

RFT 9033717: Request for Tenders to establish a Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the provision of Interpreting Services (excluding Irish Language Services) – Clarification Question 07/10/2026

Message Ref No	Question	Contracting Authority Response
797389	1. Why was a hybrid or mini-competition model under Article 33(4)(b) of the Public Contracts Directive not adopted in place of the direct-drawdown/rotation model, given the scale and variety of the requirement? 2. What is the basis on which the Minimum and Maximum Rates Payable in Appendix 2 were calculated, was any market benchmarking carried out, and why was residual price competition removed at call-off stage having already been compressed to a 25% band? 3. How many economic operators does the OGP consider capable of delivering the Services at the scale, geographic coverage and language range required, and how does that compare with the up to nine places on offer for Lot 1 and six for Lot 2? 4. The Department carried out a preliminary market consultation on these Services earlier this year — will the OGP share a summary of the responses received, in particular as to the number of operators identified as capable of delivering the Services at the scale required, and how the final design reflects what was learned?	1. The Office of Government Procurement has designed this Competition on the basis of its comprehensive analysis of the market, engagement with potential Framework Clients, assessments of previous centralised purchasing arrangements for these Services and Government policy objectives. 2. The pricing model within this Competition has been established on foot of market analysis to ensure sustainability and viability in pricing with a price review mechanism. 3. In accordance with OGP strategy and the information obtained from the pre-market consultation, the Framework has been designed as a multi supplier Framework comprising two Lots with drawdown by rotation to ensure supplier capacity and continuity of service. 4. The Office of Government Procurement does not publish responses to pre-market consultations which contain commercially sensitive information provided by economic operators in confidence.

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	5. If most or all compliant tenderers are appointed to the Framework, what role does the price award criterion in fact play once call-offs are allocated by rotation rather than by price?	5. Price and quality evaluations determine the post-evaluation ranking on the rotation. Tenderers are referred to Clause 5.1 of the Framework Agreement in Appendix 5 of the RFT which states: <i>5.1 "Framework Members will be placed on a ranked list based on the scores awarded for their Tenders submitted in response to the RFT, with the highest-scoring tenderer being ranked 1st, the second-highest scoring tenderer being ranked 2nd, and so on."</i>
	6. Is a mini competition a feature of this Competition? Clause 5.1 excludes reopening of competition, yet paragraphs 2.12, 2.13 and 2.18 of the RFT and clauses 13.3 and 16.1 of the Framework Agreement each refer to one.	6. Mini competitions are not a feature of this Competition. The referenced paragraphs: 2.12: Publicity; 2.13: Registrable Interest; and 2.18: Conflicts of Interest in Part 2: Instructions to Tenderers of the RFT are standard clauses which are contained in all OGP RFT documents.
	7. Does the rotation run as a single national sequence, or as a separate sequence for each Framework Client?	7. The rotation mechanism is a single rotation per Lot applicable to all Framework Clients who may use that Lot. Tenderers are referred to the examples of how the rotation mechanism will work set out in Clause 5.2 of the Framework Agreement in Appendix 5 of the RFT. Tenderers are also referred to Questions 1,2 and 3 in Clarification 797324.
	8. Would the OGP consider a shorter response window, or a distinct urgent-request procedure, for requirements needed at short notice, given the settings in which interpreting is often required?	8. The General Service Requirements in Annex 2 set out the booking procedures for very urgent requests for Service. Tenderers are also referred to Questions 12 and 13 in Clarification 797324.

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	9. How is a Framework Client whose annual requirement exceeds the €2,000,000 Lot 2 call-off cap expected to be accommodated, and is there a way to avoid a forced change of supplier mid-service?	9. Framework Clients may run multiple concurrent Services Contracts under the Framework. Tenderers are referred to clauses 5.1.13 and 5.1.14 of the RFT: <i>“5.1.13 Once the maximum term or the maximum value (whichever comes first) has been reached, the Contract is ineffective, and the Framework Client may engage with the call-off process set out herewith.</i> <i>5.1.14 Framework Clients may have concurrent Contracts in place with several Framework Members.”</i>
	10. Given that call-offs are allocated by rotation rather than by reference to capability or prior experience, will a Framework Client such as the Courts Service or An Garda Síochána have ready access, on any given occasion, to a Garda-vetted interpreter who is familiar with the relevant court or investigative procedures, or could the rotation instead allocate an interpreter without that familiarity? We do not think the process as currently designed secures continuity of this kind, notwithstanding its evident importance.	10. The Requirements and Specifications set out in Appendix 1, inform Tenderers of the requirements of certain Framework Clients. It is a matter for Tenderers to fulfil the RFT requirements which they will be accepting by signing the Tenderer’s Statement, assessing and addressing Service Requests as received and meeting the needs captured within Service Requests with suitable interpreters. In circumstances where a Framework Member does not accept a Service Request, the Service Request will be offered to the next Framework Member in accordance with the rules of the rotation mechanism set out in Clause 5.2 of the Framework Agreement in Appendix 5 of the RFT