

368277-2026 - Direct award preannouncement

Ireland – Medical education services – Provision of Health Professions Admissions Test (HPAT-Ireland) Services to the Irish Medical Schools Council (IMSC)

OJ S 102/2026 29/05/2026

Voluntary ex-ante transparency notice

Services

1. Buyer

1.1. Buyer

Official name: Trinity College Dublin the University of Dublin_336

Email: mireilly@tcd.ie

Legal type of the buyer: Body governed by public law

Activity of the contracting authority: Education

2. Procedure

2.1. Procedure

Title: Provision of Health Professions Admissions Test (HPAT-Ireland) Services to the Irish Medical Schools Council (IMSC)

Description: The Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd. (ACER) are required for the provision of Health Professions Admissions Tests (HPAT). The HPAT testing is a mandatory component of the entry selection system for Undergraduate medical/ and or health related programmes under the current Central Applications Office (CAO) system held annually. The expected number of candidates in Ireland who would be completing the HPAT is approximately 3,500-5,000 annually.

Procedure identifier: e82e7ebc-98d0-4365-bd2e-f61684e5a8c3

Internal identifier: TCD-26-C2446

Type of procedure: Negotiated without prior call for competition

2.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 80320000 Medical education services

2.1.2. Place of performance

Town: Dublin

Country subdivision (NUTS): Dublin (IE061)

Country: Ireland

Additional information: The assessment process is utilised by the members of the Irish Medical Schools Council (IMSC), comprising University of Galway, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, University College Dublin and University of Limerick.

2.1.4. General information

Legal basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

5. Lot

5.1. Lot: LOT-0001

Title: Provision of Health Professions Admissions Test (HPAT-Ireland) Services to the Irish Medical Schools Council (IMSC)

Description: The Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd. (ACER) are required for the provision of Health Professions Admissions Tests (HPAT). The HPAT testing is a mandatory component of the entry selection system for Undergraduate medical/ and or health related programmes under the current Central Applications Office (CAO) system held annually. The expected number of candidates in Ireland who would be completing the HPAT is approximately 3,500-5,000 annually.

Internal identifier: TCD-26-C2446

5.1.1. Purpose

Main nature of the contract: Services

Main classification (cpv): 80320000 Medical education services

5.1.2. Place of performance

Country subdivision (NUTS): Dublin (IE061)

Country: Ireland

5.1.6. General information

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA): yes

5.1.7. Strategic procurement

Aim of strategic procurement: Reduction of environmental impacts

Description: 10% weighting of Award criteria allocated to Environmental and Sustainabilities

Approach to reducing environmental impacts: Climate change mitigation

Green Procurement Criteria: National Green Public Procurement criteria

5.1.16. Further information, mediation and review

Review organisation: The High Court of Ireland

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures: The High Court of Ireland

6. Results

Value of all contracts awarded in this notice: 2 900 000,00 EUR

Direct award

:

Justification for direct award: New works or services, constituting a repetition of existing works or services and ordered in accordance with the strict conditions stated in the Directive

Other justification: The Health Professions Admission Test (HPAT-Ireland) forms a mandatory and integral component of the current undergraduate medical and health-related programme admissions process operated through the Central Applications Office (CAO) system in Ireland. The assessment process is utilised by the members of the Irish Medical Schools Council (IMSC), comprising University of Galway, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, University College Dublin and University of Limerick. The HPAT-Ireland assessment methodology and associated operational delivery framework were originally procured following an open tender competition conducted in 2008, following which the contract was awarded to Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd.. Since that time, ACER has developed, administered and maintained the HPAT-Ireland testing framework on behalf of the IMSC. The Contracting Authorities consider that the proposed contract may be awarded pursuant to Article 32(2)(b)(i) and/or Article 32(2)(b)(ii) of Directive 2014/24/EU, namely for technical reasons and/or due to the protection of exclusive rights, including

intellectual property rights, associated with the established HPAT-Ireland assessment framework currently operated by ACER. The continued operation of the existing HPAT-Ireland framework is considered necessary in order to maintain continuity, consistency, fairness and comparability within the national medical admissions process and to avoid significant operational, administrative, technical disruption to the established CAO-linked entry system currently relied upon by applicants and participating institutions. The existing admissions framework has been embedded nationally for a significant period and any transition to an alternative assessment provider and/or admissions methodology would require extensive sectoral consultation, technical evaluation, stakeholder engagement, implementation planning and coordination with relevant educational and regulatory stakeholders. Accordingly, the IMSC membership intends to enter into a further contractual arrangement with ACER for a period of five (5) years in order to ensure the continued provision of this essential admissions testing service while allowing sufficient time for the review, development and implementation of future procurement and admissions arrangements. During this contractual period, it is intended that the IMSC members will undertake a future competitive procurement process in respect of the long-term provision of these services and any associated changes to the admissions assessment framework.

6.1. Result lot identifier: LOT-0001

6.1.2. Information about winners

Winner:

Official name: Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd.

Tender:

Tender identifier: TCD-26-C2446

Identifier of lot or group of lots: LOT-0001

The tender was ranked: no

Contract information:

Identifier of the contract: TCD-26-C2446

Date on which the winner was chosen: 21/05/2026

8. Organisations

8.1. ORG-0001

Official name: Trinity College Dublin the University of Dublin_336

Registration number: CHY 11

Postal address: 3 College Green

Town: Dublin

Postcode: D02 XH97

Country subdivision (NUTS): Dublin (IE061)

Country: Ireland

Email: mireilly@tcd.ie

Telephone: 018968586

Internet address: <https://www.tcd.ie>

Buyer profile: <https://www.tcd.ie>

Roles of this organisation:

Buyer

8.1. ORG-0002

Official name: The High Court of Ireland

Registration number: The High Court of Ireland

Department: The High Court of Ireland
Postal address: Four Courts, Inns Quay, Dublin 7
Town: Dublin
Postcode: D07 WDX8
Country subdivision (NUTS): Dublin (IE061)
Country: Ireland
Email: HighCourtCentralOffice@courts.ie
Telephone: +353 1 8886000

Roles of this organisation:

Review organisation

Organisation providing more information on the review procedures

8.1. ORG-0003

Official name: European Dynamics S.A.
Registration number: 002024901000
Department: European Dynamics S.A.
Town: Athens
Postcode: 15125
Country subdivision (NUTS): Βόρειος Τομέας Αθηνών (EL301)
Country: Greece
Email: eproc-esender@eurodyn.com
Telephone: +30 2108094500

Roles of this organisation:

TED eSender

8.1. ORG-0004

Official name: Australian Council for Educational Research Ltd.
Size of the economic operator: Medium
Registration number: ACN: 004 398 145
Postal address: 19 Prospect Hill Road Camberwell VIC 3124 Australia
Town: Camberwell
Postcode: VIC 3124
Country: Australia

Roles of this organisation:

Tenderer

Winner of these lots: LOT-0001

Notice information

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