

Scope of Requirements

East Coast Hydrogen Specialist Services Framework

Issue Date: **15th December 2025**

Closing Date and Time: **30th January 2026 12:00pm**

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Guidance Notes

Please read carefully.

1. This Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) is designed to provide Northern Gas Networks (NGN) with the information required to assess your organisation's suitability to contract with NGN.
2. You must pass all mandatory questions set out in the PQQ.
3. Applicants should note that to be correctly evaluated they must answer each question in the required format and adhere to any word count limits that have been set. Answers must be in English, stating nil or not applicable where appropriate. Information must be accurate and current. NGN may refuse to consider your organisation if the PQQ is not fully completed or is found to be inaccurate.
4. If any error, omission, false statement or misrepresentation is discovered, NGN may disqualify your organisation, without regard to what stage the selection process has reached when the error, omission, false statement or misrepresentation is discovered.
5. Applicants must only provide information requested for in this PQQ. Applicants are not to include non-requested information.
6. Information submitted in response to this PQQ must relate solely to the organisation that will enter into a formal contractual agreement with NGN. If completing on behalf of a consortium, or if work is to be subcontracted, relevant information about partners, subcontractors and their experience should be given.
7. Where any question refers to UK legislation, non-UK organisations should answer based on laws applicable in the UK.
8. No payment will be made for completing this PQQ.
9. No information contained in this PQQ or in any communication made between NGN and any applicant in connection with this PQQ shall be relied upon as constituting a contract, agreement or representation that any contract shall be offered in accordance with this PQQ.
10. NGN reserves the right, subject to the appropriate procurement regulations, to change without notice the basis of, or the procedures for, the competitive tendering process or to terminate the process at any time. Under no circumstances shall NGN incur any liability in respect of this PQQ or any supporting documentation.
11. All information provided will be treated in strict confidence.
12. If NGN has ever terminated a contract with your company, it reserves the right to not include you in any short list of tenderers, regardless of the answers to other questions in this questionnaire.
13. All applicants will subsequently be advised of their status.
14. It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure they submit the PQQ submission by the deadline stated in the timetable. NGN reserve the right not to accept any submissions after the deadline date.

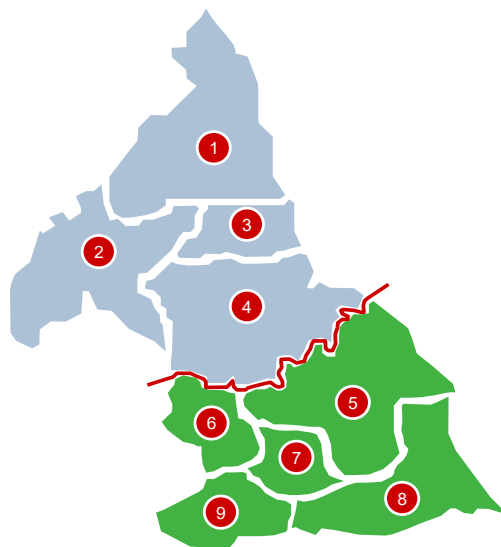
Introduction

Company Overview

Northern Gas Networks Limited (NGN) is the company responsible for distributing gas to homes and businesses across the North of England. As part of the restructuring of the gas distribution business in England, NGN successfully acquired the North of England gas Distribution Network (DN) and took control of the assets on 1st June 2005. NGN has been responsible since then for the transportation of gas to the North of England via 36,000km of pipelines.

The DN is in the North of England and extends south from the Scottish border to South Yorkshire and has coastlines on both the East and West sides of the region. The DN contains a mixture of large cities such as Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Leeds and Bradford and a significant rural area including North Yorkshire and Cumbria. The area covers around 6.7 million inhabitants and has approximately 2.5 million customers. The DN is supplied via 23 off takes from the national Transmission System.

Northern Gas Networks Geographic Area



No.	Location
1	North Tyne
2	Cumbria
3	Wear
4	Tees
5	North Riding
6	Bradford
7	Leeds
8	East Riding
9	Pennines

NGN Core Values

NGNs dream is to become the UK's most loved, admired and respected company, and to establish a reputation for doing business well through a united and empowered team that is mind-blowingly great. We recognise the important role that our supply chain partners having in supporting NGN to achieve our dream.

Our dream lies at the centre everything we do and has been translated into a unique set of values that reflect and reinforce our culture:

- Trailblazing
- Empowered

- Intellectually curious
- Community focused
- Heartfelt
- Happy

Every member of our team is passionate about the contribution they make to our growing reputation as a pioneering, effective, conscious and enlightened business that is focused on changing the way that things are done.

We expect our suppliers to share our vision and values and our way to support NGN in achieving our goals.

Project Details

Project Introduction

NGN is seeking to appoint one or more experienced consultants to deliver key work packages for the East Coast Hydrogen (ECH) Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) project. This project forms a critical part of NGN's strategy to enable the transition to a low-carbon energy system, supporting the UK's net zero targets by 2050.

The ECH initiative aims to repurpose and expand existing gas infrastructure to transport hydrogen across the region, creating a reliable and scalable hydrogen network to facilitate hard-to-electrify industrial processes.

Project Background

The ECH project is a collaborative initiative between NGN, National Gas Transmission (NGT) and Cadent, to develop a 100% hydrogen transmission and distribution network in the North East of England. The project will connect hydrogen producers, storage operators, and major industrial and commercial users, enabling large-scale decarbonisation of energy-intensive processes. NGN's network will link production facilities in Teesside and the Humber with industrial customers across the Humber, Yorkshire, Teesside, and South Tyneside regions.

Following the successful completion of a feasibility study and pre-FEED, NGN has progressed into a two-year FEED phase. This stage will deliver the technical and commercial definition required to create a viable, investable solution for the project. NGN has secured funding for this phase and has finalised the delivery plan to ensure timely and efficient execution.

The Pre-FEED identified development of a hydrogen network consisting of a mix of repurposed and newbuild pipelines, with: 285km being High Pressure (HP), 77km being Intermediate Pressure (IP) and 203km being Medium Pressure (MP) as well as 55 new or modified Offtakes and PRSs. As part of the early FEED activities, NGN is reviewing the Pre-FEED network and undertaking an options rationalisation exercise to define the connection points and the extent of the network which will then progress through the FEED.

Following the successful completion of the FEED, the project will move into a Development Expenditure (Devex) phase where the FEED designs will be developed into fully detailed designs ready for construction, statutory consultations and DCO final applications will be undertaken and the project will be submitted into an allocation round of the Hydrogen Transport Business

Model as well be seeking a Final Investment Decision from private investors. Beyond this, the project will move through the procurement, construction and operational phases.

This framework agreement is to support the project through the FEED, Devex and future phases of the project.

Lot 1 – Project Management Office

The Project Management Office (PMO) framework services will serve as the central governance and coordination function for the project, ensuring that all workstreams operate within agreed standards and frameworks. The services will provide oversight, reporting, and assurance to support successful delivery within the defined time, cost, and quality parameters.

The services will establish and maintain governance frameworks that ensure compliance with organisational policies, regulatory requirements, and contractual obligations. They will facilitate structured decision-making through clear reporting and escalation processes. The types of services that will be called off under the framework will include but not be limited to:

- Programme management - will include the development and maintenance of an integrated master programme, monitoring progress against milestones and critical paths, and providing scenario planning and schedule risk analysis.
- Resource management - will involve tracking allocation across all workstreams, identifying capacity gaps, and proposing mitigation strategies to optimize workforce planning.
- Governance & assurance – will include development of a governance framework that defines roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes, ensuring consistent oversight and compliance across the project. It will also include assurance through structured reviews, audits, and continuous improvement driven by lessons learned and best practice adoption.
- Procurement - will ensure that procurement schedules align with programme requirements, supply chain engagement, monitor supplier performance, and assist with tender evaluation and contract administration.
- Risk management - will be a core function, maintaining a centralised register, facilitating risk workshops, and providing regular reporting and escalation.
- Commercial and financial oversight - will include supporting cost planning, forecasting, and control, monitoring financial performance against budgets and funding requirements, and providing commercial assurance through change control and claims management.
- Reporting and performance monitoring - will involve producing regular progress reports and dashboards, tracking key performance indicators such as schedule variance, cost variance, and risk exposure, and delivering executive summaries for senior leadership and investors.

Lot 2 – Strategic Advisory Services

The strategic advisory services will provide expert guidance to ensure the project aligns with national hydrogen policy, regulatory frameworks, and emerging industry trends. The successful framework partners will act as trusted partners, offering insight into government strategies, regulatory developments, and market dynamics to support informed decision-making and long-term commercial viability.

The advisory role will include a comprehensive review of UK Government hydrogen policies, such as the UK Hydrogen Strategy, the Hydrogen Transport and Storage Networks Pathway, and the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy, with recommendations on how these policies impact project objectives. It will also involve an assessment of regulatory frameworks and business models, including the Hydrogen Transport and Storage Business Models (HTBM, HSBM), the Hydrogen Production Business Model (HPBM), the Hydrogen to Power Business Model (H2PBM), and analysis of trends from recent Hydrogen Allocation Rounds (HARs).

The advisor will review and provide strategic input on proposals from the National Energy System Operator (NESO), including the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) and Strategic Spatial Energy Planning (SSEP), ensuring project alignment with national energy system priorities. In addition, the advisor will provide feedback and insight on legislative and regulatory matters discussed within industry forums such as the Hydrogen Delivery Council's Regulators Forum and the Transport and Storage Working Group.

A key element of the scope will be to assess the project's alignment with existing and emerging hydrogen clusters and hubs, ensuring integration with regional and national initiatives. The advisor will review opportunities for collaboration with other projects, partnerships, producers, and offtakers to maximise synergies and avoid duplication. This will include evaluating the strategic relevance of hydrogen production and storage developments within the wider network and identifying potential integration points that support a coordinated and efficient hydrogen ecosystem.

Lot 3 – Hydrogen Market Framework

This Lot provides independent regulatory and policy advisory services to ensure the project design and commercial strategy remain aligned with the emerging hydrogen market framework. The provider will monitor developments from Ofgem, DESNZ, and other relevant bodies, interpret implications for network development, and provide informed advice to support NGN's engagement and decision-making. The expected deliverables under this Lot will include regular briefing notes, position papers, and engagement support summarising regulatory developments, implications for NGN, and recommended actions. Outputs will enable NGN to participate effectively in industry working groups and maintain alignment with the emerging hydrogen market framework. Areas of support include:

- Energy Balancing - Advise on emerging proposals for hydrogen system balancing, including neutrality arrangements, linepack policy, imbalance charging, and forecasting requirements. Provide insight on how these developments may impact operational concepts and FEED assumptions.

- Hydrogen Network Owners - Track and interpret policy on ownership structures, governance, and roles within a future hydrogen system operator model. Advise on implications for NGN's responsibilities, risk allocation, and compliance obligations.
- Supply Licenses - Monitor licensing regime developments for hydrogen network activities, including exemptions and transitional arrangements. Provide guidance on anticipated obligations, application processes, and timing considerations.
- System Operation - Advise on evolving system operation principles, including neutrality, nominations, allocations, and outage coordination. Highlight dependencies and potential impacts on FEED operational philosophy and interoperability with legacy gas systems.
- Hydrogen Network Code Development - Support NGN's engagement in code development discussions by interpreting emerging proposals on connection policy, capacity booking, curtailment, measurement, balancing rules, and governance. Provide advice on interim arrangements and bilateral agreements prior to full code implementation.
- Charging Methodology - Advise on Ofgem's approach to hydrogen transportation charging, including cost allocation principles, tariff structures, locational signals, and treatment of losses. Assess implications for commercial models and price control interfaces.

Lot 4 – Economic & Financial Modelling

The appointed financial advisor will provide expert guidance to ensure the project's commercial framework is robust, compliant, and attractive to private investors. The advisor will play a critical role in embedding key investor requirements into the FEED phase, positioning the project for successful capital raising and progression through development expenditure (DEVEX) and Final Investment Decision (FID).

The scope of services will include supporting the development of detailed financial models that underpin project economics and investment viability, as well as designing commercial structures that enhance bankability and investment readiness. Advisors will ensure that these frameworks align with post-FEED funding strategies and meet the expectations of potential investors.

A central element of the advisory role will be reviewing and providing strategic input on regulatory frameworks and market design. This will involve ensuring compliance with mechanisms such as the Hydrogen Transport and Storage Business Model (HTBM), Regulated Asset Base (RAB) principles, price control financial models, and charging methodologies. The advisor will also provide guidance on regulatory evidence requirements to support investor due diligence and confidence.

The advisor will work closely with the project team to identify and integrate investor expectations, risk allocation strategies, and revenue assurance mechanisms into FEED deliverables. This will include stress-testing key commercial assumptions and recommending actions to strengthen project bankability. Activities during the FEED phase may involve investor-

focused due diligence, including the preparation of detailed financial models, cashflow forecasts, and commercial risk assessments.

The advisor will also support the preparation of all financial documentation required to secure investment and regulatory approval. This includes developing investor-ready materials such as financial plans, sensitivity analyses, and risk-adjusted returns, as well as coordinating responses to investor due diligence queries. The advisor will ensure that outputs are auditable, transparent, and aligned with market expectations, providing confidence to lenders, equity partners, and government stakeholders. This work will position the project for successful engagement with capital markets and underpin a clear pathway to FID and long-term financial sustainability.

In addition to the financial modelling, the appointed provider will deliver independent validation and assurance of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) undertaken for the East Coast Hydrogen project. The purpose of this Lot is to provide confidence that CBA outputs are accurate, compliant, and fit for regulatory and investment decision-making, ensuring transparency and credibility throughout the appraisal process.

The scope includes reviewing methodologies, assumptions, and data sources used in CBA work to confirm alignment with recognised standards such as HM Treasury Green Book and Ofgem guidance. The provider will assess whether cost and benefit quantifications are robust, risk-adjusted, and appropriately reflect uncertainty in demand, technology, and market conditions. This will involve checking sensitivity analyses, scenario modelling, and risk treatment for completeness and consistency.

The provider will verify that option comparisons, counterfactuals, and baseline cases are correctly constructed and that outputs are traceable to underlying evidence. Assurance activities will include auditing calculations, validating input data integrity, and confirming that documentation meets transparency and auditability requirements. Where gaps or weaknesses are identified, the provider will recommend corrective actions and provide pragmatic guidance to strengthen compliance and credibility.

Deliverables will include assurance reports at key project milestones, validation statements for regulatory submissions, and a maintained log of findings and recommendations. Independence, impartiality, and adherence to recognised assurance practices are mandatory, ensuring stakeholders and regulators can rely on the integrity of CBA outputs.

Lot 5 – Construction Advisory Services

The Construction Advisory Services Lot will provide independent, practitioner-led input to ensure the FEED design is constructible, phased logically, commercially sound, and ready for progression into detailed design and delivery. The provider will embed construction expertise throughout the FEED stage and beyond, translating design intent into feasible construction methodologies, programmes, and costed delivery strategies that minimise risk and disruption while maximising value for money.

Constructability reviews will interrogate layouts, specifications, permits and access arrangements to confirm safe, practical installation and commissioning for hydrogen assets, including pipelines, and above-ground installations. Reviews will examine temporary works, plant access, lifting and handling, segregation of live systems, isolation philosophies, traffic

management, environmental constraints and seasonality, utility diversions, land availability, and logistics, ensuring constraints are identified early and reflected in design choices and phasing.

Construction methodologies will be developed and documented for the principal work types within the FEED scope. These will set out step-by-step sequences, resources, plant and labour requirements, temporary works and enabling activities, testing and pre-commissioning strategies, and safe systems of work tailored to hydrogen service and DSEAR/ATEX obligations. The provider will draw on current industry practice and lessons learnt from comparable gas and hydrogen projects, capturing insights on productivity, access, environmental management, stakeholder engagement, and commissioning pitfalls, and feeding these back into the design and delivery plan.

Phasing plans will be produced to organise works into executable stages aligned with outages, permissions, supply chain readiness and stakeholder needs. The provider will define dependencies and interface points, identify opportunities for parallel working, and set out cut-over strategies and protection measures for live assets. Phasing will be supported by integrated construction programmes developed at an appropriate level of detail for FEED, showing logical sequencing, critical path, float, risk allowances and key milestones, and aligned with design packages, consents and procurement lead times. Programmes will be prepared in recognised planning tools and will include narrative descriptions of assumptions, constraints and basis.

Assurance of the ECH commercial team's project estimates will be undertaken by independently testing quantities, productivity norms, market rates and indirect costs against the proposed methodologies and phasing. The provider will source supplier and specialist subcontractor quotations for materials and services where market testing is warranted during FEED, ensuring scope clarity, specification compliance and comparability. Estimates will be benchmarked and normalised, with pricing structures that transparently present base costs, risk allowances, escalation and contingency. The assurance process will confirm that cost build-ups are traceable to the design, that allowances reflect constructability realities, and that value for money has been pursued through optioneering and alternative methods.

Risk identification and mitigation will be embedded across all activities. The provider will lead construction risk workshops, develop and maintain a construction risk register, and analyse threats and opportunities relating to safety, ground conditions, consents, utilities, third-party interfaces, supply chain capacity, seasonality, and commissioning. Contingency analysis will quantify cost and schedule exposure using justified assumptions and, where appropriate, probabilistic techniques suitable for FEED maturity. Mitigation actions will be defined, prioritised and traced into design development, methodologies, phasing and programmes to demonstrate tangible risk reduction.

Lot 6 – Design Validation & Assurance

The provider will deliver independent assurance and validation of all design packages at various stages of NGN's East Coast Hydrogen project, confirming compliance with technical requirements, regulatory standards, and best practice. The approach will reflect the principles of the gas distribution G17 Part B process, which mandates rigorous governance ensuring designs meet all regulatory and operational standards and that the designs align with all safety, integrity, and compliance requirements. Activities will cover network architecture,

pipeline routing, material selection, above-ground installations, and instrumentation and control strategies

Reviews will verify traceability from requirements to outputs, assess hydraulic modelling, process design, and control philosophies, and confirm safety integrity, shutdown logic, and cyber security provisions. Hazard studies (HAZOP, HAZID) will be checked for completeness, with validation of explosion protection, venting, leak detection, error detection, and emergency isolation.

Constructability and maintainability will be assessed through layout, access, lifting, and sequencing reviews. Civil and structural elements, geotechnical considerations, cathodic protection, earthing, and environmental compliance will be assured, including risks and mitigation measures. Interface management across existing assets and third parties will be validated for clarity and completeness. Quality assurance will confirm design control, change management, and adherence to hydrogen-specific standards. Value assurance will review optioneering, lifecycle cost, and operational efficiency.

Final validation will confirm readiness for detailed design and construction, supported by objective evidence such as calculations, models, certificates, and marked drawings. Findings will be documented with severity classification and corrective actions tracked to closure. Deliverables include stage-gate assurance reports and a final validation statement confirming the FEED design is compliant, constructible, operable, and fit for purpose.

Procurement Process

General Information

This procurement is being conducted in accordance with The Procurement Act 2023 / Procurement Regulations 2024 using the Competitive Flexible Procedure.

All communications must be sent via the NGN's procurement portal Market DoJo.

During the period of this Tender process, no contact must occur between any member of your organisation's staff and any member of NGN other than through the designated contact points. The only exception to this rule is where organisations already have staff working on NGN business, in which case their staff should be instructed not to discuss the project with NGN employees.

NGN reserves the right at its sole discretion to exclude any organisation (or third party working for any organisation) found to be in breach of these contact requirements.

The procurement process will be managed electronically via Northern Gas Networks e-sourcing Spend Management portal Market DoJo

All communication will be managed through Market DoJo.

All PQQ and tender responses must be uploaded electronically.

All timings will be clearly identified in the electronic system and will be adhered to.

Tender questions should be answered in the requested format, i.e. text or attachment, and word counts adhered to where applicable. Bidders should note if they persistently fail to follow this instruction and answers are not readily available this may result in failing to achieve a score in the relevant section.

If a question requires an attachment upload as your response and you have multiple attachments, please upload these as a Zip file. If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact the person named in this document.

Responses should not be submitted via the messaging portal. Suppliers should note that if they persistently fail to follow this instruction, and answers are not readily available in the correct format then this may result in failing to achieve a score in the relevant section.

Suppliers should avoid uploading responses on the last day of any stage of the tender in case of technical difficulties as NGN will not reopen an event after it has closed.

Suppliers may save documents in Market Dojo throughout the process but must ensure that it is submitted in full before the closing date.

NGN cannot access or determine whether Suppliers have submitted a bid until after the event has closed as our process is a totally sealed bid process.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you submit your bid on time.

The submit button is clearly marked and is highlighted in yellow, after you have submitted the system will still allow you to modify your proposal at any time up to the closing date. You may review the event log to confirm that your proposal has been submitted.

Responses must be submitted within the timeframe stated in Market Dojo.

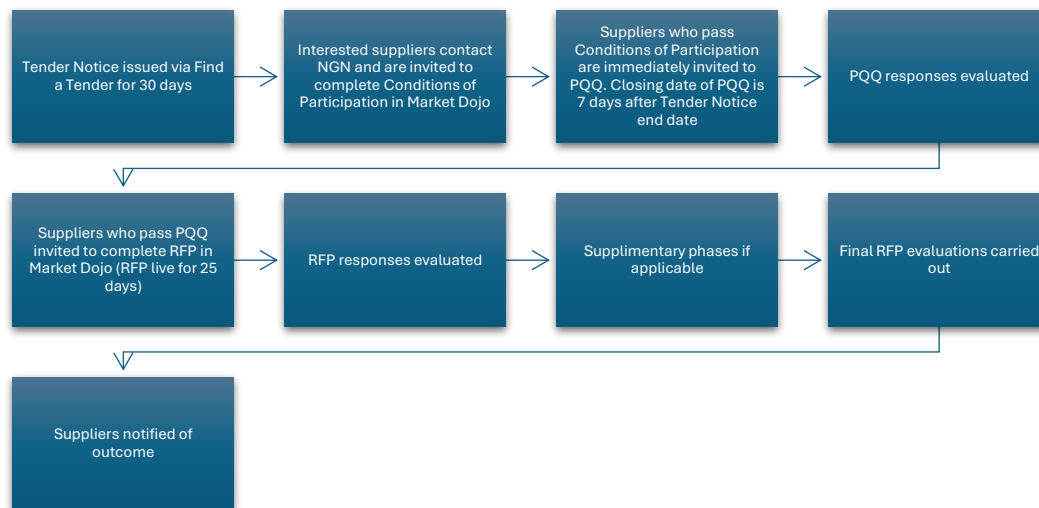
Central Digital Platform

Registration: It is important to make sure that your organisation registers onto the Central Digital Platform (CDP). NGN will be unable to award a contract with your organisation without a valid unique supplier ID (PPON number).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If at any point during the procurement event or through the lifecycle of an awarded contract your organisation is placed on the Government led debarment list it is at NGN's discretion as to whether we exclude a bidder from participating or terminate an ongoing contract.

Procurement Process

A tender process will be carried out under the Competitive Flexible Procedure. It is anticipated that the strategy will be in line with the below.



If supplementary stages are required throughout the process, or stages noted in the strategy defined above are no longer required, it is at NGN's discretion to include or remove stages. Please note that any additional stages added could result in the following changes to scoring:

- an enhancement of scores awarded in previous stages, or
- an additional award criteria, or
- Score from previous stage + score from additional stage added together

The impact that any additional stage has on scoring will be clearly communicated to all bidders and will not be refined following submission of tender stages.

Basis of Framework Agreement

The initial period of the framework is intended to be 3 years.

The length of the framework may be extended by NGN for a further 7 x 1-year periods to give a maximum duration of 10 years. NGN determines that the nature of the services under this framework demands a longer term than the stipulated maximum 8-years contract term in the Procurement Act 2023 as the East Coast Hydrogen project is a major infrastructure programme of works spanning FEED, Devex and construction phases.

The framework start date will be on or around June 2026.

Bidders will be expected to agree to NGN terms and conditions, a draft contract has been included below for review, bidders who proceed to the RFP stage will have the opportunity to submit contract challenges against this document as part of that process.



NGNOL Services -
NES - Framework Fe

Bidders should note that the challenges will be scored based upon risk and NGN reserve the right to reject any bidders who propose high risk challenges, or a material change to the contract. Please see Contract Challenges Scoring Guidance.



During the RFP you should state any major Contract Challenges that you have relevant to the proposed draft agreement and state your proposed amendments in the Contract Challenge table provided. By proposing no challenges, you are confirming that you accept the proposed draft Agreement.

Bidders must raise all challenges to the proposed Terms and Conditions during the RFP stage and submit the Contract Challenges Matrix as part of their tender return, NGN will not consider any challenges raised at a later stage.

NGN reserves the right to disqualify those bidders who raise contract challenges at a later stage. NGN reserves the right to revoke conditional award and conclude terms instead with the next highest scoring bidder.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for the PQQ and RFP stages of this procurement process are outlined below. It is at the discretion of NGN to change the weightings/criteria or add additional sub criteria/weightings to the PQQ or RFP if there is a need to do so before the submission deadline of the relevant stage. Any changes to the evaluation criteria will be communicated to all Bidders.

Conditions of Participation Evaluation

This section is made up of Pass/Fail questions Suppliers who pass all questions will automatically be invited to submit responses to PQQ questions. Suppliers who fail any Conditions of Participation questions will be rejected from this tender.

PQQ Scoring Criteria

The tender will be split into 6 Lots and Bidders will be required to bid for each Lot they are wanting to be on. The Lots are:

- Lot 1 – Project Management Office (PMO)
- Lot 2 – Strategic Advisory Services
- Lot 3 – Hydrogen Market Framework
- Lot 4 – Economic & Financial Modelling
- Lot 5 – Construction Advisory Services
- Lot 6 – Design Validation & Assurance

The PQQ responses will be assessed against the scoring criteria set out below. It is split into three parts:

1. **Conditions of Participation** – Bidders must Pass all questions to progress to the next stage.
2. **Sections 1 to 5** – Bidders must score more than 60% in the weighted questions to progress into the final stage of the PQQ.
3. **Sections 6 & 11** – Bidders are only required to answer the questions for the Lot/s which they are wanting to tender for and questions 6 to 11 are scored independently of each other. Note – Bidders are required to express the Lot/s they wish to tender for in Section 1.

In Lots 1, 2, 4, & 5, a maximum of 6 bidders in each Lot will progress through to RFP which will be decided by a ranking of the top highest scorers. In Lots 3 & 6, a maximum of 8 bidders in each Lot will progress through to RFP which will also be decided by a ranking of the top highest scorers.

The scoring criteria for each Section is outlined in the table below:

Section Ref	Criteria	Score Weighting
Conditions of Participation	Mandatory & Discretionary Exclusions	Pass / Fail
CoP	Subtotal	Pass / Fail
Section 1	Supplier Details	For information only
Section 2	Data Protection & Cyber Security	All questions evenly scored (10%)
Section 3	Supplier Financials	All questions evenly scored (20%)
Section 4	Responsible Procurement	All questions evenly scored (35%)
Section 5	Health and Safety	All questions evenly scored (35%)
Sections 1 – 5	Subtotal	For Information / Scored (100%)
Section 6 Lot 1 – Project Management Office Q. 6.1	Relevance & Scale	20%
	Scope & Capability	20%
	Methods, Standards & Tooling	20%
	Value & Outcomes	25%
	Lessons & Transferability	15%
	Total	100%
Section 7 Lot 2 – Strategic Advisory Services Q. 7.1	Relevance & Comparability	20%
	Scope & Depth of Strategic Advisory	20%
	Policy/Regulatory Mastery & Methods	30%
	Outcomes & Value	20%
	Lessons & Transferability	10%
	Total	100%
Section 8	Relevance & Comparability	20%
	Scope & Depth of Strategic Advisory	20%
	Approach & Regulatory Insight	20%

Lot 3 – Hydrogen Market Framework Q. 8.1	Outcomes & Value	30%
	Lessons & Transferability	10%
	Total	100%
Section 9 Lot 4 – Economic & Financial Modelling Q. 9.1	Relevance & Comparability	20%
	Financial Modelling & Assurance	20%
	Regulatory & Market Framework Alignment	20%
	Investor Readiness & Outcomes	30%
	Lessons & Transferability	10%
	Total	100%
Section 10 Lot 5 – Construction Advisory Services Q. 10.1	Relevance & Complexity	20%
	Constructability & Methodologies Quality	25%
	Phasing & Programme Integration	10%
	Commercial Estimate Assurance & Market Testing	20%
	Risk & Contingency Analysis	10%
	Outcomes & Value	10%
	Lessons & Transferability	5%
	Total	100%
Section 11 Lot 6 – Design Validation & Assurance Q. 11.1	Relevance & Complexity	15%
	Assurance Framework & Governance	15%
	Technical Mastery & Safety Integrity	20%
	Hazard & Risk Validation	10%
	Constructability & Maintenance	10%
	Design Compliance	10%
	QA / Change Control & Traceability	10%
	Outcome & Value	5%
	Lessons & Transferability	5%
	Total	100%

All applicants are required to fully complete Sections 1 – 5 and complete Sections 6 to 11 depending on which Lot/s they are tendering for. Applicants are advised to read the guidance notes at the start of this pack.

The financial assessment referred to in Section 3 will be scored relative to the table below and will represent 20% of the first stage assessment (as above) with the potential for bidders to be excluded from the process should NGN identify significant financial risk.

		Check It (ICC) / Credit Safe	Dunn & Bradstreet	Equifax	Experian	Graydons
Assessment Score	Risk Rating	Credit Score Report	Comprehensive Report		Bronze, silver, or gold report	Level 1, 2 or 3 level report
10	Minimal	95-100	5A1	A+	95-100	1A
9	Minimal	90-94	5A2/4A1	A/A-	90-94	1B/2A
8	Minimal	80-89	5A3/4A2/3A1	B+	80-89	1C/2B/3A
7	Low	70-79	4A3/3A2/2A1	B/B-	70-79	2C/3B/4A
6	Low	60-69	3A3/2A2/1A1	C+	60-69	3C/4B/5A
5	Low	50-59	2A3/1A2/A1	C/C-	50-59	4C/5B/5A
4	Average	40-49	1A3/A2/B1	D+	40-49	5C/6B/7A

3	Average	30-39	A3/B2/C1	D/D-	30-39	6C/7B/8A
2	High	20-29	B3/C2/D1	E+	20-29	8B
1	High	10-19	C3/D2/E1	E/E-	10-19	8C
0	High	Below 10	Below E1	Below E-	Below 10	Below 8C

Scoring Methodology

For qualitative questions NGN will score on the following basis.

Points	Interpretation
9-10	Excellent – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder exceeds all areas of the requirement and provides all the areas evidence requested in the level of detail requested. This, therefore, is a detailed excellent response that meets all aspects of the requirement leaving no ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement.
6-8	Good - Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all the areas of evidence requested and any omissions in relation to the level of detail requested in terms of either the response or the evidence are trivial. This, therefore, is a good response that meets all aspects of the requirement which but may have a trivial level ambiguity due the bidder's failure to provide all information at the level of detail requested.
3-5	Adequate - Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement, but not all the areas of evidence requested have been provided. This, therefore, is an adequate response, but with some limited ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the bidder's failure to provide all the evidence requested.
1-2	Poor – The response does not demonstrate that the bidder meets the requirement in one or more areas. This, therefore, is a poor response with significant ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the failure by the bidder to show that it meets one or more areas of the requirement.
0	Unacceptable - The response is non-compliant with the requirements of the ITT and/or no response has been provided.

RFP Scoring Criteria

The award will be based upon price and quality, and it is the intent that the award will be based on the Most Advantageous Tender result of each Lot.

If the difference between the first and second highest scoring bidder in a single Lot is less than 3% NGN reserves the right to award the tender to the bidder who provides the lowest price tender unless there are exceptional reasons. If a Bidder is successful in one Lot and is within 3% of the winning score within other Lot/s, NGN has the discretion to award all Lots they are within 3% of to that Bidder.

The assessment of price will be carried out independently of the non-commercial assessment and scored against the methodology stated above. The Non-Commercial section will have weighted questions and weightings are detailed in Market Dojo.

RFP responses will be assessed in two stages. The first stage will assess technical competence and resources where a threshold score will need to be achieved to progress into Stage 2. The second stage will assess commercials. The overall score will be calculated by adding the scores in both Stages with the highest scores being successful, subject to the criteria above and the number of Bidders per Lot in the table below.

Number of Successful Bidders in each Lot

Lot	No. of Suppliers	Process for awarding work
Lot 1 – Project Management Office	2	Primary & secondary suppliers
Lot 2 – Strategic Advisory Services	2	Primary & secondary suppliers
Lot 3 – Hydrogen Market Framework	4	Mini tenders / Direct award
Lot 4 – Economic & Financial Modelling	2	Primary & secondary suppliers
Lot 5 – Construction Advisory Services	2	Primary & secondary suppliers
Lot 6 – Design Validation & Assurance	3	Primary & secondary suppliers

Awarding Call-off Contracts

Primary & Secondary Suppliers:

Call off contracts under the framework will be negotiated with the Primary Supplier. If agreement on the price for the work cannot be reached, or the Primary Supplier cannot meet the required timelines, or where the Primary Supplier performed poorly on a previous work package, then the Secondary Supplier will have the opportunity to bid for the work. NGN also reserves the right to undertake a mini tender to award work packages under the framework.

Mini Tenders / Direct Award:

Call off contracts under the framework will be awarded via mini tenders and the most advantageous tender will be chosen to deliver the work. NGN also reserves the right to direct award work packages through single negotiation with one Supplier.

Evaluation Panel

NGN's team to perform the evaluation of this tender process comprises the following, note however this list may change throughout the duration of the Tender.

Name	Department
Camila Blanco	Project Management
Alexis Birchall	Engineering
TBC	Planning, Environmental & Consents
Paul Chapman	Stakeholder
Neil Pike	Commercial
Susan Helders	Regulation
Harriet Wilkes	Procurement

Alexander Walsh	Legal
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Tender Timetable

Description of Event	Date
Issue Tender Notice Conditions of Participation and PQQ live on this date	15 th December '25
Tender Notice end date	23 rd January '26
Conditions of Participation end date	23 rd January '26
PQQ end date	30 th January '26
Evaluation of PQQ submissions	2 nd February to 27 th February '26
Notification to successful/unsuccessful bidders	6 th March '26
Issue RFP	On or around 9 th March '26
Deadline for supplier clarification questions	3 rd April '26
Deadline to circulate all suppliers clarification questions	10 th April '26
RFP end date	17 th April '26
Evaluations & clarifications	20 th April to 1 st May '26
Supplementary phases if applicable	4 th May to 8 th May '26
Issue assessment detailing outcome	18 th May '26
Standstill Period	18 th May to 27 th May '26
Contract Negotiations	18 th May to 29 th May '26
Contract signed	On or after 1 st June '26

Please note the above timetable is indicative and may be subject to change.