

CLARIFICATION DOCUMENT

This clarification document contains answers to all the questions raised to-date

Contracting Authority:	Pobal
Competition:	0442 GIS Mapping Solution Framework Agreement
Procedure	Open
eTenders Ref:	9199621
Closing date for Queries:	Thursday 22nd October 2026, 11:00am GMT
Closing date for Submissions:	Monday 2nd November 2026, 11:00am GMT
Clarification Number:	3
Issue Date:	19 th October, 2026
This Clarification relates to:	Question Numbers 4 to 6
Information on Questions 1 to 6	

Question #1

Could you please clarify whether the delivery of the services under this contract requires on-site presence at the client's premises, or whether the services may be performed remotely from the contractor's premises

Answer #1

The delivery of services under this contract does not require a permanent on-site presence and may be undertaken remotely from the contractor's premises. However, from time to time, attendance at Pobal offices or other agreed locations in Ireland may be required for meetings, workshops, presentations, knowledge transfer, project governance, or other contract-related activities. Any such requirements will be agreed in advance with the successful contractor.

Question #2

Our company provides custom software, cloud engineering, data, API/integration and automation delivery. We recognise that the framework includes broader GIS-specific and compliance requirements, so rather than misrepresenting our position as a full prime, we are exploring whether specialist subcontracting/consortium delivery is permitted for elements such as cloud infrastructure, integrations, data workflows and application development.

Could you confirm whether subcontracting is permitted under this competition?

Answer #2

The contracting Authority welcomes participation from SMEs, specialist providers, consortia and subcontracting arrangements where these are structured in accordance with the requirements of the competition. The RFT expressly provides that tenderers may rely on the resources of other entities and may submit as a consortium/joint venture arrangement where

appropriate. Where a consortium/joint venture submits a tender, a single point of contact must be appointed with overall responsibility for delivery.

Tenderers should note that this competition is for a Single-Party Framework Agreement. Accordingly, Pobal will enter into a framework agreement with a single economic operator who will be contractually responsible for delivery of the requirements under the framework, whether using its own resources, consortium members, subcontractors or a combination thereof.

The scope of the framework includes support, development, maintenance and associated GIS services, including infrastructure, platform support, data management, integrations, analytics, governance and ongoing support. The successful contractor is expected to provide an end-to-end solution and demonstrate how all elements of the requirement will be delivered.

Therefore, if your organisation wishes to participate in areas such as cloud infrastructure, integrations, data workflows, automation or application development, this may be proposed as part of a consortium or subcontracting arrangement, provided the tender clearly identifies the proposed delivery model, the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and demonstrates how the overall framework requirements will be met by the lead tenderer.

As with all tender responses, the evaluation will be based solely on the published selection and award criteria and on the information provided in the submitted tender.

Question #3

I noticed in the 'Confirmation check' section of the TRD, it says 'I confirm that I have opted to provide a completed European Single Procurement Document in place of Selection Criteria / Art. 57'

Do we need to also submit a completed ESPD, or is it enough to complete Art. 57, p 6 onwards?

Answer #3

No, a completed ESPD is not required if you have completed the Selection Criteria / Article 57 declarations within the Tender Response Document.

The reference in the Confirmation Check section is intended for tenderers who choose to submit a completed ESPD instead of completing the Selection Criteria / Article 57 section of the TRD.

Therefore

- If you have completed the Selection Criteria / Article 57 declarations in the TRD (from page 6 onwards), you do not need to submit an ESPD.
- If you prefer to submit a completed ESPD, this may be provided as an alternative to completing the corresponding Selection Criteria / Article 57 section of the TRD.

Tenderers should ensure that all required exclusion grounds and selection criteria information is provided through one route or the other.

Question #4

Clarification on Azure Migration Requirements

The Scope of Requirements references "work to migrate the solution to the Cloud (Azure)". However, we have not identified a corresponding detailed requirement within the Technical Requirements section.

Could Pobal please clarify:

- a) whether Azure migration is expected to be delivered as a defined project during the initial contract period;
- b) whether bidders are expected to provide a migration roadmap and supporting capability for migration activities that may be progressed during the contract term; and
- c) whether Azure migration activities form part of the evaluated scope and pricing under this procurement, or are intended as future optional works?

Answer #4

- a) The defined migration requirement during the initial contract period relates to the migration of Pobal's existing hosted data to EU.
- b) Bidders must demonstrate ability to migrate data as part of the tender assessment.
- c) This is not an optional piece of work, and it is part of this scope of work

Question #5

Hosting, licensing and platform access

The RFT references both the current Pobal-hosted GIS environment and future cloud migration activities, while the pricing schedule also requests hosting costs. Could Pobal please clarify:

- a) Whether bidders should assume that the GIS platform, associated infrastructure and ArcGIS licensing will continue to be provided and managed by Pobal/Government infrastructure, with suppliers responsible only for support, maintenance and implementation services, or should bidders include costs for supplier-managed hosting and/or licensing within their pricing submission?

b) Whether supplier-hosted infrastructure is being considered as part of the future operating model, including any migration to Azure.

c) Whether framework suppliers will be provided with appropriate user/administrative access to Pobal's GIS systems and infrastructure to undertake support, maintenance and enhancement activities.

Answer #5

a) Pobal confirms that the GIS platform and associated infrastructure will continue to be provided and managed by Pobal and/or through existing Government infrastructure arrangements.

b) Supplier-hosted infrastructure is not currently envisaged as part of the operating model under this framework. The GIS platform and associated infrastructure will continue to be provided and managed by Pobal and/or through existing Government infrastructure arrangements.

c) Pobal confirms that appropriate user and/or administrative access to its GIS systems and infrastructure will be provided to framework suppliers where required for the delivery of support, maintenance and enhancement activities.

Question #6

Size of existing GIS estate

In order to estimate future workload, could a summary of the current GIS estate be provided, including ArcGIS Enterprise deployments, ArcGIS Online usage, applications, integrations, user numbers and key datasets that are expected to be supported under the framework?

Answer #6

Pobal's current GIS estate comprises an ArcGIS Enterprise Standard environment, including a separate staging environment, together with ArcGIS Online. The current ArcGIS Online subscription includes three Creator users and one Professional user. These figures relate specifically to licensed ArcGIS Online users and should not be interpreted as the total number of users accessing Pobal's GIS applications and services

The GIS estate supports Pobal Maps (which contains 30 Hosted Feature Services, 1 Dashobard, 1 Storymap 1 Hub Site, 5 Web Maps) and associated GIS applications and services. The current architecture includes a Pobal Maps database, data services, ArcGIS Enterprise, Experience Builder applications, Esri Dashboards and Esri Web Maps. The environment also makes use of Esri World Geocoding and third-party mapping services. Key datasets currently supported include the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, Census and associated demographic data, administrative and programme-related spatial datasets, and administrative boundary/geographic datasets.

For indicative purposes, Pobal currently consumes approximately 12,000 ArcGIS Online service credits annually. Actual usage may vary depending on operational requirements.

The above provides an indicative overview of the current GIS estate for tendering purposes. The applications, datasets, services and associated usage may evolve over the lifetime of the framework.

