

INSTRUCTIONS DOCUMENT

FOR

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR APPOINTMENT TO A

MULTI-PARTY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

FOR

ROAD MARKINGS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PRIMARY INFORMATION AND CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES

- 1.1.1 The Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (hereinafter referred to as “the LGOPC”)¹, acting as a central purchasing body² under the auspices of Kerry County Council, is co-ordinating the establishment of a Framework Agreement of Economic Operators³ for Road Markings (hereinafter referred to as “the Framework Agreement”) on behalf of contracting authorities⁴.
- 1.1.2 The contracting authorities eligible to partake in the Framework Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Contracting Authorities”) include:
- Ministers of the Government of Ireland; Central Government Departments; offices and non-commercial agencies and organisations which have a formal reporting and legal relationship to Central Government Departments, including all local authorities in Ireland (as defined in the Local Government Act 2014), (themselves including regional assemblies, local enterprise boards and library bodies), and those approved housing bodies which also constitute “bodies governed by public law” within the meaning of Regulation 2 of the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts Regulations 2016 (S. I. No. 284 of 2016), as amended (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulations”), listed on the Register of Approved Housing Bodies maintained by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage currently approved under section 6 of the Housing Act 1992;
 - Contracting authorities in the Irish health sector including but not limited to the Health Service Executive (HSE); the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and HSE funded Agencies delivering health and personal social services funded by more than 50% from Exchequer funds;
 - Contracting authorities which are Third Level Educational Institutions (including universities, institutes of technology and members of the Education Procurement Service);
 - Contracting authorities which are Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and ETB schools, and primary, post-primary, special and secondary schools as well as ETBs acting on behalf of schools;
 - An Garda Síochána (Police);
 - The Irish Prison Service;
 - The Defence Forces;
 - The Housing Agency
- 1.1.3 Economic Operators admitted to the Framework Agreement will be invited to participate in Supplementary Requests for Tender⁵ (hereinafter referred to as “Supplementary Request(s) for Tender” or “sRFT”) issued by the Contracting Authorities through www.supplygov.ie⁶ (hereinafter referred to as “Supplygov”) for Road Markings (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Works”) during the term of the Framework Agreement. It is anticipated that the Framework Agreement will commence in Quarter 1, 2023.
- 1.1.4 The Framework Agreement shall take effect on the Effective Date (as defined in the Framework Agreement). This Framework Agreement shall be established for a term of four (4) years unless it is otherwise terminated in accordance with the provisions of this Framework Agreement. It is anticipated that the Framework Agreement will commence in Quarter 1, 2023.

¹ The LGOPC is responsible for the development and implementation of central purchasing mechanisms for the Category Councils of Plant Hire and Minor Building Works & Civils as established by the Office of Government Procurement.

² Central Purchasing Body means a central purchasing body as defined by Regulation 2(1) of the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016 (S. I. No. 284 of 2016) (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulations”).

³ Economic Operator means an economic operator as defined by Regulation 2(1) of the Regulations.

⁴ Contracting authorities means a contracting authority as defined by Regulation 2(1) of the Regulations.

⁵ Supplementary Request for Tender means a request for tender issued by the Contracting Authorities to the Economic Operators admitted to the Framework Agreement via www.supplygov.ie for a Supplementary Request for Tender Contract (hereinafter referred to as an “sRFT Contract”).

⁶ www.supplygov.ie is a procurement platform operated by the LGOPC facilitating Local Authorities and other state agencies in the public procurement of goods, works and services from economic operators.

- 1.1.5 The total value of contracts to be awarded under the Framework Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "sRFT Contract(s)")⁷ is estimated to exceed the threshold whereby Directive 2014/24 EU and the Regulations apply to this call for competition (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition").

1.2 DIVISION INTO LOTS

- 1.2.1 Not Applicable to this Framework Agreement.

⁷ sRFT Contract means a contract for works entered between an Economic Operator and a Contracting Authority following a Supplementary Request for Tender.

2.0 ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

2.1 STAGE 1 – CALL FOR COMPETITION – ADMITTANCE TO THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

This stage is hosted on www.etenders.gov.ie⁸ (hereinafter referred to as “eTenders”).

- 2.1.1 Stage 1 is the establishment of a Multi-Party Framework Agreement following a tender competition issued by the LGOPC on eTenders seeking applications from Economic Operators for Road Marking works. In stage 1, the LGOPC assesses the Economic Operator against the exclusion grounds, selection criteria and tender award criteria. All Economic Operators that pass this assessment are admitted to the Framework Agreement and there is no limit to the number of Economic Operators that may be admitted.
- 2.1.2 Instructions on how to complete an application are outlined in **Section 4.0: Application Process** of this document (hereinafter referred to as an "Application").
- 2.1.3 Applications will be assessed in accordance with **Section 5.0: Tender Evaluation and Award to the Framework Agreement**.

2.2 STAGE 2 – SUPPLEMENTARY REQUESTS FOR TENDER

This stage is hosted on www.supplygov.ie (hereinafter referred to as “Supplygov”).

- 2.2.1 Stage 2 involves the Contracting Authorities inviting the Economic Operators admitted to the Framework Agreement to tender for specific sRFT Contracts. Contracting Authorities shall invite all Economic Operators admitted to the Framework Agreement that have indicated an interest in tendering for those region(s) selected as part of their Application.

⁸ eTenders is a procurement platform administered by the Office of Government Procurement facilitating local authorities and other state agencies in the public procurement of goods, works and services.

3.0 INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 POINTS TO NOTE PRIOR TO MAKING AN APPLICATION

- 3.1.1 All documentation, information and communications relating to the Framework Agreement, including the Tender Documents⁹, are published on eTenders under the Contract Notice, which supersede and replaces all previous documentation, communications and correspondence issued by the LGOPC and/or the Contracting Authorities in relation to same. While every effort has been made to provide comprehensive and accurate information in the Tender Documents, the LGOPC does not accept any liability or provide any express or implied warranty in respect of any such information.
- 3.1.2 If an Economic Operator becomes aware of any ambiguity, discrepancy, error, or omission in the Tender Documents or in the online application process, it shall immediately notify the LGOPC through the eTenders messaging system.
- 3.1.3 The LGOPC gives no assurances as to the level of expenditure by the Contracting Authorities through the Framework Agreement and the admittance of an Economic Operator to the Framework Agreement does not constitute a commitment from the Contracting Authorities to enter sRFT Contracts with the Economic Operator. Any costs incurred by the Economic Operator, howsoever arising, in participating in the Competition shall be the Economic Operator's own liability.
- 3.1.4 The Tender Documents, in whole or in part, may not be reproduced, stored, transmitted, or used for purposes other than this Competition without the prior written permission of the LGOPC.
- 3.1.5 The LGOPC, acting in its sole discretion, may, by giving written notice, cancel this Competition at any stage prior to the formal establishment of the Framework Agreement (or at any time during the term of the Framework Agreement in accordance with the terms of the Framework Agreement) without recompense to the Economic Operator.
- 3.1.6 It shall be the responsibility of the Economic Operator to fulfil the obligations under the Framework Agreement and any sRFT Contract, notwithstanding any changes in circulars, law, regulations, taxation or duties or other restrictions that might arise following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from membership of the European Union.
- 3.1.7 Economic Operators can make only one application (per Economic Operator) in response to this Competition, whether as part of a consortium or in their own name.
- 3.1.8 Economic Operators not currently registered on eTenders must register as a "Supplier" on eTenders in order to make an Application.
- 3.1.9 Economic Operators must:
- fully comply with this Instructions Document and a failure to do so may result in the Application being deemed non-compliant. An Economic Operator that makes an Application that is deemed non-compliant shall not be admitted to the Framework Agreement;
 - read the Tender Documents carefully and ensure that they fully understand the requirements of this Competition and the terms of the Framework Agreement prior to applying;
 - take into account: (a) upload speeds may vary and; (b) there is a maximum upload limit of 2.14GB per file (documents larger than this should be divided into smaller files prior to upload);
 - ensure electronic documents are not corrupt.
- 3.1.10 The LGOPC will not issue hard copy correspondence relating to any aspect of this Competition.

⁹ Tender Documents mean this Instructions Document, the Framework Agreement, the ESPD and all accompanying documents published on eTenders in relation to this Competition.

- 3.1.11 The LGOPC also reserves the right to update or amend the information contained in the Tender Documents at any time before the response deadline and/or to extend the response deadline.
- 3.1.12 All correspondence will be issued via eTenders only and it is the responsibility of the Economic Operator to ensure that its correct email address for the receipt of electronic correspondence is recorded on its eTenders account.
- 3.1.13 If links are not working in any electronic correspondence (due to internal firewalls or IT security), log in directly via the eTenders portal to view.
- 3.1.14 All Economic Operators should include noreply@eu-supply.com in their spam filters (if they use a filtering tool) in order to receive notifications.
- 3.1.15 Should an Economic Operator experience any technical difficulty with any aspect of its application on eTenders, please contact the eTenders Support Desk on 353 (0) 21 243 92 77 or via etenders@eu-supply.com.

3.2 COMPANY REGISTRATION DETAILS

- 3.2.1 Where an Economic Operator is registered with the Companies Registration Office (hereinafter referred to as the "CRO") it must ensure that:
- the registered company name and address as recorded in the CRO are used in all relevant parts of the Application.
- 3.2.2 Where an Economic Operator is not registered with the CRO it must ensure that:
- the Economic Operator's name and address as registered with its VAT/Tax Registration Number is used in all relevant parts of the Application.

3.3 CONSORTIUM/JOINT VENTURE

- 3.3.1 An Economic Operator comprising of a consortium or joint venture (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Consortium") must provide details of all members of the Consortium and their role in the Application. The Consortium will not be required to convert into a specific legal entity to submit an Application but may be required to do so prior to admittance to the Framework Agreement. In this respect the LGOPC may, at its discretion, enter into the Framework Agreement with:
- one member who will carry overall responsibility for the performance of an sRFT Contract;
 - each member of the Consortium on a joint and several liability basis;
 - one member of the Consortium with the other members being subcontractors; or
 - at its discretion, the LGOPC may require the Consortium to enter into any other contracting arrangement.
- 3.3.2 Failure by a Consortium to adhere to the requirements of the LGOPC in relation to the above may result in the exclusion of the Consortium from this Competition and the Framework Agreement.

3.4 CONFIRMATION OF ECONOMIC OPERATOR DETAILS

- 3.4.1 The LGOPC may examine and verify the Economic Operator's details as contained in the Application including, but not limited to, the following:
- Legal structure of the Economic Operator;
 - Name of the Economic Operator;
 - Address of the Economic Operator;
 - VAT/Tax Registration Number of the Economic Operator (if applicable); and/or

- Company Registration Number of the Economic Operator (if applicable).

3.4.2 Where, in the course of such examination, the LGOPC determines that an Economic Operator has provided details that contain discrepancies, it may, at its discretion, contact the Economic Operator requesting that the Economic Operator provide or confirm the correct details. Failure of the Economic Operator to provide or confirm the correct details to the satisfaction of the LGOPC may result in the elimination from this Competition.

3.5 COMMUNICATIONS, QUERIES AND CLARIFICATIONS

3.5.1 All queries from Economic Operators in relation to this Competition may only be submitted online through the messaging function on eTenders. The deadline for clarifications and queries is displayed on the "My Response" page of this Request for Tenders on eTenders at www.etenders.gov.ie.

3.5.2 The LGOPC will endeavour to respond to all reasonable queries validly received without delay. However, the LGOPC is not obliged, nor does it undertake, to respond to all queries received and queries seeking interpretation of this Instructions Document may not result in a response.

3.5.3 Any queries, along with the LGOPC's response to same, will, where appropriate, be communicated to all those who have expressed an interest in this Competition without disclosing the name of the Economic Operator who initiated the query.

3.5.4 If an Economic Operator believes that a query and/or its response relates to a confidential or commercially sensitive aspect of its application, it must mark the query as "Confidential" and state the reason(s) why it believes it to be confidential or commercially sensitive. The LGOPC shall have regard to such statement but shall not be bound by same. If the LGOPC, in its absolute discretion, is satisfied that the query and/or its response should be properly regarded as being confidential or commercially sensitive, the nature of the query and its response shall be kept confidential subject to the LGOPC's and/or the Economic Operators obligations under public procurement and freedom of information legislation. If the LGOPC determines, in its absolute discretion, that the query and/or its response should not be regarded as confidential or commercially sensitive, it will invite the Economic Operator concerned to withdraw the query or it will communicate the query and its response to all Economic Operators who have expressed an interest in this Competition. LGOPC accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any information provided which is subsequently released (irrespective of notification) or in respect of any consequential damage suffered as a result of such obligations.

3.6 CANVASSING

3.6.1 Canvassing or any effort by an Economic Operator to influence any staff or agents of the LGOPC in relation to any aspect of this Competition may result in the Economic Operator's disqualification.

3.6.2 Where an Economic Operator has an existing relationship with the LGOPC (or its staff or agents), any discussions, correspondence or other influences relating to this Competition may be treated as canvassing.

3.6.3 In accordance with Section 38 of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995, any money, gift, or other consideration from an Economic Operator holding, or seeking to obtain, admittance to the Framework Agreement will be deemed to have been paid or given corruptly unless the contrary is proved.

3.7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3.7.1 Any actual or potential conflict of interest involving the Economic Operator, a Subcontractor or employee or agent of either must be fully disclosed by the Economic Operator as soon as it becomes apparent.

3.7.2 Where the LGOPC determines that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises, it will, at its absolute discretion, decide on the appropriate course of action which may include excluding the Economic Operator from the Competition or terminating any Framework Agreement.

- 3.7.3 Any registrable interest (having the meaning prescribed by the Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995) involving the Economic Operator and the LGOPC must be fully disclosed to the LGOPC immediately upon such information becoming known to the Economic Operator.

3.8 DATA PROTECTION

- 3.8.1 In this clause, "Data Protection Laws" means: (a) the Irish Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018; (b) the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR"); and (c) any other applicable law or regulation relating to the processing of personal data and to privacy including (but not limited to) the E-Privacy Directive and the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Privacy and Electronic Communications) Regulations 2011 ("E-Privacy Regulations") (as may be amended, updated or re-published by the relevant body from time to time).
- 3.8.2 The Contracting Authorities and the LGOPC will each be an independent Data Controller (where Data 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 Economic Operator in response to this Framework Agreement and any Supplementary Request for Tender.
- 3.8.3 The Economic Operator, as Data Controller in respect of any Personal Data provided by it in its Application for admittance to the Framework Agreement and in response to a Supplementary Request for Tender, is required to confirm in the Electronic Suitability Questionnaire that all Data Subjects (where Data Subject has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) whose Personal Data is provided by the Economic Operator have consented to the processing of such Personal Data by the Economic Operator, the LGOPC, the Contracting Authorities, the evaluation teams and the operators of www.etenders.gov.ie and www.supplygov.ie (hereinafter referred to as "Supplygov") for the purpose of the participation of the Economic Operator in the Framework Agreement and/or a Supplementary Request for Tender or that the Economic Operator otherwise has a legal basis for providing such Personal Data to the foregoing for the purpose of its participation in the Framework Agreement.
- 3.8.4 The Contracting Authorities and the LGOPC, each as an independent Data Controller, may process the Personal Data as follows:
- by the Contracting Authorities disclosing data (including Personal Data of the Economic Operator and/or their employees or other related third-party agents such as those persons' names, contact details, work experience etc.) to the LGOPC.
- 3.8.5 The Contracting Authorities, as independent Data Controllers, may share the Personal Data as follows:
- with other bodies within the public and/or semi-state sectors that use the Supplygov service as required by this Framework Agreement. The list of such public and/or semi-State bodies is maintained on Supplygov and is updated from time to time. In addition, such Personal Data may be shared with the Office of Government Procurement, the Local Government Management Agency and with other bodies as required under law.
- 3.8.6 The Contracting Authorities and the LGOPC shall enter into a Data Sharing Agreement, which shall govern the sharing of the Personal Data between them and their respective rights, obligations, and liability in relation to this.
- 3.8.7 The Economic Operator shall be individually responsible, as an independent Data Controller, for its own processing of the Personal Data and must fully comply with its obligations as a Data Controller under the Data Protection Laws in this regard.
- 3.8.8 Neither the Economic Operator nor the LGOPC and/or the Contracting Authorities shall be construed as a Data Processor (where Data Processor has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) in relation

to the other unless the conditions for processing of the Personal Data change so that one party processes Personal Data on behalf of and on the instructions of the other party.

- 3.8.9 The Economic Operator and the LGOPC and/or the Contracting Authorities shall not be construed as Joint Data Controllers (where Joint Data Controllers has the meaning given under the Data Protection Laws) unless the conditions for processing of the Personal Data change such that the parties in conjunction with one another jointly, in a collaborative fashion, determine the purposes and means of processing the Personal Data.
- 3.8.10 The Economic Operator will inform the LGOPC as soon as possible of any requests from Data Subjects regarding rectification or erasure of Personal Data included in a tender, or restriction of or objection to the processing of such Personal Data for the purposes set out herein. The Economic Operator shall, to the extent that such a request affects the processing of such Personal Data by the LGOPC, provide reasonable assistance to the LGOPC and/or the Contracting Authorities to enable compliance with the Data Protection Laws. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Economic Operator shall remain responsible itself for dealing with requests from Data Subjects in respect of Personal Data, to the extent that such requests are directed by the Data Subject to the Economic Operator (or any of its agents, employees, or sub-contractors).
- 3.8.11 The Economic Operator shall notify the LGOPC immediately if the Economic Operator becomes aware of, or suspects: (i) any breach of this section 3.8; or (ii) a Personal Data breach which is likely to affect or invoke the LGOPC's and/or the Contracting Authorities' obligations under the Data Protection Laws; or (iii) any situation or envisaged development that shall in any way influence, change or limit the processing of the Personal Data included in the tender for the purposes set out herein. The Economic Operator shall document all Personal Data breaches in accordance with the Data Protection Laws and fully co-operate with the LGOPC and/or the Contracting Authorities to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Laws. The Economic Operator shall use reasonable endeavours to mitigate any damage suffered by a Data Subject in these circumstances.
- 3.8.12 The Economic Operator hereby indemnifies the LGOPC and the Contracting Authorities against all claims, liabilities, costs, expenses, damages, and losses suffered or incurred by the LGOPC and/or the Contracting Authorities arising out of or in connection with any breach by the Economic Operator (or any of its employees/agents/sub-contractors) of any terms of this section 3.8, or its obligations under the Data Protection Laws, or any use by the Economic Operator of the Personal Data.

3.9 NOTICE OF ADDENDA

- 3.9.1 The LGOPC reserves the right, where necessary for the efficient and compliant operation of the Framework Agreement, to update or alter this Instructions Document, other Tender Documents and/or any information and documents pertaining to the Framework Agreement by written notice via eTenders and any such notification will automatically become part of the Tender Documents.

4.0 APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1 GENERAL

- 4.1.1 All Applications must be made via eTenders.
- 4.1.2 Economic Operators must fully complete and submit the following in order to make a compliant Application:
- an online European Single Procurement Document (hereinafter referred to as the "ESPD")
 - Selection Criteria (Envelope 1 - Technical Documents) including all requested supporting documentation
 - Selection Criteria (Envelope 2 - Quotation Documents)
 - the online Bill of Quantities
- 4.1.3 Economic Operators do not need to complete the entire application process at one time. The application process can be updated, edited, completed, and saved at any time prior to submitting an Application. A User Guide is available on eTenders.
- 4.1.4 Economic Operators are not required to submit evidence of compliance with the declarations at application stage except where indicated in the ESPD and/or qualification questions. Economic Operators must be in a position to provide the requisite evidence of compliance with the declarations within five working days when requested by the LGOPC and/or Contracting Authority.

4.2 ESPD

- 4.2.1 The ESPD is a self-declaration of the Economic Operator's financial status, abilities and suitability for a public procurement procedure and is used as preliminary evidence of fulfilment of the conditions required in public procurement procedures across the European Union.
- 4.2.2 Economic Operators can access the ESPD by clicking on "*Manage ESPD Responses*" in the ESPD section on eTenders and selecting '*Create*'.
- 4.2.3 **Part I** of the ESPD relates to information concerning the Contracting Authority and the procurement procedure and does not require any input on the part of the Economic Operator.
- 4.2.4 **Part II** of the ESPD relates to information concerning the Economic Operator and requires input on the part of the Economic Operator and includes the following:

Section A:

- This section has been pre-populated with the details entered by the Economic Operator when creating its profile on eTenders and it includes questions to be answered. The Economic Operator must:
 - a) ensure that the pre-populated details regarding the Economic Operator are correct

Or

 - b) if necessary, amend the pre-populated details regarding the Economic Operator in order to correct them.

Section B:

- The Economic Operator must enter details regarding the representative(s) of the Economic Operator i.e., the person(s) empowered to represent the Economic Operator for the purpose of this Competition.

- Applications must be made under the Economic Operator's account on eTenders. Section B facilitates the identification of a representative empowered to complete this process on behalf of the Economic Operator.

Section C:

- If applicable, the Economic Operator must enter details regarding other entities that the Economic Operator relies on to meet the Selection Criteria set out on eTenders as part of the online Qualification questions under Envelope 1 (hereinafter referred to as the "Selection Criteria") (and rules (if any) under Part V) of this Competition.

Section D:

- This Section of the ESPD does not require any input on the part of the Economic Operator for this Competition.

4.2.5 **Part III** of the ESPD relates to exclusionary grounds and requires input on the part of the Economic Operator as follows:

- Part 3.A: The Economic Operator must answer all queries on these exclusionary grounds.
- Part 3.B: The Economic Operator must answer all queries on these exclusionary grounds.
- Part 3.C: The Economic Operator must answer all queries on these exclusionary grounds.

4.2.6 **Part IV** of the ESPD: The Economic Operator must complete this declaration.

Important Note: In order to comply with the Selection Criteria for this Competition, the Economic Operator must separately fully complete all qualification questions as part of the Selection Criteria. (A Note to this effect has been inserted by the LGOPC in Part IV of the online ESPD).

4.2.7 **Part V** of the ESPD does not require any input on the part of the Economic Operator for this Competition.

4.2.8 **Part VI** of the ESPD allows the Economic Operator to review its responses before selecting the date and location prior to submission of the ESPD.

4.2.9 The Economic Operator must select the '***Finalize***' button in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen in order to submit the ESPD.

4.3 ONLINE ENVELOPE 1 – TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (QUALIFICATION QUESTIONS)

4.3.1 Economic Operators must complete all of the 'Qualification questions' for online envelope 1 on www.etenders.gov.ie.

4.3.2 Economic Operators can access the 'Qualification questions' by clicking on the 'Answer questions' button in the envelope 1 section of the 'My Response' page for this RFT on www.etenders.gov.ie.

4.4 ONLINE ENVELOPE 2 – QUOTATION DOCUMENTS (QUALIFICATION QUESTIONS)

4.4.1 Economic Operators must complete all of the 'Qualification questions' for online Envelope 2 on www.etenders.gov.ie.

4.4.2 Economic Operators can access the 'Qualification questions' by clicking on the 'Answer questions' button in the envelope 2 section of the 'My Response' page for this RFT on www.etenders.gov.ie.

4.5 ONLINE BILL OF QUANTITIES

- 4.5.1 Economic Operators must complete the online Bill of Quantities. Economic Operators should note that the rates tendered in the Bill of Quantities are ceiling rates which will be fixed as the maximum rates for these items over the initial 12 months of the Framework Agreement.
- 4.5.2 Economic Operators can access the online Bill of Quantities by clicking on the 'Price online' button in the Bill of Quantities section of the 'My Response' page for this RFT on www.etenders.gov.ie.
- 4.5.3 Failure by the Economic Operator to enter a rate for each item will result in the Application being deemed non-compliant.

4.6 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

- 4.6.1 Economic Operators must click on "*Submit response*" on eTenders to submit their Application.
- 4.6.2 Economic Operators can review the progress of their Application via "*My response*" on eTenders.

4.7 RESPONSE DEADLINE

- 4.7.1 It is the responsibility of each individual Tenderer to ensure that their Application is submitted by the response deadline noted on www.etenders.gov.ie. The Response Deadline is displayed on the "My Response" page of this Request for Tenders on eTenders at www.etenders.gov.ie.

5.0 TENDER EVALUATION & AWARD TO THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

5.1 GENERAL

5.1.1 Applications for admittance to the Framework Agreement will be assessed by the LGOPC as follows:

PROCESS	ACTION
Compliance	Assess completeness of Application for compliance with requirements of the Tender Documents, including completion of ESPD and confirmation that none of the exclusion grounds in Regulation 57 of the Regulations are met.
Selection Criteria	Assessment in accordance with the Selection Criteria published for admittance to the Framework Agreement.
Tender Award	Award Scores and Rank Tenderers

5.2 COMPLIANCE

5.2.1 Applications will be assessed to determine whether they include all information and documentation required. In addition, Applications will be assessed to determine whether any of the exclusion grounds set out in Regulation 57 of the Regulations are met. Economic operators to whom a mandatory ground for exclusion applies will be excluded from the Competition unless they can provide evidence to the effect that measures taken by them are sufficient to demonstrate their reliability despite the existence of any such exclusion ground. LGOPC reserves the right to exclude an Economic Operator to whom a discretionary ground for exclusion applies.

5.2.2 Compliant Applications will proceed to be assessed in accordance with the Selection Criteria published for admittance to the Framework Agreement. Non-compliant Applications will not be assessed any further.

5.3 SELECTION CRITERIA

5.3.1 Applications will be assessed against the Selection Criteria as set out on eTenders as part of the online Qualification questions under Envelope 1.

5.3.2 Economic Operators must meet the above Selection Criteria for admittance to the Framework Agreement.

5.4 CLARIFICATION OF TENDERS

5.4.1 During the assessment of an Application, the LGOPC may seek clarifications or further information (or take such other legally permissible actions) from Economic Operators via eTenders.

5.4.2 The Economic Operator's response to a request for clarification or further information shall be submitted via eTenders no later than the date specified by the LGOPC. Any response provided by an Economic Operator may not constitute a material alteration of the Application initially submitted.

5.5 TENDER AWARD

5.5.1 All Applications that meet the Selection Criteria will be further assessed and ranked in terms of the following award criteria and ranking methodology established for securing a place on the Framework Agreement:

AWARD CRITERIA	WEIGHTING	MAXIMUM MARKS AVAILABLE
Most Economically Advantageous Tender: Price (<i>Total Price</i>)	100%	1,000

5.5.2 To secure a place on the Framework Agreement, each Tenderer will be ranked based on the 'Total Price' submitted on www.etenders.gov.ie as follows -:

Score on price formula = (Maximum 'Score')-1,000*(1- (Lowest 'Bid'/Bid of Application being evaluated))

- 'Score' = marks awarded
- 'Bid' = Tenderers Total Price

5.5.3 The Tenderer who submits the lowest 'Total Price' will be awarded 1,000 marks and position 1 on the Framework Agreement.

5.5.4 All other Tenderers will receive marks and be ranked in descending order in accordance with the score allocated in accordance with the price formula above.

5.5.5 The ranking by the LGOPC of the Applications is for the purpose of generally assembling the Framework Agreement only. The ranking by the LGOPC of an Economic Operator on the Framework Agreement does not have any relevance to or impact on the subsequent award of sRFT Contracts by Contracting Authorities following a Supplementary Request for Tender.

5.6 NOTIFICATION OF EVALUATION OUTCOME

5.6.1 Following assessment of an Application, Economic Operators will be informed of the outcome via eTenders.

5.6.2 Notification of a successful Application by the LGOPC to the Economic Operator shall not, in and of itself, give rise to any enforceable rights by the Economic Operator.

5.7 STANDSTILL PERIOD¹⁰

5.7.1 A minimum standstill period of fourteen (14) days shall apply following notification of the award decision to the Economic Operators and before formal conclusion of the Framework Agreement.

5.7.2 Following the standstill period, the LGOPC shall:

- a) invite the successful Economic Operators to execute the Framework Agreement on Supplygov; and
- b) formally establish the Framework Agreement.

5.7.3 The Framework Agreement will then become operative and open to the Contracting Authorities to issue Supplementary Requests for Tender and award sRFT Contracts.

¹⁰ Standstill Period means a period of time to allow for effective pre-contract remedy to unsuccessful Tenderers. The Contracting Authority may not conclude a contract with the identified Preferred Tenderers during this time.

5.8 FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

- 5.8.1 When an Economic Operator has submitted a successful Application, it will be invited to formally enter into the Framework Agreement by accepting the terms of the Framework Agreement electronically through Supplygov.
- 5.8.2 The Framework Agreement details the conditions for the award of Supplementary Requests for Tenders under the Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement has been published with the Tender Documents. Economic Operators should note that they may not amend the Framework Agreement and that, by submitting an Application, they agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Framework Agreement without amendment.