



SOUTH AFRICA

Electoral Commission

Auction 0010501535

Public Website Hosting

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Failure to comply with the completion of the bid conditions and the required information (i.e. Make, model and size of Hardware) or submission of the required stipulated documents indicated below (e.g. non submission of the required reseller authorisation details and warranty stipulations) shall invalidate a bid.

1 Introduction

The Electoral Commission (IEC) is seeking to procure website hosting services from an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to host its website for a period not exceeding 12 months from September 2023 to cater for National and Provincial Elections (NPE) 2024.

The service provider is required to provide a number of Virtual Machines for the Web sites, Application Program Interface (API) and Maps services. The service provider is also required to provide data storage facility. The IEC will provide security infrastructure in the form of Fortinet equipment and licenses, it is required of the service provider to configure these to secure the IEC website over and above at their own hosting security environment.

The service provider will also provide redundant connectivity to the Internet with bandwidth ranging from 100 Mbps up to 10 Gbps. The bandwidth should be scalable up and down within 2 hours of the IEC's formal request to meet the demands at that time. The service provider is also to provide support services including daily, weekly and monthly configuration and database backups. This is a consumption based requirement where the IEC will only pay for the infrastructure and services utilized during the hosting period.

Bidders must place a bid on the Votaquotes (e-Procurement) system and then provide all the required documentation before the due dates as specified in this document and on the Votaquotes web site.

2 Background Information

During elections, the IEC prefers to host the public website at an Internet Service Provider, away from its data centre mainly for the following reasons:

- a) Being at an ISP means that Internet Access is not limited to the physical line capacity between the ISP and the IEC. The Internet Connectivity can be scaled up/down at request to allow good response times as and when needed.
- b) Being at an ISP, other infrastructure elements such as servers and storage can be increased much quicker and easier as the need arises than at IEC's data centre.

This request is to host the public website of the IEC for a period not exceeding 12 months starting in September 2023.

The Electoral Commission has invested extensively in ICT technologies, which provide a platform to effectively support and enable its business processes and to meet its goal of providing a free and fair election process in an open and transparent environment. The Electoral Commission's ICT Department intends to continue running a highly efficient, secure and stable ICT environment making full use of industry standards, best practices and disciplines based upon stable, secure and reliable technologies.

3 Bid Requirements

The IEC seeks a hosting solution on an Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) mechanism for a period not exceeding 12 months at a hosting facility that includes the following:

Item	Category	Sub Item Description	Quantity
1	Data Centre	a) Racks to house the equipment and storage Bidder to determine the number of racks to accommodate the Fortinet security equipment and the 10 2U physical servers the IEC will provide, however for adjudication purposes bidder is to quote on 2 racks	2
		b) Structured Cabling for the equipment that includes fibre for the security equipment and copper (Ethernet) for the physical servers to be provided. .	1
		c) Provision of redundant 10 Gbps or more switch(es) for the environment Bidder to determine the number of switches, however for adjudication purposes the bidder is to quote on 144 ports (3 x 48 ports switches)	144 ports
2	Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)	a) Provision of Virtual Servers	106
		b) Provision of 100 TB usable redundant storage with an option to scale up to 200 TB usable storage. The IEC prefers Solid State Drives (SSD) storage	1
		c) Installation and configuration service of the servers with an image supplied by the IEC including patching to the latest level of Operating System (Win 2016)	1
		d) Connection of all equipment on the Network including hooking up DB Servers to the Storage	1

Item	Category	Sub Item Description	Quantity
3	Security The IEC will provide the security equipment and licenses	a) Deployment and configuration of Fortinet Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) appliance (2U) at the perimeter of the hosted platform working together with the IEC	1
		b) Deployment and configuration of the Fortigate Firewalls (2U)	2
		c) Deployment and configuration of the FortiWeb Web Application Firewalls (2U)	2
		d) Deployment and configuration of the FortiADC Load balancers (1U)	2
		e) Deployment and configuration of the FortiAnalyzer (1U)	1
4	Internet Connectivity	a) Redundant Internet (Dual Diverse) Lines with capacity that ranges from 100 Mbps – 10 Gbps, i.e. that can be scaled up to 10 Gbps within 2 hours of receipt of IEC's formal request.	1
5	Support and Maintenance	a) Remote access for IEC staff for management purposes	1
		b) First Level Monitoring, Management, Backups and other operational requirements for the deployed equipment	1
		c) The IEC will provide second level support to all deployed equipment save the Fortinet equipment which shall be supported by the security resource provided by the bidder	1
		d) The servers must be self-managed with the IEC having full remote access to the server environment	1

The IEC will also provide 6 x physical servers (2U each in size) to be used for Databases and four (4) other utilities and scanning solution servers. The bidder must house these in the rack space provided as well. The IEC will also be responsible to install the applications running on the environment including the database structures and the data itself. The bidder must however understand that this is a consumption based service and the capacity will be adjusted up or down from time-to-time based on consumer demands.

The Hosting environment has two environments (Websites and Virtual ROC), and it is required that these environments be physically deployed in two separate data centres belonging to the bidder.

4 Technical Specifications

The technical specification for the required products and services is as per the bid specifications provided below. It must be noted that the technical specifications below are the minimum requirements. The only deviation that may be accepted will be in case where the service provider's specification exceeds the minimum requirements. Any offers below the minimum specification requirement will be disqualified.

4.1 Data Centre

- 4.1.1 The bidder must provide racks for the 10 physical servers and the Fortinet security equipment to be provided, the switches and other equipment to be provisioned for the solution. For adjudication purposes, the bidder is to quote on 2 racks.
- 4.1.2 The bidder must install the structured cabling necessary to connect (fibre and copper ethernet) the equipment mentioned in 4.11, the virtual servers, storage and WAN links.
- 4.1.3 The bidder must provide redundant 10 Gbps switches or better for the environment. For the purposes of adjudication, the bidder is to quote on 144 ports.

4.2 Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)

- 4.2.1 The IEC uses VMware virtual platform and will provide VMware based ghost images.
- 4.2.2 The bidder must provide, install and configure the 106 virtual servers that have the following specification at a minimum:

	Item	Value
1.	Operating System	The IEC will provide an image with Microsoft Windows 2016 Operating System
2.	Processor	16 vCPU
3.	Memory	64 GB

	Item	Value
4.	Hard Disk Space	500 GB (C:\ - 100 GB and D:\ - 400 GB)
5.	Number of Servers	106

4.2.3 The bidder must configure storage as follows:

	Item	Value
1.	SAN Storage	Usable minimum Raid 5 Storage of capacity 100 TB. The storage capacity must range up to 200 TB. The IEC will provide the Logical Unit Number (LUN) sizes configuration requirements during implementation

4.2.4 The IEC will provide four (6) physical servers to be used as Database Servers and four (4) more physical servers to be used as Utilities and Scanning solution servers. These 2U servers will need to be accommodated in the supplied racks.

4.2.5 The bidder must be able to implement different Virtual Local Area Networks (VLANs). At least six different VLANs are envisaged.

4.2.6 The bidder must provide a solution design that shows how the IaaS components fit into the Data Centre, Wide Area Network and Security. Included in the design should be such information as Virtualization platform, Storage information, network switches and server information.

4.3 Internet Connectivity

4.3.1 The bidder must provide a redundant and Dual Diverse internet lines of minimum 100 Megabit per second (Mbps) from the hosting facility. This line must be scalable within 2 hours of receiving IEC's formal request up to 10 Gigabit per second (Gbps).

4.4 Security

4.4.1 The Electoral Commission will **provide** the security equipment listed below together with the licenses and subscriptions:

- 4.4.2 The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the Fortigate 1500D Firewalls in redundant mode working together with the IEC personnel.
- 4.4.3 The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiWeb 3000E Web Application Firewalls as per IEC's requirements.
- 4.4.4 The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiADC 1000F Application Delivery Controllers (ADC) or commonly known as Load Balancers.
- 4.4.5 The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiDDoS 1200D Appliances on the perimeter.
- 4.4.6 The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiAnalyzer 1000F Appliance as per IEC's requirements.

4.5 Support and Maintenance

- 4.5.1 The bidder must provide remote access (Remote Desktop Support, SSH etc.) for the IEC staff to connect to the server environment over the connectivity provided.
- 4.5.2 The bidder must provide support and maintenance during the duration of the hosting that includes daily, weekly and monthly backups of the configuration and database. The bidder is to describe support service levels. The bidder must also include as part of the submission an example SLA document.
- 4.5.3 The bidder must provide monitoring of the environment during the duration of the hosting to ensure that at a minimum 99.99% uptime is achieved. The monitoring should be provided on a 24x7 basis.

4.6 General Requirements

- 4.6.1 The bidder must provide a flexible environment that allows the IEC to adjust up or down the hosting capacity in the form of deploying more / removing servers, or increasing / decreasing the capacities of the individual servers when the need arises. The same applies to the sizes of the data lines as well.
- 4.6.2 The IEC requires hosting for a period not exceeding 12 months starting in September 2023 to cater for NPE 2024.

4.6.3 The main hosting facility data centre must be within a radius of 100 km from the IEC National Office in Centurion. The bidder must confirm in writing that the hosting facility is within a radius of 100 km from IEC National Office in Centurion. IEC's National office is at 1303 Heuwel Road, Centurion.

5 Data Protection and Confidentiality of Information

Due to the sensitive nature of the information and data which will become available to the successful bidder, it will be required that the successful bidder sign a Service Level Agreement which will, *inter alia*, incorporate a clause addressing the protection of same in line with paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 below (read together with paragraph 21.7 of the Technical Bid Response Sheet).

5.1 Data Protection

- 5.1.1 During the course of executing on this contract, the successful bidder will have access to the data collected or provided and stored by the Electoral Commission on the service provider's disk storage units and data backup facilities. The successful bidder shall have the responsibility for protecting information resources against accidental or intentional damage or loss of data, interruption, or the compromise of this information into the hands of third parties. The successful bidder or its members of staff, whether employed or contracted shall also not process the data without a prior written agreement with the Electoral Commission or without written instructions from the Electoral Commission beyond what is necessary to fulfil its obligations towards the Electoral Commission.
- 5.1.2 The successful bidder shall keep confidential all the Electoral Commission's information that they have in their possession. The successful bidder shall ensure that each member of *their* staff, whether employed or contracted, having access to or being involved with the processing of the Electoral Commission's data undertakes a duty of confidentiality and is informed of and complies with the data privacy obligations of this bid.
- 5.1.3 The successful bidder shall also ensure that the Electoral Commission's data in its possession is returned to the Electoral Commission and/or deleted from its computer systems as per instruction by the Electoral Commission at the end of the contract period.

5.2 Confidentiality of Information

- 5.2.1 “Confidential Information” means irrespective of its format, confidential trade, commercial, financial and management information and data, or other proprietary information which is either designated as confidential or by its nature is confidential howsoever such confidential information may be disclosed or made available to the Recipient including, without limiting the afore-going, whether direct or indirect, orally, visually or in electronic format or by reason of inspection of documentation or other matter on or at the Discloser’s premises or elsewhere including, but not limited to:
- 5.2.2 The successful bidder shall irrevocably undertake and agree:
- 5.2.2.1 to protect all confidential information that they may get access to in course of executing the resulting contract. Without limiting the generality of confidential information, Confidential Information shall include any information that falls within the definition of ‘Personal Information’ as defined in the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013, as amended or substituted and/or
 - 5.2.2.2 not to divulge or disclose to any third party in any form or manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, any confidential information of the Discloser without the Consent of the Discloser;
 - 5.2.2.3 not to, directly or indirectly, detract from, expand on, amend, decompile, reverse engineer, use, exploit, permit the use of, or in any other manner whatsoever apply the confidential information for its own benefit or the benefit of any other person or for any purpose whatsoever other than for the Engagement and otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement;
 - 5.2.2.4 to treat all Information as confidential information where it is uncertain of the nature of the Information until written notice to the contrary is received from the Electoral Commission;
 - 5.2.2.5 to take reasonable security (including IT security) measures in line with its own security measures to keep the confidential information confidential;
 - 5.2.2.6 to immediately notify the Electoral Commission upon discovery of any unauthorised use or disclosure of the confidential information or any other breach of this clause;

- 5.2.2.7 to take all necessary steps or assist the Electoral Commission to regain possession of the confidential information or to prevent its further unauthorised use;
- 5.2.2.8 to immediately at the Electoral Commission's reasonable request or in any event at the completion of an Engagement to forthwith return all originals, copies, reproductions, summaries or extracts of the confidential information, or at the Electoral Commission's option destroy these and certify that it has done so; and
- 5.2.2.9 that all confidential information is and shall remain the property of the Electoral Commission and that disclosure thereof does not grant the Receiver any express or implied license to use such Confidential Information or right other than as provided for in this Agreement.
- 5.2.3 Notwithstanding the above, the successful bidder shall be entitled:
- 5.2.3.1 in compliance with the applicable laws and its professional obligations, to retain copies of all Information of the Electoral Commission which is relevant to or forms part of the Services;
- 5.2.3.2 to share the confidential information with its Personnel and any of the Service Provider's parties to the extent required to render the Services; and
- 5.2.3.3 to share the confidential information with its Professional Advisors or insurers in the event of a claim arising from or in connection with this Agreement, provided that the provisions of this clause shall still apply to such copies.

5.3 This clause shall not apply to:

- 5.3.1 information in the public domain otherwise than by breach of this Agreement;
- 5.3.2 information that was not obtained under any obligation of confidentiality; and
- 5.3.3 information obtained from a third party who the receiving Party believes, after reasonable inquiry, is free to divulge the information so long as such information was not obtained by the receiving Party under any obligation of confidentiality to the third party.

6 Planning Assumptions

The IEC has made the following assumptions:

- 6.1 The IEC will provide technical resources for all IEC's designated work including setup and configuration of own applications and databases. These include the configuration of the supplied ghost images, applications and databases to be deployed at the hosting facility.
- 6.2 Whenever the need arises the successful bidder shall do initial equipment configuration of operating systems and environmental specific requirements.
- 6.3 The IEC will provide the 10 (ten) physical servers to be used as database servers and other utilities servers.
- 6.4 The bidder's change control management process must be flexible enough to facilitate speedy deployment and resolution of problems without compromising management controls and security.
- 6.5 The recommended service provider shall provide all relevant details needed to ensure successful operations capability within the organization.

7 General Bid Conditions

The following standard bid conditions must be adhered to and complied with; failing which the bid proposal will be disqualified.

- 7.1 All bids must be placed online on eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>.
- 7.2 Bidders must complete and submit [Section 20 – Bidder's Disclosure \(SBD4\)](#).
- 7.3 Bidders must complete and submit [Section 21 - Technical Bid Response Sheet](#) to demonstrate compliance with the required technical specification.
- 7.4 The bidder must provide at least five (5) contactable references of past and current products and installation and configuration services of a similar nature that the bidder provided or is currently providing (website applications hosting). Reference details must

include the following: customer name, contact person, contact details (telephone, email, physical address) and service description and value of services defined in terms of estimated contract value and number of servers hosted. The Electoral Commission prefers to work with a service provider that shows that they are currently providing such services to clients. The table in [Section 23 – Reference Guideline Table](#) is attached as a guideline for the compilation of the required reference information to be submitted for each reference.

- 7.5 The bidder must host the IEC website at data centres locally in South Africa. The main hosting facility must be within a radius of 100 km from the IEC National Office in Centurion. The bidder must confirm in writing that the hosting facility is within a radius of 100 km from IEC National Office in Centurion. IEC's National office is at 1303 Heuwel Road, Centurion.
- 7.6 Bidder must have at least five (5) years' experience in providing the services required. Bidder must provide a profile or letter to confirm.
- 7.7 The bidder must have achieved a Fortinet status with Fortinet or have acquired the services of a service provider that shows that they can handle a variety of implementation requirements including FortiWEB, FortiADC, FortiAnalyzer and FortiDDOS. Bidder must therefore include a valid partnership certificate of themselves or their service provider that shows the status of the partnership with Fortinet. The Electoral Commission would prefer to deal with bidders with Advanced or Expert Fortinet Partner Status.
- 7.8 Even though the number of servers are listed above, the bidder understands that this is a consumption based service and capacity will be adjusted up or down from time-to-time depending on consumer demands. The IEC will pay only for the capacity consumed
- 7.9 The bidder must be an Internet Service Provider registered with Internet Service Provider Association (ISPA). Proof of registration in the form of a copy of registration certificate is to be supplied as part of the bid response documentation.
- 7.10 The bidder must also have an ICASA's Electronic Communications Service (ECS) license to operate as an ISP with its own Internet Service. The bidder must submit a copy of the license as part of the bid response documentation.
- 7.11 The environment should allow for the IEC to run security audits and also provide security

monitoring from their own and/or parallel Security Operations Centre (SOC).

7.12 Bidders must adhere to the delivery schedule in section 13.

8 Quality Control

- 8.1 The bidder takes responsibility for the completeness and quality of their bid submission.
- 8.2 The IEC may also call on bidders to make presentations in order for the Electoral Commission to ensure full compliance with all its requirements and as part of the bid evaluation process prior to the conclusion of the adjudication of the bid. Any such request for presentations shall only be for clarification purposes in support of mandatory requirements that must be adhered to as part of the written submission requirements of this bid. Failure to submit mandatory requirements shall not be rectified by the call for presentations.
- 8.3 Any restrictions or conditions associated with any elements of the service offering/s must be detailed. The Electoral Commission reserves the right to reject conditions which are considered unfavourable to its business or unacceptable.
- 8.4 The submission of a bid implies acceptance of the terms specified in the provisions laid down in the specifications, the procurement and, where applicable, additional documents.
- 8.5 Bidders are expected to examine carefully and respect all instructions and standard formats contained in these specifications.
- 8.6 A bid that does not contain all the required information and documentation will be disqualified.
- 8.7 Although the Electoral Commission will only deal with the principal service provider, if a bidder plans to sub-contract any of the services in this bid, they are required to attach copies of sub-contracting agreements in their bid response documentation.
- 8.8 Notwithstanding any shortcomings in these specifications, service providers must ensure that the proposed solution will form a workable and complete solution.
- 8.9 The IEC will issue a formal purchase order to the successful bidder before any services can be delivered.

- 8.10 The bidder's personnel working may be subjected to security clearance.
- 8.11 The bidder will be required to enter into a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with the Electoral Commission.
- 8.12 The IEC reserves the right and discretion to amend the quantities or cancel or not award this bid based on any reason including operational or financial requirements.
- 8.13 The supplier must undertake and warrant that all goods and services shall at the time of delivery comply with the bid specifications.

9 Supplier Performance

- 9.1 Contracting of any service provider to render goods and/or services to the Electoral Commission are subject to the fulfilment of the Electoral Commission's due diligence audit requirements.
- 9.2 An essential component of the Electoral Commission's due diligence audit requirements may involve site visits to potential suppliers/contractors as well as inspection of various key documents underpinning the establishment of the companies involved in bids of the Electoral Commission. This also includes confirmation of capability and capacity requirements to execute the services specified in such bids.
- 9.3 Upon notification of the Electoral Commission's intention to award a contract, the successful bidder may be required to enter into a service level agreement (SLA/contract) with the Electoral Commission.
- 9.4 The purpose of the SLA (if applicable other than what the Electoral Commission's standard purchase orders provide for) is to fix performance criteria within the key requirements of this request for quotation, namely quantity, quality and delivery.
- 9.5 The SLA may contain elements such as supplier progress milestones, delivery schedules, quality checkpoints and invoicing procedures.
- 9.6 The Electoral Commission reserves the right to reject any services delivered not conforming to the bid specification.
- 9.7 Where previously-agreed delivery schedules are not met by a supplier, the Electoral Commission shall have the right to appoint an alternative supplier to make good the

shortfall in supply. Any additional costs incurred by the Electoral Commission in obtaining such corrective services or products from another source will be for the account of the defaulting supplier.

10 Pricing Requirements

Completion of the detailed Pricing Schedule by responding to each item is compulsory. Failure to complete and submit this detailed pricing schedule as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

10.1 Total bid price must be submitted online on the eProcurement (Votaquotes) portal. The bid price on the Detailed Pricing Schedule ([Section 22.1](#)) must be the same as the bid price submitted online. If there is a discrepancy between the Detailed Pricing Schedule bid price and the online submitted bid price, the online submitted bid price will be used for adjudication.

10.2 Bidder must also complete and submit the Internet Bandwidth Costs schedule ([Section 22.2](#)) and the Storage Costs schedule ([Section 22.3](#)).

10.3 All costs associated with the hardware, software licensing, implementation services and associated support and maintenance must be included in the total bid price. The total bid price must be inclusive of all factors which may contribute the cost of fulfilling the bid, factors such as:

- a) Hardware and Software costs.
- b) Configuration and/or customization services costs.
- c) Hosting, support, monitoring and maintenance costs for a period of 12 months.
- d) For bid evaluation purposes, bid pricing must be on 100 TB usable minimum Raid 5 or equivalent storage capacity

10.4 Bid prices must be firm for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days and must be inclusive of VAT. Once awarded the price will be firm for the duration of the contract.

10.5 The Electoral Commission reserves the right to adjust costs by excluding some cost factors.

10.6 All costs associated with the solution must be captured in the Detailed Pricing Schedule

([Section 22.1](#)) - no additional costs will be entertained.

10.7 The solution must be a complete solution.

11 Evaluation of Bidder's Disclosure (SBD4)

All bids received will be evaluated and assessed in respect of the mandatory information provided in [Bidder's Disclosure \(SBD4\)](#). Any potential issues that may arise or transgressions that may identified will be pursued in accordance with statutory obligations and requirements.

In this regard, the following must be noted:

- 11.1 The Electoral Commission must, as part of its supply chain management (SCM) processes, identify and manage all potential conflicts of interest and other disclosures made by a person participating in procurement process to enable the accounting officer or delegated authority to make informed decisions about the person participating in the SCM process.
- 11.2 As such, the Bidders Disclosure form, issued as Standard Bidding Document (SBD) 4, is attached herewith for all entities who participate in the bid process.
- 11.3 As part of the evaluation of the procurement process, the information provided by a person on the SBD4 form must be evaluated.
- 11.4 In so doing, it must be noted that if the bid evaluation establishes that:
 - (a) a person within the bidding entity is an employee of the State, the Electoral Commission's CEO must request the relevant accounting officer/accounting authority whether the person-
 - (i) Is prohibited from conducting business with the State in terms of Section 8 of the Public Administration Management Act, 2014; or
 - (ii) has permission to perform other remunerative work outside of their employment, where the PAMA does not apply to such employee;
 - (b) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004;
 - (c) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Competition Act, 1998, the

conduct must be reported to the Competition Commission; and

(d) the conduct of a person must be dealt with in terms of the prescripts applicable to the Electoral Commission.

11.5 If it is established that a person has committed a transgression in terms of the above, or any other transgression of SCM prescripts, the bid may be rejected and the person may be restricted.

11.6 The Electoral Commission's CEO must inform National Treasury of any action taken against a person within 30 days of implementing the action.

11.7 During the bid evaluation process, the Electoral Commission must in addition to other due diligence measures, establish if a person is not listed in-

(a) the Register of Tender Defaulters; and

(b) the list of restricted suppliers.

11.8 A bid related to a restricted bidder or tender defaulter shall be rejected.

11.9 The under-mentioned assessment criteria will be used to evaluate the elements relating to SBD4, CSD registration, tax compliance, restricted suppliers and tender defaulters:

	Assessment Criteria	Bidder Requirement (YES/NO)	Comments
1.	Bidder is registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD). *		
2.	Bidder is tax compliant. **		
3.	The bidder is not an employee of the state.		
4.	Having certified the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act.		
5.	Having certified to the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Competition Act.		
6.	The bidder is not a tender defaulter as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		
7.	The bidder is not a restricted supplier as per the register		

	Assessment Criteria	Bidder Requirement (YES/NO)	Comments
	published on the National Treasury website.		

* No bid shall be accepted if a supplier is not registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD).

** A bidder must be tax compliant before a contract is awarded. A bid will be disqualified if the bidder's tax affairs remains non-compliant as per the provisions of National Treasury Instruction No 09 of 2017/2018 Tax Compliance Status Verification.

12 Adjudication and Award of Contract

Bidders are advised to refer to the Bid Evaluation Criteria to ensure that they have addressed all critical bid requirements.

12.1 The bid will be awarded to a bidder whose solution successfully conforms to the bid specifications.

12.2 The Electoral Commission will issue an official purchase order before any services can be delivered

12.3 It should be noted that the Electoral Commission seeks to gain the best solution technically and financially and will select from the results of the bid a solution it deems to give the best investment.

12.4 Awarding the bid to a successful bidder is subject to the bidder entering into a service level agreement (SLA) with the Electoral Commission that will formalize and regulate the final deliverables and associated processes and procedures.

13 Delivery and Implementation Timeframe

13.1 The successful bidder will be required to complete delivery within six (6) weeks from receipt of an official purchase order.

14 Duration

14.1 The SLA/contract is for a period not exceeding 12 months and may be extended at the sole discretion of the Electoral Commission as may be deemed necessary.

15 Technical Enquiries

15.1 Enquiries pertaining to the specifications can be directed to Siviwe Gwadiso at telephone number 012 622 5700 or email gwadisos@elections.org.za or to Libisi Maphanga at email maphangal@elections.org.za.

16 Briefing Session

16.1 A non-mandatory hybrid (on-premises and virtual) briefing session will be held. Details will be posted online on the bid publication on the Electoral Commission's procurement portal at https://votaquotes.elections.org.za/eproc_inter/

17 Written Submissions

All submissions must be received before the closing date and time for submissions as stipulated on the eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>

Submissions received after the final date and time will lead to bids being disqualified and not considered.

All bids must be placed online on eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>. Supporting documentation can be submitted in any or both of the following options:

- Upload to the auction site.
- Place in the Electoral Commission tender box situated in the foyer of the Electoral Commission National Office in Centurion at the following address before the closing date and time of this auction

Election House

Riverside Office Park,

1303 Heuwel Avenue,

Centurion,
0157

Note: Clearly mark your submission: For the attention of Procurement and Asset Management Department – Auction 0010501535

Failure to submit all of the required documentation before the closing date and time shall invalidate the bid. It remains the responsibility of the bidder to confirm receipt of the required documentation with the Electoral Commission Procurement and Asset Management Department.

18 Summary of Submission Requirements

- 18.1 All bids must be submitted online on eProcurement (Votaquotes) portal.
- 18.2 All written supporting documentation must be submitted as stipulated on the bid requirement.
- 18.3 Submissions received after the closing date and time will lead to the bidder's proposal being disqualified and not considered.
- 18.4 The bidder must complete and submit SBD4 – Bidder's Disclosure which is also provided on eProcurement (Votaquotes) portal as per [section 7.2](#)
- 18.5 The following supporting documents must be submitted as part of the written submissions. Failure to submit these will lead to the bid being disqualified:
 - 18.5.1 Completed technical specifications in accordance with the requirements in [Section 21 - Technical Bid Response Sheet](#) to demonstrate compliance with the bid specification as per [section 7.3](#).
 - 18.5.2 Five (5) relevant contactable References, [Section 23 - Guideline Reference Table](#) as per [section 7.4](#)
 - 18.5.3 Completed pricing schedules (All of Section 22) as per [section 10](#)
 - 18.5.4 Confirmation letter that hosting of the website is within 100 km from the Electoral Commission's location in Centurion as per [section 7.5](#)

- 18.5.5 A profile or letter showing five years' experience as per [section 7.6](#)
- 18.5.6 ISPA Registration Certificate as per [section 7.9](#)
- 18.5.7 Fortinet Partner Status Letter as per [section 7.7](#)
- 18.5.8 A copy of ICASA's Electronic Communications Service (ECS) license as per [section 7.10](#)
- 18.5.9 An example SLA document as per [section 4.5.2](#)

19 Closing Date

The closing date and time of this auction is specified on the eProcurement (Votaquotes) website in accordance the bidding requirements. The closing date and time is determined by the clock on the Electoral Commission's servers and is not negotiable. Bidders must also take note supporting documentation must be delivered before closing date and time.

20 Bidder's Disclosure (SBD4)

Bidder's Disclosure – SBD4			
The Bidder must complete and submit the SBD4 form. Failure to submit the SBD4 will lead to disqualification			
No.	Description	Yes / No	Comment
1.	Bidder is registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD). **		
2.	Bidder is tax compliant. ***		
3.	The bidder is not an employee of the state.		
4.	Having certified the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act.		
5.	Having certified to the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Completion Act.		
6.	The bidder is not a tender defaulter as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		
7.	The bidder is not a restricted supplier as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		

* No late bid, as a whole or in part, shall be accepted.

** No bid shall be accepted if a supplier is not registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD).

*** A bidder must be tax compliant before a contract is awarded. A bid will be disqualified if the bidder's tax affairs remains non-compliant as per the provisions of National Treasury Instruction No 09 of 2017/2018 Tax Compliance Status Verification.

21 Technical Bid Response Sheet

<p align="center">Technical Bid Response Sheet</p> <p align="center">Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.</p> <p align="center">Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.</p> <p align="center">Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.</p>					
	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder must indicate whether they COMPLY (Yes) or NOT (No)		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
			Yes	No	
1.	Data Centre	a) The bidder must provide racks to accommodate the 10 x 2U Physical Servers and Fortinet Security equipment (2 x Fortigate 1500D (2U each), 1 x FortiDDOS 1200D (1U), 2 x FortiWeb 3000E (2U each), 1 x FortiAnalyzer 1000 F (1U) and 2 x FortiADC 1000F (1U each)) to be provided by the IEC.			
		b) The bidder must install the structured cabling (fibre and copper Ethernet) necessary to connect the equipment, storage and WAN links.			
		c) The bidder must provide redundant 10 Gbps switches or better for the environment to cover at least 144 ports.			
		d) The Hosting environment has two environments (Websites and Virtual ROC), and it is required that these environments be physically deployed in two separate data centres belonging to the bidder.			
2.	Infrastructure	a) The bidder must provide, install and configure the 106 virtual servers (not			

Technical Bid Response Sheet

Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.

Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.

Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder must indicate whether they COMPLY (Yes) or NOT (No)		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
			Yes	No	
	as a Service (IaaS)	<p>including Database Servers) that have the following specification at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Image with Operating System and applications to be provided by the Electoral Commission 2) CPU: 16 vCPU 3) RAM: 64 GB 4) Hard Disk Drive: 500 GB <p>The IEC will configure the applications.</p>			
		b) The bidder must demonstrate that they have existing processing capacity to meet the requirements of this tender at full utilization. The bidder must describe how they meet this requirement.			
		c) The bidder must provide, install and configure 100 TB usable minimum Raid 5 or equivalent Storage upgradeable to 200TB usable storage and connect it to the servers. The IEC will configure SQL Databases. The size of the LUNS will be provided by the IEC.			

Technical Bid Response Sheet

Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.

Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.

Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder must indicate whether they COMPLY (Yes) or NOT (No)		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
			Yes	No	
		d) All Windows servers must be installed with the latest patches before being handed over to the IEC. The servers must be installed with Microsoft Windows Server 2016.			
		e) The bidder must be able to implement different Virtual Local Area Networks (VLANs) on the provisioned network.			
3.	Internet Connectivity	a) The bidder must provide a redundant (Dual Diverse) internet lines of minimum 100 Megabit per second (Mbps) from the hosting facility. This line must be scalable within 2 hours of receiving IEC's formal request to up to 10 Gigabit per second (Gbps).			
4.	Security (The IEC will provide the security equipment)	a) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the Fortigate 1500D Firewalls.			
		b) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiWeb 3000E Web Application Firewalls as per IEC requirements.			
		c) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiADC			

Technical Bid Response Sheet

Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.

Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.

Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder must indicate whether they COMPLY (Yes) or NOT (No)		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
			Yes	No	
		1000F Application Delivery Controllers (ADC) or commonly known as Load Balancers.			
		d) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiAnalyzer 1000F Appliance.			
		e) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiDDoS 1200D Appliances on the perimeter.			
		f) The bidder must allow vulnerability and penetration tests to be run against the web hosting environment after being set up.			
5.	Support And Maintenance	a) The bidder must provide remote access (Remote Desktop Support, SSH etc.) for the IEC staff to connect to the server environment over the connectivity provided.			
		b) The bidder must provide support and maintenance during the duration of the hosting that includes daily, weekly and monthly backups of the configuration and database. The bidder is to describe support service levels.			

Technical Bid Response Sheet

Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.

Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.

Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder must indicate whether they COMPLY (Yes) or NOT (No)		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
			Yes	No	
		c) The bidder must provide monitoring of the environment during the duration of the hosting to ensure that 99.99% uptime is achieved. The monitoring must be provided on a 24x7 basis			
6.	General Requirements	a) The bidder must provide a flexible environment that allows the IEC to adjust up or down the hosting capacity in the form of deploying more / removing servers, or increasing / decreasing the capacities of the individual servers when the need arises. The same applies to the sizes of the data lines as well. The IEC will pay only for the capacity consumed.			
		b) The IEC requires hosting for a period not exceeding 12 months starting in September 2023.			
7.	Data Confidentiality and Privacy Requirements	a) The bidder undertakes to agree and comply with the Electoral Commission's requirements on data protection and confidentiality of information, as stated in paragraph 5 of this bid specification			

22 PRICING SCHEDULE

22.1 Detailed Pricing Schedule

<p align="center"><u>Detailed Pricing Schedule</u></p> <p align="center">Completion of this Price Breakdown response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. All prices must be inclusive of VAT Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet. Where there are no quantities, bidder should indicate the quantities. Failure to complete and submit this pricing schedule sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.</p>						
	Category	Description	Quantity	Once Off Costs	Monthly Unit Costs	Total Monthly Costs
1.	Data Center	a) Provision of Rack capacity for the virtual servers, 10 x 2U physical servers, switches, storage and all other equipment required for this service. (2 racks for adjudication purposes)	2	R	R	R
		b) 10 Gbps Switches. Bidder to indicate the number of switches (3 x 48 ports switches for adjudication purposes)	3	R	R	R
		c) Structured Cabling	1	R	R	R
2.	Infrastructure As A Service (IAAS)	a) Virtual Servers with the following: 1) Image to be provided by IEC 2) CPU: 16 vCPU 3) RAM: 64 GB	106	R	R	R

Detailed Pricing Schedule

Completion of this Price Breakdown response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. All prices must be inclusive of VAT

Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet. Where there are no quantities, bidder should indicate the quantities.

Failure to complete and submit this pricing schedule sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Description	Quantity	Once Off Costs	Monthly Unit Costs	Total Monthly Costs
		4)Hard Disk Drive: 500 GB				
		b) 100 TB usable Storage (minimum Raid 5 or equivalent) upgradeable to 200 TB. For adjudication purposes, pricing should be based on 100TB.	1	R	R	R
3.	Internet Connectivity	a) The bidder must provide a redundant (Dual Diverse) internet lines of minimum 100 Megabit per second (Mbps) from the hosting facility. This line must be scalable within 2 hours of receiving IEC's formal request to up to 10 Gigabit per second (Gbps). For adjudication purposes, pricing should be based 300 Mbps line.	1	R	R	R
4.	Security	a) Deploy and configure (including patching) the Fortigate 1500D Firewalls.	2	R	R	R

Detailed Pricing Schedule

Completion of this Price Breakdown response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. All prices must be inclusive of VAT

Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet. Where there are no quantities, bidder should indicate the quantities.

Failure to complete and submit this pricing schedule sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Description	Quantity	Once Off Costs	Monthly Unit Costs	Total Monthly Costs
	The Electoral Commission will provide the appliances and licenses	b) Deploy and configure (including patching) the ForWeb 300E Web Application Firewalls as per IEC requirements.	2	R	R	R
		c) Deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiADC 1000F Application Delivery Controllers (ADC) or commonly known as Load Balancers	2	R	R	R
		d) Deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiDDoS 1200D Appliances on the perimeter	1	R	R	R
		e) Deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiAnalyzer 1000F Appliance to collect logs in the environment	1	R	R	R
5.	Support And Maintenance	a) Support and Maintenance during the duration of the hosting that includes daily, weekly and monthly backups of the servers configuration and databases	1	R	R	R
		b) Monitoring of the environment during the duration of	1	R	R	R

Detailed Pricing Schedule

Completion of this Price Breakdown response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. All prices must be inclusive of VAT

Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet. Where there are no quantities, bidder should indicate the quantities.

Failure to complete and submit this pricing schedule sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Description	Quantity	Once Off Costs	Monthly Unit Costs	Total Monthly Costs
		the hosting to ensure that 99.99% uptime is achieved. Monitoring is on a 24x7 basis				
SUB-TOTALS				R	R	R
TOTAL BID PRICE (ONCE OFF COSTS + MONTHLY COSTS OVER 12 MONTHS)						R.....
*The total bid price is the bid price that must be placed on eProcurement (auction). No any other additional costs will be accepted for bid evaluation and adjudication purposes. The total duration may be less than 12 months. The IEC will pay only for the capacity, infrastructure and services used.						

22.2 INTERNET BANDWIDTH COSTS

Bidders must complete and submit before the closing date and time. Failure to comply will result in the bid being disqualified. The IEC requires a solution that can scale its internet bandwidth from around 100 Mbps.

<u>PRICING – INTERNET BANDWIDTH TABLE</u>			
	BANDWIDTH (Mbps)	Total Monthly Costs	Comments / Descriptions
1	100	R	
2	200	R	
3	300	R	
4	400	R	
5	500	R	
6	750	R	
7	1000	R	
8	2000	R	

<u>PRICING – INTERNET BANDWIDTH TABLE</u>			
	BANDWIDTH (Mbps)	Total Monthly Costs	Comments / Descriptions
9	3000	R	
10	4000	R	
11	5000	R	
12	10000	R	

22.3 STORAGE COSTS

Bidders must complete and submit before the closing date and time. Failure to comply will result in the bid being disqualified. The IEC requires a solution that increase / decrease the storage allocated with due notification. Storage should be minimum Raid 5 Storage or equivalent

<u>PRICING – DATABASE STORAGE (SAN) CAPACITY TABLE</u>			
	STORAGE (GB)	Total Monthly Costs	Comments / Descriptions
1.	100	R	
2.	200	R	
3.	300	R	
4.	500	R	
5.	1000	R	
6.	2000	R	
7.	3000	R	
8.	4000	R	
9.	5000	R	
10.	7500	R	
11.	10000	R	

<u>PRICING – DATABASE STORAGE (SAN) CAPACITY TABLE</u>			
	STORAGE (GB)	Total Monthly Costs	Comments / Descriptions
12.	20000	R	
13.	30000	R	
14.	50000	R	
15.	100000	R	
16.	200000	R	

23 Guideline Reference Table

Reference #1

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Number of servers hosted	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Contract Value (estimate)	
	Was the service provided in the last 36 months?	

Reference #2

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Number of servers hosted	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Contract Value (estimate)	
	Was the service provided in the last 36 months?	

Reference #3

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Number of servers hosted	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Contract Value (estimate)	
	Was the service provided in the last 36 months?	

Reference #4

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Number of servers hosted	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Contract value (estimate)	
	Was the service provided in the last 36 months?	

Reference #5

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Number of servers hosted	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Contract Value (estimate)	
	Was the service provided in the last 36 months?	

24 Other Technical Information

	The bidder must provide the information below:	
1.	Physical Address of the Hosting sites	Site 1: Site2:
2.	Redundancy measures including RAID level for the Storage to be provided Minimum Hardware RAID 5 or equivalent Software RAID	
3.	Number of years bidder providing web hosting:	
4.	Uptime to be provided by the hosting facility as a percentage	
5.	Is the bidder storage based on Solid State Drives (SSD)?	

25 Evaluation Criteria

Bidders are advised to refer to Appendix E to ensure that they have addressed all critical bid requirements which will be used for assess the bids. Bidders are NOT expected to complete and submit this section.

25.1 Stage 1: Assessment of Bidder's Disclosure

All bids received will be evaluated and assessed in respect of the mandatory information provided in the Bidder's Disclosure (SBD4) as well as the register for restricted suppliers and tender defaulters.

Any potential issues that may arise or transgressions that may identified will be pursued in accordance with statutory obligations and requirements.

In this regard, the following must be noted:

25.1.1 The Electoral Commission must, as part of its supply chain management (SCM) processes, identify and manage all potential conflicts of interest and other disclosures made by a person participating in procurement process to enable the accounting officer or delegated authority to make informed decisions about the person participating in the SCM process.

25.1.2 As such, the Bidders Disclosure form, issued as Standard Bidding Document (SBD) 4, is attached herewith for all entities who participate in the bid process.

25.1.3 As part of the evaluation of the procurement process, the information provided by a person on the SBD4 form must be evaluated.

25.1.4 In so doing, it must be noted that if the bid evaluation establishes that:

(a) a person within the bidding entity is an employee of the State, the Electoral Commission's CEO must request the relevant accounting officer/accounting authority whether the person-

(i) Is prohibited from conducting business with the State in terms of Section 8 of the Public Administration Management Act, 2014; or

(ii) has permission to perform other remunerative work outside of their employment,

where the PAMA does not apply to such employee;

- (b) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004;
- (c) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Competition Act, 1998, the conduct must be reported to the Competition Commission; and
- (d) the conduct of a person must be dealt with in terms of the prescripts applicable to the Electoral Commission.

25.1.5 If it is established that a person has committed a transgression in terms of the above, or any other transgression of SCM prescripts, the bid may be rejected and the person may be restricted.

25.1.6 The Electoral Commission's CEO must inform National Treasury of any action taken against a person within 30 days of implementing the action.

25.1.7 During the bid evaluation process, the Electoral Commission must in addition to other due diligence measures, establish if a person is not listed in-

- (a) the Register of Tender Defaulters; and
- (b) the list of restricted suppliers.

25.1.8 A bid related to a restricted bidder or tender defaulter shall be rejected.

25.1.9 The under-mentioned assessment criteria will be used to evaluate the elements relating to SBD4, CSD registration, tax compliance, restricted suppliers and tender defaulters:

	Assessment Criteria	Bidder Requirement (YES/NO)	Comments
1.	Bidder is registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD). *		
2.	Bidder is tax compliant. **		
3.	The bidder is not an employee of the state.		

	Assessment Criteria	Bidder Requirement (YES/NO)	Comments
4.	Having certified the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act.		
5.	Having certified to the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Competition Act.		
6.	The bidder is not a tender defaulter as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		
7.	The bidder is not a restricted supplier as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		

* No bid shall be accepted if a supplier is not registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD).

** A bidder must be tax compliant before a contract is awarded. A bid will be disqualified if the bidder's tax affairs remains non-compliant as per the provisions of National Treasury Instruction No 09 of 2017/2018 Tax Compliance Status Verification.

25.2 Stage 2: Key Qualifying Criteria

Stage 2 – Key Qualifying Criteria				
Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified				
No.	Description	Yes	No	Comments
1.	Did the bidder place their bid online as per section 7.1			
2.	Did the bidder complete and submit technical specification as per section 7.3?			
3.	Did the bidder complete and submit pricing schedule and sub-appendices as per section 10.2?			
4.	Did the bidder submit five (5) contactable references as per section 7.4?			
5.	Did bidder submit Fortinet partner status letter of itself or another service provider working with the bidder as per section 7.7?			
6.	Did the bidder submit a profile / letter showing experience as per section 7.6?			
7.	Did bidder submit a valid ISPA certificate as per section 7.9?			
8.	Did the bidder submit a copy of ICASA's Electronic Communications Service (ECS) license as per section 7.10?			
9.	Did the bidder provide confirmation that the hosting facility is within a radius of 100 km from the IEC's National Office as per section 7.5?			
10.	Did bidder submit example SLA document as per section 4.5.2?			

Overall Stage 2 Outcomes:	<u>Assessment Comments:</u>
	Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):

25.3 Stage 3: Technical Evaluation

Stage 3 – Technical Evaluation – Technical Disqualifying Factors.					
Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified					
	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder indicated?		Comments
			Yes	No	
1.	Data Centre	a) The bidder must provide racks to accommodate the 10 x 2U Physical Servers and Fortinet Security equipment (2 x Fortigate 1500D (2U each), 1 x FortiDDOS 1200D (1U), 2 x FortiWeb 3000E (2U each), 1 x FortiAnalyzer 1000 F (1U) and 2 x FortiADC 1000F (1U each)) to be provided by the IEC.			
		b) The bidder must install the structured cabling (fibre and copper Ethernet) necessary to connect the equipment, storage and WAN links.			
		c) The bidder must provide redundant 10 Gbps switches or better for the environment to cover at least 144 ports.			
		d) The Hosting environment has two environments (Websites and Virtual			

Stage 3 – Technical Evaluation – Technical Disqualifying Factors. Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified					
	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder indicated?		Comments
			Yes	No	
		ROC), and it is required that these environments be physically deployed in two separate data centres belonging to the bidder.			
2.	Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)	a) The bidder must provide, install and configure the 106 virtual servers (not including Database Servers) that have the following specification at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Image with Operating System and applications to be provided by the Electoral Commission ii. CPU: 16 vCPU iii. RAM: 64 GB iv. Hard Disk Drive: 500 GB The IEC will configure the applications.			
		b) The bidder must provide, install and configure 100 TB usable minimum Raid 5 or equivalent Storage upgradeable to 200TB usable storage and connect it to the servers. The IEC will configure SQL Databases. The size of the LUNS will be provided by the IEC.			
		c) All Windows servers must be installed with the latest patches before being handed over to the IEC. The servers must be installed with Microsoft			

Stage 3 – Technical Evaluation – Technical Disqualifying Factors. Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified					
	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder indicated?		Comments
			Yes	No	
		Windows Server 2016.			
		d) The bidder must be able to implement different Virtual Local Area Networks (VLANs) on the provisioned network.			
3.	Internet Connectivity	a) The bidder must provide a redundant (Dual Diverse) internet lines of minimum 100 Megabit per second (Mbps) from the hosting facility. This line must be scalable within 2 hours of receipt fo IEC's formal request to up to 10 Gigabit per second (Gbps).			
4.	SECURITY	a) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the Fortigate 1500D Firewalls.			
		b) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiWeb 3000E Web Application Firewalls as per IEC requirements.			
		c) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiADC 1000F Application Delivery Controllers (ADC) or commonly known as Load Balancers			
		d) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiAnalyzer			

Stage 3 – Technical Evaluation – Technical Disqualifying Factors. Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified					
	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder indicated?		Comments
			Yes	No	
		1000F Appliance			
		e) The bidder must deploy and configure (including patching) the FortiDDoS 1200D Appliances on the perimeter			
		f) The bidder must allow vulnerability and penetration tests to be run against the web hosting environment after being set up			
5.	SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE	a) The bidder must provide remote access (Remote Desktop Support, SSH etc.) for the IEC staff to connect to the server environment over the connectivity provided			
		b) The bidder must provide support and maintenance during the duration of the hosting that includes daily, weekly and monthly backups of the configuration and database excluding the SOC servers. The bidder is to describe support service levels			
		c) The bidder must provide monitoring of the environment during the duration of the hosting to ensure that 99.99% uptime is achieved. The monitoring must be provided on a 24x7 basis			
6.	GENERAL	a) The bidder must provide a flexible environment that allows the IEC to adjust			

Stage 3 – Technical Evaluation – Technical Disqualifying Factors. Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified					
	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Bidder indicated?		Comments
			Yes	No	
	REQUIREMENTS	up or down the hosting capacity in the form of deploying more / removing servers, or increasing / decreasing the capacities of the individual servers when the need arises. The same applies to the sizes of the data lines as well. The IEC will pay only for the capacity consumed.			
		b) The IEC requires hosting for a period not exceeding 12 months starting in September 2023.			
7.	Data Confidentiality and Privacy Requirements	a) The bidder undertakes to agree and comply with the Electoral Commission's requirements on data protection and confidentiality of information, as stated in paragraph 5 of this bid specification			
Overall Stage 3 Outcomes		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>			
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):			

25.4 Stage 4: Technical Scoring

Bid Evaluation Criteria Stage 4 – Technical Scoring					
To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (51/68)					
	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
1.	Relevant Reference	50	<p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Customer name = 1 point b) Contact Person = 1 point c) Email = 1 point d) Telephone = 1 point e) Physical address = 0.5 point f) Number of servers hosted = 2 points g) Description of Services provided = 2 points. h) Value (Contract Value Estimate) = 1 point i) Was the service provided in the last 36 months = (YES = 0.5 point) <p>Total for references = maximum 10 points per reference (5 references)</p>		

<p style="text-align: center;">Bid Evaluation Criteria Stage 4 – Technical Scoring</p>					
<p style="text-align: center;">To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (51/68)</p>					
	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
2.	Relevant Experience	5	<p>Experience with Web Hosting. (Max 5 points)</p> <p>a) The bidder has five to seven (5-7) years' experience (3 points).</p> <p>b) The bidder has at eight to ten (8-10) years' experience (4 points).</p> <p>c) Bidder has more than 10 years' experience (5 points)</p>		
3.	Fortinet Partnership Status	5	<p>Bidder has the following partnership status (Maximum 3 points)</p> <p>a) Below Advanced (0 points)</p> <p>b) Advanced (3 points)</p> <p>c) Expert (5 points)</p>		
4.	Uptime	5	<p>Uptime achievable:</p> <p>a) Below 99.99% (0 points)</p> <p>b) >=99.99% (5 points)</p>		

Bid Evaluation Criteria					
Stage 4 – Technical Scoring					
To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (51/68)					
	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
5.	Storage Drives	3	The bidder is proposing SSD drives (3 points)		
Overall Stage 4 Outcomes:		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>			
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):			

25.5 Stage 5: Adjudication of Bids

Only bids that comply with the requirements and conditions of the bid and that meet the minimum criteria in the bid evaluation process as stipulated above will be considered for bid.

Only bids that comply with the requirements and conditions of the bid and that meet the minimum criteria in the bid evaluation process as stipulated above will be considered for bid adjudication purposes.

Acceptable bids must be market related.

This bid is deemed not to exceed R50 million including VAT.

Therefore, the 80/20 preference point system (PPPFA scoring) in terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2005 (PPPFA) and the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022 shall apply in the adjudication process of this auction where all acceptable bids received are equal to or below R50 million including VAT. Preference points will be allocated as follows:

B-BBEE Status Level of Contributor	Number of Points
1	20
2	18
3	14
4	12
5	8
6	6
7	4
8	2
Non-compliant contributor	0

Bid Evaluation Team

	Evaluation Team Member's Name	Signature
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Overall Adjudication Outcomes:
