

Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

Ref:

Expression of Interest for the Provision of Boat Tours during the Festa Tonn 2026
in Marsaskala

Date Published: April 2026

Deadline for Submission: 14th May 2026 at 10.00 am CET/CEST

EOI Opening: 14th May 2026 at 10:30 am CET/CEST

April 2026

1. Introduction

The Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA) notifies that it is receiving expressions of interest for the provision of boat tours during the Festa Tonn 2026 on the 6th June 2026 in Marsaskala at the times indicated in the below table.

Date	Time
6th June 2026	17:00 to 23:00

For this reason, the MAFA is inviting prospective Economic Operators to express their interest in providing boat trips to the attendees during the above mentioned event by applying in terms of this Expression of Interest.

2. Instructions to Prospective Economic Operators

2.1 General Instructions

1. In submitting an offer, the prospective Economic Operators accept in full and in its entirety the content of this Expression of Interest, including any subsequent clarifications issued by the MAFA, irrespective of any conditions that the said Economic Operators might include in their own submissions.
2. Prospective Economic Operators are expected to examine carefully and comply with all the instructions, requirements, terms and conditions contained in this Expression of Interest.
3. Prospective Economic Operators are to duly fill in, endorse and submit the Application Form contained in Annex 2 of this Expression of Interest together with the required supporting documentation. Failure to submit an offer containing all the required information and documentation within the deadline specified herein may lead to the rejection of the offer. Offers containing incorrect information and/or missing the necessary supporting documentation would automatically be rendered invalid and would not be considered any further.
4. Prospective Economic Operators are to ensure that the contact details they give in the Application Form pertain to the person who, if successful, shall enter into an agreement with the MAFA for the provision of the Boat Trips during the Festa Tonn2026 Marsaskala edition on the 6th June 2026.
5. In applying, Economic Operators undertake that their offer shall remain valid for a period of sixty (60) days from the submission deadline indicated in Section 2.2 below.

2.2. Timetable

Expression of Interest for participation opens on:	30th April 2026
Clarification requests may be submitted via email by not later than:	7th May 2026
Applications are to be submitted via email by not later than:	14th May 2026 at 10:00 am CET/CEST
Opening of offers:	14th May 2026 at 10:30 am CET/CEST
Award Stage: <i>The winning bidders will be notified by the end of the day on the 14th May 2026.</i>	14th May 2026

Any clarification requests and/or completed applications need to be submitted via email at the following address: epu.mafa@gov.mt indicating the following text in the subject field: *Expression of Interest for the Provision of Boat Trips during the Festa Tonn Marsaskala edition on the 6th June 2026.*

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

2.3 Requirements

1. Each Economic Operator may apply for one (1) or both of the lots listed in Annex 1.
2. The submission is to include all of the following:
 - a. A duly filled in and signed Application Form and Declaration (Annex 2);
 - b. Photos of boat/s proposed to be used based on the minimum requirements listed in Annex 1;
 - c. Quotation for service of boat trips between 17:00 and 23:00 (Providers must operate trips at a time between 17:00 – 23:00 in line with each provider’s specific Transport Malta license from the designated embarkation/disembarkation point);
 - d. Specification of the number of trips to be carried out during that timeframe;
 - e. VAT Certificate (if applicable);
 - f. Transport Malta registration showing times during which they are allowed to operate;
 - g. Confirmation of having a license and insurance for passenger transport.

Should one or more of the above requirements and/or fields be missing and/or incomplete, the submission shall automatically be rendered invalid and will not be considered further.

2.4 Selection and Evaluation

Each submission will be treated in strict confidence by the Selection Board and evaluated as per the below evaluation criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Marks
Photos of boat/s proposed to be used from the following two options: - 9 passenger frajgatina and / or - 12 passenger (or more) Luzzu (for day and night trips as per Transport Malta license) <i>(Additional marks given to more diverse menus)</i>	25
Quotation for service of boat trips. Providers should indicate timeframe they are able to operate during in line with their respective Transport Malta licenses between 17:00 and 23:00. <i>(Additional marks given to more cost-effective menu options)</i>	20
Number of proposed boat trips within the specific time frame <i>(Additional marks given to most engaging and ongoing trips)</i>	30
Proof of Transport Malta registration, Vat certificate, license and insurance.	25

Pass Mark: 70
Total Marks: 100

The MAFA reserves the right to select and/or reject any or all the submitted offers or to select multiple submissions as necessary to fulfill the needs outlined in this Expression of Interest document. Should none of the submissions be considered satisfactory, the MAFA reserves the right to assign the designated spaces to other Economic Operators who were not necessarily involved in this Expression of Interest. The decision of the MAFA in this regard is final and binding.

If the Economic Operator fails to set up on the first day of the event (as per schedule), the Economic Operator will forfeit the guaranteed monies mentioned in Section 3.2 below and will not be allowed to set up later. Penalties will be deducted from the guaranteed monies mentioned in the said Section 3.2.

3. Terms and Conditions

3.1 Service Provision and Operations

1. The MAFA is seeking offers from Economic Operators who can provide high-quality and safe **boat trips** to reflect the spirit of Festa Tonn 2026 in Marsaskala.
2. The Economic Operator must provide details of the **boat(s)** that will be used, including type, size, seating capacity, and safety features.
3. Boat trips must run **between 17:00 and 23:00, providers shall indicate the timeframes during which they are allowed to operate** as per Transport Malta regulations (as per Section 2.3), and operators must ensure punctuality and smooth boarding/disembarkation procedures.
4. Each boat must display in a visible location for the public.
5. The Economic Operator must ensure an adequate number of trips to cater for the expected attendance during the specified timeframe.
6. Only the approved boat(s) and routes, as endorsed by MAFA, may be used. Any variation requires prior written approval from MAFA.
7. All crew members must wear **clean and identifiable uniforms/clothing**.
8. Boats must be presented in a **clean, safe, and visually appealing manner**, complementing the festive surroundings. MAFA reserves the right to request adjustments to presentation.
9. Each boat must carry the necessary **safety equipment**, including but not limited to:
 - Life jackets for all passengers and crew (including children's sizes).
 - Fire extinguishers.
 - First-aid kit.
 - Communication equipment (VHF radio or equivalent).
10. Boats must be registered with **Transport Malta** and fully insured for passenger transport.
11. The Economic Operator must comply with all **environmental measures**, including:
 - No littering into the sea; all waste generated during trips must be collected and disposed of responsibly.
 - Ensuring that engines are well maintained to minimise emissions and noise.
12. The Economic Operator must provide **sufficient crew** to ensure safe embarkation/disembarkation and passenger safety at all times.
13. Operators must remain available throughout the **whole duration of the designated service window**

3.2 Application Fee and Performance Guarantee

Once MAFA accepts the Economic Operator's offer/bid, two payments must be submitted as per the following terms:

1. A non-refundable Application Fee/s in respect of the lot/s applied for (as defined in Annex 1 of this Expression of Interest).
2. A refundable Performance Guarantee of **fifty euros (50euros)** per lot. This will be refunded at the end of the event, less any penalties incurred, subject to adherence to all the terms and conditions of this Expression of Interest.

Payments must be made within **five (5) working days** of MAFA's notification of acceptance. Failure to pay may result in disqualification and award to another Economic Operator.

Payment methods:

- Cash at the Events and Promotion Unit, AgriHub, Marsa.
- Cheques payable to the Permanent Secretary, MAFA, delivered to the Events and Promotion Unit, AgriHub, Marsa.

3.3 Setup and Dismantling:

- Successful Economic Operators must ensure their boats are available and moored at the designated boarding/disembarkation point agreed with MAFA.
- Boats must be fully prepared and manned by 16:30 on the 6th of June 2026.
- Vehicles used for transport of supplies or equipment must not obstruct the event area beyond the allocated set-up time.
- Operators are responsible for ensuring cleanliness on board and at the embarkation point throughout the service.
- Any waste generated during the operation must be collected and disposed of by the operator in accordance with environmental regulations.

3.4 Permits and Licenses

- The selected Economic Operator(s) must conform to **all maritime and passenger transport regulations** issued by Transport Malta and any other competent authority.
- Operators must hold:
 - A valid **Transport Malta passenger transport license**.
 - A valid **insurance policy** covering passengers, crew, and third parties.
 - A **VAT certificate** (if applicable).
- Providers shall operate within the timeframe stipulated in accordance with Transport Malta regulations.
- All documentation must be submitted to MAFA upon request. Failure to provide requested permits/licenses may result in termination of contract.

3.5 Health and Safety

- The selected Economic Operator must ensure strict adherence to all health and safety legislations, including The Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act (Cap. 646) and Transport Malta maritime safety requirements.
- All boats must undergo pre-event safety checks, confirming:
- Engines are in good working order.
- All safety equipment is present and functional.
- Capacity limits are respected at all times.
- A risk assessment must be carried out by the operator covering both passengers and crew.
- The Economic Operator is solely responsible for passenger safety on board and at embarkation points and shall indemnify MAFA from any liability.

3.6 General Provisions

- If the selected Economic Operator breaches any of these terms, MAFA may suspend or terminate the service immediately. No compensation shall be due, and penalties may be deducted from the performance guarantee.
- Operators must have valid **insurance policy**, covering damage, loss, bodily harm, or death in relation to passengers and third parties.
- MAFA reserves the right to terminate the contract at any time without obligation to provide a reason.
- All relevant Maltese laws and regulations must be observed.
- MAFA shall not be held responsible under any circumstances for **accidents, damages, theft, or fines** incurred during the operation of the boat trips.

Annex 1: List of Lots and their Respective Application Fee

Lot	Boat Type	Minimum Requirements	Application Fee
1	9-passenger <i>Frajgatina</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Traditional Maltese wooden boat, maximum 9 passengers + crew. ➤ Fully registered with Transport Malta and insured for passenger transport. ➤ Must operate trips at a time between 17:00 – 23:00 in line with each provider’s specific Transport Malta license from the designated embarkation/disembarkation point ➤ Boat must be equipped with all safety requirements (life jackets for all passengers, fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, communication device). ➤ Clean and well-maintained presentation, in keeping with the traditional Marsaskala setting. 	€10
2	12-passenger <i>Luzzu</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Traditional Maltese Luzzu boat, maximum 12 passengers + crew. ➤ Fully registered with Transport Malta and insured for passenger transport. ➤ Must operate trips at a time between 17:00 – 23:00 in line with each provider’s specific Transport Malta license from the designated embarkation/disembarkation point. ➤ Boat must be equipped with all safety requirements (life jackets for all passengers, fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, communication device). ➤ Clean and well-maintained presentation, in keeping with the traditional Marsaskala setting. 	€20

Annex 2: Application Form and Declaration

Expression of Interest for the Provision of Boat Trips during Festa Tonn 2026 Marsaskala edition on the 6th June 2026

Application Form and Declaration

Applicant Details:

Name	
Surname	
Address	
ID Card Number	
Mobile Number	
Email Address	
VAT Number	
Name of Company (if applicable)	
Company's Contact Number (if applicable)	
Indicate the Lot Number(s) being applied for as per Annex 1	

Declaration

I / We hereby agree to abide by all the terms and conditions contained in the *Expression of Interest for the Provision of Boat Trips during Festa Tonn2026 Marsaskala edition on the 6th June 2026*

I / We hereby declare that I do not fall under any of the grounds listed under Part VI of LN 352/2016 – Exclusion Grounds.

I / We declare that no subcontracting in connection with this Expression of Interest shall take place unless the prior written consent of the MAFA is obtained. I / We shall be solely responsible for the execution of the contract and for the delivery of the service as requested by the MAFA in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Expression of Interest. The MAFA reserves the right to request additional documentation and justification for subcontracting requests and may at its discretion accept or reject such requests.

I / We shall pay the Application Fee and Performance Guarantee to the MAFA within five (5) working days once and if my application/bid is accepted by the MAFA for the Festa Tonn 2026 event

I / We bind myself/ourselves to be responsible for the allocated area and shall not assign this area to a third party not mentioned in the application, to take over in my / our name or in the name of my / our company.

I/We accept all the conditions contained in this Expression of Interest in their totality.

I/We declare that I/We have all the necessary permits and licenses to sell/trade, and that I/We declare that I/We are available throughout the event.

I / We declare that all information and documentation submitted as part of this Expression of Interest are true and correct. The submission shall automatically be rendered invalid and will not be considered further if any information provided is incorrect, inaccurate and/or false. In case of false declarations and/or documentation, the MAFA reserves the right to instigate legal proceedings against the economic operator.

Name and Surname of Applicant (In Block Letters)

Signature of Applicant

Date

Annex 3: Checklist

The economic operator confirms that he/she/they have submitted the following as part of the submission:

1. Application Form and Declaration (Annex 2);
2. A duly filled in and signed Application Form and Declaration (Annex 2);
3. Photos of boat/s proposed to be used based on the minimum requirements listed in Annex 1;
4. Quotation for service of boat trips between 17:00 and 23:00;
5. Specification of the number of trips to be carried out during that timeframe;
6. VAT Certificate (if applicable);
7. Transport Malta registration;
8. Confirmation of having a license and insurance for passenger transport.
9. This Checklist Annex 3.

Signature of Applicant

Date