Ireland: Playground Construction

Development and Installation of a School-Adjacent Community Playground

Contract notice - standard regime

1 Buyer

1.1 Buyer

- **Official name**: Galway County Council
- **Legal type of the buyer**: Body governed by public law
- **Activity of the contracting authority**: Recreation, culture and religion

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2 Procedure

2.1 Procedure

- **Title**: Development and Installation of a School-Adjacent Community Playground
- **Description**: Galway County Council invites tenders for the design, supply, and installation of a modern, inclusive community playground located adjacent to a primary school in County Galway.
- **Scope of Services**:
    - Provision of certified playground equipment and safety surfacing.
    - Complete site delivery including groundworks, landscaping, installation, and safety certification.
    - Post-installation inspection report and maintenance documentation.
- **Procedure identifier**: GAL-PLAY-2026-X1
- **Type of procedure**: Open procedure

2.1.1 Purpose

- **Main nature of the contract**: Works
- **Main classification (cpv)**: 45236210-5 Flatwork for children's playgrounds
- **Additional classification (cpv)**: 37535200-9 Playground equipment

2.1.2 Place of performance

- **Country subdivision (NUTS)**: Galway (IE042)

- **Country**: Ireland

2.1.3 Value

- **Estimated value excluding VAT**: 180,000 Euro

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5 Lot

5.1 Lot technical ID: LOT-0001

- **Title**: Design and Construction of Playground Facilities
- **Estimated duration**: 6 Months

5.1.7 Strategic procurement

- **Aim of strategic procurement**: Social inclusion and environmental sustainability
- **Description**: Tenderers must demonstrate the use of sustainable, recycled materials and ensure the design provides universal access for children of all abilities.

5.1.11 Procurement documents

- **Languages**: English
- **Deadline for requesting additional information**: 15/03/2026 12:00 +00:00

5.1.12 Terms of procurement

- **Terms of submission**:
    - **Electronic submission**: Required
    - **Deadline for receipt of tenders**: 30/03/2026 17:00 +00:00
- **Terms of contract**:
    - **Electronic invoicing**: Required
    - **Electronic payment will be used**: Yes

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8 Organisations

8.1 ORG-0001

- **Official name**: Galway County Council

- **Postal address**: Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill
- **Town**: Galway
- **Email**: info@galwaycoco.ie
- **Roles**: Buyer, Organisation processing tenders

2.1 Procedure Details

- **Title**: Development and Installation of a School-Adjacent Community Playground at [Site Name], Galway [1]
- **Description**: Galway County Council requires the implementation of a high-specification, inclusive playground[2]. The project includes the provision of equipment, safety surfacing, and comprehensive site works to ensure the facility is ready for public use[3].
- **Project Phases**:
    - **Initial Design & Consultation**: Approval of final equipment layout and safety specifications[4].
    - **Site Preparation**: Groundworks, drainage, and perimeter fencing installation[5].
    - **Installation**: Assembly of play units and pouring of wet-pour or rubber mulch safety surfacing[6].
    - **Certification**: Independent post-installation inspection to EN 1176/1177 standards[7].
    - **Handover**: Provision of a 10-year maintenance plan and spare parts catalog[8].

5.1.9 Selection Criteria (Realistic Constraints)

Tenderers must demonstrate their suitability through the following evidence[9]:

Criterion	Requirement
Financial Capacity	Evidence of an annual turnover of at least €300,000 for each of the last three years[10].
Technical Capability	Completion of at least three similar playground projects within the last five years[11].
Professional Indemnity	Minimum insurance cover of €6.5 million Public Liability and €1 million Professional Indemnity[12].
Safety Standards	All equipment must be certified to **IS EN 1176** and surfacing to **IS EN 1177**[13].

5.1.7 Strategic Procurement & EU Compliance

- **Environmental Impact**: Tenderers must provide a "Lifecycle Carbon Assessment" for the primary play units, favoring materials like Robinia wood or recycled high-density polyethylene (HDPE)[14].
- **Social Inclusion**: The design must follow "Universal Design" principles, ensuring children with physical or sensory disabilities can utilize at least 70% of the equipment[15].
- **EU AI Act & Data**: If the playground includes "Smart Play" elements (e.g., interactive digital screens), the system must flag potential themes for human review to remain compliant with EU guidelines.

5.1.12 Terms of Submission

- **Electronic Submission**: Tenders must be submitted via the Irish Government's eTenders portal[16].
- **Language**: All documentation, including safety manuals and warranties, must be in English[17].
- **Deadline for Receipt**: 30/03/2026 17:00 +00:00[18].
- **Review Body**: Any disputes regarding the award process are to be referred to the High Court of Ireland[19191919].

8.1 Key Project Organisations

- **The Buyer**: Galway County Council (Recreation & Amenity Department)[20202020].
- **Review Organisation**: The High Court of Ireland, Four Courts, Dublin[21212121].
- **eSender**: European Dynamics S.A. (System provider for the eTenders platform)[22222222].

SPECIFICATIONS

1. Core Play Equipment Specifications

All equipment must be manufactured and installed to **IS EN 1176** standards.

- **Multi-Play Unit (Inclusive Focus):** * Must feature a ramped access point for wheelchair users.
    - Include sensory play panels (tactile, visual, and auditory) at ground level.
    - Slide must be made of high-quality stainless steel or anti-static plastic to accommodate users with cochlear implants.
- **Swing Sets:**
    - 1 x 2-bay cradle swing (for toddlers).
    - 1 x 2-bay flat seat swing (for older children).
    - 1 x "Basket" or "Nest" swing (minimum 1.2m diameter) to allow for group play and use by children with physical disabilities.
- **Dynamic Play:**
    - 1 x Inclusive roundabout (flush-mounted to the ground for seamless wheelchair transition).
    - 1 x See-saw with back supports and handles for additional stability.

2. Safety Surfacing and Groundworks

The surfacing must be tested and certified to **IS EN 1177** for Critical Fall Height (CFH).

- **Wet-Pour Rubber:** A seamless, porous rubber surface. The design should incorporate "thematic" patterns (e.g., river or nature themes) to assist with imaginative play.

- **Sub-base:** A minimum of 100mm compacted MOT Type 1 stone base with a geotextile weed membrane.
- **Drainage:** The site must have a positive fall to a dedicated soakaway or existing storm drain to ensure the playground remains usable during Irish weather conditions.

3. Ancillary Works & Site Furniture

- **Perimeter Fencing:** 1.2m high "bow-top" metal fencing, galvanized and powder-coated (typically green or blue).
- **Gates:** At least two self-closing "pedestrian" gates with "dog-proof" latches.
- **Seating:** Minimum of three benches, including one with an extended concrete pad for "side-by-side" wheelchair parking.
- **Signage:** A permanent A3-sized aluminum sign detailing emergency contact numbers, the nearest hospital, and playground rules.

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4. Technical Evaluation Matrix

In a realistic Irish tender, price is rarely the only factor. The "Most Economically Advantageous Tender" (MEAT) approach is used:

Evaluation Criterion	Weighting	Focus Area
Price	40%	Total cost of supply, installation, and 5-year maintenance.
Quality of Design	30%	Play value, aesthetic integration into the Galway landscape, and innovation.
Inclusivity	20%	Evidence of "Universal Design" beyond the minimum legal requirements.
Sustainability	10%	Recyclability of materials and low-carbon transport/installation methods.