Dynamic Purchasing System

for the provision of

Managed ICT Security Services

Admission Information

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1.0	06.02.2026	Initial Release (terminated)
2.0	N/A	Update to 1.4.1 Scope Update to 1.5 Eligibility Requirements Update to 1.6 Service Contract Terms
3.0	21.04.2026	Update to 1.4.1 Scope Update to 1.5.6 Eligibility Requirements Update to 1.9 Schedule Update to 3.2 Award Criteria
4.0	15.06.2026	Update to 1.5.5 (E) Business Partner Requirement
5.0	16.09.2026	Update to 1.5.5 (a) References
6.0	09.11.2026	Further update to 1.5.5(a) References

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1. General

1.1 Introduction

Effective 01 Jan 2026, HEAnet and its subsidiary EduCampus merged under the name of Asiera – Advancing Services for Irish Education, Research and Academia. Further information can be found at: https://www.asiera.ie/

This document contains the Admission Information for the Asiera CLG (Formerly HEAnet and EduCampus) Dynamic Purchasing System for the provision of Managed ICT Security Services. Subject to satisfying qualification criteria, the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) enables admitted Economic Operators (hereafter referred to as 'Interested Parties') to submit proposals to a large number of educational institutions in Ireland.

Note:

The DPS for Managed ICT Security Services, OJEU 2022/S 089-243293 established on the 26th May 2022 will expire on 26th May 2026.

Existing contracts shall be honoured and remain in place. Consequently, the scope of this DPS excludes all contracts (including possible renewal options) used by a Participant:

- relating to the purchase of the above-mentioned products and/or services that are ongoing at the time of publication of this DPS.

When any such contract has ended, the Participant concerned may use this DPS to issue a Call for Tender.

The DPS for Managed ICT Security Services, OJEU 88846-2026 published on 2nd February 2026 has been terminated and re-established on 21st April 2026 under a new OJEU number due to administration changes which are outlined in the version summary at the start of this document.

In case there is ambiguity of terms, please do not hesitate to send us your questions if there is anything that needs to be clarified.

Terms	Definitions
Admission Procedure	means the admission procedure laid out in section 2 of the Admission Information document.
Contracting Authority	can be Asiera, or the Asiera member institutions and customers, who publish Call for Tenders under the DPS. These are the Participants.
Economic Operator	**Interested Party** means the supplier submitting an application to join the DPS. **Candidate**

	means when the Interested Party has been admitted into the DPS. **Interested Party** means the Candidate who is invited to competition and submits a tender. **Contractor** means the Interested Party who is awarded a Services Contract under the DPS.
Participant	means Asiera, its member institutions and customers. The current list of members is available here.
Personal Data	has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws.
Processing	has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws.
Request for Admission	means the request made by an Interested Party/supplier/economic operator to join the DPS.
Services Contract	means Annex 4 – Services Contract as set out at 1.7.1 Applicable Terms and Conditions of the DPS Admission Information.
Tender	means the second step of the Dynamic Purchasing System procedure that is carried out after the Admission Procedure, in which Participants can post Calls for Tender, to which Candidates can respond by submitting a Tender bid.

1.2 The roles of Asiera and the Participants

Asiera is Ireland's national education and research network. One of Asiera's key tasks is to source ICT products and services on behalf of Irish educational and research institutions, subject to the best possible terms and conditions. For more detailed information, please visit Asiera - Ireland's National Research & Education Network

This DPS has been prepared by Asiera for use by Asiera and its member institutions (hereafter referred to as 'Participants') listed here.

Asiera decides whether or not to admit Interested Parties to the DPS. All Participants issue Call for Tenders and award the Services Contract using the procurement documentation made available by Asiera.

1.3 Purpose and Benefits of the DPS

1.3.1 Purpose

A Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) is an electronic system hosted on the eTenders procurement platform used by a Participant to purchase goods, works or services. Unlike a traditional framework, Interested Parties can request to join (qualify) at any time during the lifetime of the DPS.

This DPS is for Participants to purchase Managed ICT Security Services on demand. This means that each Participant individually purchases services and support as and when they are required.

There are two stages in the DPS:

Stage 1 – Admission Procedure (Qualifying Stage)

This is the first step. Interested Parties who submit a Request for Admission to the DPS, and meet the eligibility requirements following evaluation, are admitted to the DPS. Interested Parties admitted to the DPS will be added to the lots for all that are applied for, and for which the eligibility requirements have been met.

Admission requests are processed by Asiera on behalf of the Participants. Interested Parties receive notification of admission or rejection.

Stage 2 – Tender Procedure (Mini Competition)

During this second step, Interested Parties admitted to the DPS are now referred to as Candidates and are free to participate in competitions for the award of a specific contract(s) by Participants(s).

If a Participant publishes a Call for Tender in the DPS, all Candidates admitted to the DPS shall receive an invitation to submit a Tender. The Interested Party whose bid scores best against the Award Criteria will be awarded a Services Contract.

Interested Parties can submit a Request for Admission during the entire operating lifetime of the DPS and, after admission, submit Tenders for Call for Tenders (mini competitions).

However, submitting a Request for Admission in response to a Call for Tender that has already been published on eTenders is not permitted.

Only Interested Parties who have already been admitted to the DPS, i.e. Candidates, prior to the Call for Tender on eTenders will be invited to participate.

1.3.2 Benefits

Below are some benefits to using the DPS.

For Participants:

- Faster process – short lead time between the Call for Tender and the award of the Contract
- Cost savings
- Stable, high-quality, future-proof, user-friendly solutions.

Several Participants may optionally participate as a buyer group. Where applicable, this is communicated to all Interested Parties via Call for Tender.

In each Call for Tender, the Participant(s) will identify the expected value for money (target price/quality ratio) as it relates to the specific Call for Tender.

For Interested Parties:

- Faster process – short lead time between the Call for Tender and the award of the Contract;
- Interested Parties can apply at any time during the operating lifetime of the DPS
- Interested Parties who don't match the qualification criteria first time around may reapply.

1.4 Scope of the DPS

1.4.1 Scope

This DPS is for the provision of support, implementation and maintenance services for specific Managed ICT Security Services. Interested Parties may qualify for admittance to one or more lots.

Lot 1-6 inclusive will offer the following services for named Managed ICT Security Services:

- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) Software
- Managed Security Operation Centre Services (SOC-as-a-Service)
- Optional Advanced Security Managed Services
- Optional Dedicated Support Resources
- Ad hoc Professional Services Resources

Lot A will offer the following services for Managed ICT Security Services:

- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) Software or equivalent
- Managed Security Operation Centre Services (SOC-as-a-Service)
- Optional Advanced Security Managed Services
- Optional Dedicated Support Resources
- Ad hoc Professional Services Resources

Lots
Lot 1: IBM QRadar based platform or equivalent, with managed ICT security services
Lot 2: MS Sentinel based platform or equivalent, with managed ICT security services
Lot 3: Splunk based platform or equivalent, with managed ICT security service
Lot 4: Rapid 7 InsightIDR based platform or equivalent, with managed ICT security services
Lot 5: Trend Vision One based platform or equivalent, with managed ICT security services
Lot 6: AT&T AlienVault based platform or equivalent, with managed ICT security services
Lot A: Any SIEM platform or equivalent with managed ICT security services including SOC

1.5 Eligibility Requirements

Interested Parties requesting admission to the DPS will be assessed on the following eligibility requirements. If an Interested Party does not meet the applicable eligibility requirements, they will not be admitted to the DPS.

Interested Parties must provide responses to each of the below as set out in the DPS Qualification

Questionnaire (Parts A&B) and, where applicable, upload required documentation via eTenders.

Note: The qualification questionnaire is divided into two sections, Parts A and B.

Part A: only needs to be completed once, regardless of the number of lots for which admittance is requested. It covers items **1.5.1–1.5.3 inclusive and 1.5.7.**

Part B: must be completed separately for each lot being submitted for admittance and covers items **1.5.4–1.5.6 inclusive.**

1.5.1 Economic and Financial Standing

NOTE:

Interested Parties may also satisfy the Economic and Financial Standing Criteria by submitting a European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) completed in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/7.

Where the Interested Party is unable, for a valid reason, to provide the specified documentation per 1.5.1 iv. below, the Interested Party must inform Asiera of the reason as to why the documentation cannot be supplied and, if the Contracting Authority considers the reason given to be valid, provide such other suitable alternative documentation to prove to the satisfaction of Asiera, their economic and financial capacity.

i. EU Declaration Form / Article 57 Declaration

Interested Parties must complete and sign the EU Declaration Form/ESPD Form on eTenders confirming if any of the situations listed in Article 57 of the Public Sector Directive 2014/24/EU and Reg 57 of S.I. 284 of 2016 applies to the Interested Parties. Interested Parties may be excluded from participation based on the responses made in the declaration.

ii. Statutory Obligations Declaration

Interested Parties must complete and sign the Statutory Obligations Declaration Form on eTenders. Interested Parties may be excluded from participation based on the responses made in the declaration.

iii. Tax Clearance Certificate - Self Declaration

Interested Parties must confirm and declare the company has a current and valid Tax Clearance certificate in place and that its tax affairs are in order.

The Contracting Authority can verify your tax clearance status through Revenue's online facility here.

Interested Parties must confirm:

- the company grants the Contracting Authority permission to verify its tax cleared position online

- the company's Registration Number (as shown in its Tax Clearance Cert.) or Tax Clearance Access Number
- the company's Certificate Number (as shown in your Tax Clearance Cert.) or Tax Reference Number

OR

- confirm that the company has applied for a Tax Clearance Certificate which will be made available on request.

iv. Turnover

Interested Parties must confirm:

- that turnover exceeded €500,000 in any of the last three financial years, or pro-rata if more recently established.

v. Bank Details – Self Declaration

Interested Parties must confirm:

- that the company holds a bank account and that it is presently in good standing with their bank.
- confirm that the company will submit bank details (bank name and branch, and details of main contact) on request at any time.

vi. Insurances

Interested Parties must submit a statement confirming that the company has the following insurances in place:

Type of Insurance	Indemnity limit
Employer's liability	€12.7 million
Public liability	€6.5 million
Professional indemnity	€6.5 million
Product liability	€6.5 million
Cyber security insurance	€6.5 million

OR

must submit a statement confirming that should the company be awarded the contract, it is willing and able to raise its insurance cover to these levels (in cases where the existing cover levels are lower) and that it will maintain these levels for the duration of the contract.

1.5.2 General Data Processing Regulation Compliance

Interested Parties must be compliant with Irish and EU laws in relation to the processing of data. Data is to be hosted in the EU/EEA or in a country with an adequacy decision from the European Commission.

1.5.3 Social and Environmental / Green Commitment

Interested Parties must submit a statement via eTenders describing their organisation's policies and practices in relation to social and environmental matters and include how these are monitored.

The statement of commitment to social and environmental best practice could include, for example, the following:

- Reduction of energy consumption
- Usage of energy generated from renewable sources

1.5.4 24x7 SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTRE (SOC)

Interested Parties must provide their SOC and Incident Response Services on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Interested Parties are admitted to the DPS on acceptance of the Model Service Level Agreement in Appendix 5. This is the minimum level interested parties must provide. Any changes to the Service Level Agreement will be detailed in the respective Call(s) for Tender.

1.5.5 Technical and Professional Proficiency

Interested Parties must have experience in supplying Cybersecurity threat detection and remediation services for the lot they are bidding for. This will include Security Operations Centre (SOC) and/or associated Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) services.

The solution offered as part of any service will include maintenance, technical support and/or implementation of the software/hardware required to provide the required services.

(a) **References**

Interested Parties must provide:

Evidence of three existing customers for whom they have delivered similar services. You must provide a reference relating to the solution you are proposing. Interested Parties must submit contact details of the three customers that may be contacted on a confidential basis in relation to these contracts to confirm satisfactory delivery of the contract. Asiera will only contact any or all referees with prior notice given to the Supplier. The information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

- Names and email and /or telephone numbers
- a brief outline of their level of involvement with the reference site:
  - what services were provided
  - a brief description of the project
  - number of staff involved
  - duration of contract

(b) **Minimum Order Value**

Interested Parties must provide:

Evidence of relevant experience of a single minimum order value of €80,000 (eighty thousand euros) excluding VAT per year.

Documentary evidence must be provided in the form of a reference statement relating to a completed contract performed within the last three years, counting backwards from the submission date of the Request for Admission.

(c) **Security Operations Centre (SOC) Service**

The SOC will be staffed by highly skilled SOC analysts trained and experienced in dealing with security threats in the Research/Education sector. As such the interested party must have, at a minimum, the following FTE staffing:

- 8 FTE Cyber Security Support Engineers, across L1, L2 & L3
- 2 FTE CISO equivalent Cyber Security personnel
- 4 FTE Cyber Security System Architects/Designers

The SOC must have sufficient staff present 24/7 to operate effectively. The above numbers only refer to a minimum total team size and competencies. For the avoidance of doubt, a SOC with personnel only on-call overnight is not acceptable.

The SOC must be staffed by personnel with an adequate level of English language fluency for the support and delivery of the required services.

For each non-native speaker who will be part of the service delivery of the services described must be submit: A certificate under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages at level C2 Mastery or Proficiency or equivalent.

(d) **ISO or Equivalent Accreditation**

Interested Parties must demonstrate accreditation to the ISO standard: **ISO: 27001** or **equivalent**.

(e) **Business Partner Requirement**

If not the original service of the SIEM platform, Interested Parties must:

- hold the minimum partner level for the solution they are providing
- state the partner level
- provide evidence of same

(f) **Bring Your Own Licence (BYOL)**

The proposed service must have a mechanism where clients wishing to migrate to the solution can bring their existing licence(s).

1.5.6 Solution Requirements

Interested parties are required to confirm the solution requirements

(a) **Solution Scalability**

The proposed services should be scalable to meet the requirements of all Asiera clients.

Asiera client sites range in size from offices of 50 people up to University Campus's with over 30,000 staff and students on site. A current example of a large university has an average of 15,000 events per second (approx. 400GB per day) with 20,000 end users.

(b) **Professional Services**

Professional services may be required on an ad-hoc basis. The purchasing of these days should not take the form of an annual contract. The services should be available on a daily rate with options of purchasing a group of days upfront or on retainer.

Where the services of cyber security are required, the interested party should be capable of providing Certified Cybersecurity Professionals with the necessary skill sets and experience to meet the needs of our customers security needs.

The cyber security services should be available on a daily rate with a minimum block of 10 days and access to services of the following security roles:

- Chief Information Security Officer
- Senior Cyber Security Engineer/Architect
- Cyber Security Engineer

(c) **Service Capabilities**

Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) Service

Lots 1-6 inclusive

The SIEM Service must have the following capabilities:

- Log Management & Reporting
- Automatic threat detection and alert
- Implementation and integration of intelligence feeds
- Collection, logging and storage from both onsite services and cloud
- Automated ticketing system (provision or integration with existing)
- Support user and entity behaviour analytics (UEBA)
- Provide or integrate with Incident management capabilities
- Ability to perform network discovery for linking incidents and users to physical network port and VLAN on both wired and wireless networks.
- Reporting and analysis tools
- MFA

Lot A

The service must have the following capabilities:

- Log Management & Reporting
- Automatic threat detection and alert
- Implementation and integration of intelligence feeds
- Collection, logging and storage from both onsite services and cloud
- Automated ticketing system (provision or integration with existing)

- Support user and entity behaviour analytics (UEBA)
- Provide or integrate with Incident management capabilities
- Ability to perform network discovery for linking incidents and users to physical network port and VLAN on both wired and wireless networks.
- Reporting and analysis tools
- MFA

(d) **Security Operations Centre (SOC) Service**

The SOC Service must have the following capabilities:

- SOC onboarding assistance
- Security analysis
- Threat intelligence
- Incident Management
- Reporting
- Enforce MFA for all admin and management accounts
- Information and guidance

(e) **Advanced Security Management Services**

The following list provides a list of likely (although not exhaustive) requirements for the use of the Advanced Security Management Services. Interested parties should indicate the availability of these services within their portfolio and add any additional ones that may be suitable.

A minimum of 2 advanced security management service elements must be available from the interested party for admission into the DPS:

- Incidence Response services
- SOAR Services
- MDR Services
- MSSP Services
- Red, Blue, Purple Teaming
- Penetration testing
- Vulnerability scanning
- End point protection
- Remediation of issues for clients
- Intrusion detection and Prevention services
- AD Health Checks/Auditing
- Secure DNS

1.5.7 Services Contract

Interested Party agrees in advance to the Services Contract terms as per 1.6 below.

1.6 Applicable Terms and Conditions

Services Contract Terms

The Contracts awarded via the DPS are subject to the Appendix 4 – Services Contract terms. By registering for the DPS, the Interested Party agrees in advance to the Services Contract terms.

At the mini-competition stage, the Participant shall:

- indicate terms for any clauses in the Appendix 4 – Services Contract that are currently without specified conditions (highlighted in yellow); and/or
- introduce additional, amended, or substitute contractual terms to the Appendix 4 – Services Contract terms; or
- propose their own contract, which, shall supersede and replace the Appendix 4 – Services Contract.

In such circumstances, each Interested Party will be given the opportunity to tender or decline, depending on whether they accept the Participant's proposed terms or contract.

The term of each service contract(s) shall be outlined at mini competition stage but shall not in any event exceed ten (10) years including extensions. To clarify, this does not mean services contracts will be for ten (10) years, rather, the maximum possible length is ten (10) years which takes into account any extensions

1.7 Estimated Value

The total value during the operating lifetime of the DPS, for all Participants, is estimated at €175 million subject to funding over four (4) years, excluding VAT.

It is emphasised, however, there is no guarantee that expenditure will reach this level.

1.8 Operational lifetime of the DPS

The DPS will be set up initially for four (4) years and can be continued (or prematurely discontinued) by making an appropriate announcement via:

- eTenders;
- by sending a notification to the Interested Parties within eTenders;
- on Asiera's website

1.9 Schedule

An ***indicative*** time schedule for setting up and operating the DPS is shown below. Any adjustments to this schedule will be published via eTenders.

The finalised schedule will be published on eTenders and prevails over the schedule shown here. It is expressly the case that no rights may be derived from the schedule below.

Action	Date & Time (GMT)
DPS Release	Tuesday 21st April 2026
Start of DPS and Tendering Procedure	Tuesday 12th May 2026 provisionally
Timeline for confirmation to Interested Parties regarding Requests for Admission following reopening date above	Within 10 working days of receipt of submission for admittance to the DPS.
DPS Duration	4 years (with opportunity to extend)

1.10 Procurement Platform

The eTenders procurement platform will be used for the DPS.

All communication, such as making procurement documents available, submitting your Request for Admission and submitting your tender bid for Call for Tender, takes place exclusively via this platform.

2. Admission Procedure

2.1 Response Requirements

Below is the list of documents that need to be reviewed or completed and returned via eTenders.

Document	Document Name and Description	Action for Interested Parties
DPS Admission Qualification Questionnaire PART A	**ICTSS_DPS_Admission Qualification Questionnaire_PART.A v3.0.docx** This is a form available on eTenders.	**Part A** only needs to be completed once, regardless of the number of lots for which admittance is requested. It covers items **1.5.1–1.5.3 inclusive and 1.5.7.** Download the questionnaire, complete and re-upload to eTenders. Answers to Eligibility Requirements are inputted here.
DPS Admission Qualification Questionnaire PART B	**ICTSS_DPS_Admission Qualification Questionnaire_PART.B v3.0.docx** This is a form available on eTenders.	**Part B** must be completed separately for each lot being submitted for admittance and covers items **1.5.4–1.5.6 inclusive.** Download the form from eTenders, complete and re-upload to eTenders. Answers to Eligibility Requirements are inputted here.
ESPD Form	**ICTSS_DPS_ESPD.docx** This is a form available on eTenders which forms part of the **DPS Admission Qualification Questionnaire PART.A** It exists as a standalone document. See 2.2 below for more detail.	Download the form from eTenders, complete and re-upload to eTenders. **See 2.2 below for more detail.**

Appendix 3: Advanced Security Services	**Appendix 3_ICTSS_DPS_Admission Requirements_Advanced Security Services.xlsx** This is a form available on eTenders which forms part of the **DPS Admission Qualification Questionnaire PART B** It exists as a standalone document. See 1.5.6 (e) for more detail.	Download the file from eTenders, indicate the availability of the services and add any additional services that may be suitable. **See 1.5.6 (e) above for more detail.**
Appendix 4: Services Contract	**Appendix 4_ICTSS_DPS_Services_Contract.pdf** At the mini-competition stage, the Participant shall: • indicate terms for any clauses in the Appendix 4 – Services Contract that are currently without specified conditions (highlighted in yellow); and/or • introduce additional, amended, or substitute contractual terms to the Appendix 4 – Services Contract terms; or • propose their own contract, which, shall supersede and replace the Appendix 4 – Services Contract.	Review and acknowledge acceptance of **Appendix 4: Services Contract at 1.5.7 in DPS Admission Qualification Questionnaire PART A**
Appendix 5: Service Level Agreement	**Appendix 5_ICTSS_DPS_Service Level Agreement.pdf** Interested Party must • provide their SOC and Incident Response Services on a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. • Interested Parties are admitted to the DPS on acceptance of the Model Service Level Agreement in Appendix 5. • This is the minimum level interested parties must provide.	Review and acknowledge acceptance of **Appendix 5: Service Level Agreement at 1.5.4 DPS Admission Qualification Questionnaire PART B**

2.2 EU Declaration Form / ESPD (European Single Procurement Document)

Interested Parties can submit a Request for Admission by completing the process on eTenders and uploading the requested documents, as outlined above in 2.1. The EU Declaration Form / ESPD is set out on eTenders. The replies and documents submitted must be written in English. Interested Parties can review the eligibility requirements in section 1.5 and ESPD Grounds for Exclusion section 2.3 of this document.

The EU Declaration Form / ESPD must be signed by an authorised representative of the interested party, whose signatory authority must be demonstrated based on the professional or trade register of the country in which the Interested Party is established.

2.3 ESPD Grounds for Exclusion

Interested Parties may be excluded from admission to the DPS pursuant to mandatory grounds for exclusion.

The European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) sets out the mandatory grounds for exclusion and the optional grounds for exclusion that apply to admission to the DPS. Interested Parties complete the ESPD as a self-declaration and submit it as part of your Request for Admission.

If it is found at any time that the information provided in the ESPD and in any other documentary evidence that has been requested is incorrect, the Interested Party may be excluded from further participation in the DPS. If, after signing a Contract, it is found that the information provided in the ESPD is incorrect, the Contract in question may be terminated.

Furthermore, an Interested Party will be excluded from admission to the DPS when it does not accept Appendix 4 – Services Contract and complete Appendix 5 – Service Level Agreement.

2.4 Registering, solely or with other Economic Operators

An Interested Party can register in three ways:

1. Solely
2. As Main Interested Party, with a Subcontractor
3. As a Group

Situation 1 speaks for itself.

In the case of situation 2, Interested Parties may be required to provide details of the Subcontractor with which they are registering during the Tender Procedure. Interested Parties can register with a Subcontractor beforehand at the Request for Admission stage, but, if they prefer, Interested Parties can delay indicating the identity of their Subcontractor until the Tender Procedure.

In the case of situation 3, two or more Economic Operators will be registered together (a Group). Taking this approach means that all Interested Parties belonging to this Group accept joint liability for the fulfilment of the obligations that arise from the Request for Admission and Call for Tender, and from the execution of any Services Contract. The submission must also state which Economic

Operator heads up the Group and will act as the coordinator and responsible authorised representative with regard to Asiera and the Participants. Interested Parties can only register as a Group if they have previously made a joint Request for Admission as a Group.

While an Interested Party may act as a Subcontractor for an unlimited number of main Interested Parties, it may not also submit a Request for Admission and tender bid independently or as part of a Group.

If, after admission, a Candidate still wishes to tender with another party in response to a Call for Tender set out in the DPS, it may do so. The Candidate must then indicate in its Tender which form of cooperation applies (2 or 3). In the case of option 2, the Candidate indicates in its Tender bid which part of the services are subcontracted and to which Subcontractor.

2.5 Assessing Requests for Admission

2.5.1 Request for Admission Stage

When a Request for Admission is submitted, Asiera will assess, on behalf of the Participants, whether each of the following conditions have been met:

- the Request for Admission has been submitted fully and correctly via eTenders
- no reason for exclusion applies, in accordance with Directive 2014/24/EU

2.5.2 Evaluation Stage

Once the above conditions have been met, applications are evaluated against the eligibility requirements set out at 1.5. This will result in one of two outcomes:

1) If the application **meets the requirements**, the Interested Party will be admitted to the DPS into the relevant lot(s) and will be notified accordingly via eTenders.

   All qualified Interested Parties (''Candidates'') in the DPS will be invited to participate in future competitions in the relevant lots, by Participants.

2) If the application does not meet the requirements, the Interested Party will not be admitted to the DPS and will be notified accordingly via eTenders.

   There will be an opportunity to re-apply for admittance onto the DPS at any stage should the interested party be able to demonstrate that the requirements can be met.

Within 10 days of receipt of the Request for Admission, the Interested Party will receive confirmation of admission to the DPS via eTenders, or if unsuccessful, a rejection providing reasons why.

2.6 Term of Admission

Admission of a interested party to the DPS remains valid for the entire operating lifetime of the DPS, provided the candidate continues to meet the set requirements.

During the operating lifetime of the system, Asiera and the Participants are entitled to request an

updated self-declaration (European Single Procurement Document) from Interested Parties.

2.7 Period during which a Request for Admission is possible

An Interested Party may submit a Request for Admission both during the Admission Procedure and during the Tendering Procedure of the DPS.

If the Interested Party is not admitted, it may submit a Request for Admission again if the reason for refusing the admission of the Interested Party no longer applies.

If an Interested Party submits a Request for Admission during the operating lifetime of the DPS, it shall not be invited (retrospectively) to submit a Tender for open Request for Tenders that were published prior to the Interested Party's admission.

2.8 Questions and Information Notice

If you are considering submitting a Request for Admission to the DPS, you may ask any questions you deem necessary to correctly interpret the Admission Information and other procurement documents, and to submit a complete Request for Admission. Furthermore, with your questions, you may also submit proposals for improvement and any comments regarding contradictions or inaccuracies in these documents that you may have discovered or draw our attention to any alleged illegalities or irregularities.

- If you fail to inform Asiera of possible contradictions, inaccuracies, illegalities, or irregularities, no later than 10 (ten) calendar days before the closing date of a Call for Tender, any other (subsequent) claim you make against the alleged illegality or regularity will not be admissible. This also applies to questions you may have in respect of Requests for Tender, unless a different term is stated in the Call for Tender in question.
- The questions and comments must be clearly formulated, written in English and can only be submitted via eTenders.
- Questions can be asked during the entire operating lifetime of the DPS.
- If changes are adopted in the relevant procurement documents, the Contracting Authorities will make the amended document available via eTenders.
- In the event of questions, proposed amendments and reported inaccuracies or irregularities, an Information Notice will be drawn up that contains the Economic Operators' anonymous questions and the Contracting Authorities' answers. The Information Notice containing questions relating to admission shall remain available on eTenders during the operating lifetime of the DPS.
- Following publication on eTenders, the Information Notice becomes an integral part of the procurement documents. The information set out in the Information Notice prevails over the provisions in the Procurement Documents. Furthermore, an Information Notice that is published subsequently also prevails over an Information Notice published on an earlier date.
- Information given is only binding if and insofar as it is recorded in an Information Notice.

Commitments made or information provided verbally or in separate written documents have no legal validity at all.

2.9 Vendor file

When an Interested Party is admitted to the DPS, all documents submitted by that Interested Party shall be kept in a vendor file. This includes the following documents:

- self-declaration (European Single Procurement Document);
- the evidence and proofs requested within the European Single Procurement Document and the eligibility criteria;
- updates of the items of documentary evidence that are valid during the operating lifetime of the DPS;
- the Interested Party's standard contract, including annexes.

If the validity of a document expires, the Interested Party will receive notification that an updated document must be uploaded.

3. Tender Procedure

3.1 Call for Tender

This section provides a general description of the Tender Procedure. In the Call for Tender, the requirements are worked out in detail. Admitted Interested Parties that wish to submit a Tender bid are therefore advised to thoroughly read the Call for Tender of the Participant in question.

3.1.1 Formal Requirements

The Tender bid must comply with a number of general rules and must also be submitted with all the information requested. If the Interested Party submits an incomplete or unclear Tender bid, it runs the risk of its Tender not being considered. The formal requirements are stated in the Call for Tender.

3.1.2 Statement of Requirements

The Tender bid will be assessed to determine whether it unconditionally meets all the requirements in the Call for Tender. If a Tender bid does not unconditionally meet all the requirements set out in the Tender it will be declared invalid and will not be considered for the contract award.

3.1.3 Call for Tenders within the scope of the DPS

The Call for Tender describes what the Participant(s) would like to purchase.

The following elements can be included in the Call for Tender by the Participant(s) and are applicable for all Categories within the DPS, including but not limited to:

- The supply of Security Services solution, technical support and maintenance, including updates, upgrades, tuning and related services;
- Any technical integration of the solution with other systems: the Participant will set out the other systems in the Call for Tender;
- Processing of personal data: the measures provided to process (limited) personal data;
- Onboarding services and exit management: training, data transfer and migration from the current provider to the Interested Party and from the Interested Party to a future provider;
- Social and Environmental / Green Policy;
- Service Level Agreement.

The scope of the Managed ICT Security Services tender requirements will be specified in detail by each Participant in the Call for Tender.

Existing contracts shall be honoured and remain in place. Consequently, the scope of the DPS excludes all contracts (including possible renewal options) used by a Participant:

- relating to the purchase of the above-mentioned products and/or services that are ongoing at the time of publication of the DPS.

When any such contract has ended, the Participant concerned may use the DPS to issue a Call for Tender.

3.2 Award Criteria

The Award Criteria are stated in the Call for Tender. The criteria are categorized in mandatory criteria which must be part of all Tenders and optional criteria which may be part of a Tender. The award criteria are:

Award Criteria	%	Mandatory /Optional
Criterion A: Functional and Technical Merit of the Proposed Solution	30% to 70%	Optional
Criterion B: Professional Services	0% to 70%	Optional
Criterion C: Processing of Personal Data	0% to 50%	Optional
Criterion D: Service Level Agreement	0% to 50%	Optional
Criterion E: Onboarding Services and Exit Strategy	0% to 50%	Optional
Criterion F: Social & Environmental / Green	0% to 50%	Optional
Criterion G: Total Cost of Ownership	30% to 70%	Mandatory

3.3 Tender

The way in which the Tender must be submitted is described in the Call for Tender. The minimum duration of a tender being open to submission is 10 (ten) calendar days.

3.4 Assessment

When assessing the Tender bids, the Participant first checks whether the set (minimum) requirements and conditions (such as a statement confirming agreement with the Statement of Requirements, Data Processing Agreement, and Services Contract terms) have been met. Next, the content of the Tender bids is assessed against the award criteria. To achieve this, the Tender bids are submitted to a competent team of experts in the relevant field, who award points to the Tender bids, except in cases where the lowest price is the only assessment criteria. In the latter case, the assessment is carried out by at least two people.

The method of assessment will be described in further detail in the Call for Tender.

3.5 Award and rejection

Interested Parties who meet the set (minimum) requirements and conditions and have been given the highest number of points are eligible for the award of the Services Contract. The Interested Parties to which the Contract is not awarded, will be informed that their Tender bid has been rejected and the reasons for rejection will be stated.

4. Legal Protection and Other Provisions

This DPS and the resulting obligations are governed by Irish law. For Irish Participants, the awarding of the contract and implementation between Participant and Interested Party are governed by Irish law. All disputes arising from this Procurement Procedure, or the obligation(s) arising from it, will be submitted solely to the High Court of Ireland.

4.1 Legal Remedies

If an Interested Party is of the opinion that there are grounds for instituting a legal remedy against any aspect of this Procurement Procedure, that party can deploy a number of instruments to this end:

4.1.1 Complaints procedure

A complaint may relate to acts on the part of:

- Asiera only,
- both Asiera and or more Participants, or
- only one or more Participants

You can submit your complaint to Asiera for all categories. The complaint must relate to an act on the part of Asiera, or a Participant, in relation to the DPS, resulting in a breach of the applicable rules. In the case of complaints in the first category, Asiera will deal with the complaint itself, in accordance with the Complaints Procedure, as described here:

In the case of complaints in the second category, the complaint will also be dealt with in accordance with Asiera's Complaints Procedure, however Asiera will involve the Participant when processing the complaint.

In the case of a complaint in the third category, Asiera will forward the complaint to the Participant with a request for further processing. In the latter case, the Participant's complaint handling procedure will apply.

Submitting a complaint does not automatically suspend the Admission Procedure of the DPS or an ongoing Tender Procedure.

4.1.2 Preliminary relief proceedings

If an Interested Party cannot except the outcome of a complaint handled by Asiera and/or a Participant or does not wish to submit a complaint but does not agree with the approach adopted by Asiera or a Participant, it may, within 10 calendar days of an Award Decision, initiate preliminary relief proceedings against that approach or the Award Decision before the High Court. This must be done by having a writ served at the address of Asiera. The 10-calendar day period is an expiry period.

The 10-calendar day period does not suspend execution of the Contract. For an adequate response to the initiation of legal proceedings, service of the writ must be confirmed to the designated

contact for the DPS, specifically via this mail address: Asiera, 3rd Floor, North Dock 2 | 93/94 North Wall Quay | Dublin D01 V8Y6 | Ireland.

4.1.3 Action on merits

A Interested Party wishing to initiate an action on merits before the competent court must do so no later than 6 months after the date of the Communication of the Award Decision. This is also an expiry period, after which the right to commence this action on merits lapses.

4.2 Other provisions

4.2.1 Unconditional consent

By submitting a Tender bid, the Interested Party unconditionally agrees to all provisions of the Procurement Documents, including annexes and any additional information provided.

4.2.2 Confidentiality

All information that the Interested Party or Asiera or a Participant declares to be confidential or that the Interested Party, Asiera or Participant could have reasonably suspected was confidential, must be treated as such. This information must not be made public in any way or used for any purpose other than the one for which it is provided, unless both parties expressly agree to the disclosure or unless any statutory regulation or judicial ruling forces this disclosure.

Neither Asiera nor the Participants are obliged to disclose to any of the Interested Parties or Interested Parties any internal documents that relate to the DPS or to the associated assessment.

4.2.3 Schedule change

Asiera and the Participants reserve the right to amend the schedule – at any time and without being obliged to pay any form of compensation – insofar as the periods of time laid down by law do not prevent this.

4.2.4 Discontinuation or revocation of the DPS, review or revocation of a Contract Award and withdrawal of a Participant

Asiera and the Participants reserve the right, without being obliged to pay any form of damage compensation, to discontinue and/or revoke a Tender Procedure or the DPS at any time up to the Contract award date. If an Award Decision has already been made but is not yet final and confirmed, it may be reviewed or revoked. If a Participant decides to purchase outside the DPS or withdraws, neither the Participant concerned nor Asiera can be held liable in any way whatsoever for any damage that the Interested Party may suffer as a result. By submitting a Request for Admission, the Interested Party also declares that it agrees to this.