

RFP142/2026: Additional Written Responses to Clarification Questions Received

1. Question: Economic Complexity Analysis Duration

Response: The Economic Complexity Analysis is expected to be completed within 10 months. The 12-month period reflected in the Deliverables and Timeframes table was included to provide additional flexibility in the overall project schedule and to accommodate potential delays in data availability, stakeholder engagement, review processes, and approval timelines. Bidders should plan for technical completion of the analysis within 10 months.

2. Question: Comprehensive Socio-Economic Analysis Duration

Response: The Comprehensive Socio-Economic Analysis is expected to be completed within 4 months. The 6-month period reflected in the Deliverables and Timeframes table was included to provide additional flexibility in the overall project schedule and to accommodate potential delays in data collection, stakeholder engagement, review processes, and approval timelines. Bidders should plan for technical completion of the analysis within 4 months.

3. Question: Could DBSA confirm the expected level of analysis and whether the Eastern Cape study output will be made available?

Response: Bidders should refer to the requirements set out in the TOR and propose an approach that addresses the specified outputs at the applicable geographic scales. Any relevant background information and existing studies available to the project will be made available to the successful bidder upon appointment.

4. Question: Is the Harvard Growth Lab methodology mandatory, and is the experience requirement 5 years or 7 years?

Response: The reference to the Harvard Growth Lab methodology is intended as a benchmark for internationally recognised economic complexity approaches. Alternative methodologies may be proposed, provided that they are internationally recognised and adequately meet the objectives and requirements of the assignment.

The minimum experience requirement for the Economic Complexity Specialist is **five (5) years**.

5. Question: Could DBSA clarify the preferred platform, hosting requirements and source file requirements?

Response: DBSA does not prescribe a specific platform for the development of the product space mapping tool/dashboard. Bidders may propose the platform they consider most appropriate to meet the requirements of the assignment. The final solution, including all underlying source files and

supporting documentation, must be handed over to DBSA upon completion of the project. Any hosting requirements, where applicable, should be clearly specified in the bidder's proposal.

6. Question: Can Completion Certificates be submitted in place of Reference Letters?

Response: Reference Letters remain the form of evidence required.

7. Question: May consortium experience be aggregated, and must each consortium member complete the SBD forms?

Response: Where a consortium is proposed, the project experience of consortium members may be considered collectively in demonstrating the consortium's overall capability to deliver the assignment. In addition, all consortium members must comply with the applicable bid requirements and complete the relevant statutory and SBD documentation as required by the tender.

8. Question: The Socio-Economic Specialist scoring indicates that 3-4 years' experience scores 3 points, while less than 5 years scores 0. Should the zero-score criterion be less than 3 years?

Response: This is a typographical inconsistency. The correct scoring should be interpreted as follows:

- At least 5 years or more experience = 5;
- 3-4 years experience = 3;
- Less than 3 years experience = 0.