – this is not necessary but could be useful**

84. Integrations and media

Are Padlet, social media, analytics and other external services expected to be simple links/embeds or full integrations? Will video and audio be hosted on the website or externally?

Simple links

Video and audio to be hosted on the site.

85. Hosting and budget

Does the €75,000 VAT-inclusive budget cover development, hosting, licences, third-party services and two years of maintenance and support? If hosting should be included, please provide information about required data-hosting location, expected traffic and concurrent user volumes.

Yes, 75000 has to cover everything

86. Support and SLA

Please confirm the expected support hours, service window, response times and scope of maintenance for Years 2 and 3.

Unable to estimate

87. Contract Duration and Support Period

Please confirm how the three-year contract term should be calculated if development is completed in less than 12 months. Should the contract cover the actual development period followed by a full 24 months of maintenance and support starting from Go-Live/Final Acceptance, or should the contract in all cases expire three years after the Effective Date?

Year 1 - how much will it cost to build and launch the site.

Years 2 - 3 – hosting, support, minor changes to the structure.

88. Eligibility and project delivery

Are suppliers established in other EU Member States, including Poland, fully eligible to participate in this procurement procedure? **Yes.**

89. Is there any requirement for the successful supplier to have a registered entity, local office, representative or implementation partner in Ireland? **No.**

90. Can the project be delivered primarily or entirely remotely by a team based in Poland? **Yes.**

91. Are any on-site workshops, meetings, training sessions or support activities in Ireland mandatory? **No.**

92. Will references and relevant project experience from clients outside Ireland be assessed on an equal basis? **Yes.**

93. Are there any specific professional indemnity, public liability, cyber insurance or certification requirements that an overseas EU supplier should be aware of? **These will be evaluated on review of applications.**

94. Users and level of interaction

What level of interaction is expected between students and the platform? Will students primarily access educational resources, or are they also expected to complete interactive exercises, quizzes or other activities? **The Hub will provide adaptable interactive activities, but individual schools and teachers will decide how pupils engage with them according to their classroom context.**

95. Will students have individual accounts? **No.**

96. Will teachers have individual accounts and personalised dashboards? **No.**
97. Will parents/guardians have accounts, or will their resources be publicly accessible? **No, all resources available publicly.**
98. Is the platform expected to track student progress, results, completed activities or learning history? **No.**
99. Will teachers be able to assign activities or resources to individual students, groups or classes? **No.**
100. Is any direct interaction between teachers and students expected through the platform, such as feedback, comments or messaging? **No.**
101. Should the platform function as a Learning Management System, or primarily as a structured educational resource platform? **Primarily a structured educational resource platform.**
102. Educational content
Will all educational content be supplied by COGG, or is the successful supplier also expected to create or develop educational content? **COGG will create and upload the resources according to the structure built by the successful tenderer.**
103. What types of resources are expected at launch, for example text content, PDFs, audio, video, presentations, quizzes or interactive exercises? **All of the above.**
104. Approximately how many existing resources will need to be uploaded or migrated to the new platform? **Cannot estimate for now.**

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105. Is there an existing website, CMS or digital repository from which content will need to be migrated? **No.**
106. Will COGG provide all Irish-language educational content and translations in final form? **Yes.**
107. Is the supplier expected to produce any illustrations, graphics, animations, audio or video assets? **No, Language**
108. Is the public-facing platform expected to be fully bilingual in Gaeilge and English, or primarily in Gaeilge? **The public-facing interface and content should be provided in Irish and English.**
109. If a bilingual interface is required, will COGG provide the translations for all interface elements and content? **Yes.**
110. Can the administration interface be provided in English? **Yes.**
111. Information architecture and search
How should educational resources be categorised and filtered? For example, by school level, age, curriculum area, language level or resource type? **Teachers should be able to search and filter resources by class level, curriculum strand, strand unit, topic, resource type, and format.**
112. Is full-text search within PDF documents or other uploaded resources required? **No.**
113. Does COGG already have an agreed information architecture and content taxonomy, or should this be developed by the supplier as part of the project? **COGG has identified indicative categories and metadata fields, but the successful tenderer will be expected to work with COGG to develop and agree the final taxonomy and content structure.**

114. Technology

Does COGG have a preferred CMS, technology stack or hosting environment? **No.**

Tenderers should recommend a suitable, secure, accessible, and maintainable solution that meets the requirements of the tender.

115. Would a solution based on WordPress with custom-developed functionality and modules be acceptable? **Yes, WordPress may be proposed, provided the overall solution meets all security, accessibility, performance, maintainability and functional requirements of the tender.**

116. Are there any restrictions regarding the use of open-source software, frameworks or plugins? **No specific restrictions apply, provided all proposed software, plugins, libraries and frameworks meet the tender requirements regarding security, accessibility, licensing, performance, support and long-term maintainability.**

117. Are there any required integrations with existing COGG systems or third-party educational services? **No integrations with existing COGG systems or APIs are currently required. Tenderers should ensure that the proposed architecture supports possible future integration.**

118. Are there specific requirements regarding the location of hosting infrastructure or data, for example Ireland-only or EU/EEA hosting? **Tenderers should propose secure and reliable hosting that complies with applicable Irish and EU data-protection requirements.**

119. Administration and workflow

Approximately how many administrators or content editors will manage the platform? **A small number of nominated COGG administrators and content editors will use the system; tenderers should state any user limits or additional licensing costs in their proposal.**

120. Are different administration roles and permission levels required? **The system should provide appropriate administrator and content-editor roles. Detailed permission levels and publishing rights will be agreed with COGG during implementation.**
121. Is an editorial workflow required, for example authoring, review, approval and publication? **No formal editorial approval workflow is required, but authorised COGG staff should be able to preview, publish and unpublish resources.**
122. Is content versioning and audit history required? **No; however, tenderers may identify any standard audit or revision features included in their proposed CMS.**
123. UX, accessibility and security
Does COGG have an existing brand identity, design system or visual guidelines that should be followed? **Yes. COGG is developing an updated brand which can be discussed on review of applications.**
124. Is the supplier expected to conduct UX research or user testing with students, teachers and/or parents? **This can be explored on review of applications.**
125. What specific level and version of WCAG compliance is required? **The website, portal, interactive tools and digital activities must comply with all applicable Irish and EU accessibility requirements. Tenderers should identify the accessibility standards and conformance levels on which their proposed solution is based.**
126. Will an independent accessibility audit be required before launch? **An independent accessibility audit is not required under this tender; however, the successful tenderer must test accessibility and provide evidence of compliance before acceptance. COGG reserves the right to arrange independent accessibility testing.**
127. Will the platform process any personal data relating to minors? **No.**

128. Is a Data Protection Impact Assessment expected as part of the project? **A DPIA is not currently expected because the platform is designed to avoid pupil accounts and minimise personal-data processing. COGG will determine whether a DPIA is required once the proposed solution and its data-processing arrangements are known, and the successful tenderer must provide the necessary technical information and assistance.**
129. Are penetration testing or independent security audits required before launch? **Tenderers should describe the security testing proposed and identify whether independent penetration testing is included or recommended.**
130. Hosting, support and commercial scope
What should be included in the ongoing maintenance period: hosting, monitoring, backups, security updates, technical support and ongoing development? **The maintenance service should include updates, bug fixes, support, and agreed minor enhancements.**
131. Is a specific SLA expected for support and critical incidents? **Tenderers should propose response and resolution targets for critical incidents and other support requests as part of their submission.**
132. Should the tender price include a defined allowance for future development or change requests during the contract period? **Tenderers should state the allowance included for minor enhancements each year, together with their rates for any additional development.**
133. Does the stated EUR 75,000 budget cover the complete implementation together with hosting, support and maintenance for the full contract period? **The total budget is €75,000 inclusive of VAT.**
134. What is the expected target date for the launch of the first production version of the platform? **An initial development phase is expected in Year 1, Month 6.**

135. Method of submission.

The RFT states that tender documents must be submitted by close of business on Monday 24 August, but does not state how. We are registered and approved on eTenders and have recorded an expression of interest in this Call for Tenders, but the "Tender" option that would allow us to create and submit a tender response online does not appear in the CfT menu for this competition — it does appear for other contracting authorities' current tenders, so this appears to be specific to how this competition is configured. Could COGG please confirm whether tenders should be submitted by e-mail to eolas@cogg.ie, and if so whether there are any requirements as to file format, maximum attachment size, or the use of a single ZIP file? If instead electronic submission through eTenders is intended, could COGG please arrange for the tender submission facility to be enabled? **The tender may be submitted by e-mail to eolas@cogg.ie. There are no particular requirements as to “file format, maximum attachment size, or the use of a single ZIP file.”**

136. Irish-language experience — minimum score.

The RFT states that it is "preferable but not essential that Tenderers have the capability to deliver the service through both the Irish as well as the English language," and that "COGG will provide advice and support in this regard to the successful Tenderer." The award table, however, sets a Minimum Score Required of 600 out of 1,000 against "Irish language experience". Could COGG please confirm whether the "Minimum Score Required" figures operate as pass/fail thresholds, such that a tender scoring below the minimum on any single criterion is excluded, or whether the award is decided on the total weighted score? And if they are pass/fail, how would a tenderer without prior project experience delivered through Irish — but proposing a bilingual content architecture using no automated translation, Irish-language search handling including síneadh fada and initial mutations, and a qualified Irish-language specialist engaged for interface translation and bilingual quality assurance — be assessed against this criterion? **COGG is an Irish state, Irish-language body with responsibility including the teaching of Irish in schools. We are also mandated to discharge our functions through**

the medium of Irish. This is why it is "preferable but not essential that Tenderers have the capability to deliver the service through both the Irish as well as the English language." The assessment criteria for the project are still in development and all applicants will be assessed fairly and consistently. This should allow tenderers to apply without prejudice.

137. VAT in the Pricing Schedule.

Our Company is established and VAT-registered in Romania. For business-to-business services supplied to a body established in Ireland the reverse charge applies under Articles 44 and 196 of Directive 2006/112/EC: we would invoice without Romanian VAT and COGG would self-account for Irish VAT. Should the "Amount (Inc. VAT)" column be completed (a) as the fee grossed up at the Irish standard rate of 23 %, so the tender is directly comparable with an Irish tenderer — which is how we have completed it, in order not to understate COGG's true cost — or (b) with no VAT added, since none is charged by the supplier? Which figure will be used when the Proposed Cost criterion is scored? **We suggest that you submit your tender as per the Irish standard rate, in this case 23%, and we will attach a note for the assessment panel to explain the specifics.**

138. Insurance levels.

The RFT requires the successful Tenderer to hold Employer's Liability, Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance, but states no minimum levels of cover. Could COGG please confirm the minimum sums insured required for each, so that tenderers can price them on a common basis? **These will be evaluated on review of applications but a guide range for references purposes would be: Employer's Liability: €12.7 million for public procurement Public Liability: €6.5 million for government tenders Professional Indemnity: €1- €2 million**

139. Eligibility of an Indian-based organisation

Can an organisation that is legally incorporated and operating in India, with no current establishment or registered office in Ireland or another EU Member State, submit a tender directly for this competition? If yes, please confirm whether any specific

registration, qualification, establishment, tax, or other requirements apply to a non-Irish/non-EU tenderer. **Economic operators established in Ireland, the European Union or other jurisdictions may submit a tender, provided they are legally entitled to perform the contract and can satisfy all requirements of the procurement process and any resulting contract. Tenderers are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable legal, taxation, insurance, employment, data protection and regulatory requirements relevant to the performance of the contract. These will be evaluated on review of applications**

140. EU/Ireland establishment or local partner requirement

If an Indian-based organisation is eligible to tender directly, is an Irish or EU-based registered office, local representative, consortium member, subcontractor or delivery partner mandatory? **NO.**

If not mandatory, please confirm whether COGG has any preference or scoring consideration for an Irish/EU delivery partner.

141. Recognition of overseas experience and certifications

Will relevant experience, client references, company credentials and professional/technical certifications obtained outside Ireland/EU, including from India and other international markets, be accepted for the qualification and award criteria? **YES.**

142. Cross-border delivery and contracting

If an Indian-based tenderer is awarded the contract, can the Services be delivered primarily from India with remote collaboration and support, subject to all applicable Irish/EU contractual, GDPR, security, accessibility and service requirements? **YES.**
Please identify any mandatory on-site presence in Ireland.

143. Clarification deadline for questions The RFT and Contract Notice appear to contain different dates for clarification questions. Could COGG please confirm the definitive final

deadline for tenderer clarification questions? **17/08/26. However, to allow for sufficient time to address the volume of queries being received (and to allow more time for tenderers), we are extending the tender deadline to 7th September 2026. A Frequently Asked Questions document will also be made available.**

144. Contract value and VAT

The RFT states a budget of €75,000 VAT inclusive, while the Contract Notice states an estimated value of €75,000 excluding VAT. Could COGG please confirm whether the maximum tender budget is €75,000 inclusive or exclusive of VAT, and how non-Irish tenderers should present VAT/tax treatment in the pricing schedule? **We suggest that you submit your tender inclusive of VAT as per the Irish standard rate, in this case 23%, and we will attach a note for the assessment panel to explain the specifics of your status as “non-Irish tenderers”.**

145. Contract duration and possible extension

The RFT describes a 3-year contract comprising 1 year for development and 2 years for maintenance, while the procurement notice indicates a duration of 4 years. Could COGG clarify whether the fourth year represents an optional extension and whether the Year 1–3 pricing schedule should exclude the optional extension year? **As stated in the Request for Tender, “The project will deliver a fully functional resource website with a launch date of August 2027. COGG will award a 3-year contract, (1 year to develop + 2 years to maintain) subject to annual review or unless otherwise terminated. The budget is 75,000 Euro (VAT inclusive) COGG reserves the right to extend the term for a period or periods of up to 1 year, with a maximum of one such extension or extensions on the same terms and conditions.” Yes, “the fourth year represents an optional extension” and “the Year 1–3 pricing schedule should exclude the optional extension year” as it would be extended on the same terms and conditions.**

146. Hosting and infrastructure responsibility

Please clarify whether hosting, cloud infrastructure, domain, SSL/TLS certificates, backups, monitoring, disaster recovery and related infrastructure costs are expected to

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be included in the tender price. If hosting is required, please specify the preferred/current hosting environment and any required Irish/EU data residency requirements. **All hosting and related infrastructure should be included unless otherwise specified. Tenderers should propose secure and reliable hosting that complies with applicable Irish and EU data-protection requirements.**

147. Content migration and initial content volume

Please clarify whether COGG will provide all existing website/content/resource material for migration and, if so, the approximate volume and formats of content to be migrated. Please also clarify whether content migration is included within the tender scope and price. **Yes COGG will provide all existing website/content/resource material for migration, volume and formats of content to be confirmed and for discussion with successful tenderer.**

148. Please also clarify whether content migration is included within the tender scope and price. **Yes, insofar as it can be assessed.**

149. Irish and English content / translation responsibility

The RFT requires a bilingual Irish/English website and states that automated translation services must not be used. Could COGG clarify who will provide, translate, review and approve Irish-language content, and whether the successful tenderer is expected to provide professional human translation/proofreading services as part of the contract? **COGG will provide and approve all Irish-language content.**

150. User accounts and authentication

The requirements refer to students, teachers and parents/guardians and also require secure authentication and data protection for minors. Could COGG clarify whether the website requires user registration/login and role-based accounts, or whether it is primarily intended as a public resource website? **No user accounts are planned, a publicly available website/portal is to be provided.**

151. GDPR and children's data

If user accounts or personal data are required, could COGG clarify the expected data processing model and whether COGG will act as Data Controller and the successful tenderer as Data Processor? Please also confirm whether a Data Processing Agreement and specific child-safeguarding/privacy requirements will be supplied. **A DPIA is not currently expected because the platform is designed to avoid pupil accounts and minimise personal-data processing. COGG will determine whether a DPIA is required once the proposed solution and its data-processing arrangements are known, and the successful tenderer must provide the necessary technical information and assistance.**

152. Accessibility requirement – WCAG 2.1 AA

Could COGG confirm whether WCAG 2.1 AA is a mandatory contractual requirement and clarify who will arrange/pay for the annual accessibility inspection and remediation of any findings? **As stated in the RFT, WCAG 2.1 AA compliance is a mandatory requirement of the project. The website must also pass annual inspection by the National Disability Authority (NDA). Tenderers should include any associated compliance activities within their proposed methodology. The associated costs should be factored into the tender.**

153. Analytics, cookies and third-party services

Please clarify whether COGG requires analytics, cookie consent management, embedded third-party services, social media integrations, video/audio hosting or other third-party components, and whether any preferred services/providers apply. **The RFT requires appropriate cookie controls where cookies are used. Tenderers may describe any proposed analytics or third-party components, provided these comply with all relevant legal, accessibility and security requirements.**

154. Budget and VAT

The RFT (section "Contracting and Tendering" and section "Pricing") states a budget of €75,000 **inclusive of VAT**. The published contract notice (TED 534689-2026, clauses 2.1.3 and 5.1.5) states an estimated value of €75,000 **excluding VAT**.

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Could you please confirm which of these applies: €75,000 inclusive of VAT, or €75,000 excluding VAT?

Inclusive of VAT

155. Contract term

The RFT states a 3-year contract (1 year development + 2 years maintenance), and the Pricing Schedule at Appendix 2 provides for a breakdown by Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3. The contract notice (clause 5.1.3) states a duration of 4 years.

Could you please confirm the applicable contract term? If the term is 4 years, does this include the optional 1-year extension referred to in the RFT, and should a "Year 4" line be added to the Pricing Schedule?

Contract term is three years with an option to extend to four years. Include a Year 4 pricing schedule if applicable or suitable.

156. Levels of insurance cover

The RFT lists three required types of insurance — Employer's Liability, Public Liability and Professional Indemnity — without specifying minimum levels of cover. Could you please confirm the minimum level of cover required for each, as this affects our pricing?

Whatever levels of cover that are in place at the moment will be evaluated on review of applications.

157. Population of the site with content

Could you please clarify how responsibility for uploading and structuring the existing educational resources is to be allocated: is this work to be carried out by the supplier under the contract, or will the COGG team populate the site through the CMS following handover of the system?

If content population falls within the supplier's scope of work, could you please indicate the approximate volume of content (files, pages, media items) to be uploaded by launch?

The COGG team populate the site through the CMS following handover of the system.

158. Irish-language content

The RFT states that the website must be bilingual, that automated translation services are not permitted, and that COGG will provide advice and support in this regard.

Could you please clarify whether COGG will supply the finalised Irish-language text for the site interface and content sections, or whether preparation of the Irish-language version of the text falls within the supplier's responsibilities?

COGG will supply the finalised Irish-language text for the site interface and content sections

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159. Design reference (Canva)

Appendix 1, clause 4.1 of the Primary Resources section refers to a provided layout (Canva reference). This layout does not appear to be included in the tender documentation. Could you please publish it, or confirm that the design concept is to be developed by the supplier from scratch?

<https://matamaitic.my.canva.site/an-tobar>

This is just a general idea but we would expect the design concept to be developed by the supplier from scratch.

160. The Tenderer's Statement (Appendix 3) requires Tenderers to accept the Terms and Conditions of the Services Contract and the Confidentiality Agreement. However, these documents do not appear to be included in the tender package. Could you please provide the Services Contract (including the Terms and Conditions) and the Confidentiality Agreement, or advise where they can be accessed?

Uploaded to e-tenders platform

161. Please can you confirm if the €75,000 budget is over the 3 year term or just implementation?

Over the three years but we envisage that the bulk of this will be used in year 1.

162. Our team includes specialist contributors, in particular for the Irish language. Could you let us know how you would prefer to see them presented in the tender: should their CVs and letters of commitment be attached as separate appendices, or included within the body of the technical response?

They can be included as separate appendices.

163. We understand from the RFT that the site will be populated by a team of five seconded from schools for a two-year period. As the launch is planned for August 2027, could you tell us how COGG envisages the handover once that secondment period ends? We would like to build our training plan and documentation so that new staff can pick the work up without any loss of continuity.

Currently there is no plan for the team of five to stay on for extra years – a business cases may be made to the Department of Education and Youth for their retention. The Digital Officer is a permanent employee. In the case where the team of five are not retained the Digital Officer will remain in charge of the site / project.

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164. Does the Services Contract include a cap on the Contractor's total liability, and if so, what is it? If none is specified, could COGG confirm whether one will be added, or the maximum liability tenderers should plan insurance cover against?

165. Insurance. The RFT requires Employer's Liability, Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance. Are specific minimum cover amounts required for each of the three policies? If so, what are they?

These will be evaluated on review of applications but a guide range for references purposes would be: Employer's Liability: €12.7 million for public procurement Public Liability: €6.5 million for government tenders Professional Indemnity: €1- €2 million

166. Hosting. Where will the website be hosted after launch? Should our price include hosting for the full contract term (Years 1 to 3), or will COGG provide and pay for its own hosting infrastructure?

COGG will host the website with the successful tenderer.

167. Content. Our understanding is that COGG will supply all educational resources (worksheets, presentations, videos, audio files, teacher guides) as ready-made files, already available in Irish and English, and that the supplier's role is to structure and upload them into the platform. Is this understanding correct? Or does the scope also include creating new content, or translating existing content into Irish, by the supplier?

COGG will create and upload the resources according to the structure built by the successful tenderer.

168. Irish language experience criterion. Our delivery team would include an Irish-language specialist accredited by Foras na Gaeilge (Seal of Accreditation), responsible for all Irish-language elements of the user interface and for linguistic quality assurance. Would this arrangement meet the "Irish language experience" award criterion?

Yes, but everything will have to be checked by COGG proofreaders first.

169. Presentation. If tenderers are invited to present their proposal, can the presentation take place fully online?

Yes, it can take place online.