Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

OPEN PROCEDURE
REQUEST FOR TENDER
SINGLE-PARTY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
RECOMMENDED FOR ABOVE AND BELOW EU THRESHOLD

Scope of Framework	
WCCC 26/624 Provision of a network of Textile banks, co-located with council operated bring banks. The successful operator will also be required to collect, sort and recycle the textiles from the textile bank network.	
Procedure	Open Procedure
eTenders ref (CfT Resource ID):	0000000
Key Dates	
Issue Date	10 November 2026
Closing Date for Queries	17:00 on 3 December 2026
Closing Date for Tender Submissions	15:00 on 11 December 2026
Contact for Queries	Via messaging platform on E-tenders
Format for submission of tenders	In pdf compatible format via the E-tenders platform

Please note that information relating to this Request for Tender, including clarifications and changes, will be published on the Irish Government Procurement Opportunities Portal *www.etenders.gov.ie*. Registration is free of charge and there is no charge for documents.

Please note that the Contracting Authority accepts no responsibility for information relayed (or not relayed) via third parties.

Please note that the Contracting Authority has supplied a Tender Response Document (and where relevant a separate pricing document) which must be used in the tender response. The documents should be uploaded as a Zip file on eTenders to protect the integrity of file names.

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1 ABOUT THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

1.1 The Contracting Authority

Waterford City and County Council, herein after referred to as the Contracting Authority, is the authority responsible for this procurement.

Further information is available at our corporate website Waterford City & County Council – Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge and below:

Waterford City and County Council (Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge) is the authority responsible for local government in the City & County of Waterford, Ireland.

The organisation came into operation on 1st June 2014 after that year's local elections, and is a merger of Waterford City Council and Waterford County Council, as brought about under the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014

1.2 Disclaimer

This Request for Tenders (RFT) document issued herewith ("the Document") is for information only and does not constitute, and shall not be interpreted as, an offer for sale, prospectus, or the basis of a contract.

Tenderers are recommended to read the documents thoroughly. While all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the information set out in the Document is accurate and up to date, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is or will be made or given in relation to the accuracy or the completeness of any information contained in the Document or otherwise provided by or on behalf of the Contracting Authority (in writing or otherwise) to any interested party or its advisers. No responsibility or liability for any loss or damage arising as a result of reliance on these documents, or for the information contained in these documents or for any omission is or will be accepted by the Contracting Authority or by any of its officers, employees, agents or professional advisers. No officer, employee, agent, or professional adviser of the company has any authority to give or make any representation or warranty, express or implied, in relation to such information. The Contracting Authority's officers, employees, agents, and professional advisers expressly disclaim any and all liability arising out of such documentation or information and any errors or omissions in or from the documents and information.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to discontinue the procurement process at any time.

1.3 Use of eTenders

Please note that information relating to this Request for Tender, including clarifications and changes, will be published on the Irish Government Procurement Opportunities Portal www.etenders.gov.ie. Registration is free of charge and there is no charge for documents. Please note that the Contracting Authority accepts no responsibility for information relayed (or not relayed) via third parties. In order to submit a response, it is mandatory to have **ASSOCIATED** your company with the competition using the eTenders log in.

1.4 Use of a Tender Response Document

The Contracting Authority have provided a Tender Response Document (TRD) as a separate document for tenderers to use in preparing their response to this tender. This document and format must be used. Tenderers should note that personalisation of the TRD is not allowed, and they must not add their branding/colours to the TRD.

Please note that in addition to this RFT and the TRD, the following documents form part of the tender documentation:

- Appendix 1 – Framework Agreement Terms and Conditions
- Appendix 2 – Contract Terms and Conditions
- Any Clarification documents issued by the Contracting Authority during the tender submission period. Tenderers must ensure they regularly monitor eTenders and review any Clarification documents published.

It is recommended to upload your response as a **Zip file** in order to protect the integrity of file names.

1.5 Small and Medium Enterprise Participation

It is the policy of the Contracting Authority to promote participation by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on a fair and equal basis.

SMEs are encouraged to explore the possibilities of forming relationships with other SMEs or with larger enterprises to meet the financial, economic or technical capacity requirements of the competition, if required.

Tenderers may include individuals, partnerships, limited companies, groupings or any combination of the foregoing with or without legal personality. However, a grouping if successful will be required to establish legal personality to enter the framework agreement / contract.

Tenderers are reminded that they may rely on the resources of other entities to establish the requirements on condition that they can prove to the satisfaction of the Contracting Authority that they will have these resources at their disposal when necessary.

If the tender is from a consortium / joint venture, tenderers must ensure that all the relevant information is provided and where necessary, provide the information requested separately for each party. Relevant information relates to where a tenderer is relying on the resources to qualify (e.g. turnover, personnel, previous experience) and/or to deliver contracts. The consortium must appoint a single point of contact who will assume overall responsibility for delivery, and who is authorised to sign the framework agreement / contract on behalf of all consortia members. The Contracting Authority will not act as an arbitrator between members of consortia.

2 ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

2.1 Type of Framework

The Contracting Authority invites tenders for the establishment of a framework agreement. A framework agreement constitutes a means of establishing overall terms and conditions in accordance with which, for a specified duration, individual contracts may or may not be awarded.

This competition relates to the establishment of a single-party framework with one economic operator.

2.2 Overview of Requirements under the Framework Agreement

2.2.1 The Scope of the Framework Agreement

Waterford City and County Council seeks a service provider for the collection and processing of textiles for reuse and recycling including the supply, installation, management and maintenance of textile receptacles in Co Waterford.

2.2.2 The Scope of the Initial Call-Off Contract (if applicable)

The initial call off contract is the provision of textile banks at the locations identified in 3.1(g) below.

While it is indicated that the initial contract may be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender immediately following the establishment of the framework, it should be noted that the Contracting Authority may at its sole discretion establish the framework agreement without awarding the initial contract should the circumstances so dictate.

2.2.3 Additional / Call-Off Contracts under the Framework

There is no guarantee of additional contracts, but where they arise, the Contracting Authority will consult the member of the framework agreement in accordance with the rules of operation outlined in this Request for Tender. These are described in Section 3.

2.3 Anticipated Timeline

The following indicative timeline is envisaged for this procurement:

Issue RFT	As specified on title page
Closing date for Queries	As specified on title page
Dates for Site Visit (if applicable)	Tenders can access individual sites as all are publicly accessible locations during working hours.
Closing date for Receipt of Tenders	As specified on title page
Clarification / verification meetings (if anticipated)	Not Applicable
Award decision	January 2027

Framework Agreement Commencement	January 2027

The dates provided above are estimates at the time of publication of the Request for Tender. The Contracting Authority will endeavour to run the process to this timetable, but this cannot be guaranteed.

2.4 Numbers admitted to the Framework

The framework agreement will be established as a single-party framework agreement with the tenderer selected following the tender stage and the application of the award criteria and subject to that tenderer meeting the minimum criteria and rules.

2.5 Duration of the Framework Agreement

The framework agreement will be for a maximum period of four [4] years.

The Contracting Authority confirms that the period of any contracts awarded under the framework agreement may extend beyond the date of expiry of the agreement.

2.6 Estimated Value for the Framework Agreement

Commented [JC2]: Note for standard supplies/services this is a max of €221,000 and for Title III Services it is €750,000, using this document.
As this template is intended for below EU threshold procurement primarily the maximum value should be under those thresholds applicable to Local and Regional Authorities published at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3c1e1-thresholds/

In view of the current economic climate and the uncertainty in relation to payments for textiles collected, Waterford City and County Council are not in a position to put an estimate against the value of this framework.

However, tenderers that provide financial benefit to the Council for the provision of the service will score higher against the cost criteria.

The contracting authority requires a county-wide service covering all specified locations throughout County Waterford. Tenderers must price for and commit to delivering services at all locations included within the scope of this procurement. Partial tenders, location-specific tenders, or proposals that exclude any location from service provision are not permitted and will be rejected as non-compliant.

It is estimated that additional contracts are likely to be similar.

2.7 Awarding Contracts under the Framework Agreement

Under a single-party framework agreement, contracts may be awarded directly on foot of the original tenders or by consultation with the Framework Member and invitation to provide a supplementary tender within the constraints laid down in this tender documentation and the framework agreement terms and conditions.

2.8 Right to tender outside of the Framework

The Contracting Authority intends to use the framework for the procurement of requirements falling within its scope during the specified period; however, it reserves the right to go outside the framework agreement for the procurement of any requirement without reference to the

Framework Member. Admission to a framework agreement does not guarantee the award of any contract to any economic operator, nor does it give the Framework Member the right to be consulted in respect of, or tender for, any contract.

2.9 Compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the Framework Agreement

Admission to the framework agreement will be conditional upon acceptance of the Contracting Authority's Framework Terms and Conditions as appended at the relevant Appendix.

Tenderers are required to review these terms and conditions and indicate their acceptance thereof as part of their tender submission. Any reservation with regard to these terms should be submitted as a query in accordance with the procedure described in the Section below in the Instructions to Tenderers of this document.

2.10 Contract Terms and Conditions

In addition, tenderers should review the Contract Terms and Conditions which will apply to each discrete assignment under the framework, as appended at the relevant Appendix.

2.11 Award to Runner Up

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

If it is not possible following the conclusion of the competitive process to award the initial contract to the designated successful tenderer from this competitive process; the Contracting Authority reserves the right to award the initial contract to the tenderer with the next highest score based on the original competition, at any time during the tender validity period.

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

3 Detailed Specification of Requirements

3.1 Scope of Requirement under the Framework Agreement – Initial Contract

The framework agreement will be established on foot of this tender competition / a competition for an initial call-off contract. The initial contract will be awarded to the successful tenderer shortly after the formal establishment of the framework agreement.

The initial contract will be for the provision of the textile banks at the locations and in the number set out the locations in section 3.1(g) below, including the collection from the textile banks, sorting and processing of any collected textiles.

3.1(a) Receptacles

Receptacles will be provided, installed, maintained and emptied by the contractor at each authorised bring centre location.

3.1(b) Servicing

The Contractor must ensure that receptacles are not allowed to overfill, receptacles must be serviced frequently in order to prevent overflowing. In this regard, the successful contractor will be required to submit an inspection and service plan incorporating a collection schedule designed and operated in such a manner as to prevent receptacles overflowing and causing a nuisance. The collection schedule shall contain details of how collection services will be managed during seasonal fluctuations. The inspection & service plan should include the following details:

- Proposals for collection, processing & recycling regimes to be deployed. This should
- include frequency of collection.
- Details of the equipment to be used on site
- Details of proposed maintenance schedule for the upkeep of receptacles and site.
- Details of how collection services will be managed during seasonal fluctuations
- Proposal and response time to address problem sites/incidents.
- Proposed method of assessing volume at each site for each collection.

The receptacles must be emptied in their entirety on each collection to ensure maximum capacity is available to members of public between collections.

All items deposited within the receptacles, inclusive of ‘non-textile items’ must be removed by the successful contractor. Should these non-textile items consist of domestic waste, recyclable items (Plastics, metals etc.) or other such material, the contractor must dispose of these items in accordance with current waste legislation.

The contractor must respond to a call out to empty any receptacle within 24 hours of receiving notification from Waterford City and County Council via email, telephone call or otherwise. Provision of an 0818/1800 contact number is required to address any litter issues at the approved site locations.

The successful contractor shall ensure delivery of a high-quality service including management of the collection, processing and recycling of textiles during unprecedented

events or when there is a downturn in the textile market including demonstrating that textiles can be stored in safe manner with minimum risk to the environment particularly from fire.

The successful contractor shall provide any details of convictions recorded against it under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended.

The successful contractor shall also ensure that all the proposed collection vehicles are suitable for collection at the identified locations, comply with the relevant legislation regarding the use and operation of commercial vehicles and are fully insured.

All machinery, equipment and materials used must be fit for purpose and used, operated and maintained in accordance with best practice and governing legislation.

The successful contractor shall ensure that the transportation of materials for this contract is carried out in accordance with relevant legislation in operation within the appropriate jurisdiction.

The successful contractor shall attend an annual meeting at the Waterford City and County Council offices located at Menapia Building, The Mall, Waterford, to review performances under the contract or as and when required.

3.1 (c) Processing of Textiles

The successful contractor shall ensure that;

Textiles collected throughout the Waterford City and County Council functional area will be reused/recycled.

All sorting / processing of textiles is to occur within the European Economic Area, UK or Switzerland.

All efforts are to be made to ensure that the material to be disposed is kept to a minimum

The successful contractor shall:

Liaise with Waterford City and County Council on processing of textiles from collection to recovery/disposal at end destination sites.

Produce traceability to show textiles collected from textile banks are processed for recycling or require disposal at authorised facilities.

The tenderer must provide full transparency regarding the handling and onward destination of all textiles collected under the contract.

Tenderers must declare any third party involved in the sorting, reuse recycling, export or disposal of textiles and provide details of the end recipients or processing destinations.

3.1(d) Site Visit/Inspection of Facilities

The Contracting Authority reserves the right, as part of the tender evaluation process, to conduct site visits to the facilities proposed by the Tenderer for the processing, sorting storage and/or handling of textiles under this contract.

These visits may be undertaken to satisfy the information provided in the tender submission, including operational capacity, quality assurance, environmental management and compliance with the required specifications.

Tenderers must facilitate access to the relevant facilities and personnel upon reasonable notice.

3.1(e) Reporting

The successful contractor is required to submit a monthly report detailing the weight of textiles collected from each location and the dates the receptacle/textile bank was serviced. This report is to be submitted by the 3rd Friday of every month.

In the interest of transparency, the successful contractor shall provide accurate tonnages of material collected at textile banks operated under this contract. The contractor shall be required to have a system in place to record the weight of textiles collected from each location.

Quarterly, the successful contractor is required to provide a report on the destination of the materials collected by it from textile banks. This information shall provide at least the following details;

- % of textiles destined for reuse in EEA, UK or Switzerland
- % of textiles destined for reuse in Other OECD
- % of textile destined for reuse in Non-OECD
- % of textiles destined for fibre recycling
- % of textiles destined for landfill / incineration
- %of non-textile waste collected in textile banks.

This information may be based on aggregate data from a sorting facility.

The proposal may include any innovations the Tenderer wishes to put forward. Estimated tonnages are not acceptable.

The successful contractor shall attend annual meetings at the Waterford City and County Council Offices at Menapia Building, The Mall Waterford to review performance under the contract.

Retain receipts/dockets from the authorised facility used to dispose of excess textiles/litter.

Retain dockets from authorised facilities used for processing textiles.

Retain receipts/dockets from authorised end destination facilities used for recovering textiles to facilitate auditing by Waterford City and County Council.

Retain receipts/dockets from authorised end destination facilities used for processing textiles deemed not suitable for recovery and requiring disposal to facilitate auditing by Waterford City and County Council.

3.1(f) Permits and Certification

The successful contractor must have a Waste Collection Permit and all waste materials collected must be processed at a registered waste facility.

The successful contractor is required to provide details of the facility where the textiles are transported to, and to make available on request to the Local Authority, documentary evidence (receipts, invoices, account statements) to confirm the textiles are delivered to the facility. Where the contractor is sending the collected material outside the Republic of Ireland for recycling/reprocessing, he must submit the address and contact details of that facility, authority.

3.1(g) Locations

The locations of the collection points, current number of receptacles and reported weight collected for 2025 are set out as follows:

Textile Bank Location	Address	No. of textile banks at this location	Reported tonnage - 2025
Affane Cross	AFFANE COMMUNITY CENTRE AFFANE CAPPOQUIN CO. WATERFORD	2	9.8
Aglish	SAINT ASSUMPTA'S CHURCH AGLISH CAPPOQUIN CO. WATERFORD	1	2.7
Ardmore	DUFFCARRICK ARDMORE CO. WATERFORD	1	9.2
Ballyduff - East (lower)	BALLYDUFF WEST KILMEADEN CO. WATERFORD	1	4.1
Ballyduff - West - GAA Pitch	BALLYDUFF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MILLENIUM SPORTS HALL BALLYDUFF CO. WATERFORD	1	3.5

Textile Bank Location	Address	No. of textile banks at this location	Reported tonnage - 2025
Ballymacarbry	BALLYMACARBRY COMMUNITY CENTRE BALLYMACARBRY CO. WATERFORD	2	12
Ballysaggart	KNOCKANISKA EAST BALLYSAGGART LISMORE CO. WATERFORD	1	3.1
Bunmahon	BUNMAHON CO. WATERFORD	1	4
Butlerstown	BUTLERSTOWN WATERFORD	2	5.1
Cappoquin (Twig Lane)	MILL STREET CAPPOQUIN CO. WATERFORD	1	9.2
Cheekpoint	CHEEKPOINT CO. WATERFORD	1	3.6
Clashmore	CLASHMORE KINSALEBEG GAA CLUB BALLYHEENY CLASHMORE CO. WATERFORD	1	5.8
Clonea Power	HOLYCROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH CLONEA POWER CARRICK-ON-SUIR CO. WATERFORD	2	4.5
Dungarvan Abbeyside	THE CAUSEWAY ABBEYSIDE DUNGARVAN CO. WATERFORD	4	65

Textile Bank Location	Address	No. of textile banks at this location	Reported tonnage - 2025
Dungarvan Civic Amenity Site	BALLINAMUCK MIDDLE DUNGARVAN CO. WATERFORD	3	9.7
Dungarvan Shandon	SHANDON ROAD DUNGARVAN CO. WATERFORD	2	24.8
Dungarvan, Scanlons Yard	SCANLON'S YARD, SAINT MARY STREET, DUNGARVAN, CO. WATERFORD	3	24.6
Dunhill	DUNHILL, CO. WATERFORD	1	3.7
Dunmore East - Gaultier GAA	GAULTIER GAA CLUB BALLYMABIN DUNMORE EAST CO. WATERFORD	2	9
Dunmore East , Killea	KILLEA DUNMORE EAST CO. WATERFORD	2	10.5
Fenor	FENOR CHURCH FENOR TRAMORE CO. WATERFORD	2	3.6
Kilbrien	KILBRIEN COMMUNITY CENTRE KILBRIEN LOWER BALLINAMULT CO. WATERFORD	1	1.8
Kilmacthomas	MAIN STREET KILMACTHOMAS CO. WATERFORD	1	10.6

Textile Bank Location	Address	No. of textile banks at this location	Reported tonnage - 2025
Kinsalebeg	KINSALEBEG COMMUNITY CENTRE PILLTOWN KINSALEBEG CO. WATERFORD	1	5.6
Knockanore	KNOCKANORE TALLOW CO. WATERFORD	1	2.4
Lemybrien	LEMYBRIEN CO. WATERFORD	2	3.6
Lismore	TOWNPARKS EAST LISMORE CO. WATERFORD	2	11.4
Modelligo	SCART CAPPAGH DUNGARVAN CO. WATERFORD	2	Not Recorded
Old Parish	FARRANLOUNTY OLD PARISH DUNGARVAN CO. WATERFORD	1	2.3
Portlaw GAA	PORTLAW GAA CLUB MAYFIELD PORTLAW CO. WATERFORD	3	12.4
Waterford - Regional Sports Centre	WATERFORD REGIONAL SPORTS CENTRE CORK ROAD WATERFORD	1	Not Recorded
Ring / An Rinn	MWEELNAHORNA RING DUNGARVAN	2	9.2

Textile Bank Location	Address	No. of textile banks at this location	Reported tonnage - 2025
Stradbally	HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH CARRIGAHILLA STRADBALLY CO. WATERFORD	1	4.1
Tallow	WEST STREET TALLOW CO. WATERFORD	3	11.5
Tooraneena	TOORANEENA BALLINAMULT CO. WATERFORD	1	2.9
Tramore - Prom	Riverstown Relief Road, Tramore, Co Waterford	2	12.7
Tramore, Supervalu	QUISH'S SUPERVALU SUPERVALU SHOPPING CENTRE PRIESTS ROAD TRAMORE CO. WATERFORD	2	23.4
Villierstown	MAIN STREET VILLIERSTOWN CAPPOQUIN CO. WATERFORD	1	2.4
Waterford City - Bolton Street	Bolton Street Car park, Waterford	4	9.6*
Waterford City - Canada Street	CANADA STREET WATERFORD	2	9.4
Waterford, Barker Street	Barker Street Waterford	2	15.8
Waterford, Jenkins lane Car Park	Jenkins lane Car Park, Waterford	2	8.8

Textile Bank Location	Address	No. of textile banks at this location	Reported tonnage - 2025
Waterford, Mount Sion GAA	MOUNT SION GAA CLUB MARIAN PARK OZANAM STREET WATERFORD	3	Not Recorded
Waterford, Waterside Carpark	Waterside Carpark, Waterford	3	29.1
Waterford, Williamstown Golf Course	WILLIAMSTOWN GOLF COURSE WILLIAMSTOWN WATERFORD	1	5.2
Woodstown	DROMINA WOODSTOWN CO. WATERFORD	1	Not recorded
Waterford, Kilbarry Civic Amenity Site	KILBARRY CIVIC AMENITY SITE KILBARRY ROAD KILBARRY WATERFORD	3	3.14
Passage East	Pier, Passage Waste	1	2.1

3.2 Details of Additional Contracts under the Framework Agreement

In addition to the initial contract, the framework agreement will also be used for the following types of contracts; provision of further textile banks at different locations, or additional textile banks at locations with other textile banks

3.3 Site Visits

Not Used

1. The Contracting Authority will facilitate Tenderers by permitting an inspection of the Contracting Authority's premises. A site visit to view the Contracting Authority's premises or facilities at [insert relevant addresses] shall be organised on [date] between the hours of [x and y]. Tenderers wishing to make an appointment to avail of this opportunity must confirm their attendance by contacting [name of person] at [insert

email address] by [insert date and time]. Attendance at the Contracting Authority's premises will be subject to compliance with local security and health and safety arrangements.

2. Tenderers should note that questions raised will be documented and circulated via eTenders to ensure confirmation and understanding of any answers provided.

Not used

3. [Insert here details of whether any site visit may be required by the Contracting Authority to the Tenderer's premises as part of tender evaluation].

3.4 Contract Management

The Contracting Authority requires tenderers to nominate a dedicated contract manager who will act as the main point of contact for the duration of the framework. This person shall have the authority to deal with all matters in relation to contracts and be responsible for the satisfactory delivery of the services required. The duties of the contract manager will include the following:

- Overall responsibility for a good working relationship with the Contracting Authority
- Provide regular reports on performance as agreed with the Contracting Authority
- Meet as and when required to review and examine performance in adherence to an agreed Service Level Agreement and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs);
- Deal with disputes, complaints or concerns that cannot be adequately resolved
- Proactively discuss with the Contracting Authority ways of improving efficiency regarding service delivery in general and providing suggestions for improvement and cost savings

NOTE: Tenderers will note that contract management activities will be non-billable.

4 SELECTION CRITERIA

The Contracting Authority is using the **Open** procedure for the award of this framework agreement, therefore, while all interested parties may submit a tender, only those tenders that are deemed valid and that meet all of the selection criteria listed below will be considered under the award criteria. In order to demonstrate a tenderers' qualifications, tenderers are required to provide the information set out below in the Tender Response Document (TRD) which is based on a self-declaration model, however tenderers are required to provide the minimum information required.

4.1 Use of the European Single Procurement Document

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

4.2 Relying on the Standing of Other Entities

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged to explore the possibilities of forming relationships with other SMEs or with larger enterprises to meet the financial, economic or technical capacity requirements of the competition, if required.

Tenderers are reminded that they may rely on the resources of other entities in order to meet criteria and / or deliver elements of the contract requirements on condition that they can prove to the satisfaction of the client that they will have these resources at their disposal when necessary.

Therefore, a tenderer may consist of a grouping of any number of economic operators[1]. Where a group come together in whatever form i.e. consortium, joint venture, subcontractors etc. to submit a Tender in response to this Request for Tender and regardless of the legal relationship between them, the Contracting Authority will deal with all matters relating to this competition through the entity (the "Lead Tenderer") who will carry overall responsibility for the performance of the contract only, if successful irrespective of whether or not tasks are to be performed by a subcontractor or other consortium member.

The Lead Tenderer must clearly and comprehensively set out the name, title, telephone number, postal address, and email address of the nominated contact personnel authorised to represent the tenderer and to whom all communications shall be directed and accepted until this competition has been completed or terminated. Correspondence from any other person (including from any subcontractor) will not be accepted or responded to.

All Lead Tenderers relying on the capacity of other entities must:

- Identify in the TRD as the Lead Tenderer for the grouping with whom the Contracting Authority will communicate and with whom any subsequent contractual arrangements will be made if successful.

[1] 'Economic operator' means any natural or legal person or public entity or group of such persons and / or entities, including any temporary association of undertakings, which offers the execution of works and / or a work, the supply of products or the provision of services on the market; (Art 2(10) of Directive 2014/24/EU).

- Identify in the TRD the relevant third parties upon whose capacity the Lead Tenderer is relying upon to meet selection criteria and / or deliver elements of the contract and identify the relevant criteria and elements of the contract.
- Ensure the TRD including all subsections are completed and submitted for all relevant third parties upon whom the Lead Tenderer is relying on to meet criteria and / or deliver elements of the contract if awarded.
- In all tenders, the Lead Tenderer must nominate the reference contracts for inclusion in the assessment and selection process. The number of reference contracts for which details are to be provided will be nominated in the TRD of the Lead Tenderer. If more reference contracts are provided than required only the first listed reference contracts to the number specified (e.g. 3 reference contracts) will be considered. Where relying on the experience of others, at least one of the references provided should include reference to their relevant experience.

Where the tenderer consists of a grouping of economic operators and the tenderer is subsequently successful at tender stage, the Contracting Authority may require the members of the tender grouping to enter into a formal arrangement that can support the provision of collateral warranties to the Contracting Authority for the group members' performance, etc. of the contract.

4.3 General, Legal and Financial Requirements

Tenderers are required to provide information on the following in the Tender Response Document. The criteria and rules outlined below are assessed on a pass/fail basis. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in the tender being considered inadmissible.

General Information
Provide contact and general information on the tendering organisation - company name, address and contact details for individual responsible for this tender and company overview as well as the role of the framework and likely percentage of the value for each sub-contractor, information on sub-contractors and consortium members if applicable.
Declarations
• Complete the Declaration of Bona Fides as per Art. 57 of Directive 2014/24/EU as implemented by SI 2814 of May 2016 as contained in the Tender Response Document. • Complete the Declaration regarding compliance with relevant statutory obligations as contained in the Tender Response Document. Where tenderers are established and operating outside of Ireland compliance with equivalent legislation as applicable in the country of establishment / operation is required. • Complete a European Single Procurement Document (ESPD), either electronically via the eESPD on eTenders or as a separate uploaded attachment with the tender response will be accepted as evidence of compliance. • Complete the Declaration regarding the International Procurement Instrument (2022/1031) and article 5K of Regulation 2022/576 on restrictive measures in the Context of Russian Actions in the Ukraine. • The Contracting Authority may decide to examine tenders before verifying the absence of exclusion grounds in Regulation 57 of the regulations (the "Exclusion Grounds") and the fulfilment of the Selection Criteria. However, notwithstanding anything contrary in this part, The Contracting Authority reserves the right to ask Tenderers at any moment during the Competition to submit any of the following for the purposes of verification of the status of the tenderer (including Prime Contractor and any Subcontractor). (i) information concerning the Tenderer, and any proposed subcontractors, for the purposes of Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same) including, but not limited to, in respect of natural persons, copies of identity documents and, in respect of legal persons, a certificate or extract from the commercial register or other competent authority of the country in which the legal person is established. (ii) and information concerning the origin of goods, if any, for the purposes of assessing compliance with Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same). • If a Tenderer does not, upon request by the Contracting Authority, provide evidence which is considered by the Contracting Authority as sufficient to demonstrate (i) its fulfilment of the Selection Criteria (or any one of them) in accordance with this RFT and (ii) the absence of Exclusion Grounds, or its reliability despite the existence of a relevant Exclusion Ground and (iii) that it does not come within the category of

prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576) and (iv) that the origin of goods, if any, are not subject to the prohibitions set out in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576 or any subsequent amendments to same) then it shall be excluded from further participation in this Competition.

- If a Tenderer does not, upon request by the Contracting Authority, provide evidence which is considered by the Contracting Authority as sufficient to demonstrate (i) the fulfilment by any Subcontractor on whose capacity the Prime Contractor relies of the Selection Criteria (or any one of them) in accordance with this RFT and (ii) the absence of Exclusion Grounds in respect of any Subcontractor, or the reliability of any Subcontractor despite the existence of a relevant Exclusion Ground and (iii) that any proposed Subcontractor on whose capacity the Tenderer relies (where the value of that subcontract exceeds 10% of the value of the Services Contract) does not come within the category of prohibited economic operators identified in Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014 (as amended by EU Regulation 2022/576) then, it shall be excluded from further participation in this Competition unless it replaces the Subcontractor with one which meets all relevant requirements of this RFT.

Tax compliance, Financial Capacity and Insurances	
Tax compliance	Confirmation that the tenderer / all parties associated with the tenderer are fully tax compliant in accordance with the rules of the Irish Revenue Commissioners.
Financial Capacity	(a) Confirmation that the tendering party turnover exceeded €300,000 during one of the last three years or pro-rata if more recently established firms are tendering – however the firm must have been in existence for at least 6 months. (b) Confirmation of financial standing ensuring the tendering party has the financial capacity to pay its debts identified on the current statement of assets and liabilities as being the debts as they fall due. Evidence of both statements will be required prior to the award of the framework agreement / any contract. In the case of an applicant being a grouping, this condition may be satisfied by the group members as a whole, or by reliance on the lead applicant. Where group members are relying on the lead applicant's financial capacity, self-declaration / evidence will only be required of the lead.
Insurance	Confirmation of the following insurances being in place: Employer's Liability - €13 million • Public Liability - €6.5 million • Product Liability - €6.5 million • Motor Liability - €6.5 million • Environmental Liability Insurance - €500,000

4.4 Technical Capacity Requirements

Tenderers are required to provide information on the following in the Tender Response Document. The criteria and rules outlined below are assessed on a pass/fail basis. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in the tender being considered inadmissible.

Previous Contracts / Experience

Tenderers must demonstrate their experience and capacity to successfully deliver services

similar in nature, scale, and complexity to those outlined in this contract. Tenderers are

required to provide details of relevant contracts carried out within the last five years that

involved the following:

- Collection, transport, and processing of used textiles for reuse and/or recycling;
- Operation and servicing of textile receptacles or similar collection infrastructure;
- Management of waste materials in line with national and EU legislation;
- Provision of traceability, data reporting and use of certified weighing systems;
- Operation of call-out or responsive services for waste/recycling infrastructure.

For each contract referenced, Tenderers must include the following:

- Name of client and contact details;
- Contract description, scope and duration;
- Number and location of textile banks/receptacles serviced;
- Average monthly tonnages managed;
- Details of inspection, servicing, and response measures employed;
- Evidence of compliance with relevant waste permits and legislative obligations.

The Contracting Authority may contact the referees provided to verify the information submitted.

Please complete the TRD.

Personnel and Skills

Tenderers must provide information which demonstrates access to the minimum number of skilled personnel as indicated below and outlined in the TRD.

Skillset Required	**Minimum Number**
Fit and Proper person as defined under the Waste Management act for contract administration and management	1
Fully qualified drivers with licences / tickets for the appropriate vehicle categories	2

Technical Equipment and Resources	
Tenderers must provide information which demonstrates access to the required level of technical resources as indicated below and outlined in the TRD.	
Technical Equipment & Resource Required	**Minimum Requirement**
Lorries/Vehicles capable of collecting and transporting all textiles from banks located as specified under Appendix 1	2
Secure, weatherproof, rodent proof textile banks	79
Current valid Waste Collection Permit	NWCPO
Sorting / processing facility within the EEA, UK or Switzerland	1
Health & Safety Management System	
Tenderers must provide information which demonstrates operation of health & safety systems and procedures in line with all relevant Safety Health & Welfare at Work legislation. Please complete the TRD. Evidence of compliance will be required as condition of contract award.	
Quality Assurance Management System	
Tenderers must provide information which demonstrates a commitment to quality assurance and provide details of quality assurance policies and systems and whether 3rd party certified. Please complete the TRD.	
Environmental Management System	
Tenderers must provide information which demonstrates operation of an appropriate environmental management system whether 3rd party certified or in-house. Please complete the TRD.	
Data	
NOT APPLICABLE For the purposes of hosting data, Tenderers must demonstrate capability to access two data centres located within the European Economic Area (EEA), or any country determined to offer an adequate level of data protection by an adequacy decision of the European Commission. Please complete the TRD.	

5 AWARD CRITERIA

Only tenders that meet the Selection Criteria and are confirmed as valid and responsive to the specifications set out in this document will be evaluated against the award criteria. Tenderers should ensure that they have submitted sufficient relevant information to allow their tenders to be assessed under each of the award criteria set out below.

The framework will be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous compliant tender taking into account the following award criteria and weightings. Tenderers should note that the qualitative award criteria are assessed first.

Please note that the maximum marks available is 10,000.

Criterion A	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks Required
	25%	2,500	N/A
Title	Cost		
Description	Tenderers must complete the pricing schedule in the Tender Response Document. The cost proposal may indicate the monetary contribution payable to Waterford City and County Council, expressed as a rate per location. Alternatively the tenderer may propose a cost per location payable by the council to the successful contractor. All prices should be quoted in Euros (€) and must exclude VAT. The locations of textile receptacles are set out in the tender document. The pricing must be inclusive of all services required under the contract, including collection, transport, processing, administration, and reporting. The contracting authority requires a county-wide service covering all specified locations throughout County Waterford. Tenderers must price for and commit to delivering services at all locations included within the scope of this procurement. Partial tenders, location-specific tenders, or proposals that exclude any location from service provision are not permitted and will be rejected as non-compliant.		
Criterion B	**Weighting**	**Maximum Marks**	**Minimum Marks**
	30%	3,000	1,500
Title	**Methodology and Service Delivery**		
Description	Tenderers must demonstrate their understanding of the contract requirements and set out a clear and practical methodology for delivering the service as outlined in Section 3 of the Specification. The response should address the following:		

	Servicing: Provide details of the proposed approach to collection and servicing of receptacles, including collection frequency, proposed collection schedule, fleet availability, and responsiveness to call-outs, including proposals to ensure that textile bins are emptied promptly when full. **Processing of Textiles:** Outline the systems and procedures in place to ensure traceability and compliance from point of collection to end destination, including auditable records for reuse/recycling/disposal. **Permits and Certification:** Provide details of the Waste Collection Permit(s) proposed for use in this contract.

Criterion C	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
	15%	1500	750
Title	Contract Management		
Description	Tenderers must describe the management systems and processes that will be used to ensure effective delivery of the contract. The response should cover: **Reporting**: Describe the arrangements for monthly reporting, including how textile weights will be recorded and verified, including all information in 3.1(e) above. **Financial and Payment**: Provide details of the proposed invoicing and payment processes, including timeline and supporting documentation. **Communication and Escalation**: Outline how communication will be maintained with Waterford City and County Council, including reporting structures, nominated points of contact, and procedures for issue resolution and escalation.		

Criterion D	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
	10%	1000	500
Title	**Reduction of Environmental Impact (Green Public Procurement)**		
Description	**Reduction of Emissions:** Describe strategies to reduce carbon emissions and energy use, such as use of electric/low-emission vehicles, route optimisation, or other sustainable practices in service delivery. **Evidence of alignment with Circular Economy Principles** including material recovery and closed loop systems. Examples of innovation/ pilot projects/ improvement initiatives.		

	Processing of Textiles: Provide projected reuse/recycling/recovery/disposal rates and outline how the waste hierarchy is applied in practice and how this impacts on a global scale. Emphasis should be placed on minimising the volume of material sent for disposal.

Criterion E	Weighting	Maximum Marks	Minimum Marks
	20%	2,000	N/A
Title	Social Value and Community Benefit		
Description	Tenderers shall demonstrate how the proposed service will generate measurable social benefits within the State through employment, training, rehabilitation, social inclusion, and community reinvestment initiatives. The following should be considered when preparing your response; Employment opportunities for disadvantaged or marginalised persons Engagement with sheltered workshops, social enterprises, or supported employment programmes Training, rehabilitation and skills development programmes Community benefit and charitable reinvestment		

NOTE 1: Tenderers should ensure in their tender submission that they provide detailed information in respect of all aspects of the contract award criteria as stated above. This will enable the awarding authority to assess fully the extent of their offers.

5.1 Methodology for Calculating the Cost Score

The following formula will be applied to the cost score:

The lowest cost tender that also meets all the minimum requirements of the qualitative award criteria will receive the maximum score achievable under this criterion. The scores of the other valid tenders will be calculated using the following formula.

Lowest Cost from a Bona Fide Tender	**A**
Highest Cost from a Bona Fide Tender	**B**
Maximum Marks available for Cost	**C**

Cost for the tender being evaluated	**D**
Formula employed	$\frac{\boldsymbol{C\ x\ (B-D)}}{\boldsymbol{(B-A)}}$

5.2 Methodology for Calculating Scoring of Qualitative Criteria

Scoring Band	Description
1 **(90% - 100%)**	An **excellent** response that fully meets requirements and provides comprehensive, detailed and convincing assurance that the Tenderer will deliver on the Contracting Authority's requirements to an excellent standard.
2 **(80% - 89%)**	A **very good** response demonstrating very good understanding offering assurance that the Tenderer will deliver on the Contracting Authority's requirements to a very good standard.
3 **(60% - 79%)**	A good response that demonstrates real understanding of the requirements and assurance that the Tenderer will deliver on the Contracting Authority's requirements to a good standard.
4 **(40% - 59%)**	A **satisfactory** response which demonstrates a reasonable understanding of the requirements and gives reasonable assurance of delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements to an adequate standard but does not provide sufficiently convincing assurance to award a higher mark.
5 **(20% - 39%)**	A **poor** response where some capabilities to meet the requirements are detailed however reservations exist. Lacks full credibility and/or convincing detail, and there is a significant risk that the delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements will not be successful.
6 **(1% – 19%)**	A **very poor** response where limited information was provided and serious reservations exist. This may be because, for example, insufficient detail is provided, and/or the response has fundamental flaws, is seriously inadequate or seriously lacks credibility with a high risk of non-delivery of the Contracting Authority's requirements.
7 **(0%)**	No response or response completely fails to address the criterion under consideration.
Marks in the score ranges outlined above can be awarded where responses so merit additional marks.	

Note: where there is a tie-break, the economic operator with the highest quality score will be awarded the quotation. In a case where the overall qualitative scores are identical the economic operator with the highest score on the highest weighted qualitative criterion will be awarded the quotation.

All information regarding the evaluation process or potential outcomes shall remain confidential until after the conclusion of the tender process.

5.3 Post Tender Clarification

At the discretion of the Contracting Authority, tenderers may be invited, in writing, to clarify certain aspects of their tender, particularly where information or documentation to be submitted appears to be incomplete or erroneous. However, all such requests will be made in full compliance with the principles of equal treatment and transparency and avoid any distortion of competition.

5.4 Verification

Award of contract/membership of the framework may be subject to attendance at a verification meeting. It would be essential that the key personnel assigned to this framework should be available and present at this meeting. If required, tenderers will be notified of the date, time, agenda and format for such meetings as soon as possible.

A visit to the Tenderer's premises may be required to clarify any questions or queries regarding the tender offer.

5.5 Clarification of Abnormally Low Tenders

If the Contracting Authority considers the tender submission to be commercially unsustainable or otherwise problematic considering the tendered price or any other financial matter (including proposed indicative hours), the tenderer shall be invited to provide clarification to the Contracting Authority in respect of all elements of the tender submission that the Contracting Authority deems relevant. Any failure to satisfactorily comply with such a request, or to satisfactorily address the Contracting Authority's concerns, may, at the discretion of the Contracting Authority, result in the elimination of the tender in question on the basis of it being considered abnormally low.

5.6 Right to Confirm Suitability

Tenderers should note that the Contracting Authority reserves the right to confirm that the financial and technical capacity of the tenderer is valid and unchanged prior to the establishment of the framework and the award of any contract.

6 INSTRUCTIONS FOR TENDERERS

6.1 Submission of Tenders

The Contracting Authority is using the Tender Postbox facility and tenders must be submitted electronically via the eTenders postbox facility on www.etenders.gov.ie only. Only Tenders submitted to the electronic postbox will be accepted. Tenders submitted by any other means (including but not limited to by email, fax, post or hand delivery) will **not** be accepted.

Tenderers must ensure that they give themselves enough time to upload and submit all required documentation before the closing date/time noting the use of the eTenders platform. Tenderers should consider the fact that upload speeds vary. In order to submit a response to the electronic post-box, please note that you must ensure you have submitted the response completely. It is advisable to familiarise yourself with the platform prior to the closing date.

Below we provide an overview of the key steps. Please note that the Contracting Authority take no responsibility for these steps being the totality of the steps required as different processes may require different actions.

If in doubt, please ensure you contact the eTenders helpdesk as follows:

Email: irish-eproc-helpdesk@eurodyn.com

Phone: +353-818001459

Accessing Documents

It is important to note that you must **ASSOCIATE** your company with this competition in the first instance. To do this you must do the following:

(a) Log-in to the system

(b) Locate the competition using the Advanced Search by Contracting Authority or Resource ID

(c) Click on the hyperlink for the competition which will bring you to the CfT Workspace

(d) In the Show CfT Menu for the competition click on the “Expression of Interest” in the drop down menu

(e) Complete the “Association with the CfT” tab.

(f) This will then provide you with a link to “Tender” under the Show CfT Menu

Submitting your Response

In responding to a competition without an electronic ESPD, a number of steps are required. The final step involves clicking on a Submit button and receiving the following status:



If you do not receive a message similar to above and a confirmation email, you have not submitted your response.

Please note that the screen may say **OFFLINE**, this is a technical feature of eTenders and does not mean you cannot submit. Also please note you may see the percentage field also saying 100% before you submit, this still requires you to go through the submit button.

Please upload your response as a **ZIP FILE** to protect the integrity of the file names.

It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to ensure that their tender is complete and is uploaded in accordance with the instructions provided on eTenders prior to the deadline as per the front page.

6.2 Closing date for Tenders

The closing date for tender submission	as specified on the title page

It is the responsibility of the tenderer to ensure that their tender is complete and is uploaded / submitted by the designated deadline.

6.3 Queries

The closing date for submitting queries	as specified on the title page

All queries regarding this tender should be submitted through the messaging facility on www.etenders.gov.ie, including any omissions which would prevent tenderers from submitting a comprehensive tender. Please submit queries as soon as possible and before the query closing date. The Contracting Authority is not obliged to respond to questions received after this date.

In circulating responses, queries will be edited to avoid disclosing the identity of the querist and will be circulated to all parties who have expressed an interest in the procurement on the eTenders website.

6.4 Extension of Tender Period

The Contracting Authority reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to extend the closing date for receipt of tenders by giving notice in writing (by post or electronic means) to all parties who have expressed an interest in the notice via eTenders no later than six days before the original closing date.

6.5 Tender Validity Period

To allow sufficient time for Tender assessment a Tender Validity period of 6 months is required, this period commencing on the closing date by which the Tenders are to be returned.

6.6 Discrepancies between Documents

A pdf version of the Request for Tender has been made available on eTenders. This document will be considered as the primary source document in this procurement process, word versions of documents where they are provided are being made available to assist tenderers in responding to the tender competition. Where there is a discrepancy between a pdf version and a word version, the pdf version will take precedence. Tenderers are requested to notify the Contracting Authority immediately of any anomaly. Where applicable the Contracting Authority will issue amended versions.

6.7 Formatting of Tenders / Amending Tender Documents

Tenderers must ensure they use the Tender Response Document (TRD) when preparing their submission.

Tenderers are prohibited from amending any text or content of forms or declarations or templates provided as part of this tender competition in their tender responses. Where amendments have been identified, the Contracting Authority may at its discretion eliminate the tenderer from further consideration. Likewise, failure to use the template documentation provided particularly in relation to costing / pricing may result in tenders being eliminated.

6.8 Collusive Tendering

If any Tendering Party is found to have, at any time, offered to give or to have agreed to offer or give to any person, any bribe, gift, gratuity, commission or consideration of any kind as an inducement or reward for taking or forbearing to take any action in relation to the obtaining of its Tenders, or for showing or forbearing to show any favour or disfavour to any person in relation to its Tenders, the bid submitted by such Tendering Party shall be automatically disqualified and the circumstances surrounding such action shall be referred to the appropriate authority.

6.9 Confidentiality

After the official opening of Tenders, information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of Tenders and recommendations will not be disclosed to tenderers or other persons not officially concerned with such process until the award decision with the successful Tenderer has been announced and in conformity with national laws.

Tenderers shall treat the details of all documents supplied to them in connection with this contract as private and confidential and shall not disclose the contents to a third party without the permission of the Contracting Authority.

Any effort by the Tenderer to influence the Contracting Authority or their staff in the process of examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of Tenders and in decisions concerning the award of the contract may result in the rejection of that Tender.

6.10 Clarification of Tenders

The Contracting Authority is entitled, but not obliged, to seek clarification of tenders, including pricing breakdowns in the course of the evaluation process. No change in the price or substance of the Tender shall be sought, offered or permitted. To assist in finalising the tender evaluation, selected tenderers may be invited to attend clarification meetings with the Contracting Authority.

Tenderers will be responsible for any costs incurred by them in the event that they are required to attend clarification or other meetings or make a presentation of their proposals.

6.11 Correction of errors

Detailed pricing of all tenders will be examined for errors that might alter the tender pricing as determined from the figures on the Form of Tender and electronic versions of the tender (if applicable). In general, the following approach will be applied to manifest errors - where there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total amount derived from the multiplication of the unit price and the quantity, the unit price as quoted will normally govern.

The amount stated in the tender form will be adjusted by the Contracting Authority in accordance with the above procedure and, with the agreement of the tenderer, shall be considered as binding upon the tenderer. Without prejudice to the above, a tenderer not accepting the correction of their tender as outlined may have their tender rejected.

Where the Total Quote function has been activated on eTenders and a discrepancy arises between the amount in the Total Quote box and the tender submission, the amount in the tender submission shall take precedence.

Once the tender submission deadline has expired, no new information can be introduced. This includes cost elements.

6.12 Change in the composition of a Tenderer

Where a change in composition of a tenderer arises, this must be notified in writing to the Contracting Authority and formally approved by them. Where the original party to the tender was critical to the tenderer meeting some or all selection criteria, any replacement party must meet or exceed the same selection criteria standard.

The Contracting Authority reserves the right, but is not obliged, to disqualify any Tenderer that makes any change to its composition after submission of a Tender.

6.13 Interference and Inducement to Purchase

Any effort by the tenderer to unduly influence the Contracting Authority, relevant agency personnel or any other relevant persons or bodies in the process of examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of tenders and in decisions concerning the Award of Contract shall have their tender rejected. The presumptions (including as to any gift, consideration or advantage) and other provisions under the Criminal Justice Act 2018, and all other measures for the time being governing the subject-matter in any applicable jurisdiction, shall be applicable.

6.14 Conflict of Interest

Any conflict of interest involving a tenderer (or tenderers in the event of a consortium bid) must be fully disclosed to the Contracting Authority. Any registrable interest involving the tenderer and the Contracting Authority or employees of the Contracting Authority or their relatives must be fully disclosed in the tender submission or should be communicated to the Contracting Authority immediately upon such information becoming known to the tenderer, in the event of this information only coming to their notice after the submission of a bid and prior to the award of the contract. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest may disqualify a tenderer or invalidate an award of contract, depending on when the conflict of interest comes to light.

6.15 Publicity

Tenderers shall not undertake (or permit to be undertaken) at any time, whether at this stage or after the award of the contract, any publicity activity with any section of the media in relation to this tender/agreement other than with the prior written consent of the Contracting Authority. Such consent shall extend to the content of any publicity. For the purposes of this paragraph, the word “media” includes (but is not limited to) radio, television, newspapers, trade and specialist press, the Internet and email, accessible by the public at large and the representatives of such media.

The Contracting Authority will have the right to publicise or otherwise disclose to any third-party information regarding this process and the agreement.

6.16 Right Not to Award

The Contracting Authority does not bind itself to accept the most economically advantageous tender or any tender. It also reserves the right to accept or reject in whole or in part any or all tenders received, and, in particular, to source the requirement with more than one provider.

The invitation to tender is issued in good faith; however, the Contracting Authority at its sole discretion shall not be obliged to award a contract or proceed to further stages in the procurement process and reserves the right to cancel the procurement process.

6.17 Notification of Tender Evaluations

All information regarding the evaluation process or potential outcomes shall remain confidential until after the conclusion of the tender process.

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

Potential outcomes can be:

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

The Contracting Authority may be required to, or may at its own discretion elect to, observe a standstill period of 14 calendar days following the notification of the tender process outcome. Where such a standstill period is observed the notification letter will contain the relevant details and no contract or framework agreement will be concluded during the standstill period.

6.18 Award Notices

Following the conclusion of the framework, an award notice will be dispatched to eTenders announcing the results of the competition.

6.19 Policy on Personal Debriefings

Based on the provision of the information to unsuccessful tenderers as outlined above and due to resourcing constraints, the Contracting Authority will not be offering individual debriefing meetings to unsuccessful bidders.

6.20 Copyright

Unless otherwise agreed, the Contracting Authority will have copyright ownership of any material developed for use by the Contracting Authority under the terms of this tender. The service provider may have a non-exclusive license to use such material but only for its own purposes (to be agreed with the successful tenderer).

6.21 Brand Names, etc.

Please note in relation to this tender document; where reference is made to a particular make, source, process, trademark, type or patent, that this is not to be regarded as a de facto requirement. In all such cases it should be understood that the reference in question is accompanied by the words "or equivalent".

6.22 Environmental Aspects

The Contracting Authority is committed to the principles of environmental management in its activities, and it encourages the implementation of sustainability principles in its procurement practices. Tenderers/contractors should make all reasonable efforts to minimise adverse environmental impact in the methods of service delivery and in materials used.

6.23 Knowledge and Skills Transfer

It will be a condition of the contract that opportunities for the transfer of skills and/or knowledge from the Tender/Tender's staff to the Contracting Authority staff will be availed of during the course of contracts under the framework agreement.

6.24 Currency and Payments

The currency in which all prices and rates shall be tendered, and which payments under the contract will be paid, shall be Euro (€). All prices and rates quoted should be exclusive of VAT, with the applicable rate of VAT clearly indicated.

A schedule of payments will be agreed with the successful tenderer and invoices shall be submitted in accordance with the terms agreed with the Contracting Authority.

6.25 Irish Legislation and Law

Tenderers should be aware that national legislation applies in other matters such as Employment, Working Hours, Official Secrets, Data Protection and Health and Safety. Tenderers must have regard to statutory terms relating to minimum pay and to legally binding industrial or sectoral agreements in the Contracting Authority tenders and in delivering

contracts awarded to them. The contract(s) awarded on foot of this tender process will be governed by Irish law.

6.26 Anti-Competitive Conduct

Tenderers should take notice of the Competition Act 2002 (as amended, the "2002 Act"), which makes it a criminal offence for tenderers to collude on prices or any other aspects relating to this procurement competition.

6.27 Accessibility / Dignity at Work

The successful tenderer(s) shall comply with all relevant legislation relating to dignity at work. As a public body and employer, the Contracting Authority is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity for all personnel.

In line with the Disability Act 2005, accessibility requirements should be clearly stated in request for tenders / quotations where applicable. Under Section 27 of the Act the Contracting Authority is required to ensure that both the goods supplied, and services provided to it are accessible to persons with disabilities.

6.28 Withholding Tax

Where applicable, payments shall be subject to Irish 'Professional Services Withholding Tax' at the prevailing rate (currently at 20%) as laid down by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland. Non-residents may be able to reclaim such deducted Tax from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland, International Claims Section located currently at Government Buildings, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland (Tel: +353 (0) 67 63400).

6.29 Freedom of Information

All responses to this Request for Tender will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the tenderer except insofar as is specifically required for the consideration and evaluation of the response or as may be required under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014, EU and Irish Government Procurement Procedures, or in response to questions, debates or other parliamentary procedures in or of the Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament).

Tenderers are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by them in response to this request for tenders should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity. However, any blanket or all-encompassing request for exemption from disclosure is not acceptable; tenderers must identify explicitly any such information and give relevant reasons for considering it to be economically sensitive or confidential in nature. If this is the case, tenderers should specify the information that is sensitive and the reasons for its sensitivity. The Contracting Authority cannot guarantee that any information provided by tenderers, either in response to this tender or in the course of any contract awarded as a result thereof, will not be released pursuant to the Contracting Authority's obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014, or to those under EU and Irish Government Procurement rules. The Contracting Authority accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any information provided which is

subsequently released, or in respect of any consequential damage suffered as a result of such disclosure.

6.30 Late Payment

The Contracting Authority operates in accordance with EU Directive 2011/7/EU on combating Late Payment in commercial Transactions transposed into national legislation as S.I. 580 of 2012 and amended by S.I. No. 281 of 2016.

6.31 Data Protection

"Data Protection Laws" means all applicable national and EU data protection laws, regulations and guidelines including but not limited to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (the "General Data Protection Regulation"), the Data Protection Act, 2018 and any guidelines and codes of practice issued by the Data Protection Commission or other supervisory authority for data protection in Ireland from time to time.

The Contracting Authority will be a Controller (where Controller has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) in respect of any Personal Data (where Personal Data has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) required to be provided by the Tenderer in response to this Request for Tender.

The Tenderer, as Controller in respect of any Personal Data provided by it in its Tender, is required to confirm by way of statement in the "Declarations" section of the accompanying Tender Response Document that all Data Subjects (where Data Subject has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) whose Personal Data is provided by the Tenderer have consented to the processing of such Personal Data by the Tenderer, the Contracting Authority, the Evaluation Team and the supplier of the eTenders website, for the purposes of the participation of the Tenderer in this Competition or that the Tenderer otherwise has a legal basis for providing such Personal Data to the Contracting Authority for the purposes of its participation in this Competition.

6.32 Changes in Legislation

As a condition of award, it shall be the sole responsibility of the tenderer (in the event of success in this competition) to fulfil the obligations under the Contract.

6.33 International Procurement Instrument-IPI

The Contracting Authority would refer Tenderers in particular to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2022/1031 on the access of third country economic operators, goods and services to the Union's public procurement and concession markets and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union economic operators, goods and services to the public procurement and concession markets of third countries (International Procurement Instrument – IPI), and to their obligation to comply therewith. In particular, tenderers and candidates should note in Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1031, the obligations for a Contracting Authority in the context of a procurement procedure where the EU Commission has adopted an IPI measure.

6.34 Responsibility of Successful Party

As a condition of award, it shall be the successful tenderer's sole responsibility to ensure they have taken account of all obligations under the Contract including supply chain and related risk factors.