



## Supply Chain

### M500 FAQs

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[www.metrolink.ie](http://www.metrolink.ie)



# M500: Service Delivery Partner Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This Frequently Asked Questions document is an evolving resource. It will be updated regularly as new questions arise and clarifications are identified. Please revisit this document for the latest information.

If you have questions that are not addressed in this document, please email [supplychainmetrolink@tii.ie](mailto:supplychainmetrolink@tii.ie) and we will endeavour to respond to it the next update.

## Does Metrolink require that the M500 consortium demonstrate GOA4 operational experience?

Yes, MetroLink will be a GOA4 system so the PQQ documentation will set out requirements for bidders to demonstrate previous experience of delivering a GoA4 metro/railway.

## Will bid compensation be included in the M400 and M500 tender process?

This is the intention but is currently a matter for the Irish Government. We've developed a Design and Tender Fee Scheme for the M400 and M500 contracts, which has been submitted for final approval by the Irish Government. This is designed to ensure that bid costs are recognised, with the conditions and timing of payments clearly set out in the tender documents. Importantly, the National Transport Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland will have the full authority to make the necessary contractual decisions and payments.

## Is MetroLink looking for fully funded bids for M500?

The M500 tender is likely to include a committed finance approach. Lender engagement has shown sufficient market interest and capacity exists to support a committed finance approach. This would typically take the form of a comprehensive credit committee-approved letter of support, as well as equity commitment letters, containing a clear commitment to provide the funding.

## What is the level of capital contribution into the project, what is the value and what are the phased milestones?

The Authority intends to make capital contributions of up to 50% of construction costs during the construction period plus in the order of an additional 20-30% of construction costs during operations following a period of satisfactory performance of the system. Details of the capital contributions, quantum and payment, will be included in the M500 tender documents.

## Will Metrolink allow bidding entities to bid across the pipeline for both M400 & M500?

Bidding entities will be entitled to bid for both M400 and M500 packages and may be successful in both the M400 and M500 tenders. Strict Conflict of Interest (Col) protocols may be required to be established.

## What is the status of the MetroLink design and is there flexibility for re-design?

We will provide a reference design together with technical requirements. The contractor will be responsible for the design in compliance with the railway order and technical requirements.

## Who will be the contracting party from the State?

The Sponsoring Agency, TII, will have the necessary vires to enter into a PPP arrangement with the attendant authority for decisions and payments.

Note the below:

- Accounting Officer – Department of Transport
- Approving Authority – NTA
- Sponsoring Agency - TII

## What form of contract will be used for the M500?

The contract for the M500 will be an **availability-based Project Agreement** with attendant Schedules, Works and Services Requirements, Payment Mechanism:

- Incorporate features of the international metro DBFOM market;
- Accommodate the specific needs of the MetroLink Project; and
- Reflect the proposed financing structure.

## Is funding fully secured for the M500?

The MetroLink Project is funded through to 2030. It has strong political support; no opposition from any party.

## Will the signalling systems need to accommodate phased commissioning?

The project is considering the potential for phased entry into service; however, there are currently no specific contractual requirements for this. It is expected that this will be addressed during the tender process, where the Authority will seek suggestions from the market on efficient and practical options for phased commissioning.

## What are the M500 Tender Evaluation weightings?

We are not publishing the tender evaluation criteria at this stage. Details will be included in the procurement documents.

## What will the M500 tender dialogue process themes be?

Details of the M500 tender dialogue process will be set out in the M500 Invitation to Tender.

## How long is the expected standstill period before financial close on the M500 contract?

The standstill period before M500 contract award is per the EU Regulations: 14 -16 days

Will there be an advanced payment approach?

Commercial details are still under discussion and will be shared with bidders during engagement.

