

INVITATION FOR BID

YOU ARE HEREBY INVITED TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICES (NHLS)

BID NUMBER:	RFB 103/20/21		
CLOSING DATE:	12 MAY 2021		
CLOSING TIME:	11:00 AM		
PUBLIC TENDER	DATE: 12 MAY 2021		
OPENING:	TIME: 11:30 AM		
	VENUE: CIO BOARDROOM		
	NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATO	RY SERVICE	
	1 MODDERFONTEIN ROAD		
	SANDRINGHAM		
BID VALIDITY PERIOD:	120 DAYS (COMMENCING FROM THE	RFB CLOSING DATE)	
IMPORTANT:	A COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION H	ELD:	
	DATE: 23 APRIL 2021		
	TIME: 11:00AM		
	VENUE: PRF AUDITORIUM, NICD		
	PLEASE NOTE THAT LATE COMING WIL	L NOT BE ACCEPTED	
	All questions must be sent per e-ma	ail to Phumzile.Rikhotso@nhls.ac.za_ on or	
	before 03 MAY 2021		
DESCRIPTION:	THE PROVISION OF THE MPLS WAN F	OR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS.	
BID DOCUMENTS MU	JST BE MARKED WITH THE OR	DEPOSITED IN THE BID BOX SITUATED AT:	
FOLLOWING:			
NHLS PROCUREMENT T	ENDER OFFICE		
DED: 102/20/21			
RFB: 103/20/21		NHLS MAIN RECEPTION	
		1 Modderfontein Road, Sandringham, Johannesburg.	
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RFB103/20/21: THE PROVISION OF THE MPLS WAN FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS.



Bidders	Name:	
RFB: Enclosed-Regret (delete N/A)		
Closing Date:		

Bidders should ensure that Bids are delivered in time to the correct address. If the bid is late, it shall not be accepted for consideration.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE OFFICIAL FORMS – (Please note that no changes on the content of this document is allowed)

Bidders should ensure that Bids are delivered in time to the correct address. If the bid is late, it shall not be accepted for consideration.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE OFFICIAL FORMS – (Please note that no changes on the content of this document is allowed)

THIS TENDER IS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE TENDER, THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT (GCC) AND, IF APPLICABLE, ANY OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

THE FOLLOWING PARTICULARS MUST BE FURNISHED (FAILURE TO DO SO SHALL RESULT IN YOUR BID BEING DISQUALIFIED)

SUPPLIER INFORMAT	ΓΙΟΝ						
NAME OF BIDDER							
POSTAL ADDRESS							
STREET ADDRESS							
TELEPHONE NUMBER	CODE:		NUM	BER:			
CELLPHONE NUMBER							
FACSIMILE NUMBER	CODE		NUM	BER:			
E-MAIL ADDRESS							
VAT REGISTRATION							
NUMBER	TCS PIN:			OR		CSD No:	
B-BBEE STATUS LEVEL	Yes	B-BBE AFFID		ATUS	LEVE	L SWORN	Yes No
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SUPPLIER INFORMAT	ΓΙΟΝ						
VERIFICATION	[TICK APPLICABLE BOX]		[TICK APPLICABLE				
CERTIFICATE			BOX]				
[A B-BBEE STATUS LEVEL VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE/SWORN AFFIDAVIT(FOR EMEs& QSEs) MUST BE							
SUBMITTED IN ORDE	R TO QUALIFY FOR PREFE	RENCE POINTS FOR B-BBEE]					
SIGNATURE OF BIDDER			Date:				
CAPACITY UNDER W	HICH THIS BID IS SIGNED	(Attach					
proof of authority to	o sign this bid; e.g. resolu	ition of					
directors, etc.)							
TOTAL BID PRICE							
(ALL INCLUSIVE)							
BIDDING PROCEDUR	E AND TECHNICAL ENQUI	RIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO:					
DEPARTMENT/							
PUBLIC ENTITY							
CONTACT PERSON							
TELEPHONE							
NUMBER							
FACSIMILE NUMBER							
E-MAIL ADDRESS							



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1. Confidential information disclosure notice

- 1.1 This document may contain confidential information that is the property of the NHLS and the Client.
- 1.2 No part of the contents may be used, copied, disclosed or conveyed in whole or in part to any party in any manner whatsoever other than for preparing a proposal in response to this Bid, without prior written permission from NHLS and the Client.
- 1.3 All Copyright and Intellectual Property herein vests with NHLS and its Client.

2. Introduction

2.1 Based on the Bids submitted and the outcome of the evaluation process according to the set evaluation criteria, NHLS intends to select a preferred bidder with the view of concluding a service level agreement (SLA) with such successful bidder. The Bid shall be evaluated in terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (PPPFA)

2.2 Queries

2.2.1 Should it be necessary for a bidder to obtain clarity on any matter arising from or referred to in this RFB document, please refer queries, in writing, and to the contact person_email address number listed below on or before **03 May 2021**. Under no circumstances may any other employee within NHLS be approached for any information. Any such action might result in a disqualification of a response submitted in competition to the RFB. NHLS reserves the right to place responses to such queries on the website.

QUERIES: Phumzile Rikhotso	Telephone	011 386 6165
	E-mail	Phumzile.Rikhotso@nhls.ac.za

3. Definitions

- 3.1 National Health Laboratory Services [hereinafter referred to as NHLS] is a public health laboratory service with laboratories across South Africa. Its activities comprise diagnostic laboratory services, research, teaching and training, and production of sera for anti-snake venom, reagents and media.
- 3.2 NHLS was established in 2001 by an Act of Parliament to provide diagnostic pathology laboratory services to the National and Provincial Health Department.
- 3.3 **"Acceptable Bid"** means any bid, which, in all respects, complies with the specifications and conditions of the RFB as set out in this document.

- 3.4 "B-BBEE" means broad bases black economic empowerment as defined in section 1 of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act.
- 3.5 **"B-BBEE status level of contributor"** means the B-BBEE status received by a measured entity based on its overall performance using the relevant scorecard contained in the Codes of Good Practice on Black Economic Empowerment, issued in terms of section 9(1) of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act.
- 3.6 "Bid" means a written offer in a prescribed or stipulated form in response to an invitation by an organ of state for the provision of services, works or goods through price quotations, advertised bidding processes or proposals.
- 3.7 **"Bidders"** means any enterprise, consortium or person, partnership, company, close corporation, firm or any other form of enterprise or person, legal or natural, which has been invited by NHLS to submit a bid in response to this bid invitation.
- 3.8 **"Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act"** means the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003 (Act No. 53 of 2003).
- 3.9 "Client" means the goods or services requestor.
- 3.10 **"Comparative Price"** Means the price after the factors of a non-firm price and all unconditional discounts that can be utilized have been taken into consideration.
- 3.11 **"Consortium"** means several entities joining forces as an umbrella entity to gain a strategic collaborative advantage by combining their expertise, capital, efforts, skills and knowledge for the purpose of executing this tender.
- 3.12 **"Contractor Agent"** means any person mandated by a Prime Contractor or consortium/joint venture to do business for and on behalf of, or to represent in a business transaction, the Prime Contractor and thereby acquire rights for the Prime Contractor or consortium/joint venture against NHLS or an organ of state and incur obligations binding the Prime Contractor or consortium/joint venture in favour of NHLS or an organ of state.
- 3.13 **"Disability"** means, in respect of a person, a permanent impairment of a physical, intellectual, or sensory function, which results in restricted, or lack of, ability to perform an activity in the manner, or within the range, considered normal for a human being.



3.14 Designated group means –

- (a) Black designated groups;
- (b) Black people;
- (c) Women
- (d) People with disabilities; or
- (e) Small enterprises as defined section 1 of the National Small Enterprise Act, 1996 (Act No. 102 of 1996)
- 3.15 **"Designated sector"** means a sector, sub-sector or industry or product designated by the Department of Trade and Industry.
- 3.16 **"EME**" means an Exempted Micro Enterprise in terms of a code of good practice on black economic empowerment issued in terms of section 9 (1) of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act;
- 3.17 **"Firm Price"** means the price that is only subject to adjustments in accordance with the actual increase or decrease resulting from the change, imposition or abolition of customs or excise duty and any other duty, levy or tax which, in terms of a law or regulation is binding on the contractor and demonstrably has influence on the price of any supplies or the rendering cost of any service, for the execution of a contract.
- 3.18 **"Goods"** means any work, equipment, machinery, tools, materials or anything of whatever nature to be rendered to NHLS or NHLS's delegate by the Successful Bidder in terms of this bid.
- 3.19 **"Historically Disadvantaged Individual**" (HDI) means a South African citizen:
- 3.19.1 Who, due to the apartheid policy that had been in place, had no franchise in national elections prior to the introduction of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1983, (Act No. 110 of 1983) or the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1993 (Act No. 200 of 1993) (the Interim Constitution); and/or;
- 3.19.2 who is a female; and/or;
- 3.19.3 who has a disability;

provided that a person who obtained South African citizenship on or after the coming to effect of the Interim Constitution is deemed not to be an HDI.

3.20 **"Joint Venture"** - (Project) means two or more businesses joining together under a contractual agreement to conduct a specific business enterprise with both parties sharing profit and losses. The venture is for one specific project only, rather than for a continuing business relationship as in a

strategic alliance. It is about sharing risk with others and providing one or more missing and needed assets and competencies.

- 3.21 **"Management"** in relation to an enterprise or business, means an activity inclusive of control, and performed on a daily basis, by any person who is a principal executive officer of the company, by whatever name that person may be designated, and whether or not that person is a director.
- 3.22 "Military veteran"- has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the Military Veterans Act, 2011 (Act No. 18 of 2011).
- 3.23 **"Non-firm Price(s)"** means all price(s) other than "firm" price(s).
- 3.24 **"Organ of State"** means a National Department or Provincial Administration as stipulated in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Public Service Act, Act 93 of 1994 (as amended).
- 3.25 **"Person(s)"** refers to a natural and/or juristic person(s).
- 3.26 "Price"- includes all applicable taxes less all unconditional discounts;
- 3.27 **"Prime Contractor"** means any person (natural or juristic) who forwards an acceptable proposal in response to this RFB with the intention of being the main contractor should the proposal be awarded to him/her.
- 3.28 "Proof of B-BBEE status level of contributor" means -
 - (a) B-BBEE Status level certificate issued by an authorized body or person;
 - (b) A sworn affidavit as prescribed by the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice; and
 - (c) Any other requirement prescribed in terms of the B-BBEE Act.
- 3.29 **"QSE"** means a qualifying small business enterprise in terms of a code of good practice on black economic empowerment issued in terms of section 9 (1) of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act;
- 3.30 **"Rand Value"** means the total estimated value of a contract in South African currency, calculated at the time of invitations and includes all applicable taxes and excise duties.
- 3.31 "Rural Area" means
 - (a) A sparsely populated area in which people farm or depend on natural resources, including villages and small town that are dispersed through the area; or

- (b) An area including a large settlement which depends on migratory labour and remittances and government social grants for survival and may have a traditional land tenure system.
- 3.32 "SMME" bears the same meaning assigned to this expression in the National Small Business Act, 1996 (Act No. 102 of 1996).
- 3.33 **"Stipulated minimum threshold"** means the minimum threshold stipulated for local production and content.
- 3.34 **"Sub-contract"** means the primary contractor's assigning, leasing, making out work to, or employing, another person to support such primary contractor in the execution of part of a project in terms of the contract.
- 3.35 **"Subcontractor"** means any person (natural or juristic) who is subcontracted a portion of an existing contract by a Prime Contractor.
- 3.36 **"Successful Bidder"** means the organization or person with whom the order is placed and who is contracted to execute the work as detailed in the bid.
- 3.37 **"Township"** means an urban living area that any time from late 19th century until 27 April 1994, was reserved for black people, including areas developed for historically disadvantage individuals post 27 April 1994.
- 3.38 "Youth" has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the National Youth Development Agency Act, 2008 (Act No. 54 of 2008).

4. Acronyms and abbreviations

4.1 The following acronyms and abbreviations are used in this proposal and must be similarly used in the proposal submitted in response and shall have the meaning ascribed thereto below.

Abbreviations/Acronyms	Description
BBBEE	Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment.
СРІ	Consumer Price Index.
DIR	Directorate
EDMS	Electronic Document Management System
HDI	Historically Disadvantaged Individuals
ISO	International Standard Organization

Abbreviations/Acronyms	Description
IT	Information Technology
ITC	Information Technology Committee
MISS	Minimum Information Security Standard
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
PPPFA	Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act
RFB	Request for Bid
RSA	Republic of South Africa
NHLS	National Health Laboratory Services
MPLS	Multiprotocol Label Switching
LTE	Long Term Evolution
ROI	Return On Investment
IP	Internet Protocol
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SW	Software
LIS	Laboratory Information system
24x7	24 hours a day, 7 days a week
тсо	Total Cost of Ownership
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
СРЕ	Customer Premises Equipment
DC	Data Centres
IOS	Internetworking Operating System
APN	Access Point Name
NMC	Network Management Centre
NOC	Network Operation Centre
AI	Artificial Intelligence
VMWare	Virtual Machine Software
BGP	Border Gateway Protocol
DST	Department of Science and Technology
SANReN	South African National Research Network
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
VOIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol
OSPF	Open Shortest Path First

Abbreviations/Acronyms	Description
IPT	Internet Protocol Telephony
ICASA	Independent Communications Authority of South Africa
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IECNS	Individual Electronic Communications Network Service License
IGP	Interior Gateway Protocol
QoS	Quality of Service
РОР	Pop of Presence
ZTP	Zero Touch Provision
WAN	Wide Area Network
VPN	Virtual Private Network
RAM	Random Access Memory
CPU	Central Processing Unit
DR	Disaster Recovery

5 General Rules and Instructions

5.1 Confidentiality

- 5.1.1 The information contained in this document is of a confidential nature, and must only be used for purposes of responding to this RFB. This confidentiality clause extends to Bidder partners and/or implementation agents, whom the Bidder may decide to involve in preparing a response to this RFB.
- 5.1.2 For purposes of this process, the term "Confidential Information" shall include all technical and business information, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all secret knowledge and information (including any and all financial, commercial, market, technical, functional and scientific information, and information relating to a party's strategic objectives and planning and its past, present and future research and development), technical, functional and scientific requirements and specifications, data concerning business relationships, demonstrations, processes, machinery, know-how, architectural information, information contained in a party's software and associated material and documentation, plans, designs and drawings and all material of whatever description, whether subject to or protected by copyright, patent or trademark, registered or unregistered, or otherwise disclosed or communicated before or after the date of this process.
- 5.1.3 The receiving party shall not, during the period of validity of this process, or at any time thereafter, use or disclose, directly or indirectly, the confidential information of NHLS (even if received before the date of this process) to any person whether in the employment of the receiving party or not, who does not take part in the performance of this process.

- 5.1.4 The receiving party shall take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to prevent NHLS's confidential information coming into the possession of unauthorised third parties. In protecting the receiving party's confidential information, NHLS shall use the same degree of care, which does not amount to less than a reasonable degree of care, to prevent the unauthorised use or disclosure of the confidential information as the receiving party uses to protect its own confidential information.
- 5.1.5 Any documentation, software or records relating to confidential information of NHLS, which comes into the possession of the receiving party during the period of validity of this process or at any time thereafter or which has so come into its possession before the period of validity of this process:
- 5.1.5.1 shall be deemed to form part of the confidential information of NHLS;
- 5.1.5.2 shall be deemed to be the property of NHLS;
- 5.1.5.3 shall not be copied, reproduced, published or circulated by the receiving party unless and to the extent that such copying is necessary for the performance of this process and all other processes as contemplated in; and
- 5.1.5.4 shall be surrendered to NHLS on demand, and in any event on the termination of the investigations and negotiations, and the receiving party shall not retain any extracts.

5.2 News and press releases

5.2.1 Bidders or their agents shall not make any news releases concerning this RFB or the awarding of the same or any resulting agreement(s) without the consent of, and then only in co-ordination with, NHLS and its Client.

5.3 Precedence of documents

- 5.3.1 This RFB consists of a number of sections (see list). Where there is a contradiction in terms between the clauses, phrases, words, stipulations or terms and herein referred to generally as stipulations in this RFB and the stipulations in any other document attached hereto, or the RFB submitted hereto, the relevant stipulations in this RFB shall take precedence.
- 5.3.2 Where this RFB is silent on any matter, the relevant stipulations addressing such matter and which appear in the PPPFA shall take precedence. Bidders shall refrain from incorporating any additional stipulations in its proposal submitted in terms hereof other than in the form of a clearly marked recommendation that NHLS may in its sole discretion elect to import or to ignore. Any such inclusion shall not be used for any purpose of interpretation unless it has been so imported or acknowledged by NHLS.
- 5.3.3 It is acknowledged that all stipulations in the PPPFA are not equally applicable to all matters addressed in this RFB. It however remains the exclusive domain and election of NHLS as to which of these stipulations are applicable and to what extent. Bidders are hereby acknowledging that the

decision of NHLS in this regard is final and binding. The onus to enquire and obtain clarity in this regard rests with the Bidder(s). The Bidder(s) shall take care to restrict its enquiries in this regard to the most reasonable interpretations required to ensure the necessary consensus.

5.4 Preferential Procurement Reform

- 5.4.1 NHLS supports B-BBEE as an essential ingredient of its business. In accordance with government policy, NHLS insists that the private sector demonstrates its commitment and track record to B-BBEE in the areas of ownership (shareholding), skills transfer, employment equity and procurement practices (SMME Development) etc.
- 5.4.2 NHLS shall apply the principles of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, (Act No. 5 of 2000) to this proposal.
- 5.4.3 Bidders shall complete the preference certificate attached to this proposal. In the case of a consortium and sub-contractors, the preference certificate must be completed for each legal entity.

5.5 National Industrial Participation Programme

5.5.1 The Industrial Participation policy, which was endorsed by Cabinet on 30 April 1997, is applicable to contracts that have an imported content. The NIP is obligatory and therefore must be complied with. Bidders are required to sign and submit the Standard Bidding Document (SBD5).

5.6 Language

5.6.1 Bids shall be submitted in English.

5.7 Gender

5.7.1 Any word implying any gender shall be interpreted to imply all other genders.

5.8 Headings

5.8.1 Headings are incorporated into this proposal and submitted in response thereto, for ease of reference only and shall not form part thereof for any purpose of interpretation or for any other purpose.

5.9 Security clearances

5.9.1 Employees and subcontractors of the successful bidder may be required to be in possession of valid security clearances to the level determined by the State Security Agency (SSA) and/or NHLS commensurate with the nature of the project activities they are involved in. The cost of obtaining suitable clearances is for the account of the bidders. The bidders shall supply and maintain a list of personnel involved on the project indicating their clearance status.

5.9.1 Employees and subcontractors of the successful bidder will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

5.10 Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act 13 of 1993

5.10.1 The Bidder warrants that all its employees (including the employees of any sub-contractor that may be appointed) are covered in terms of the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act 13 of 1993 and that the cover shall remain in force for the duration of the adjudication of this bid and/ or subsequent agreement. NHLS reserves the right to request the Bidder to submit documentary proof of the Bidder's registration and "good standing" with the Compensation Fund, or similar proof acceptable to NHLS.

5.11 Formal contract

- 5.11.1 This RFB, all the appended documentation and the proposal in response thereto read together, form the basis for a formal contract to be negotiated and finalised between NHLS and/or its clients and the enterprise(s) to whom NHLS awards the bid in whole or in part.
- 5.11.2 Any offer and/or acceptance entered verbally between NHLS and any vendor, such offer shall not constitute a contract and thus not binding on the parties.

5.12 Instructions for submitting a proposal

5.12.1 One (1) original, one (1) hard copy and 1 (one) electronic copy on compact disk (CD) in Portable Document Format (PDF) of the Bid shall be submitted on the date of closure of the Bid.
Pricing: Bid Price must be submitted in a separate envelop and marked clearly as follows: RFB number, RFB description and bidder's name). One (1) original, one (1) hard copy and 1 (one) electronic copy on compact disk (CD) in Portable Document Format (PDF) of the Bid shall be submitted on the date of closure of the Bid.

The original copy must be signed in black ink by an authorised employee, agent or representative of the bidder and each and every page of the proposal shall contain the initials of same signatories.

- 5.12.2 Bidders shall submit proposal responses in accordance with the prescribed manner of submissions as specified above.
- 5.12.3 Bids must be submitted in a prescribed response format herewith reflected as **Response Format**, and be sealed in an envelope clearly marked.
- 5.12.4 Bids that are too large to fit into the tender box must be handed in at the reception desk during office hours from 08:00- 16:30 or before 11:00 on the closing date.



- 5.12.5 All Bids in this regard shall only be accepted if they have been placed in the bid box before or on the closing date, **12 May 2021 and stipulated time**, **11h00 am**.
- 5.12.6 Bids received after the time stipulated shall not be considered.
- 5.12.7 Bid responses sent by post or courier must reach this office at least **36 hours** before the closing date to be deposited into the proposal box. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in your proposal being treated as a "late proposal" and shall not be entertained. Such proposal shall be returned to the respective bidders.

5.12.8 No proposal shall be accepted by NHLS if submitted in any manner other than as prescribed above.

6 Response format

6.1 Bidders shall submit response in accordance with the response format specified below. Failure to do so shall result rejecting vendor's response. No referrals may be made to comment. Failure to comply shall result in the vendor being penalised.

6.2 Schedule Index:

6.2.1 Schedule 1: Pages 1 – 25 of this RFB document

6.2.2 Schedule 2: Mandatory Documents

- An original valid Tax Clearance Certificate or a Tax Compliance Status letter (with pin) issued by the South African Revenue Services or a CSD Report reflecting active Tax Clearance Compliance status. If a Consortium, Joint Venture or Subcontractor, an original valid Tax Clearance Certificate or a Tax Compliance Status letter (with pin) issued by the South African Revenue Services or a CSD Report reflecting active Tax Clearance Certificate or a Tax B)
- 6.2.2.2 National Industrial Participation Programme Certificate from the DTI (read paragraph 5.5 in conjunction with Annexure I SBD 5)
- 6.2.2.3 Central Supplier Database (CSD) Registration Report
- 6.2.2.4 SBD 8 Declaration of Bidders' Past Supply Chain Practices (Annexure F)
- 6.2.2.5 SBD 9 Certificate of Independent Bid Determination (Annexure G)
- 6.2.2.6 General Conditions of Contract (Annexure H)
- 6.2.3 Schedule 3: Executive Summary of proposal
- 6.2.4 Schedule 4: Technical/Functionality
- 6.2.5 **Schedule 5**: Preferential Procurement Claim form and copy of the B-BBEE Verification Certificate(s) issued by an authorised body or person, or a sworn affidavit prescribed by the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice.
- 6.2.6 Schedule 6: Declaration of Interest SBD 4 (Annexure D)

6.2.7 **Schedule 7**: Bidder Profile:

- 6.2.7.1 Credentials of the company/consortium members etc.
- 6.2.7.2 Structure of the company/ consortium members etc.
- 6.2.7.3 Partnership agreements/contracts
- 6.2.8 Schedule 8: Bid Price (to be submitted in a separate envelop and marked clearly as follows: RFB number, RFB description and bidder's name) (Annexure C)

6.3 **Bidder background information materials:**

- 6.3.1 <u>Bidder Operating Organisation</u> Provide an overview of the operating structure and geographical locations of the firm at the national, regional, and local levels.
- 6.3.2 <u>Standards</u> Include information regarding your firm's utilization of widely known Industry Standards and guidelines, as they apply to your firm, your firm's proposal and proposed hardware assets.
- 6.3.3 <u>Company Contact(s)</u> Provide the name, title, street address, city, state, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail of the primary company's contact person, and for any sub-Contractors.
- 6.3.4 <u>Corporate Financial Solvency</u> Provide solvency statement signed by a qualified independent auditor that the financial position of the company is sound and that the company will be able to mobilise financial resources to deliver the project.

7 Key personnel

7.1 Identify key personnel, by employer (include subcontractor(s), and provide contact information.

8 Reasons for Disqualification

- 8.1 NHLS reserves the right to disqualify any bidder which does any one or more of the following, and such disqualification may take place without prior notice to the offending bidder, however the bidder shall be notified in writing of such disqualification:
- 8.1.1 bidders who submitted but did not sign the mandatory documents;
- 8.1.2 bidders who submitted information that is fraudulent, factually untrue or inaccurate, for example memberships that do not exist, B-BBEE credentials, experience, etc.;
- 8.1.3 bidders who received information not available to other vendors through fraudulent means;
- 8.1.4 bidders who do not comply with **mandatory requirements** as stipulated in this RFB; and
- 8.1.5 bidders who fail to price according to the costing template provided;
- 8.1.6 bidders who failed to attend the compulsory briefing session.

9 Bid Preparation

- 9.1 All additions to the proposal documents i.e. annexes, supporting documentation pamphlets, photographs, technical specifications and other support documentation covering the goods offered etc. shall be neatly bound as part of the schedule concerned.
- 9.2 All responses regarding questions posed in the annex attached herewith shall be answered in accordance with the prescribed **RFB Response Format**.
- 9.3 Telephonic, faxed, e-mailed or oral tenders shall not be accepted.

10 Oral presentations and Briefing Sessions

10.1 Bidders who submit Bids in response to this RFB may be required to give an oral presentation, which may include, but is not limited to, an equipment/service demonstration of their proposal to NHLS. This provides an opportunity for the vendor to clarify or elaborate on the proposal. This is a fact finding and explanation session only and does not include negotiation. NHLS shall schedule the time and location of these presentations. Oral presentations are an option of NHLS and may or may not be conducted and must not be construed as being successful in, or, awarded the tender.

11 General Conditions of Bid and Conditions of Contract

11.1 Bidders shall provide full and accurate answers to all (including mandatory) questions posed in this document, and, are required to explicitly indicate either "Comply/Accept (with a √)" or "Do not comply/Do not accept (with an X)" regarding compliance with the requirements. Where necessary, the bidder shall substantiate their response to a specific question.

NOTE: It is mandatory for bidders to complete or answer this part fully (11.2 to 11.33); otherwise their bid shall be treated as incomplete and shall be disqualified. Refer to paragraph 8 of this document (reasons for disqualification).

11.2

This bid is subject to the General Conditions of Contract stipulated in this	Accept	Do not Accept
document.		

11.3

The laws of the Republic of South Africa shall govern this RFB and the Bidders	Accept	Do not Accept
hereby accept that the courts of the Republic of South Africa shall have the		
jurisdiction.		

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NHLS shall not be liable for any costs incurred by the bidder in the preparation	Accept	Do not Accept
of response to this RFB. The preparation of response shall be made without		
obligation to acquire any of the items included in any bidder's proposal or to		
select any proposal, or to discuss the reasons why such vendor's or any other		
proposal was accepted or rejected.		

11.5

NHLS Procurement Services may request written clarification regarding any	Accept	Do not Accept
aspect of this proposal. The bidders must supply the requested information in		
writing within the specified time frames after the request has been made,		
otherwise the proposal shall be disqualified.		

11.6

In the case of Consortium, Joint Venture or subcontractors, bidders are	Accept	Do not Accept
required to provide copies of signed agreements stipulating the work split and		
Rand value.		

11.7

In the case of Consortium, Joint Venture or subcontractors, all bidders are	Accept	Do not Accept
required to provide mandatory documents as stipulated in schedule 1 of the		
Response format.		

NHLS reserves the right to; cancel or reject any proposal and not to award the	Accept	Do not Accept
proposal to the lowest bidder or award parts of the proposal to different		
bidders, or not to award the proposal at all.		



Where applicable, bidders who are distributors, resellers and installers of	Accept	Do not Accept
network equipment are required to submit back-to-back agreements and		
service level agreements with their principals.		

11.10

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFB, the bidders accept the	Accept	Do not Accept
evaluation criteria as it stands.		

11.11

Where applicable, NHLS reserves the right to conduct benchmarks on	Accept	Do not Accept
product/services offered during and after the evaluation.		

11.12

NHLS reserves the right to conduct a pre-award survey during the source	Accept	Do not Accept
selection process to evaluate contractors' capabilities to meet the		
requirements specified in the RFB and supporting documents.		

11.13

Where the bid calls for commercially available solutions, bidders who offer	Accept	Do not Accept
provide future based solutions will be disqualified.		

The bidder should not qualify the proposal with own conditions.	Accept	Do not Accept
Caution: If the bidder does not specifically withdraw its own conditions of		
proposal when called upon to do so, the proposal response shall be declared		
invalid.		



Should the bidder withdraw the proposal before the proposal validity period	Accept	Do not Accept
expires, NHLS reserves the right to recover any additional expense incurred by		
NHLS having to accept any less favourable proposal or the additional		
expenditure incurred by NHLS in the preparation of a new RFB and by the		
subsequent acceptance of any less favourable proposal.		

11.16

Delivery of and acceptance of correspondence between NHLS and the bidder	Accept	Do not Accept
sent by prepaid registered post (by air mail if appropriate) in a correctly		
addressed envelope to either party's postal address or address for service of		
legal documents shall be deemed to have been received and accepted after		
(2) two days from the date of postage to the South African Post Office Ltd.		

11.17

Should the parties at any time before and/or after the award of the proposal	Accept	Do not Accept
and prior to, and-or after conclusion of the contract fail to agree on any		
significant product price or service price adjustments, change in technical		
specification, change in services, etc. NHLS shall be entitled within 14		
(fourteen) days of such failure to agree, to recall the letter of award and		
cancel the proposal by giving the bidder not less than 90 (ninety) days written		
notice of such cancellation, in which event all fees on which the parties failed		
to agree increases or decreases shall, for the duration of such notice period,		
remain fixed on those fee/price applicable prior to the negotiations.		
Such cancellation shall mean that NHLS reserves the right to award the same		
proposal to next best bidders as it deems fit.		

In the case of a consortium or JV, each of the authorised enterprise's	Accept	Do not Accept
members and/or partners of the different enterprises must co-sign this		
document.		



Any amendment or change of any nature made to this RFB shall only be of	Accept	Do not Accept
force and effect if it is in writing, and an Amendment to the RFB will be issued.		
Bidders will be required to utilise the latest Amendment in preparation of their		
bid response.		

11.20

Failure or neglect by either party to (at any time) enforce any of the provisions	Accept	Do not Accept
of this proposal shall not, in any manner, be construed to be a waiver of any		
of that party's right in that regard and in terms of this proposal. Such failure		
or neglect shall not, in any manner, affect the continued, unaltered validity of		
this proposal, or prejudice the right of that party to institute subsequent		
action.		

11.21

Bidders who make use of subcontractors.	Accept	Do not Accept
The proposal shall however be awarded to the Vendor as a primary		
contractor who shall be responsible for the management of the awarded		
proposal. No separate contract shall be entered into between NHLS and/or		
its client and any such subcontractors. Copies of the signed agreements		
between the relevant parties must be attached to the proposal responses.		

11.22

All services supplied in accordance with this proposal must be certified to all	Accept	Do not Accept
legal requirements as per the South African law.		

No interest shall be payable on accounts due to the successful vendor in an	Accept	Do not Accept
event of a dispute arising on any stipulation in the contract.		



Evaluation of Bids shall be performed by a CFET established by NHLS.	Accept	Do not Accept
Bids shall be evaluated on the basis of conformance to the required		
specifications as outlined in the RFB. Points shall be allocated to each bidder,		
on the basis that the maximum number of points that may be scored for price		
is 80/90, and the maximum number of preference points that may be claimed		
for B-BBEE (according to the PPPFA) is 20/10.		

11.25

Prior to the award of any tender or contract the NHLS will check the	Accept	Do not Accept
Prohibition status of recommended suppliers/ service providers on the		
Treasury website (restricted@treasury.gov.za) as well as the Treasury		
Register for Tender Defaulters (<u>www.treasury.gov.za)</u>		

The NHLS will act against the bidder or person awarded the contract upon	Accept	Do not Accept
detecting that the B-BBEE status level of contribution has been claimed or		
obtained on a fraudulent basis or any of the contract conditions have not		
been fulfilled.		



The NHLS may, in addition to any other remedy that it may have against the	Accept	Do not Accept
bidder or person:		
 Disqualify the bidder or person from the bidding process; 		
 Recover all costs, losses or damages it has incurred; 		
 or suffered as a result of that person's conduct; 		
 Cancel the contract and claim any damages which it; 		
 has suffered as a result of having to make less; 		
 favourable arrangements due to such cancellation; 		
Restrict the bidder or contractor, its shareholders;		
 and directors, or only the shareholders and directors; 		
 who acted on a fraudulent basis, from obtaining business; 		
 from any organ of state for a period not exceeding 10; 		
• years, after applying the audi alteram partem (hear the other side) rule;		
 Forward the matter for Blacklisting by Treasury; and 		
Forward the matter for criminal prosecution		

11.28

If the successful bidder disregards contractual specifications, this action may	Accept	Do not Accept
result in the termination of the contract.		

11.29

The bidders' response to this Tender, or parts of the response, shall be	Accept	Do not Accept
included as a whole or by reference in the final contract.		

NHLS has discretion to extend the validity period should the evaluation of this	Accept	Do not Accept
bid not be completed within the stipulated validity period.		



Accept	Do not Accept
•	Accept

11.32

Should the bidder change any wording or phrase in this document, the bid	Accept	Do not Accept
shall be deemed unresponsive and may lead to the disqualification of the bid		
response.		

11.33

	Accept	Do not Accept	
No alternative tender offers will be considered.			

12. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND METHODOLOGY

12.1 Evaluation of tenders and selection of contractors'/service providers

The NHLS is a Schedule 3A Government Institution subjected to the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), the Public Preferential Framework Act (PPPFA) and Treasury Regulations/ Instructions. Bidders must assist the NHLS to eliminate corruption and fraud by completing and submitting form SBD4.

- 12.1.1. Any tender closing is followed by a Public Opening where the names and pricing of all bids received are read out to the bidders attending. NHLS tender opening officials sign the pages where pricing is indicated to prevent any alterations.
- 12.1.2 Next steps of evaluation is Administrative pre-qualification verification and the "technical" or so called "functional" evaluation which is purely based on NHLS specifications (Annexure 2) and Scope of Work. NHLS end-user department (who *requested the bid*), Procurement Services, Finance and subject specialists are part of the Cross Functional Evaluation Team (CFET) meeting which is chaired by Quality Assurance (QA). *All the members of the CFET must complete Declaration of Interest forms and must recuse themselves in case of any conflict of interest.*
- 12.1.3 The final stage of evaluation is done after the CFET has reached their verdict and is done by NHLS Procurement Services and separately from the CFET meeting. B-BBEE score (commercial evaluation) is being added in order to get the final order of merit for the bidders being evaluated.

- 12.1.4 Bidders that score the minimum threshold are recommended and submitted to the NHLS Tender Adjudication Committee (TAC) for adjudication and the bid MUST be awarded to the bidder who scored the highest points (Merit 1) during the CFET and Commercial evaluation(B-BBEE). *All the members of the CFET must complete Declaration of Interest forms and must recuse themselves in case of any conflict of interest. Should the TAC decide on a bidder other than Merit 1, this decision must be motivated as a Deviation from NHLS Policy & procedure and Treasury must be advised accordingly.*
- 12.1.5 The CEO of the NHLS must finally approve the recommendation by the TAC, in his capacity as the Accounting Officer.
- 12.1.6 Details of the successful bidder to be advertised in the Government Tender Bulletin.
- 12.1.7 Suppliers must accept the Terms & Conditions of our contract(s) which will result from the RFB document". RFB conditions and pricing shall be fixed and firm from RFB closing date to the end of contract.

12.2. BID EVALUATION STAGES

The bid evaluation process consists of several stages that are applicable according to the nature of the bid as defined below:

Stage 1: Administrative pre-qualification verificationStage 2: Technical Mandatory requirement evaluationStage 3: Technical Functionality requirement evaluationStage 4: Price / B-BBEE evaluation

NOTE: The bidder must qualify for each stage to be eligible to proceed to the next stage of the evaluation.

12.3 ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE

- Administrative compliance/responsiveness will be tested based on returnable documents submitted and signatures on the Bid documents.
- At this stage, it must be determined what documents are required to be returned by Bidders.
 Returnable documents are categorised as follows:

a) Mandatory Returnable Documents

(NOTE: Failure to provide the below listed documents <u>WILL</u> lead to disqualification)

1.	Fully completed and Signed SBD 4. SBD 8 and SBD 9.	Comply	Do Not Comply	



Substantiation: The bidder must submit and attach to the bid response the signed Declaration of Interest SBD 4, Declaration of bidders' Past Supply Chain Practices SBD 8, and a Certificate of Independent Bid Determination SBD 9.

2.	The Service Providers to have to agree with NHLS General	Comply	Do Not Comply			
	Conditions of Bid and Conditions of Contract					
	Substantiation: The bidder must submit and attach to the bid response the signed and accepted NHLS General Conditions of Bid and Conditions of Contract					
3.	Proof of Attendance of Compulsory Briefing Session	Comply	Do Not Comply			
Su	Substantiation: The bidder is to indicate whether they attended the Compulsory Briefing session.					

b) Essential Returnable Documents

(NOTE: Failure to provide the below listed documents <u>MAY</u> lead to disqualification)

No.	Description	Comply	Do Not Comply
1.	Proof of valid tax clearance certificate, with tax compliance status letter (with pin) issued by the South African Revenue Services		
2.	Preferential Procurement Claim form and copy of B-BBEE Verification Certificate(s) issued by an authorised body or person, or a sworn affidavit prescribed by the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice.		
3.	Letter of good standing (from the Department of labour/Commissioner of Oaths)		
4.	Audited financial statements not older than two (2) years		
5.	Proof of Central Supplier Database (CSD) Registration (The Bidder must not be restricted by the National Treasury).		
6.	The bidder should provide a valid ISO 27001 certificate or letter from the South African Bureau Standards (SABS) confirming compliance.		
7.	The bidder should provide a valid ISO 20000 certificate or letter from the South African Bureau Standards (SABS) confirming compliance.		
8.	The bidder should provide a valid ISO 9001 certificate or letter from the South African Bureau Standards (SABS) confirming compliance.		
9.	The bidder should provide a valid copy of Prince 2 Practitioner certificate or other globally approved project management certificates or qualifications for the project manager to be assigned to the project.		
	The bidder should provide the following vendor certificates / qualifications of the technical staff:		
10.	 Seven (7) CCNPs or HCNPs or JNCIPs or equivalent Three (3) CCIEs or HCIEs or equivalent Two (2) or more Associates 		
	NB: Refer to technical evaluation criteria number two (2) below; The number of certificates / qualifications should correspond with each CV submitted for each Technical Resource as per the technical functionality evaluation criteria and scoring number two (2) below.		



12.4 The evaluation of the Bids shall be based on the 80/20 or 90/10 PPPFA principle and the points for evaluation criteria are as follows:

Price points	80/90
B-BBEE status level contribution	20/10
Total	100 points

12.5 Preferential Procurement Criteria Prequalification

Bidders need to take of the following:

- (1) The bidder **must comply** with ALL of the preferential procurement pre-qualification requirements in order for the bid to be accepted for further evaluation.
- (2) If the Bidder failed to comply with any of the preferential procurement pre-qualification requirements, such bid is deemed as unacceptable bid.

Sub-contracting 30% of contract Value - APPLICABLE

NHLS, in terms of the PPPFA Regulation 2017 section 9(1), has an obligation to	Comply	Do	Not
advance designated groups which includes black SMMEs (i.e. Exempted Micro	Compry	Comply	
Enterprises (EME) and Qualifying Small Enterprises (QSE)) for the supply of			
certain ICT goods or services where feasible to subcontract for a contract above			
R30 million, an organ of state must apply subcontracting to advance designated			
groups.			
The successful bidder is required to subcontract a minimum of 30% of the value			
of the contract to an EME or QSE which is at least 51% owned by black people,			
or to EMEs and/ or QSEs which are at least 51% owned by black people".			
During contracting:			
a) NHLS will make available the list of qualifying suppliers registered on the			
Central Supplier Database maintained by National Treasury, to provide the			
required goods or services in respect of the designated group from which a			
supplier must be selected. will be provided; and			
b) The successful bidder need to provide a plan as to how the EME or QSE will			
benefit from the sub-contracting.			



DECLARATION REGARDING SUB-CONTRACTING 30% OF CONTRACT VALUE - APPLICABLE

I, the undersigned, in submitting the accompanying bid:

(Bid Number and Description)

in response to the invitation for the bid made by: **NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE** do hereby make the following

declaration and certify the statements contained herein to be true and complete in every respect:

I	certify,	on	behalf
of:			that:
	(Name of Bidd	er)	

- 1. I have read and I understand the contents of this Declaration and the fully completed bid document accompanying this declaration;
- 2. I understand and declare that the accompanying bid will, and must, be disqualified if this Declaration is found not to be true and complete in every respect;
- 3. I understand and declare that in the event that this bid is successful, I will be required to, and shall, fully implement the commitments that are submitted with this bid, in particular regarding the Bidder's Sub-contracting and commitments towards the allocation of certain portion of the contract to small and emerging entities. Failure to implement such commitments as outlined in the bid document and or failure to provide the relevant information within the prescribed period shall automatically disqualify this bid from further consideration and NHLS has the right to, and must, then award the bid to the next highest ranked bidder; and as a result I or the bidder or any of its directors shall have no recourse against National Health Laboratory Services.
- 4. I am authorized by the bidder to sign this Declaration, and to submit the accompanying bid, on behalf of the bidder;
- 5. Each person whose signature appears on the accompanying bid has been authorized by the bidder to determine the terms of, and to sign the bid, on behalf of the bidder;

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- 6. I am aware that, and do consent to, the disqualification of my or the bidder's future bids with National Health Laboratory Services in the event that the commitments made herein are not fulfilled and that such non-fulfillment amounts to abuse of National Health Laboratory Service's supply chain policies and procedures and/or empowerment objectives which must be penalized, over and above the contractual sanctions as agreed to in line with the contract signed with National Health Laboratory Services, with a sanction of restricting me and or my company (the bidder) and or any of its directors from conducting business with National Health Laboratory Service for a period not exceeding ten (10) years.
- I consent that should my company (the Bidder) deviate from the commitments and objectives as agreed to, shall amount to a repudiation of the contractual arrangement between the two parties (National Health Laboratory Service and the Bidder).

Full Names & Surname

Signature

Date



ANNEXURE A: Technical Specification

1 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

- 1.1 Should a Bidder have reasons to believe that the Technical Specification is not open and/or is written for a particular brand or product; the Bidder shall notify Procurement Services within ten (10) days after publication of the bid.
- 1.2 Bidders shall provide full and accurate answers to the mandatory questions posed in this document, and, where required explicitly state either "Comply/Not Comply" regarding compliance with the requirements. Bidders **must** substantiate their response to all questions, including full details on how their proposal/solution will address specific functional requirements. All documents as indicated must be supplied as part of the submission.
- 1.3 Bidders are encouraged to promote the growth and development of SMME's, and will be assessed on their efforts in this regard during the evaluation of this Tender.

2. BACKGROUND

The NHLS IT environment is becoming increasingly centralized and therefore reliable MPLS VPN network connectivity between branches and the head office is required in order to maintain high levels of system availability. In line with its strategic objectives the NHLS endeavours to reach under serviced areas (rural and townships) by increasing its delivery network. This objective demands an agile Bidder with an extensive network coverage that is capable of offering flexible connectivity options. The MPLS VPN represents a high cost to the NHLS IT annual budget therefore NHLS is exploring lower cost circuits to smaller branches.

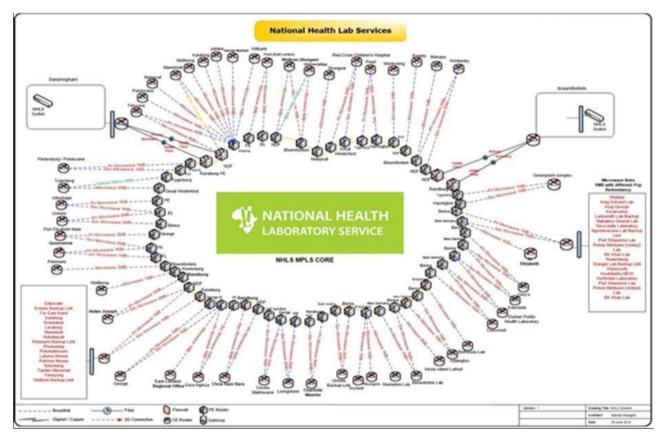
2.1 SANREN (South African Research Network)

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) conceptualised the South African National Research Network (SANReN) initiative in 2003 and the responsibility for the planning and implementation thereof was given by DST to the CSIR Meraka Institute. The SANReN Competency Area therefore is mandated by the Department of Science and Technology to connect all South African research and higher education institutions to the SANReN broadband network. The Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa (TENET) is a non-profit company, originally created in 2000 by the public universities of South Africa to serve as the organisational home for collaborative internetworking by universities, science councils and associated support institutions. Since 2008 TENET has worked closely with the CSIR in the deployment of the SANReN network, which TENET operates under the terms of an exclusive collaboration agreement with the CSIR.

The National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) has requested the South African National Research Network (SANReN) to connect all NHLS sites to the SANReN Broadband network. The SANReN is not in a position to connect all the NHLS sites at once. The migration of NHLS sites to the SANReN will happen in a phased approach over a number of years.



NB: The successful bidder must acknowledge that sites will be migrated from the MPLS network to the SANReN as and when it becomes feasible for the NHLS/SANREN to do so. Please note that we have an estimated of 50 sites that will be migrated to the SANREN by end of 2020.



2.2 CURRENT MPLS NETWORK SERVICE

Figure 1 Current MPLS Architecture

2.3 CURRENT BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

With an increasing number of applications being served from the Head-office Data Centre, there is greater emphasis on the performance and reliability of the MPLS network. The main types of network traffic used by the current applications, apart from control traffic, include FTP, HTTP, HTTPS, SMTP, MS-SQL, and CIFS.

Supported applications:

- Exchange Email/SMTP
- Active Directory
- Oracle EBS
- Microsoft Skype for Business

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- Video/Voice Conferencing
- Internet and Web Services
- Database Services
- Printing Services etc. •
- Data Replication •

NHLS is currently also busy with an IPT project with the view of VOIP inter-branch calling to leverage telephone cost savings, additionally there has been a business request to setup a video conferencing solution. The Bidder needs to be able to also perform bandwidth reservation and flexible bandwidth allocation. These requirements mean that the NHLS requires a converged MPLS network capable of carrying voice, video and data.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The appointed Bidder must provide the network that must include, but not limited to the following:

1. Managed MPLS VPN Connectivity for NHLS sites listed in Annexure A: NHLS Site List.

2. NHLS is in a process of migrating all of its sites (246) to the SANReN network, and the bidder acknowledges that such sites will be migrated from the MPLS network to the SANReN network as and when it becomes feasible for the NHLS to do so.

3. ISP Peering - The bidder will peer with the SANReN and other Service Providers.

4. NHLS is using OSPF (Open Shortest Path First) as their preferred IGP (Interior Gateway Protocol), and the bidder is expected to advertise NHLS routes into their MPLS network.

5. Jitter/ Latency of the link between the site and the Point of Presence (POP) should be an average of 20ms.

6. The bidder must maintain and ensure guaranteed matching of the last mile bandwidth capacity within the MPLS virtual sites.

7. Implementation of an IP based Wide Area Network (WAN) connecting NHLS sites including provisioning, installing, commissioning, integration, testing, acceptance and maintenance of required MPLS VPN links.

8. Implement an efficient Quality of Service (QoS) from the NHLS Laboratories, Academic Sites, through the Bidder network to the NHLS Head Office. The QoS must be flexible such that if there is no voice/video traffic, data can use all the available bandwidth in the network.

9. The Network should have safeguards and security against unauthorized access, tapping and sniffing of data on the WAN.

10. MPLS should have ability to access a Multiparty Video Conference system. The network system must be scalable.

11. The solution must be flexible for downgrade, upgrade and cancellation of sites as and when business requirements dictate.

12. The proposed technology solution must be reviewed every 12 (twelve) months so as to align the proposed technology with the latest technology trends in the market. Confidential Page 32 of 87

13. The selected bidder should carry out all civil works if any related to the installation & commissioning of the links. In case any damage to NHLS's property / third party property during execution of the work or subsequently, the bidder has to replace /make good the damaged property at its own cost and pay compensation if any.

14. The bidder also has to arrange for the necessary insurance for the equipment installed at NHLS's premises at no cost to NHLS. Replacement of faulty equipment/ rectification of the same are under the scope of the bidder and the same has to be provided at no extra cost to the NHLS;

15. The upgrade of the Hardware/Software/firmware for the equipment provided by the bidder as a part of the solution to this RFP is the responsibility of the bidder and the same should be done at no additional cost to the NHLS so as to meet all the terms and conditions of this RFP. Any vulnerability identified in the equipment provided should be patched by the bidder.

16. Maintaining the availability of end-to-end connectivity in line with the terms and conditions of Service Level Agreement (SLA).

17. The bidder must provide link status, uptime, downtime, capacity, utilization and other parameters through a web portal or any licensed application to the NHLS on real/near real time basis. However, the NHLS will also deploy its own tool to monitor the links and the bidder must agree to the status reports generated from these tools.

18. ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS for all performance and availability problem that occur. Formal root cause analysis should be delivered within five days of problem occurrence, including explanation of the root cause. An action plan to prevent re-occurrence is required.

19. The bidder's network infrastructure should be compatible to migrate to IPv6 as and when required by the NHLS without additional cost to the NHLS. The MPLS links provided by the bidder should support IPv6. Other devices supplied by the bidder to commission the link should be IPv6 compliant.

20. Any of the NHLS's network segments should be reachable directly from any other NHLS's location through the bidder's MPLS cloud via the shortest path within the service provider's network without reaching the NHLS's Data Centres (DC) as the case may be.

21. In case, at any point of time NHLS shifts its DC, Branches/Offices from the existing location/premises to new location/premises, the Bidder has to co-ordinate with the NHLS for shifting of their MPLS Links to the new location. If the existing Last Mile technology is not feasible at the new location, the bidder should provide equivalent or better reliable connectivity without compromising the SLA and Security.

22. The Service provider's MPLS VPN network should be fully isolated from Internet traffic even if running on the same core/backbone. It is desired that same Provider Edge (PE) Router does not run both customer MPLS VPN traffic and Internet traffic. The MPLS·VPN network offered to the NHLS should not carry any internet routes.

23. All routers must have the ability to be SNMP-managed and also export Netflow data to the NHLS management tools. CPE must be patched as and when the patches are released and IOS security audit report must be furnished. CPE information and configurations must be made available for audit purposes or any third party appointed to audit NHLS's network security.

24. NHLS will require dedicated technical support personnel to be based at the NHLS offices 24x7.



3.1 PRIVATE ACCESS POINT NAME (APN) Service

Provide a secure reverse billed (corporate) Private Access Point Name (APN) service which is an extension of the MPLS traffic from the APN. Detailed APN specifications:

- a. Private 4/5G APN Service for up to 1000 SIM cards.
- b. Compatible with the following network service Bands: LTE, UMTS, HSPA, EDGE/3G/4G/5G
- c. Dynamic IP address allocation for SIM card
- d. Aggregate monthly data bundle size of 500GB.
- e. Enable/Disable out of bundle charging.
- f. Provision of data bundle top-up package based on in-bundle rates

g. Traffic from the APN must pass through the firewall at the Internet breakout as a security measure. Required bandwidth 500GB in-bundle

h. Web portal based management application tool for administration of various SIM card related

i. Real time reporting capability in terms of various metrics such as highest users, lowest users

j. In areas of poor network coverage, the APN service should roam on a competitor's network automatically.

3.2 Service Level Management

a. SLA Availability: 99% uptime.

b. Fifteen (15) minutes incident response time.

c. The bidder must have a fully-fledged "Network Management Centre /Network Operation Centre (NMC/NOC)", round the clock (24x7x365 basis) manned by skilled technical manpower, for the effective and efficient centralised remote monitoring, configuration, diagnosis, troubleshooting and performance management of backbone network and last mile network over which the connectivity for NHLS shall be provisioned. The NOC must be based at the NHLS office.

d. Active monitoring, alerting, graphing and reporting on the connections shall be provided. The bidder must provide a Web Portal with login credentials to view health of the links to monitor SLA parameters such as link status, uptime, downtime, capacity, utilization, traffic analysis, QoS graphs, and other parameters. This web portal must show this information in real-time.

e. Fault logging procedures.

- f. Maintenance down time procedures and advance warning procedures.
- g. Scheduled reporting of incidents and performance measurements.
- h. Technical support personnel located within each region.
- i. Monthly SLA and operations meetings.

3.3 RELATED SERVICES OUTSIDE SCOPE OF THIS RFB

3.3.1 INTERNET SERVICE

The bidder is not required to supply an Internet Breakout service on the MPLS as this service will be provided by the SANREN.



The intent of this RFP therefore is to select a capable Bidder that meets NHLS' current short and long-term requirements in terms of the provision of the MPLS WAN for the period of three (3) years.

4. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

If a bidder does not comply fully with each of the mandatory requirements, it Shall be regarded as mandatory non-performance/non-compliance and the bid Shall be disqualified. No "unanswered" questions will be allowed. If a response to a question has been indicated as comply but not elaborated upon or substantiated it shall be regarded as mandatory non- performance/non-compliance and the bid shall be disqualified.

Bidders shall provide full and accurate answers to the mandatory questions posed in this document, and, where required, explicitly state either "Comply/Accept (with a "Yes")" or "Do not comply/do not accept (with a "No")" regarding compliance to the requirements. Bidders must substantiate their responses to all mandatory questions. PLEASE NOTE: If the response does not substantiate any of the points or requirements in the body of the tender, it will be deemed to not comply, even if the 'Comply' field has been marked. Please note: All documentation to substantiate the mandatory requirements has to be supplied.

(The bidder who fails to comply with the Mandatory Requirements will be disqualified)

1. ICASA Licensing	Comply	Not Comply
The bidder must have the IECNS (Individual Electronic Communications		
letwork Service License) ICASA valid license.		
Substantiate / Comments: The bidder must provide valid copies of the lic	ense.	

2. Fibre-Backbone The bidder must have their own backbone network on fibre and submit their backbone network design drawing.	Comply	Not Comply
Substantiate / Comments: The bidder must provide a detailed network of head.	design drawing on t	he company's letter

3. Bidder's Experience (APN)	Comply	Not Comply
Due to the nature of NHLS business, the bidder must have a		
minimum of 3 completed projects providing Access Point		
Name services to similar sized organization with a minimum		
of One thousand (1000) sim cards. The bidder must also		



provide a portal for the provisioning and management of SIM cards connecting to the APN.		
Substantiate / Comments: The bidder must provide reference letters whic	h should include	but not limited to:
 start and end date, contact details Cost of the project the number of sim cards per customer where similar services customer 	are currently b	eing rendered per
on a company letterhead		
 signed by the delegated authority 		
A minimum of 3 completed projects is required.		

 The bidder is required to provide the detailed Curriculum Vitae of the Project Manager who will be assigned to the project; someone who has acquired the relevant skills; Coupled with five (5) years' experience in management of 	
has acquired the relevant skills;	
• Coupled with five (5) years' experience in management of	
projects of a similar nature, scope, size and scale in planning, installation, configuration and supporting of MPLS -VPN & ISP Services	

5. TECHNICAL FUNCTIONALITY

5.1 The bidder must complete in full all of the TECHNICAL FUNCTIONALITY requirements.

5.2 The bidder must provide a unique reference number (e.g. binder/folio, chapter, section, page)

to locate substantiating evidence in the bid response. During evaluation, NHLS reserves the right to treat substantiation evidence that cannot be located in the bid response as "NOT COMPLY".

Evaluation per requirement. The evaluation (scoring) of bidders' responses to the requirements will be determined by the completeness, relevance and accuracy of substantiating evidence.

5.3 Each TECHNICAL FUNCTIONALITY requirement will be evaluated using the following generic 5-point scale:

Rating	Definition	Score
Excellent	nt Exceeds the requirement. Exceptional demonstration by the supplier of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to provide the goods / services. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	
Good	Satisfies the requirement with minor additional benefits . Above average demonstration by the supplier of the relevant ability, understanding,	4

Rating	Definition			
	experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to provide the			
	goods/services. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added			
	value, with supporting evidence.			
	Satisfies the requirement. Demonstration by the supplier of the relevant			
Acceptable	ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource, and quality measures	3		
	required to provide the goods/services, with supporting evidence.			
	atisfies the requirement with minor reservations . Some minor reservations			
Minor	of the supplier's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource			
Reservations	and quality measures required to provide the goods/services, with little or no	2		
	supporting evidence.			
	Satisfies the requirement with major reservations . Considerable reservations			
Serious	of the supplier's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource	1		
Reservations	and quality measures required to provide the goods/services, with little or no	1		
	supporting evidence.			
	Does not meet the requirement. Does not comply and/or insufficient			
Unacceptable	information provided to demonstrate that the supplier has the ability,	0		
Unacceptable	understanding, experience, skills, resource & quality measures required to	U		
	provide the goods/services, with little or no supporting evidence.			

Weighting of requirements: The full scope of requirements will be determined by the following weights:

REQUIREMENTS	Weight (%)	
 Bidder's Experience (MPLS VPN) Due to the nature of NHLS business, the bidder should have completed projects providing MPLS VPN services to similar sized organizations with a minimum of 100 WAN sites per customer. Substantiate / Comments: The bidder should provide reference letters which should include but not limited to: 		NumberofWANbranches/sitescompleted:•4 reference letters = 40 Points•3 reference letters = 30 Points•2 reference letters = 20 Points•1 reference letter = 10 Points
 start and end date, contact details the number of sites per customer where similar services are currently being rendered per customer Cost of the project on a company letterhead signed by the delegated authority 	40%	 No reference letters = 0 points

2. Bidder's experience: Technical Resources		Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of key technical staff indicating the following skills:
The bidder is required to provide a maximum of 12 x detailed Curriculum Vitae (CVs) that clearly indicate the professional certifications, qualifications, and experience of key technical staff that will be assigned to this project with defined roles. CVs should demonstrate the following minimum skills of technical staff being recommended for this project: • CCNP or HCNP or JNCIP or equivalent • CCIE or HCIE or equivalent • Associates Substantiation: The bidder should provide detailed CVs of Technical Resources.	25%	 12 CVs indicating seven (7) CCNP or HCN of JNCIP or equivalent AND three (3) CCIE or HCIE or equivalent AND two (2) Associates = 25 Points 10 – 11 CVs five (5) CCNP or HCN of JNCIP or equivalent AND two (2) CCIE or HCIE or equivalent AND three (3) Associates = 15 Points 9 CVs three (3) CCNP or HCN of JNCIP or equivalent AND one (1) CCIE or HCIE or equivalent AND four (4) Associates = 10 Points
3. National Footprint	23/8	
NHLS is a well-established public entity with sites across all nine (9) provinces of the Republic of South Africa, therefore the bidder should have footprints nationally. The NHLS reserves the right to conduct due diligence prior to final award or at any time during the contract period.		 9 Provinces = 15 Points 7-8 Provinces = 10 Points 5-6 Provinces = 5 Points
Substantiate: The Bidder should provide a list of location details showing active offices in provinces.		
This may include site visits; Physical Address Contact Details	15%	
Subtotal	80%	

NB: Only Bidders that meet a minimum of 60% from evaluation criteria (1-3) above will be invited for the presentation.

4. MPLS VPN Solution – Presentation and Scoring

Presentation	Weight	
4.1 Project Management:	5%	

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Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to project activities to meet project requirements. Project management must not only strive to meet specific scope, time, cost, and quality goals of projects, but also facilitate the entire process to meet the needs and expectations of people involved in project activities or affected by them. Therefore, the bidder shall present their proposed project management methodology, quality assurance process, Service support capability and the technical solution as a whole. The approach and methodology has to be explained before the evaluation committee and the committee's scoring decision would be final. The bidder should demonstrate in detail how it will deliver the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to Prince 2 or other globally approved project management methodology focusing on the 10 knowledge areas of project management; (Scope, cost, Schedule, quality, human resource, communication, procurement management, risk, stakeholder, and Project integration management) of which are crucial to the project success.		 Bidder fully demonstrated how it will deliver the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to Prince 2 or any related project methodology = 5 Points Bidder moderately demonstrated how it will deliver the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to Prince 2 or any related project methodology = 4 Points Bidder partially demonstrated how it will deliver the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to Prince 2 or any related project methodology = 3 Points Bidder did not demonstrate how it will deliver the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to Prince 2 or any related project methodology = 3 Points Bidder did not demonstrate how it will deliver the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to Prince 2 or any related project methodology = 0 Points
 4.2 NMC/ NOC - Network Management Centre /Network Operation Centre AND Service Level Agreement and Management: The Bidder should have full-fledged "Network Management Centre /Network Operating Centre (NMC/NOC)", round the clock (24x7x365 basis) manned by skilled technical manpower, for the efficient centralised remote monitoring, configuration, diagnose, troubleshooting and performance management of backbone network and last mile network over which the connectivity for NHLS shall be provisioned: The NHLS demand at least 99% availability of the MPLS-VPN network across all its sites. Service Level Agreement defines what both the Bidder and the customer should expect when contracting for a service. 	5%	 Bidder fully demonstrated how their NMC/ NOC is currently configured according to ISO 20000 principles, and fully demonstrated adherence to NHLS SLA requirements = 5 Points Bidder demonstrated how their NMC/ NOC is currently configured according to ISO 20000 principles, and demonstrated adherence to NHLS SLA requirements = 4 Points Bidder partially demonstrated how their NMC/ NOC is currently configured according to ISO/IEC 20000 principles, and partially demonstrated adherence to NHLS SLA requirements = 3 Points Bidder did not demonstrate how their NMC/ NOC is currently configured according to ISO/IEC 20000 principles, and partially demonstrated adherence to NHLS SLA requirements = 3 Points Bidder did not demonstrate how their NMC/ NOC is currently configured according to ISO/IEC 20000 principles, and did not demonstrate adherence to NHLS SLA requirements = 3 Points
 The bidder should demonstrate in detail how their NMC/ NOC is currently configured according to ISO 20000 principles and demonstrate how it is going to meet the NHLS SLA requirements: 		

 4.3 Information Security Management Systems (ISO 27001) AND MPLS-VPN (Quality of Service) QoS Cybersecurity is a growing concern for governments, with the push for universal access to the Internet, the increasing ubiquity of social networks and the growing reliance on digital government service, and given a growing range of threats from foreign powers, terrorists and criminals, patient's data protection has become one of NHLS top priorities. Quality of Service is a suite of technologies used to manage bandwidth usage as data traverse computer networks. Its most common use is for protection of real-time and high priority data applications. QoS technologies, or tools, each have specific roles used in conjunction with one another to build end-to-end network QoS policies. The bidder should demonstrate how the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution is going to protect NHLS information, and demonstrate in detail how QoS is going to be applied on the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution. 	5%	 Bidder fully demonstrated how the proposed MPLS- VPN Solution is going to protect NHLS information, and how QoS is going to be applied on the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to NHLS requirement = 5 Points Bidder demonstrated, how QoS is going to be applied on the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to NHLS requirement and how the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution is going to protect NHLS information = 4 Points Bidder partially demonstrated how the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution is going to protect NHSL information, and how QoS is going to be applied on the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to NHLS requirement = 3 Points Bidder did not demonstrate how the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution is going to protect NHLS information, and how QoS is going to be applied on the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to NHLS requirement = 3 Points Bidder did not demonstrate how the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution is going to protect NHLS information, and how QoS is going to be applied on the proposed MPLS-VPN Solution according to NHLS requirement = 0 Points
 4.4 MPLS-VPN Architectural Design, Load Sharing and High Availability Solution: Scale-out architecture with redundancy; the MPLS-VPN architecture should provide redundancy in the bring-up process, control plane elements, site architecture and withstand multiple failures at any layer. Load Sharing and High Availability are essential in a convergent network. Most of NHLS core business tools are real-time applications running over the infrastructure, therefore the MPLS-VPN Solution is highly expected to support at least Ninety-nine (99%) availability. The bidder must therefore demonstrate in detail how their proposed MPLS-VPN Solution will deliver load sharing and high availability NHLS requirements. Presentation date and venue will be communicated 5 days before the presentation to the eligible bidders. 	5%	 Bidder fully demonstrated how design is going to be applied on their MPLS-VPN Solution and how their MPLS-VPN Solution will deliver load sharing and high availability as per NHLS requirement = 5 Points Bidder demonstrated how design is going to be applied on their MPLS-VPN Solution how their MPLS-VPN Solution will deliver load sharing and high availability according to NHLS requirement = 4 Points Bidder partially demonstrated how design is going to be applied on their MPLS-VPN and how they will deliver load sharing and high availability according to NHLS requirement = 4 Points Bidder partially demonstrated how design is going to be applied on their MPLS-VPN and how they will deliver load sharing and high availability as per NHLS requirement = 3 Points Bidder did not demonstrate how the design is going to be applied on their MPLS-VPN and how they will deliver load sharing and high availability as per NHLS requirement = 0 Points
Presentation Total	20%	
TOTAL	100%	
MINIMUM THRESHOLD	75%	



Summary

Minimum threshold: To be eligible to proceed to the next stage of the evaluation the bidder must achieve a minimum threshold score of **75%**.

ANNEXURE B: Tax Clearance Requirements (SBD2)

- 1 It is a condition of bid that the taxes of the successful bidder <u>must</u> be in order, or that satisfactory arrangements have been made with South African Revenue Service (SARS) to meet the bidder's tax obligations.
- In order to meet these requirement bidders are required to complete in full the attached form TCC 001 "Application for a Tax Clearance Certificate" and submit it to any SARS branch office nationally. The Tax Clearance Certificate requirements are also applicable to foreign bidders/individuals who wish to submit bids.
- 3 SARS shall then furnish the bidder with a Tax Clearance Certificate that shall be valid for a period of one (1) year from the date of approval.
- 4 The original Tax Clearance Certificate must be submitted together with the bid. Failure to submit the original and valid Tax Clearance Certificate shall result in the invalidation of the bid. Certified copies of the Tax Clearance Certificate shall not be acceptable.
- 5 In bids where Consortia / Joint Ventures / subcontractors are involved, each party must submit a separate Tax Clearance Certificate.
- 6 Copies of the TCC 001 "Application for a Tax Clearance Certificate" form are available from any SARS branch office nationally or on the website <u>www.sars.gov.za</u>.
- 7 Applications for the Tax Clearance Certificates may also be made via eFiling. In order to use this provision, taxpayers shall need to register with SARS as eFilers through the website <u>www.sars.gov.za</u>.







Application for a Tax Clearance Certificate

Purpose								
Select the applicable o	ption						Tenders	Good standing
If "Good standing",	please state tl	ne purpose of	this applicatio	n				
Particulars of ap	plicant							
Name/Legal name (Initials & Surname or registered name)								
Trading name (if applicable)								
ID/Passport no				Company registere	y/Close Cor ed no	p.		
Income Tax ref no						PAYE ref no	7	
VAT registration no	4					SDL ref no	L	
Customs code						UIF ref no	U	
Telephone no					Fax o		NU	
E-mail address								
Physical address								
Postal address								

Particulars of representative (Public Officer/Trustee/Partner)

Surname	
First names	
ID/Passport no	Income Tax ref no
Telephone no	
E-mail address	
Physical address	



Particulars of tender (If applicable)

		,		
year(s)	ously awarded			
Date finalised	Principal	Contact person	Telephone number	Amount
	argest contracts previo	year(s) argest contracts previously awarded	year(s) argest contracts previously awarded	year(s) argest contracts previously awarded

Audit

Are you currently aware of any Audit investigation against you/the company? If "YES" provide details	YES	NO

Appointment of representative/agent (Power of Attorney)

I the undersigned confirm that I require a Tax Clearance Certificate in respect of Tenders	or Goodstanding.
I hereby authorise and instruct SARS the applicable Tax Clearance Certificate on my/our behalf.	to apply to and receive from
Cignature of correcentative/agent	
Signature of representative/agent Name of representative/ agent	

Declaration

I declare that the information furnished in this application as well as any supporting documents is true and correct in every respect.

Signature of applicant/Public Officer	Date	
Name of applicant/ Public Officer		



Notes:

- 1. It is a serious offence to make a false declaration.
- 2. Section 75 of the Income Tax Act, 1962, states: Any person who

(a) fails or neglects to furnish, file or submit any return or document as and when required by or under this Act; or

- (b) without just cause shown by him, refuses or neglects to
 - (i) furnish, produce or make available any information, documents or things;
- (ii) reply to or answer truly and fully, any questions put to him ... As and when required in terms of this Act ... shall be guilty of an offence ...
- 3. SARS shall, under no circumstances, issue a Tax Clearance Certificate unless this form is completed in full.
- 4. Your Tax Clearance Certificate shall only be issued on presentation of your South African Identity Document or Passport (Foreigners only) as applicable.



ANNEXURE C: Pricing Schedule

Please indicate your total bid price here: R______(Vat Exclusive)
Important:

It is mandatory to indicate your total bid price as requested above. This price must be the same as the total bid price you submit in your pricing schedule. Should the total bid prices differ, the total bid price indicated above shall be considered the correct price.

The following must be noted:

- 1. All prices must be VAT exclusive and must be quoted in South African Rand (ZAR).
- 2. All prices must be firm and fixed from the tender closing date and for the duration of the contract
- 3. All the consortium or joint venture partners must submit a complete set of the latest audited financial statements.
- 4. All bidders must cost according to the costing template provided or this will lead to disqualification.

5.

The cost of installation, delivery, site preparation etc. Must be included	Comply	Do Not comply
in this proposal.		
Substantiate / Comments		

6.

No price adjustments that are 100% linked to exchange rate variations shall be allowed.	Comply	Do comply	Not
Substantiate / Comments		L	

7.

The bidder must indicate clearly which portion of the purchase price as well as the monthly costs is linked to the exchange rate.	Comply	Do comply	Not
Substantiate / Comments			

8.

All additional costs must be clearly specified.	Comply	Do comply	Not
Substantiate / Comments			



SBD 3.1

PRICING SCHEDULE – FIRM PRICES

(PURCHASES)

NOTE: ONLY FIRM PRICES WILL BE ACCEPTED. NON-FIRM PRICES (INCLUDING PRICES SUBJECT TO RATES OF EXCHANGE VARIATIONS) WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

IN CASES WHERE DIFFERENT DELIVERY POINTS INFLUENCE THE PRICING, A SEPARATE PRICING SCHEDULE MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH DELIVERY POINT

Name		of	bidder:
Bid number: RFB 10 3	3/20/21 Closing Time 11:00 a	am Closing date: 12 May 2021	
Bid R	Price	(Vat	incl.)

OFFER TO BE VALID FOR 120 DAYS FROM THE CLOSING DATE OF BID.

ITEM	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	BID PRICE IN RSA CURRENCY
NO.			** (ALL APPLICABLE TAXES INCLUDED)
-	Required by:		
-	At:		
-	Brand and model		
-	Country of origin		
-	Does the offer compl	y with the specification	on(s)? *YES/NO
-	If not to specification	, indicate deviation(s)
-	Period required for d	elivery	
			*Delivery: Firm/not firm
-	Delivery basis		



Note: All delivery costs must be included in the bid price, for delivery at the prescribed destination.

** "all applicable taxes" includes value- added tax, pay as you earn, income tax, unemployment insurance fund contributions and skills development levies.



Bidders *must* provide the NHLS with costing information for the Provision of MPLS WAN Solution for NHLS for a three (3) years' contract duration. The bid price

quoted must be inclusive as per the scope of work.

Note:

- a) Bidder must complete the pricing as per tables below.
- b) Prices must be provided in South African Rand (R)
- c) Line Prices are all VAT EXCLUSIVE and TOTAL PRICE is VAT INCLUSIVE
- d) Bidder to ensure that the Prices listed below are included on the Total Declared Price
- e) Bidders who fail to price according to the costing template provided will be disqualified

Costing Table:

Total Annual/Monthly Costs	Monthly Cost (Rand)	Annual Cost (Rand) Year 1	Annual Cost (Rand) Year 2	Annual Cost (Rand) Year 3	Total Cost for 3 Years (VAT Exclusive)	Total Cost for 3 Years (VAT Inclusive)
Design, Installation, configuration, implementation, integrating, and commissioning of MPLS-VPN		R	R	R	R	R
Managed -Service Costs	R	R	R	R	R	R
TOTAL	R	R	R	R	R	R



PRICE DECLARATION FORM

Having read through and examined the Tender D	ocument, RFB NO: 103/20/21, General Conditions, the
requirement and all other Annexures to the Tend	ler Document, we offer to provide The Provision of the
MPLS WAN for the period of three (3) years as	detailed in the bid document, for the total Tendered
Contract Sum of in:	(VAT Incl.) Amount in
Words	
R	(VAT Incl.) Amount in Numbers

We confirm that this price covers all activities associated with **RFB 103/20/21**: but not limited to the **Provision of the MPLS WAN for the period of three (3) years** supply of all required, for the **Provision of the MPLS WAN for the period of three (3) years.** We confirm that NHLS will incur no additional costs whatsoever over and above this amount in connection with the supply of this solution.

We further confirm that all licences required for complete implementation of the solution, and the costs associated therewith, as well as any licences that may be required for future expansion have been fully described and disclosed in this document.

We undertake to hold this offer open for acceptance for a period of **120 days** from the date of submission of offers. We further undertake that upon final acceptance of our offer, we will commence with delivery when required to do so by the Client.

Moreover, we agree that until formal Contract Documents have been prepared and executed, this Form of Tender, together with a written acceptance from the Client shall constitute a binding agreement between us, governed by the terms and conditions set out in this Request for Proposals.

We understand that you are not bound to accept the lowest or any offer and that we must bear all costs which we have incurred in connection with preparing and submitting this tender.

We hereby undertake for the period during which this tender remains open for acceptance not to divulge to any persons, other than the persons to which the tender is submitted, any information relating to the submission of this tender or the details therein except where such is necessary for the submission of this tender.



SIGNED:	DATE:	

Print name of signatory)	
Designation	

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF:	COMPANY NAME	
	Tel No	
	Fax No	
	Cell No	

ANNEXURE D: Declaration of Interest (SBD4)

- 1. Any legal person, including persons employed by the state¹, or persons having a kinship with persons employed by the state, including a blood relationship, may make an offer or offers in terms of this invitation to bid (includes a price quotation, advertised competitive bid, limited bid or proposal). In view of possible allegations of favouritism, should the resulting bid, or part thereof, be awarded to persons employed by the state, or to persons connected with or related to them, it is required that the bidder or his/her authorised representative declare his/her position in relation to the evaluating/adjudicating authority where:
- 1.1.1 the bidder is employed by the state; and/or
- 1.1.2 the legal person on whose behalf the bidding document is signed, has a relationship with persons/a person who are/is involved in the evaluation and/or adjudication of the bid(s), or where it is known that such a relationship exists between the person or persons for or on whose behalf the declarant acts and persons who are involved with the evaluation and/or adjudication of the bid.

1.2 In order to give effect to the above, the following questionnaire must be completed and submitted with the Bid.

1.2.1	Full name of bidder or his or her representative:
-------	---

- 1.2.2 Identity number: ______
- 1.2.3 Position occupied in the company (director, trustee, shareholder)
- 1.2.4 Company registration number: _____
- 1.2.5 Tax reference number: ______
- 1.2.6 VAT registration number: ______
- 1.2.6.1 The names of all directors / trustees / shareholders / members, their individual identity numbers, tax reference numbers and, if applicable, employee / persal numbers must be indicated in paragraph 3 below.
- 1.2.6.2 Any legal person, including persons employed by the state¹, or persons having a kinship with persons employed by the State, including a blood relationship, may make an offer or offers in terms of this invitation to bid (includes a price quotation, advertised competitive

[&]quot;"State" means -

a) any national or provincial department, national or provincial public entity or constitutional institution within the meaning of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999);

b) any municipality or municipal entity;

c) provincial legislature;

d) national Assembly or the national Council of provinces; or

e) Parliament.

bid, limited bid or proposal). In view of possible allegations of favouritism, should the resulting Bid, or part thereof, be awarded to persons employed by the State, or to persons connected with or related to them, it is required that the bidder or his/her authorised representative declare his/her position in relation to the evaluating/adjudicating authority where:

- 1.2.6.2.1 the bidder is employed by the state; and/or
- 1.2.6.2.2 the legal person on whose behalf the bidding document is signed, has a relationship with persons/a person who are/is involved in the evaluation and/or adjudication of the Bid(s), or where it is known that such a relationship exists between the person or persons for or on whose behalf the declarant acts and persons who are involved with the evaluation and/or adjudication of the Bid.
- 2 In order to give effect to the above, the following questionnaire must be completed and submitted with the Bid.
- 2.1 Full name of the bidder his representative: or or her 2.2 Identity number: 2.3 shareholder²): Position occupied the company (director, trustee, in 2.4 Company registration number: 2.5 Тах Reference Number: 2.6 VAT Registration Number:

 ² "Shareholder" means a person who owns shares in the company and is actively involved in the management of the enterprise or business and exercises control over the enterprise.
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6.1	The names of all	directors / trustees / shareholder	s / members, their
	numbers, tax refe	erence numbers and, if applicable,	employee / persal
	indicated in paragr	raph 3 below.	
2.7	Are you or any per	rson connected with the bidder	
	presently employe	ed by the state?	

🕦 NATIONAL HEALTH

2.7.1 If so, furnish the following particulars:Name of person / director / trustee / shareholder/ member:

Name of state institution at which you or the person connected to the bidder is employed:

	Position		occupied	t	in	the	st	ate	in	stitution:
	Any				other				pa	rticulars:
2.7.2		•		ed by the sta		•			YES /	NO
				n the public						
	lf yes, d	id you	attach proo	f of such au	thority t	o the Bid doo	ument?		YES /	NO
	<u>(NOTE:</u>		Failure to s	ubmit proof	f of such	authority, v	where app	olicable	, may res	ult in the
	<u>disquali</u>	ificatio	n of the bid	.)						
2.7.2.1	lf n	iot,	furnish	reasons	for	non-subn	nission	of	such	proof:
		-								

2.8	-		y of the company's direc		YES / NO
	trustees /	shareholders / mer	nbers or their spouses co	onduct	
	business v	vith the state in the	previous twelve months	?	
2.8.1	lf	so,	furnish	other	particulars:
2.9	Do you, or	r any person connec	ted with the bidder, hav	re	YES / NO
	any relatio	onship (family, frien	d, other) with a person		
	employed	by the state and w	no may be involved with		
	the evalua	ition and or adjudic	ation of this bid?		
2.9.1	lf	so,	furnish	other	particulars:
2.10	Are you, o	r any person conne	cted with the bidder,		YES/NO
	aware of a	any relationship (far	nily, friend, other) betwe	een	
	any other	bidder and any per	son employed by the sta	te	
	who may l	be involved with the	e evaluation and/or adju	dication	
	of this Bid	?			
2.10.1	If	so,	furnish	other	particulars
					-
2.11	Do you or	any of the directors	s / trustees / shareholde	rs / members	YES/NO
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of the company have any interest in any other related companies

whether or not they are bidding for this contract?

2.11.1	If	so,	furnish	other	particulars:

3. Full details of directors / trustees / members / shareholders

Full name	Identity number	Personal tax reference number	State em number / number	ployee Persal

4. Declaration

I, the undersigned (name) _____

certify that the information furnished in paragraphs 2 and 3 above is correct.

I accept that the State may reject the bid or act against me in terms of paragraph 23 of the GCC should this declaration prove to be false.

Signature

Date

Position

Name of bidder



ANNEXURE E: Preferential Procurement Claim Form (SBD6.1)

PREFERENCE POINTS CLAIM FORM IN TERMS OF THE PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS 2011

This preference form must form part of all bids invited. It contains general information and serves as a claim form for preference points for Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Status Level of Contribution

NB: BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM, BIDDERS MUST STUDY THE GENERAL CONDITIONS, DEFINITIONS AND DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE IN RESPECT OF B-BBEE, AS PRESCRIBED IN THE PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, 2011.

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1.1 The following preference point systems are applicable to all bids:
 - the 80/20 system for requirements with a Rand value of up to R50 000 000 (all applicable taxes included); and
 - the 90/10 system for requirements with a Rand value above R50 000 000 (all applicable taxes included).
- 1.2 The value of this bid is estimated to exceed R50 000 000 (all applicable taxes included) and therefore the 90/10 preference point system shall be applicable.
- 1.2 Points for this bid shall be awarded for:
 - a) Price; and
 - b) B-BBEE Status Level of Contributor.
- 1.3 The maximum points for this bid are allocated as follows:

	POINTS
Price	80/90
B-BBEE Status Level Of Contributor	20/10
Total points for Price and B-BBEE must not exceed	100

- 1.4 Failure on the part of a bidder to submit proof of B-BBEE Status level of contributor together with the bid, will be interpreted to mean that preference points for B-BBEE status level of contribution are not claimed.
- 1.5 The purchaser reserves the right to require of a bidder, either before a bid is adjudicated or at any time subsequently, to substantiate any claim in regard to preferences, in any manner

required by the purchaser.

2. DEFINITIONS

- (a) "B-BBEE" means broad-based black economic empowerment as defined in section 1 of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act;
- (b) "B-BBEE status level of contributor" means the B-BBEE status of an entity in terms of a code of good practice on black economic empowerment, issued in terms of section 9(1) of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act;
- (c) "bid" means a written offer in a prescribed or stipulated form in response to an invitation by an organ of state for the provision of goods or services, through price quotations, advertised competitive bidding processes or proposals;
- (d) "Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act" means the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003 (Act No. 53 of 2003);
- (e) "EME" means an Exempted Micro Enterprise in terms of a code of good practice on black economic empowerment issued in terms of section 9 (1) of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act;
- (f) "functionality" means the ability of a tenderer to provide goods or services in accordance with specifications as set out in the tender documents.
- (g) "prices" includes all applicable taxes less all unconditional discounts;
- (h) "proof of B-BBEE status level of contributor" means:
 - 1) B-BBEE Status level certificate issued by an authorized body or person;
 - 2) A sworn affidavit as prescribed by the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice;
 - 3) Any other requirement prescribed in terms of the B-BBEE Act;
- (i) "QSE" means a qualifying small business enterprise in terms of a code of good practice on black economic empowerment issued in terms of section 9 (1) of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act;
- (*j*) **"rand value"** means the total estimated value of a contract in Rand, calculated at the time of bid invitation, and includes all applicable taxes.

3. ADJUDICATION USING A POINT SYSTEM

3.1 THE 80/20 OR 90/10 PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEMS

A maximum of 80/90 points is allocated for price on the following basis:

80/20 OR 90/10

$$Ps = 80\left(1 - \frac{Pt - P\min}{P\min}\right)$$
 OR $Ps = 90\left(1 - \frac{Pt - P\min}{P\min}\right)$

Where

Ps = Points scored for price of bid under consideration

Pt = Price of bid under consideration

Pmin = Price of lowest acceptable bid

4. Points awarded for B-BBEE Status Level of Contribution

4.1 In terms of Regulation 6 (2) and 7 (2) of the Preferential Procurement Regulations, preference points must be awarded to a bidder for attaining the B-BBEE status level of contribution in accordance with the table below:

B-BBEE Status Level of Contributor	Number of points (80/20 system)	Number of points (90/10 system)
1	20	10
2	18	9
3	14	6
4	12	5
5	8	4
6	6	3
7	4	2
8	2	1
Non-compliant contributor	0	0

5. BID DECLARATION

5.1 Bidders who claim points in respect of B-BBEE Status Level of Contribution must complete the following:

6. B-BBEE STATUS LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION CLAIMED IN TERMS OF PARAGRAPHS 1.4 AND 4.1

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4.1 and must be substantiated by means of a B-BBEE certificate issued by a Verification Agency accredited by SANAS or a Registered Auditor approved by IRBA or an Accounting Officer as contemplated in the CCA).

7. SUB-CONTRACTING

7.1 Will any portion of the contract be sub-contracted?

(Tick applicable box)				
YES		NO		

7.1.1 If yes, indicate:

(i) what percentage of the contract will be subcontracted? _____%

(ii) the name of the sub-contractor?

(iii) the B-BBEE status level of the sub-contractor? ______

(iv) whether the sub-contractor is an EME?

(Tick	applicable	box)

YES	NO	

 (v) Specify, by ticking the appropriate box, if subcontracting with an enterprise in terms of Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017:

Designated Group: An EME or QSE which is at last 51% owned by:	EME √	QSE √
Black people		
Black people who are youth		
Black people who are women		
Black people with disabilities		
Black people living in rural or underdeveloped areas or townships		
Cooperative owned by black people		
Black people who are military veterans		
OR		
Any EME		
Any QSE		

8. DECLARATION WITH REGARD TO COMPANY/FIRM

8.1 Name of company/firm:



- 8.2 VAT registration number:
- 8.3 Company registration number:
- 8.4 Type of Company/Firm
 - Partnership/Joint Venture / Consortium
 - On

1e person business/sole propriety

- Close corporation
- Company
- (Pty) Limited

[TICK APPLICABLE BOX]

8.5 Describe Principal Business Activities

8.6 Company Classification

- Manufacturer
- Supplier
- Professional service provider
- Other service providers, e.g. transporter, etc.

[TICK APPLICABLE BOX]

- 8.7 Total number of years the company/firm has been in business:
- 8.8 I/we, the undersigned, who is / are duly authorised to do so on behalf of the company/firm, certify that the points claimed, based on the B-BBE status level of contributor indicated in paragraphs 1.4 and 6.1 of the foregoing certificate, qualifies the company/ firm for the preference(s) shown and I / we acknowledge that:
 - i) The information furnished is true and correct;
 - ii) The preference points claimed are in accordance with the General Conditions as indicated in paragraph 1 of this form;
 - iii) In the event of a contract being awarded as a result of points claimed as shown in paragraphs 1.4 and 6.1, the contractor may be required to furnish documentary proof to

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the satisfaction of the purchaser that the claims are correct;

- iv) If the B-BBEE status level of contributor has been claimed or obtained on a fraudulent basis or any of the conditions of contract have not been fulfilled, the purchaser may, in addition to any other remedy it may have –
 - (a) disqualify the person from the bidding process;
 - (b) recover costs, losses or damages it has incurred or suffered as a result of that person's conduct;
 - (c) cancel the contract and claim any damages which it has suffered as a result of having to make less favourable arrangements due to such cancellation;
 - (d) recommend that the bidder or contractor, its shareholders and directors, or only the shareholders and directors who acted on a fraudulent basis, be restricted by the National Treasury from obtaining business from any organ of state for a period not exceeding 10 years, after the *audi alteram partem* (hear the other side) rule has been applied; and

WITNESSES	SIGNATURE(S) OF BIDDERS(S)
1	DATE:
2	ADDRESS
2	

(e) forward the matter for criminal prosecution.



SWORN AFFIDAVIT: B-BBEE QUALIFYING SMALL ENTERPRISE: GENERAL

I, the Undersigned

Full Name and Surname:	
Identity Number:	

Hereby declare under oath as follows:

1. The contents of this statement are to the best of my knowledge a true reflection of the

facts.

2. I am a Member / Director / Owner of the following enterprise and am duly authorised

to act on its behalf:

Enterprise Name:	
Trading (if applicable):	
Enterprise Physical	
Address:	
Type of Entity (CC, Pty	
Ltd, Sole Prop etc.)	
Nature of Business:	
	As per the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003 as
	Amended by Act No 46 of 2013 "Black People" is a generic term which
	means Africans, Coloureds and Indians –
	a. Who are citizens of the Republic of South Africa by birth or descent;
Definition of "Black	or
People:	b. Who became citizens of the Republic of South Africa by
	naturalization-
	i. Before 27 April 1994; or
	ii. On or after 27 April 1994 and who would have been entitled to
	acquire citizenship by naturalization prior to that date

- 3. I hereby declare under Oath that:
- The Enterprise is ______% Black Owned as per Amended Code Series 100 of the Amended Codes of Good Practice issued under section 9 (1) of B-BBEE Act No 53 of 2003 as Amended by Act No 46 of 2013.

- The Enterprise is ______% Black Woman Owned as per Amended Code Series 100 of the Amended Codes of Good Practice issued under section 9 (1) of B-BBEE Act No 53 of 2003 as Amended by Act No 46 of 2013.
- The Enterprise is _____% Black Designated Group Owned as per Amended Code Series 100 of the Amended Codes of Good Practice issued under section 9 (1) of B-BBEE Act No 53 of 2003 as Amended by Act No 46 of 2013.
- Based on the Financial Statements/Management Accounts and other information available on the latest financial year-end of ______, the annual Total Revenue was between R10,000,000.00 (Ten Million Rands) and R50,000,000.00 (Fifty Million Rands).
- Please confirm on the table below the B-BBEE level contributor, by ticking the applicable box.

100% Black Owned	Level One (135% B-BBEE procurement recognition level)	
At least 51% Black Owned	Level Two (125% B-BBEE procurement recognition level)	

4. I know and understand the contents of this affidavit and I have no objection to take the prescribed oath and consider the oath binding on my conscience and on the Owners of the Enterprise which I represent in this matter.

5. The sworn affidavit will be valid for a period of 12 months from the date signed by commissioner.

Deponent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Commissioner of Oaths

Signature and Stamp



SWORN AFFIDAVIT: B-BBEE QUALIFYING MICRO ENTERPRISE: GENERAL

I, the Undersigned

Full Name and Surname:	
Identity Number:	

Hereby declare under oath as follows:

- 1. The contents of this statement are to the best of my knowledge a true reflection of the facts.
- 2. I am a Member / Director / Owner of the following enterprise and am duly authorised to act on its behalf:

Enterprise Name:	
Trading (if applicable):	
Enterprise Physical	
Address:	
Type of Entity (CC, Pty	
Ltd, Sole Prop etc.)	
Nature of Business:	
Definition of "Black People:	 As per the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003 as Amended by Act No 46 of 2013 "Black People" is a generic term which means Africans, Coloureds and Indians – c. Who are citizens of the Republic of South Africa by birth or descent; or d. Who became citizens of the Republic of South Africa by naturalization- iii. Before 27 April 1994; or iv. On or after 27 April 1994 and who would have been entitled to acquire citizenship by naturalization prior to that date

- 3. I hereby declare under Oath that:
 - The Enterprise is _____% Black Owned as per Amended Code Series 100 of the Amended Codes of Good Practice issued under section 9 (1) of B-BBEE Act No 53 of 2003 as Amended by Act No 46 of 2013.
 - The Enterprise is ______% Black Woman Owned as per Amended Code Series 100 of the Amended Codes of Good Practice issued under section 9 (1) of B-BBEE Act No 53 of 2003 as Amended by Act No 46 of 2013.

- The Enterprise is _____% Black Designated Group Owned as per Amended Code Series 100 of the Amended Codes of Good Practice issued under section 9 (1) of B-BBEE Act No 53 of 2003 as Amended by Act No 46 of 2013.
- Based on the Financial Statements/Management Accounts and other information available on the latest financial year-end of ______, the annual Total Revenue was between R10,000,000.00 (Ten Million Rands) or less.
- Please confirm on the table below the B-BBEE level contributor, by ticking the applicable box.

100% Black Owned	Level One (135% B-BBEE procurement recognition level)	
At least 51% Black Owned	Level Two (125% B-BBEE procurement recognition level)	
Less than 51% Black Owned	Level Four (100% B-BBEE procurement recognition level)	

- 4. I know and understand the contents of this affidavit and I have no objection to take the prescribed oath and consider the oath binding on my conscience and on the Owners of the Enterprise which I represent in this matter.
- 5. The sworn affidavit will be valid for a period of 12 months from the date signed by commissioner.

Deponent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Commissioner of Oaths Signature and Stamp



ANNEXURE F: Declaration of Bidders Past Supply Chain Practices (SBD8)

DECLARATION OF BIDDER'S PAST SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- **1** This Standard Bidding Document must form part of all bids invited.
- 2 It serves as a declaration to be used by institutions in ensuring that when goods and services are being procured, all reasonable steps are taken to combat the abuse of the supply chain management system.
- **3** The bid of any bidder may be disregarded if that bidder, or any of its directors have:
 - a. abused the institution's supply chain management system;
 - b. committed fraud or any other improper conduct in relation to such system; or
 - c. failed to perform on any previous contract.
- 4 In order to give effect to the above, the following questionnaire must be completed and submitted with the bid.

Item	Question	Yes	No
4.1	Is the bidder or any of its directors listed on the National Treasury's Database	Yes	No
	of Restricted Suppliers as companies or persons prohibited from doing		
	business with the public sector?		
	(Companies or persons who are listed on this Database were informed in		
	writing of this restriction by the Accounting Officer/Authority of the institution		
	that imposed the restriction after the <i>audi alteram partem</i> rule was applied).		
	The Database of Restricted Suppliers now resides on the National Treasury's		
	website(<u>www.treasury.gov.za</u>) and can be accessed by clicking on its link at		
	the bottom of the home page.		
4.1.1	If so, furnish particulars:		
4.2	Is the bidder or any of its directors listed on the Register for Tender Defaulters in terms of section 29 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act (No 12 of 2004)?	Yes	No
	The Register for Tender Defaulters can be accessed on the National		
	Treasury's website (<u>www.treasury.gov.za</u>) by clicking on its link at the bottom of the home page.		
4.2.1	If so, furnish particulars:		

Item	Question	Yes	No
4.3	Was the bidder or any of its directors convicted by a court of law (including a court outside of the Republic of South Africa) for fraud or corruption during the past five years?	Yes	No
4.3.1	If so, furnish particulars:		
4.4	Was any contract between the bidder and any organ of state terminated during the past five years on account of failure to perform on or comply with the contract?	Yes	No
4.4.1	If so, furnish particulars:		
SBD 8			

CERTIFICATION

I, THE UNDERSIGNED (FULL NAME) _____

CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED ON THIS DECLARATION FORM IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

I ACCEPT THAT, IN ADDITION TO CANCELLATION OF A CONTRACT, ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST ME SHOULD THIS DECLARATION PROVE TO BE FALSE.

Signature

Date

Position

Name of bidder

ANNEXURE G: Certificate of Independent Bid Determination (SBD9)

CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT BID DETERMINATION

- 1 This Standard Bidding Document (SBD) must form part of all bids³¹ invited.
- 2 Section 4 (1) (b) (iii) of the Competition Act No. 89 of 1998, as amended, prohibits an agreement between, or concerted practice by, firms, or a decision by an association of firms, if it is between parties in a horizontal relationship and if it involves collusive bidding (or bid rigging).⁴ Collusive bidding is a *pe se* prohibition meaning that it cannot be justified under any grounds.
- 3 Treasury Regulation 16A9 prescribes that accounting officers and accounting authorities must take all reasonable steps to prevent abuse of the supply chain management system and authorizes accounting officers and accounting authorities to:
 - a. disregard the bid of any bidder if that bidder, or any of its directors have abused the institution's supply chain management system and or committed fraud or any other improper conduct in relation to such system.
 - b. cancel a contract awarded to a supplier of goods and services if the supplier committed any corrupt or fraudulent act during the bidding process or the execution of that contract.
- 4 This SBD serves as a certificate of declaration that would be used by institutions to ensure that, when bids are considered, reasonable steps are taken to prevent any form of bid-rigging.
- 5 In order to give effect to the above, the attached Certificate of Bid Determination (SBD 9) must be completed and submitted with the bid:

³ Includes price quotations, advertised competitive bids, limited bids and proposals.

⁴ Bid rigging (or collusive bidding) occurs when businesses, that would otherwise be expected to compete, secretly conspire to raise prices or lower the quality of goods and / or services for purchasers who wish to acquire goods and / or services through a bidding process. Bid rigging is, therefore, an agreement between competitors not to compete.



SBD 9

Certificate of Independent Bid Determination

I, the undersigned, in submitting the accompanying bid:

(Bid Number and Description)

in response to the invitation for the bid made by:

(Name of Institution)

do hereby make the following statements that I certify to be true and complete in every respect:

I	certify,	on		behalf
of_			that:	

(Name of Bidder)

- 7 I have read and I understand the contents of this certificate.
- 8 I understand that the accompanying bid will be disqualified if this certificate is found not to be true and complete in every respect.
- 9 I am authorised by the bidder to sign this certificate, and to submit the accompanying bid, on behalf of the bidder.
- 10 Each person whose signature appears on the accompanying bid has been authorised by the bidder to determine the terms of, and to sign the bid, on behalf of the bidder.
- 11 For the purposes of this certificate and the accompanying bid, I understand that the word "competitor" shall include any individual or organisation, other than the bidder, whether or not affiliated with the bidder, who:

- 5.1 has been requested to submit a bid in response to this bid invitation;
- 5.2 could potentially submit a bid in response to this bid invitation, based on their qualifications, abilities or experience; and
- 5.3 provides the same goods and services as the bidder and/or is in the same line of business as the bidder.
- 12 The bidder has arrived at the accompanying bid independently from, and without consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with any competitor. However, communication between partners in a joint venture or consortium⁵ will not be construed as collusive bidding.
- 13 In particular, without limiting the generality of paragraphs 6 above, there has been no consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with any competitor regarding:
 - 13.1 prices;
 - 13.2 geographical area where product or service will be rendered (market allocation)
 - 13.3 methods, factors or formulas used to calculate prices;
 - 13.4 the intention or decision to submit or not to submit, a bid;
 - 13.5 the submission of a bid which does not meet the specifications and conditions of the bid; or
 - 13.6 bidding with the intention not to win the Bid.
- 14 In addition, there have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements with any competitor regarding the quality, quantity, specifications and conditions or delivery particulars of the products or services to which this bid invitation relates.
- 15 The terms of the accompanying bid have not been, and will not be, disclosed by the bidder, directly or indirectly, to any competitor, prior to the date and time of the official bid opening or of the awarding of the contract.
- 10. I am aware that, in addition and without prejudice to any other remedy provided to combat any restrictive practices related to Bids and contracts, Bids that are suspicious will be reported to the Competition Commission for investigation and possible imposition of administrative penalties in terms of section 59 of the Competition Act No 89 of 1998 and/or may be reported to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for criminal investigation and/or may be restricted from conducting business with the public sector for a period not exceeding ten (10) years in

 ⁵ Joint venture or Consortium means an association of persons for the purpose of combining their expertise, property, capital, efforts, skill and knowledge in an activity for the execution of a contract.
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terms of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act No 12 of 2004 or any other applicable legislation.

Signature

Date

Position

Name of bidder



ANNEXURE H: Government Procurement: General Conditions of Contract – July 2011 NOTES

The purpose of this document is to:

(i) Draw special attention to certain general conditions applicable to government Bids, contracts and orders; and

(ii) To ensure that clients be familiar with regard to the rights and obligations of all parties involved in doing business with government.

In this document words in the singular also mean in the plural and vice versa and words in the masculine also mean in the feminine and neuter.

² The GCC will form part of all bid documents and may not be amended.

I Special Conditions of Contract (SCC) relevant to a specific bid, should be compiled separately for every bid (if (applicable) and will supplement the GCC. Whenever there is a conflict, the provisions in the SCC shall prevail.

TABLE OF CLAUSES

- 1. Definitions
- 2. Application
- 3. General
- 4. Standards
- 5. Use of contract documents and information; inspection
- 6. Patent rights
- 7. Performance security
- 8. Inspections, tests and analysis
- 9. Packing
- 10. Delivery and documents
- 11. Insurance
- 12. Transportation
- 13. Incidental services
- 14. Spare parts
- 15. Warranty
- 16. Payment
- 17. Prices
- 18. Contract amendments

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- 19. Assignment
- 20. Subcontracts
- 21. Delays in the supplier's performance
- 22. Penalties
- 23. Termination for default
- 24. Dumping and countervailing duties
- 25. Force Majeure
- 26. Termination for insolvency
- 27. Settlement of disputes
- 28. Limitation of liability
- 29. Governing language
- 30. Applicable law
- 31. Notices
- 32. Taxes and duties
- 33. National Industrial Participation Programme (NIPP)
- 34. Prohibition of restrictive practices

General conditions of contract

1. Definitions

The following terms shall be interpreted as indicated:

- "Closing time" means the date and hour specified in the bidding documents for the receipt of Bids.
- 1.2 "Contract" means the written agreement entered into between the purchaser and the supplier, as recorded in the contract form signed by the parties, including all attachments and appendices thereto and all documents incorporated by reference therein.
- 1.3 "Contract price" means the price payable to the supplier under the contract for the full and proper performance of his contractual obligations.
- 1.4 "Corrupt practice" means the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of anything of value to influence the action of a public official in the procurement process or in contract execution.
- 1.5 "Countervailing duties" are imposed in cases where an enterprise abroad is subsidized by its government and encouraged to market its products internationally.
- 1.6 "Country of origin" means the place where the goods were mined, grown or produced or from which the services are supplied. Goods are produced when, through manufacturing, processing or substantial and major assembly of components, a commercially recognized new product

results that is substantially different in basic characteristics or in purpose or utility from its components.

- 1.7 "Day" means calendar day.
- 1.8 "Delivery" means delivery in compliance of the conditions of the contract or order.
- 1.9 "Delivery ex stock" means immediate delivery directly from stock actually on hand.
- 1.10 "Delivery into consignees store or to his site" means delivered and unloaded in the specified store or depot or on the specified site in compliance with the conditions of the contract or order, the supplier bearing all risks and charges involved until the supplies are so delivered and a valid receipt is obtained.
- 1.11 "Dumping" occurs when a private enterprise abroad market its goods on own initiative in the RSA at lower prices than that of the country of origin and which have the potential to harm the local industries in the RSA.
- 1.12 "Force majeure" means an event beyond the control of the supplier and not involving the supplier's fault or negligence and not foreseeable. Such events may include, but is not restricted to, acts of the purchaser in its sovereign capacity, wars or revolutions, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions and freight embargoes.
- 1.13 "Fraudulent practice" means a misrepresentation of facts in order to influence a procurement process or the execution of a contract to the detriment of any bidder, and includes collusive practice among bidders (prior to or after bid submission) designed to establish bid prices at artificial non-competitive levels and to deprive the bidder of the benefits of free and open competition.
- 1.14 "GCC" means the General Conditions of Contract.
- 1.15 "Goods" means all of the equipment, machinery, and/or other materials that the supplier is required to supply to the purchaser under the contract.
- 1.16 "Imported content" means that portion of the bidding price represented by the cost of components, parts or materials which have been or are still to be imported (whether by the supplier or his subcontractors) and which costs are inclusive of the costs abroad, plus freight and other direct importation costs such as landing costs, dock dues, import duty, sales duty or other similar tax or duty at the South African place of entry as well as transportation and handling charges to the factory in the Republic where the supplies covered by the bid will be manufactured.
- 1.17 "Local content" means that portion of the bidding price which is not included in the imported content provided that local manufacture does take place.
- 1.18 "Manufacture" means the production of products in a factory using labour, materials, components and machinery and includes other related value-adding activities.

- 1.20 "Project site," where applicable, means the place indicated in bidding documents.
- 1.21 "Purchaser" means the organisation purchasing the goods.
- 1.22 "Republic" means the RSA.

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- 1.23 "SCC" means the Special Conditions of Contract.
- 1.24 "Services" means those functional services ancillary to the supply of the goods, such as transportation and any other incidental services, such as installation, commissioning, provision of technical assistance, training, catering, gardening, security, maintenance and other such obligations of the supplier covered under the contract.
- 1.25 "Written" or "in writing" means handwritten in ink or any form of electronic or mechanical writing.

2. Application

- 2.1 These general conditions are applicable to all Bids, contracts and orders including Bids for functional and professional services, sales, hiring, letting and the granting or acquiring of rights, but excluding immovable property, unless otherwise indicated in the bidding documents.
- 2.2 Where applicable, SCC are also laid down to cover specific supplies, services or works.
- 2.3 Where such SCC are in conflict with these general conditions, the special conditions shall apply.
- 3. General
- 3.1 Unless otherwise indicated in the bidding documents, the purchaser shall not be liable for any expense incurred in the preparation and submission of a bid. Where applicable a non-refundable fee for documents may be charged.
- With certain exceptions, invitations to bid are only published in the Government Tender Bulletin.
 The Government Tender Bulletin may be obtained directly from the Government Printer, Private
 Bag X85, Pretoria 0001, or accessed electronically from www.treasury.gov.za

4. Standards

4.1 The goods supplied shall conform to the standards mentioned in the bidding documents and specifications.

5. Use of contract documents and information; inspection

5.1 The supplier shall not, without the purchaser's prior written consent, disclose the contract, or any provision thereof, or any specification, plan, drawing, pattern, sample, or information furnished by or on behalf of the purchaser in connection therewith, to any person other than a person employed by the supplier in the performance of the contract. Disclosure to any such employed person shall be made in confidence and shall extend only so far as may be necessary for purposes of such performance.

- 5.2 The supplier shall not, without the purchaser's prior written consent, make use of any document or information mentioned in GCC clause 5.1 except for purposes of performing the contract.
- 5.3 Any document, other than the contract itself mentioned in GCC clause 5.1 shall remain the property of the purchaser and shall be returned (all copies) to the purchaser on completion of the supplier's performance under the contract if so required by the purchaser.
- 5.4 The supplier shall permit the purchaser to inspect the supplier's records relating to the performance of the supplier and to have them audited by auditors appointed by the purchaser, if so required by the purchaser.

6. Patent rights

6.1 The supplier shall indemnify the purchaser against all third-party claims of infringement of patent, trademark, or industrial design rights arising from use of the goods or any part thereof by the purchaser.

7. Performance security

- 7.1 Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notification of contract award, the successful bidder shall furnish to the purchaser the performance security of the amount specified in SCC.
- 7.2 The proceeds of the performance security shall be payable to the purchaser as compensation for any loss resulting from the supplier's failure to complete his obligations under the contract.
- 7.3 The performance security shall be denominated in the currency of the contract, or in a freely convertible currency acceptable to the purchaser and shall be in one of the following forms:
- 7.3.1 a bank guarantee or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank located in the purchaser's country or abroad, acceptable to the purchaser, in the form provided in the bidding documents or another form acceptable to the purchaser; or
- 7.3.2 a cashier's or certified cheque
- 7.4 The performance security will be discharged by the purchaser and returned to the supplier not later than thirty (30) days following the date of completion of the supplier's performance obligations under the contract, including any warranty obligations, unless otherwise specified in SCC.

8. Inspections, tests and analyses

- 8.1 All pre-bidding testing will be for the account of the bidder.
- 8.2 If it is a bid condition that supplies to be produced or services to be rendered should at any stage during production or execution or on completion be subject to inspection, the premises of the bidder or contractor shall be open, at all reasonable hours, for inspection by a representative of the Department or an organisation acting on behalf of the Department.
- 8.3 If there are no inspection requirements indicated in the bidding documents and no mention is made in the contract, but during the contract period it is decided that inspections shall be carried out, the purchaser shall itself make the necessary arrangements, including payment arrangements with the testing authority concerned.
- 8.4 If the inspections, tests and analyses referred to in clauses 8.2 and 8.3 show the supplies to be in accordance with the contract requirements, the cost of the inspections, tests and analyses shall be defrayed by the purchaser.
- 8.5 Where the supplies or services referred to in clauses 8.2 and 8.3 do not comply with the contract requirements, irrespective of whether such supplies or services are accepted or not, the cost in connection with these inspections, tests or analyses shall be defrayed by the supplier.
- 8.6 Supplies and services which are referred to in clauses 8.2 and 8.3 and which do not comply with the contract requirements may be rejected.
- 8.7 Any contract supplies may on or after delivery be inspected, tested or analysed and may be rejected if found not to comply with the requirements of the contract. Such rejected supplies shall be held at the cost and risk of the supplier who shall, when called upon, remove them immediately at his own cost and forthwith substitute them with supplies which do comply with the requirements of the contract. Failing such removal, the rejected supplies shall be returned at the suppliers cost and risk. Should the supplier fail to provide the substitute the rejected supplies forthwith, the purchaser may, without giving the supplier further opportunity to substitute the rejected supplies, purchase such supplies as may be necessary at the expense of the supplier.
- 8.8 The provisions of clauses 8.4 to 8.7 shall not prejudice the right of the purchaser to cancel the contract on account of a breach of the conditions thereof, or to act in terms of Clause 23 of GCC.

9. Packing

9.1 The supplier shall provide such packing of the goods as is required to prevent their damage or deterioration during transit to their final destination, as indicated in the contract. The packing shall be sufficient to withstand, without limitation, rough handling during transit and exposure

to extreme temperatures, salt and precipitation during transit, and open storage. Packing, case size and weights shall take into consideration, where appropriate, the remoteness of the goods' final destination and the absence of heavy handling facilities at all points in transit.

9.2 The packing, marking, and documentation within and outside the packages shall comply strictly with such special requirements as shall be expressly provided for in the contract, including additional requirements, if any, specified in SCC, and in any subsequent instructions ordered by the purchaser.

10. Delivery and documents

- 10.1 Delivery of the goods shall be made by the supplier in accordance with the terms specified in the contract. The details of shipping and/or other documents to be furnished by the supplier are specified in SCC.
- 10.2 Documents to be submitted by the supplier are specified in SCC.

11. Insurance

11.1 The goods supplied under the contract shall be fully insured in a freely convertible currency against loss or damage incidental to manufacture or acquisition, transportation, storage and delivery in the manner specified in the SCC.

12. Transportation

12.1 Should a price other than an all-inclusive delivered price be required, this shall be specified in the SCC.

13. Incidental services

- 13.1 The supplier may be required to provide any or all of the following services, including additional services, if any, specified in SCC:
- 13.1.1 performance or supervision of on-site assembly and/or commissioning of the supplied goods;
- 13.1.2 furnishing of tools required for assembly and/or maintenance of the supplied goods;
- 13.1.3 furnishing of a detailed operations and maintenance manual for each appropriate unit of the supplied goods;
- 13.1.4 performance or supervision or maintenance and/or repair of the supplied goods, for a period of time agreed by the parties, provided that this service shall not relieve the supplier of any warranty obligations under this contract; and
- 13.1.5 training of the purchaser's personnel, at the supplier's plant and/or on-site, in assembly, startup, operation, maintenance, and/or repair of the supplied goods.

13.2 Prices charged by the supplier for incidental services, if not included in the contract price for the goods, shall be agreed upon in advance by the parties and shall not exceed the prevailing rates charged to other parties by the supplier for similar services.

14. Spare parts

- 14.1 As specified in SCC, the supplier may be required to provide any or all of the following materials, notifications, and information pertaining to spare parts manufactured or distributed by the supplier:
- 14.1.1 such spare parts as the purchaser may elect to purchase from the supplier, provided that this election shall not relieve the supplier of any warranty obligations under the contract; and
- 14.1.2 in the event of termination of production of the spare parts:
- 14.1.2.1 Advance notification to the purchaser of the pending termination, in sufficient time to permit the purchaser to procure needed requirements; and
- 14.1.2.2 following such termination, furnishing at no cost to the purchaser, the blueprints, drawings, and specifications of the spare parts, if requested.

15. Warranty

- 15.1 The supplier warrants that the goods supplied under the contract are new, unused, of the most recent or current models, and that they incorporate all recent improvements in design and materials unless provided otherwise in the contract. The supplier further warrants that all goods supplied under this contract shall have no defect, arising from design, materials, or workmanship (except when the design and/or material is required by the purchaser's specifications) or from any act or omission of the supplier, that may develop under normal use of the supplied goods in the conditions prevailing in the country of final destination.
- 15.2 This warranty shall remain valid for twelve (12) months after the goods, or any portion thereof as the case may be, have been delivered to and accepted at the final destination indicated in the contract, or for eighteen (18) months after the date of shipment from the port or place of loading in the source country, whichever period concludes earlier, unless specified otherwise in SCC.
- 15.3 The purchaser shall promptly notify the supplier in writing of any claims arising under this warranty.
- 15.4 Upon receipt of such notice, the supplier shall, within the period specified in SCC and with all reasonable speed, repair or replace the defective goods or parts thereof, without costs to the purchaser.
- 15.5 If the supplier, having been notified, fails to remedy the defect(s) within the period specified in SCC, the purchaser may proceed to take such remedial action as may be necessary, at the

supplier's risk and expense and without prejudice to any other rights which the purchaser may have against the supplier under the contract.

16. Payment

- 16.1 The method and conditions of payment to be made to the supplier under this contract shall be specified in SCC.
- 16.2 The supplier shall furnish the purchaser with an invoice accompanied by a copy of the delivery note and upon fulfilment of other obligations stipulated in the contract.
- 16.3 Payments shall be made promptly by the purchaser, but in no case later than thirty (30) days after submission of an invoice or claim by the supplier.
- 16.4 Payment will be made in rand unless otherwise stipulated in SCC.

17. Prices

17.1 Prices charged by the supplier for goods delivered and services performed under the contract shall not vary from the prices quoted by the supplier in his bid, with the exception of any price adjustments authorised in SCC or in the purchaser's request for bid validity extension, as the case may be.

18. Contract amendments

18.1 No variation in or modification of the terms of the contract shall be made except by written amendment signed by the parties concerned.

19. Assignment

19.1 The supplier shall not assign, in whole or in part, its obligations to perform under the contract, except with the purchaser's prior written consent.

20. Subcontracts

20.1 The supplier shall notify the purchaser in writing of all subcontracts awarded under this contract if not already specified in the bid. Such notification, in the original bid or later, shall not relieve the supplier from any liability or obligation under the contract.

21. Delays in the supplier's performance

21.1 Delivery of the goods and performance of services shall be made by the supplier in accordance with the time schedule prescribed by the purchaser in the contract.

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- 21.2 If at any time during performance of the contract, the supplier or its subcontractor(s) should encounter conditions impeding timely delivery of the goods and performance of services, the supplier shall promptly notify the purchaser in writing of the fact of the delay, its likely duration and its cause(s). As soon as practicable after receipt of the supplier's notice, the purchaser shall evaluate the situation and may at his discretion extend the supplier's time for performance, with or without the imposition of penalties, in which case the extension shall be ratified by the parties by amendment of contract.
- 21.3 No provision in a contract shall be deemed to prohibit the obtaining of supplies or services from a national department, provincial department, or a local authority.
- 21.4 The right is reserved to procure outside of the contract small quantities or to have minor essential services executed if an emergency arises, the supplier's point of supply is not situated at or near the place where the supplies are required, or the supplier's services are not readily available.
- 21.5 Except as provided under GCC Clause 25, a delay by the supplier in the performance of its delivery obligations shall render the supplier liable to the imposition of penalties, pursuant to GCC Clause 22, unless an extension of time is agreed upon pursuant to GCC Clause 21.2 without the application of penalties.
- 21.6 Upon any delay beyond the delivery period in the case of a supplies contract, the purchaser shall, without cancelling the contract, be entitled to purchase supplies of a similar quality and up to the same quantity in substitution of the goods not supplied in conformity with the contract and to return any goods delivered later at the supplier's expense and risk, or to cancel the contract and buy such goods as may be required to complete the contract and without prejudice to his other rights, be entitled to claim damages from the supplier.

22. Penalties

22.1 Subject to GCC Clause 25, if the supplier fails to deliver any or all of the goods or to perform the services within the period(s) specified in the contract, the purchaser shall, without prejudice to its other remedies under the contract, deduct from the contract price, as a penalty, a sum calculated on the delivered price of the delayed goods or unperformed services using the current prime interest rate calculated for each day of the delay until actual delivery or performance. The purchaser may also consider termination of the contract pursuant to GCC Clause 23.

23. Termination for default

- 23.1 The purchaser, without prejudice to any other remedy for breach of contract, by written notice of default sent to the supplier, may terminate this contract in whole or in part:
- 23.1.1 if the supplier fails to deliver any or all of the goods within the period(s) specified in the contract, or within any extension thereof granted by the purchaser pursuant to GCC Clause 21.2;
- 23.1.2 if the Supplier fails to perform any other obligation(s) under the contract; or
- 23.1.3 if the supplier, in the judgment of the purchaser, has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing the contract.
- 23.2 In the event the purchaser terminates the contract in whole or in part, the purchaser may procure, upon such terms and in such manner as it deems appropriate, goods, works or services similar to those undelivered, and the supplier shall be liable to the purchaser for any excess costs for such similar goods, works or services. However, the supplier shall continue performance of the contract to the extent not terminated.
- 23.3 Where the purchaser terminates the contract in whole or in part, the purchaser may decide to impose a restriction penalty on the supplier by prohibiting such supplier from doing business with the public sector for a period not exceeding 10 years.
- 23.4 If a purchaser intends imposing a restriction on a supplier or any person associated with the supplier, the supplier will be allowed a time period of not more than fourteen (14) days to provide reasons why the envisaged restriction should not be imposed. Should the supplier fail to respond within the stipulated fourteen (14) days the purchaser may regard the intended penalty as not objected against and may impose it on the supplier.
- 23.5 Any restriction imposed on any person by the Accounting Officer / Authority will, at the discretion of the Accounting Officer / Authority, also be applicable to any other enterprise or any partner, manager, director or other person who wholly or partly exercises or exercised or may exercise control over the enterprise of the first-mentioned person, and with which enterprise or person the first-mentioned person, is or was in the opinion of the Accounting Officer / Authority associated.
- 23.6 If a restriction is imposed, the purchaser must, within five (5) working days of such imposition, furnish the National Treasury, with the following information:
- 23.6.1 the name and address of the supplier and / or person restricted by the purchaser;
- 23.6.2 the date of commencement of the restriction
- 23.6.3 the period of restriction; and
- 23.6.4 the reasons for the restriction.
- 23.7 These details will be loaded in the National Treasury's central database of suppliers or persons prohibited from doing business with the public sector.
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23.8 If a court of law convicts a person of an offence as contemplated in sections 12 or 13 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, No. 12 of 2004, the court may also rule that such person's name be endorsed on the Register for Tender Defaulters. When a person's name has been endorsed on the Register, the person will be prohibited from doing business with the public sector for a period not less than five years and not more than 10 years. The National Treasury is empowered to determine the period of restriction and each case will be dealt with on its own merits. According to section 32 of the Act the Register must be open to the public. The Register can be perused on the National Treasury website.

24. Anti-dumping and countervailing duties and rights

24.1 When, after the date of bid, provisional payments are required, or anti-dumping or countervailing duties are imposed, or the amount of a provisional payment or anti-dumping or countervailing right is increased in respect of any dumped or subsidized import, the State is not liable for any amount so required or imposed, or for the amount of any such increase. When, after the said date, such a provisional payment is no longer required or any such anti-dumping or countervailing right is abolished, or where the amount of such provisional payment or any such right is reduced, any such favourable difference shall on demand be paid forthwith by the contractor to the State or the State may deduct such amounts from moneys (if any) which may otherwise be due to the contractor in regard to supplies or services which he delivered or rendered, or is to deliver or render in terms of the contract or any other contract or any other amount which may be due to him.

25. Force majeure

- 25.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of GCC Clauses 22 and 23, the supplier shall not be liable for forfeiture of its performance security, damages, or termination for default if and to the extent that his delay in performance or other failure to perform his obligations under the contract is the result of an event of force majeure.
- 25.2 If a force majeure situation arises, the supplier shall promptly notify the purchaser in writing of such condition and the cause thereof. Unless otherwise directed by the purchaser in writing, the supplier shall continue to perform its obligations under the contract as far as is reasonably practical, and shall seek all reasonable alternative means for performance not prevented by the force majeure event.

26. Termination for insolvency

26.1 The purchaser may at any time terminate the contract by giving written notice to the supplier if the supplier becomes bankrupt or otherwise insolvent. In this event, termination will be without

compensation to the supplier, provided that such termination will not prejudice or affect any right of action or remedy which has accrued or will accrue thereafter to the purchaser.

27. Settlement of disputes

- 27.1 If any dispute or difference of any kind whatsoever arises between the purchaser and the supplier in connection with or arising out of the contract, the parties shall make every effort to resolve amicably such dispute or difference by mutual consultation.
- 27.2 If, after thirty (30) days, the parties have failed to resolve their dispute or difference by such mutual consultation, then either the purchaser or the supplier may give notice to the other party of his intention to commence with mediation. No mediation in respect of this matter may be commenced unless such notice is given to the other party.
- 27.3 Should it not be possible to settle a dispute by means of mediation, it may be settled in a South African court of law.
- 27.4 Mediation proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure specified in the SCC.
- 27.5 Notwithstanding any reference to mediation and/or court proceedings herein,
- 27.5.1 the parties shall continue to perform their respective obligations under the contract unless they otherwise agree; and
- 27.5.2 the purchaser shall pay the supplier any monies due the supplier.

28. Limitation of liability

- 28.1 Except in cases of criminal negligence or wilful misconduct, and in the case of infringement pursuant to Clause 6;
- 28.1.1 the supplier shall not be liable to the purchaser, whether in contract, tort, or otherwise, for any indirect or consequential loss or damage, loss of use, loss of production, or loss of profits or interest costs, provided that this exclusion shall not apply to any obligation of the supplier to pay penalties and/or damages to the purchaser; and
- 28.1.2 the aggregate liability of the supplier to the purchaser, whether under the contract, in tort or otherwise, shall not exceed the total contract price, provided that this limitation shall not apply to the cost of repairing or replacing defective equipment.

29. Governing language

29.1 The contract shall be written in English. All correspondence and other documents pertaining to the contract that is exchanged by the parties shall also be written in English.

30.1 The contract shall be interpreted in accordance with South African laws, unless otherwise specified in SCC.

31. Notices

- 31.1 Every written acceptance of a bid shall be posted to the supplier concerned by registered or certified mail and any other notice to him shall be posted by ordinary mail to the address furnished in his bid or to the address notified later by him in writing and such posting shall be deemed to be proper service of such notice
- 31.2 The time mentioned in the contract documents for performing any act after such aforesaid notice has been given, shall be reckoned from the date of posting of such notice.

32. Taxes and duties

- 32.1 A foreign supplier shall be entirely responsible for all taxes, stamp duties, license fees, and other such levies imposed outside the purchaser's country.
- 32.2 A local supplier shall be entirely responsible for all taxes, duties, license fees, etc., incurred until delivery of the contracted goods to the purchaser.
- 32.3 No contract shall be concluded with any bidder whose tax matters are not in order. Prior to the award of a bid the Department must be in possession of a tax clearance certificate, submitted by the bidder. This certificate must be an original issued by the SARSs.

33. National Industrial Participation (NIP) Programme

33.1 The NIP Programme administered by the DTI shall be applicable to all contracts that are subject to the NIP obligation.

34. Prohibition of restrictive practices

- 34.1 In terms of section 4 (1) (b) (iii) of the Competition Act No. 89 of 1998, as amended, an agreement between, or concerted practice by, firms, or a decision by an association of firms, is prohibited if it is between parties in a horizontal relationship and if a bidder (s) is / are or a contractor(s) was / were involved in collusive bidding (or bid rigging).
- 34.2 If a bidder(s) or contractor(s), based on reasonable grounds or evidence obtained by the purchaser, has / have engaged in the restrictive practice referred to above, the purchaser may refer the matter to the Competition Commission for investigation and possible imposition of administrative penalties as contemplated in the Competition Act No. 89 of 1998.
- 34.3 If a bidder(s) or contractor(s), has / have been found guilty by the Competition Commission of the restrictive practice referred to above, the purchaser may, in addition and without prejudice to any other remedy provided for, invalidate the bid(s) for such item(s) offered, and / or

terminate the contract in whole or part, and / or restrict the bidder(s) or contractor(s) from conducting business with the public sector for a period not exceeding ten (10) years and / or claim damages from the bidder(s) or contractor(s) concerned.

The above General Conditions of Contract (GCC) are accepted by:

Name:	
Designation:	
Bidder:	
Signature:	
Date:	