

Ireland-Dublin: Education and training services

OJ S 142/2023 26/07/2023

Contract notice

Services

Legal Basis:

Directive 2014/24/EU

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1. Name and addresses

Official name: SOLAS

Postal address: Castleforbes House, Castleforbes Road

Town: Dublin

NUTS code: IE Éire / Ireland

Postal code: D01 A8N0

Country: Ireland

E-mail: tenders@solas.ie

Internet address(es):

Main address: <https://www.etenders.gov.ie>

Address of the buyer profile: <https://www.etenders.gov.ie>

I.3. Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at: <https://www.etenders.gov.ie>

Additional information can be obtained from the abovementioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the abovementioned address

I.4. Type of the contracting authority

National or federal agency/office

I.5. Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1. Scope of the procurement

II.1.1. Title

Framework Agreement for the Provision of online courses and related services for eCollege

II.1.2. Main CPV code

80000000 Education and training services

II.1.3. Type of contract

Services

II.1.4. Short description

SOLAS is the Further Education and Training Authority responsible for planning, funding, and coordinating further education and training in Ireland. Its mandate is to ensure the provision of 21st-century high-quality, learner-focused, education and training programmes to school

leavers, jobseekers, job changers, employees, and other learners. The Further Education and Training Strategy 2020 – 2024 sets out a range of priorities across three core pillars: building skills; creating pathways and fostering inclusion. Further Education and Training (FET) is a broad term that refers to a wide variety of lifelong education and training options for people over the age of 16. FET is delivered by 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs), and other groups funded by SOLAS. eCollege is the national online learning service for the further education and training sector funded and overseen by SOLAS. The service's ethos is to allow learners to study flexibly around their life and work commitments. Courses are free to the learner, and the service is designed to give a flexible response to the specific skills needs of individuals who require training interventions to assist them in re-entering or upskilling in the labour market. Business Requirement – Services eCollege is entering an exciting period of transformation, positioning itself as a digital gateway into Further Education and Training. It will serve as a 'one-stop-shop' for courses accessible nationally online, tailored to learner needs, and aligned to fundamental and national skills priorities while signposting learners to further FET and potential career paths. This new phase will focus on providing, supporting, and maintaining an expanded range of online learning programmes to support further education and training. It is envisaged that this phase of eCollege development will be provided by multiple external market operators. eCollege has strong foundations for diversification and plans to expand to more learner profiles in alignment with the Future FET strategy. eCollege is entering a transformational phase to further enhance the service and drive its reach, range and quality. The objective of this procurement activity is to set out the framework to achieve this diversity by increasing the range of course offerings, aligned to the unique needs of FET learners, and the service ethos of providing supportive and engaging learning experiences. Business Requirements – Lots It is envisaged that the procurement will consist of 4 Lots within the Framework for the Provision of online courses and related services for eCollege – The National Online Learning Service for Further Education and Training. The Lots set out below will allow for flexibility in approach in terms of delivery, support, and pricing model. Providers may apply for more than one Lot if they meet the required acceptance criteria. Lot 4 provides flexibility to allow for the provision of new courses outside of the other Lots e.g., Manufacturing, Hospitality, Healthcare etc. Tender Process An Open Procedure procurement approach will be used for this tender. During the Open Procedure tender, Suppliers bid to be part of the Framework to become pre-qualified Suppliers. The Framework is divided into 4 Lots according to the subject matter. Bidders can apply to join any Lot and will be allowed to submit applications for more than one Lot. Successful bidders will meet the required criteria as set out in the tender documents and become part of the Framework under their respective Lot(s). Multiple Providers can be admitted onto the Framework both on individual Lots and across Lots. This provides flexibility to the buyer and gives an opportunity to tailor specific needs according to current requirements.

II.1.5. Estimated total value

II.1.6. Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: yes
Tenders may be submitted for all lots

II.2. Description

II.2.1. Title

ICT and Digital Skills
Lot No: 1

II.2.2.

Additional CPV code(s)

72000000 IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.2.3. Place of performance

NUTS code: IE Éire / Ireland

II.2.4. Description of the procurement

SOLAS is the Further Education and Training Authority responsible for planning, funding, and coordinating further education and training in Ireland. Its mandate is to ensure the provision of 21st-century high-quality, learner-focused, education and training programmes to school leavers, jobseekers, job changers, employees, and other learners. The Further Education and Training Strategy 2020 – 2024 sets out a range of priorities across three core pillars: building skills; creating pathways and fostering inclusion. Further Education and Training (FET) is a broad term that refers to a wide variety of lifelong education and training options for people over the age of 16. FET is delivered by 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs), and other groups funded by SOLAS. eCollege is the national online learning service for the further education and training sector funded and overseen by SOLAS. The service's ethos is to allow learners to study flexibly around their life and work commitments. Courses are free to the learner, and the service is designed to give a flexible response to the specific skills needs of individuals who require training interventions to assist them in re-entering or upskilling in the labour market. Business Requirement – Services eCollege is entering an exciting period of transformation, positioning itself as a digital gateway into Further Education and Training. It will serve as a 'one-stop-shop' for courses accessible nationally online, tailored to learner needs, and aligned to fundamental and national skills priorities while signposting learners to further FET and potential career paths. This new phase will focus on providing, supporting, and maintaining an expanded range of online learning programmes to support further education and training. It is envisaged that this phase of eCollege development will be provided by multiple external market operators. eCollege has strong foundations for diversification and plans to expand to more learner profiles in alignment with the Future FET strategy. eCollege is entering a transformational phase to further enhance the service and drive its reach, range and quality. The objective of this procurement activity is to set out the framework to achieve this diversity by increasing the range of course offerings, aligned to the unique needs of FET learners, and the service ethos of providing supportive and engaging learning experiences. Business Requirements – Lots It is envisaged that the procurement will consist of 4 Lots within the Framework for the Provision of online courses and related services for eCollege – The National Online Learning Service for Further Education and Training. The Lots set out below will allow for flexibility in approach in terms of delivery, support, and pricing model. Providers may apply for more than one Lot if they meet the required acceptance criteria. Lot 4 provides flexibility to allow for the provision of new courses outside of the other Lots e.g., Manufacturing, Hospitality, Healthcare etc. Tender Process An Open Procedure procurement approach will be used for this tender. During the Open Procedure tender, Suppliers bid to be part of the Framework to become pre-qualified Suppliers. The Framework is divided into 4 Lots according to the subject matter. Bidders can apply to join any Lot and will be allowed to submit applications for more than one Lot. Successful bidders will meet the required criteria as set out in the tender documents and become part of the Framework under their respective Lot(s). Multiple Providers can be admitted onto the Framework both on individual Lots and across Lots. This provides flexibility to the buyer and gives an opportunity to tailor specific needs according to current requirements.

II.2.5.

Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6. Estimated value

II.2.7. Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months: 48

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.2.10. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11. Information about options

Options: no

II.2.13. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
no

II.2.14. Additional information

II.2. Description

II.2.1. Title

Business Management Skills

Lot No: 2

II.2.2. Additional CPV code(s)

72000000 IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.2.3. Place of performance

NUTS code: IE Éire / Ireland

II.2.4. Description of the procurement

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and training. It is envisaged that this phase of eCollege development will be provided by multiple external market operators. eCollege has strong foundations for diversification and plans to expand to more learner profiles in alignment with the Future FET strategy. eCollege is entering a transformational phase to further enhance the service and drive its reach, range and quality. The objective of this procurement activity is to set out the framework to achieve this diversity by increasing the range of course offerings, aligned to the unique needs of FET learners, and the service ethos of providing supportive and engaging learning experiences.

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II.2.5. Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6. Estimated value

II.2.7. Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months: 48

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.2.10. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11. Information about options

Options: no

II.2.13. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: no

II.2.14. Additional information

II.2. Description

II.2.1. Title

Green Skills/ Sustainability Skills

Lot No: 3

II.2.2. Additional CPV code(s)

72000000 IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.2.3. Place of performance

NUTS code: IE Éire / Ireland

II.2.4. Description of the procurement

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II.2.6. Estimated value

II.2.7. Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months: 48

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.2.10. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11. Information about options

Options: no

II.2.13. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
no

II.2.14. Additional information

II.2. Description

II.2.1. Title

Other Skills

Lot No: 4

II.2.2. Additional CPV code(s)

72000000 IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

II.2.3. Place of performance

NUTS code: IE Éire / Ireland

II.2.4. Description of the procurement

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II.2.6. Estimated value

II.2.7. Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months: 48

This contract is subject to renewal: no

II.2.10. Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: no

II.2.11. Information about options

Options: no

II.2.13. Information about European Union funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds:
no

II.2.14. Additional information

Section IV: Procedure

IV.1. Description

IV.1.1. Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3. Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators Envisaged maximum number of participants to the framework agreement: 12

IV.1.8.

Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: no

IV.2. Administrative information

IV.2.2. Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date: 25/08/2023 Local time: 13:00

IV.2.3. Estimated date of dispatch of invitations to tender or to participate to selected candidates

IV.2.4. Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.7. Conditions for opening of tenders

Date: 25/08/2023 Local time: 13:30

Section VI: Complementary information

VI.1. Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: no

VI.3. Additional information

VI.4. Procedures for review

VI.4.1. Review body

Official name: Solas

Town: Dublin

Country: Ireland

VI.5. Date of dispatch of this notice

21/07/2023