PART A **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION(RFI)**			
Description of the works/goods/services	Request for information to determine Enterprise Network Information System technology options available in the market as well as associated estimated timelines and indicative costs for acquiring and implementing the solution.		
Deadline for submission	15 November 2022	**At (South African Standard Time)**	**10:00am**
Tender Office address	Eskom Megawatt Park Tender Office Northside No 1 Maxwell Drive Sunninghill		

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd ("Eskom") invites you to respond to a Request for information (RFI) for the Network Information System (NIS) solution options to replace the current Network Information System used in Distribution and Transmission, as well as to future proof the NIS's.

This RFI is a stand-alone information-gathering and market-testing exercise, intended only to inform and assist Eskom's further deliberation and development of a strategy for the solution deployment and Market Price analysis.

Respondents are required to provide documentation detailing their different offerings especially around functionality, processes, pricing training, professional services, technology, and indicative prices and/or pricing structure(s) in order to assist Eskom. The respondent's proposed technology modules need to include cloud ready interfaces of technologies that is positioned off premises as well.

Only Suppliers who responded and shown ability to offer the required services or an alternative solution with equivalent functionality will be invited to respond to the enquiry process that will follow this request unless otherwise approved in the strategy.

Eskom has delegated the responsibility for this **RFI** to the signatory of this document, whose details can be found below.

We look forward to receipt of your response.
Yours faithfully

Name	**Designation**	**Signature**	**Date**
Nothukela Sereo	**Procurement Manager**	*[signature]*	18 Oct 2022

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		Template Identifier	240-72663051	**Rev**	1
Eskom	**Request for Information (RFI)**	**Document Identifier**	N/A	**Rev**	N/A
		Effective Date	01 August 2016		
		Review Date	September 2022		
		EOI/RFI No.	MWP1711TX		

PART B REQUEST FOR INFORMATION To be completed by the supplier				
To	Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	**Date**		
Attention				
Tel no		**Fax no and /or e-mail address**		
From		**Address**		
Address				
Sender				
Description of the works/goods/services	**Request for information to determine Enterprise Network Information System technology options available in the market as well as associated estimated timelines and indicative costs for acquiring and implementing the solution.**			

Please find below our response to Eskom's questions:

No.	Question	Please indicate your response in this column
1.	**Your name and contact details**	
2.	**Company registration number**	
3.	**Brief description of previous experience and Description of the solution that you can offer**	
4.	**Indicative prices (Only for use of RFI)**	
5.	**B-BBEE Status**	
6.	**Central Supplier Database (CSD number)**	
7.	**Payment terms**	

Yours faithfully **Name**	**Designation**	**Signature**	**Date**
Telephone number		**Fax and/or e-mail address**	

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PART C

1. INTRODUCTION

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited ("Eskom") – Request information is required to determine Enterprise Network Information System technology options available in the market as well as associated estimated timelines and indicative costs for acquiring and implementing the solution.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The current NIS being used in Distribution, is the Smallworld Application Framework and the software version is no longer supported by the vendor. The intent was to upgrade to the supported version in the cloud. However, the current NIS has been in use for more than 20 years.

Without an NIS, Distribution will not be able to maintain their data asset, meet National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) licensing requirements, and execute effective planning, operations, and maintenance nationally.

The Transmission business within Eskom use Spatial Information System (TxSIS) extensively as a decision support system. The TxSIS system uses outdated GIS technology, which is no longer supported by the vendor, the replacement system will require both the ability to manage NIS and GIS capabilities. Implementing the latest technologies will allow the GIS to integrate seamlessly with other databases such as asset registers, real time weather or fault datasets and cadastral or deed registers.

Eskom Telecommunications currently do not have an NIS for their assets.

3. SCOPE OF WORK / BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

The NIS platform provides electronic access to Distribution's and Transmission's asset data for planning, operations, and maintenance. The NIS is the single/central data source for all network information data as required by all of Eskom's other systems. The solution will provide / assist in:

- System access management, the visualisation of datasets, the user experience, object management, and the management of temporary geometries and maps as standard functionality.
- The management of data changes to ensure the updated version of the network data is made available to subscribing systems.

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- Data quality management to ensure the data in the system conforms to the relevant business rules and data standards.
- Network tracing and selection to ensure that the electrical network parameters and geospatial characteristics are included for the trace and can be studied. The user can further perform various point analysis tasks.
- Creating, accessing, and exporting reports for use by various stakeholder(s).
- Creating and maintaining network geographical / spatial data.
- Creating and maintaining line designs.
- Creating and maintaining objects in a Business Planning hierarchy. Producing network conversions and write outs. Ensure data quality through data validation rules and checks. Creating and exporting Business Planning-related reports.
- Enable the uploading of data from the NIS to various other Eskom-used applications through integration.
- Manage projects, land, rights approvals, contractors, accounts, documents, and reports.
- Maintain and export schematics to ensure the accuracy of the network diagrams and ensure that the completed schematic diagram and associated information is released to subscribing systems.
- Initiate and manage data change request(s) in a standardised manner.
- Manage licence usage, data synchronization, backups, and software patch releases.

The NIS is a design base system and therefore stores both the present and the envisaged future network layout i.e. it is a static view rather than a dynamic, operational view.

Transmission also requires an improved ability to geographically manage, analyse and visualise data to enable improved decision making and improve efficiencies across its core operations. The Transmission data must be logically separated from Distribution.

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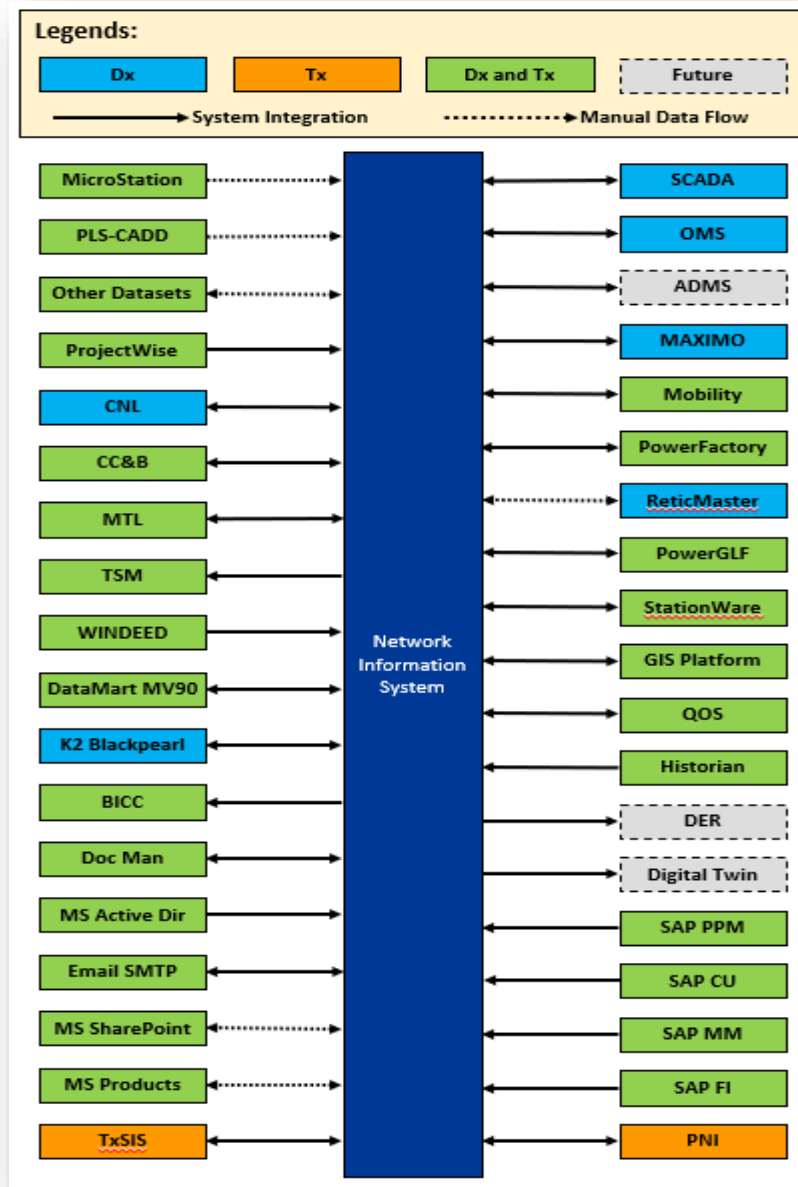
Figure 1: Data Flow/Context Diagram

The information gathered will guide and assist Eskom in crafting an optimal strategy for planning towards the implementation of a flexible and reliable Enterprise Network Information System that will fulfil the stated current needs.

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Respondents are required to provide documentation detailing their different offering especially around functionality, pricing, timelines and requirements for the implementation for a Network Information System in line with the attached technical evaluation criteria.

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4.   QUESTIONNAIRE

1	SYSTEM FRAMEWORK	PPM Team	Architecture	Distribution	Transmission	Telecomms	Comments (Please provide exact reference in your response pack – referring to page, paragraph & image numbers, if not possible to provide full response in the comments column) Your response to the questions below must be based on the selected divisions.
1.1	**Standard System Functionality**						
1.1.1	Is your NIS solution GIS based or based on a geospatial platform and caters for the 3 divisions listed?			**X**	**X**	**X**	
1.1.2	Does your product cater for a topologically connected electrical model covering EHV, HV, MV and LV including individual phases from generator down to customer installation?			**X**	**X**		
1.1.3	Describe the functionality available to display a simplified view of the network in a single line diagram containing switches, transformers, breakers, etc.			**X**	**X**		

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1.1.4	Describe the functionality available to display a simplified view of the telecommunications network in a single line diagram containing but not limited to terminals, telecommunication channels, premise, termination points, routers, etc. (all the components making up your topological connected telecoms network)					X	
1.1.5	Describe how your product manages items requiring more detailed capture like electric stations, manholes, multiple cables in a trench, etc.			X	X	X	
1.1.6	Explain how your product allows the user to navigate between spatial and non-spatial objects.			X	X	X	
1.1.7	Explain how your product manages data audit trails including action, user, timestamp and workstation.			X	X	X	
1.1.8	Does your product cater for a topologically connected Telecommunication network covering Tx, Dx, and Gx including					X	

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	individual phases from generator down to customer installation?						
2	**DATA MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONALITY**						
2.1	**Master Data Management**						
2.1.5	The Eskom Master Catalogue contains lists of commonly used values for equipment types e.g. breakers, cables, isolators, two winding transformers, three winding transformers, etc. Describe how your product will utilise the Master Catalogue and how changes in the Master Catalogue will be catered for by your product.			X	X	X	
2.2	**Data Changes**						
2.2.1	The network life cycle includes planning, design, construction and operation (also referred to as plan-build-run). Describe how your product differentiates, manages and integrates the network components and their attributes during the different stages.			X	X	X	

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2.2.2	Does the product provide a version managed database that allows for the viewing of historic, present and future network versions? If yes, describe the mechanisms and checks utilised when reconciling between the different versions.				X	X	X	
2.2.3	Does your product provide configurable workflow management? If yes, describe the workflow functionality including the ability to configure workflows, automating actions at certain workflow stages, etc.				X	X	X	
2.2.4	Describe the creation and management of changesets, including any rules as to the content of any one changeset and functionality associated with these changesets. *[Changeset = The data set representing new parts of the network and any additions or modifications to the existing network.]*				X	X	X	
2.3	**Spatial Data**							

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2.3.1	Provide details of the electrical and telecomms data model(s) showing the various object classes of objects, their attributes including phasing as well as any joins between object classes.				X	X	X	
2.3.2	Does the system provide the ability for the user to store, link to and view captured images (e.g. geo-tagged) and spatial data with metadata, and/or have the ability to integrate with external systems managing imagery and geo-tagged/ georeferenced/ortho-rectified imagery e.g. imagery generated as part of asset management.				X	X	X	
2.4	**Data Quality**							
2.4.1	In a Network Information systems approach, data quality and correctness are critical to the integrated planning approach. Synchronization and standardization of existing and planned equipment required for power system simulation must be managed and controlled, such that Equipment Master Type Libraries exist of all existing and				X	X	X	

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	future equipment. Describe the data quality mechanisms your product employs, including how the system detects and notifies the user for correction.						
2.4.2	Does your product offer standardised templates for inputting data					X	
2.5	**Data Redlining**						
2.5.1	Describe the redlining functionality available in your product to indicate changes required on a schematic diagrams, including sources of redlining entries, workflows, outputs, configurability, etc. Include details on how corrections / updates from mobile devices will be handled.			X	X	X	
2.6	**Reporting**						
2.6.1	Describe your products' reporting / exporting functionality, including the output formats available and a description of the Query Language used to query the database.			X	X	X	

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3	DATA UTILISATION FUNCTIONALITY						
3.1	**Network Tracing**						
3.1.1	Describe your product's network tracing functionality and features, including user-defined trace conditions, start and end points, results produced by tracing, etc. As part of tracing explain how the product aggregates / summates various data for the trace.			X	X	X	
3.2	**Network Planning**						
3.2.1	Describe how your product manages the modelling of future electrical network and telecomms network expansion plans against standardized equipment templates and master type libraries ensuring the control of information flow to the power system simulation tool.			X	X	X	
3.2.2	Explain how your product integrates network information such as electrical and telecomms network topologies and customer load points to an external network planning forecasting system, with reporting and synchronizing			X	X	X	

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	capabilities to ensure load, generation and network topology links remain accurate and correct, as these are fundamental to the demand and resource forecasting activity.						
3.2.3	Describe the products' capability to manage Dx & Tx & Telecomms network development plans related to various time horizons: 1. different development plan version (changes, modifications) 2. levels or categories or fields for functional areas (strategic plans, scenario developments, 10-year development plans, customer applications) 3. project overview (e.g. priority, funding, schedule) 4. export and import to / from various power system simulation tools 5. maintain updated list of projects from Dx & Tx development plans			X	X	X	

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3.2.4	Describe how your product aligns to the spatial awareness of Distribution Expansion Network Planning underpinned by the Systems Thinking Approach: Distribution Network Planning requires a SYSTEMS THINKING APPROACH to planning the future Distribution network. The Systems Thinking Approach underpins the PERFORM INTEGRATED PLANNING by ensuring that Network Planning always has access to the latest commissioned, designed, surveyed, out-of-service and retired asset information, at all times.			X	X	X	
3.2.5	Describe your products capability to provide controlled access to commissioned networks in **multiple structured formats*** to **PLAN** the future network by **modifying an instant** of the commissioned network. **multiple structured formats** (tabular, database and geospatial structures)			X	X	X	

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3.3	**Land and Rights**						
3.3.1	Describe the Land and Rights management functionality available in your product. Include accessibility by other applications, the data dictionary supporting the Land and Rights functionality, accessibility to a third-party deeds registry and workflows supported.			X	X	X	
3.4	**Schematic Diagrams**						
3.4.1	Describe the schematic generation functionality available in your product. Also include mechanisms associated with methods of creation, portions of networks that can be contained within a diagram, diagram labelling mechanisms, diagram version control, linkages between diagrams, workflows supported, ability to lock when in use, for various status, archiving, demarcation of ownership, etc.			X	X	X	
3.4.2	Describe the schematic diagram authorisation functionality available within your product.			X	X	X	
3.4.3	Describe how your product manages the release of			X	X	X	

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	schematics to other systems including the SCADA / Energy Management Systems and the functionality available.							
4	**ARCHITECTURAL ASPECTS**							
4.1	**Architecture General**							
4.1.1	The Respondent shall submit, for evaluation purposes, an electronic copy of standard product and user documentation offered, as part of their proposal.		**X**					
4.1.2	References: Please provide detail of where you have successfully implemented your solution in the past 3-5 years and indicate if the implementation was on-premise or cloud Also please share any success stories of implementations at other utilities. Also provide any links to videos or reference material		**X**					
4.1.3	Have your solution been featured in reports by any research partners e.g. Gartner, Forrester etc. If so please provide the reports		**X**					

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4.1.4	Does your company use a external or company defined utility reference architecture framework. Please describe in as much detail as possible.		X				
4.2	**Architecture Deployment**						
4.2.1	Please describe and compare your solution deployment options, looking at (1)Private On-premise IaaS with Perpetual licenses,(2) Private off-premise with SaaS , (3) Private On-premise SaaS. Description should include, but do not have to be limited to the criteria below for each option: a) Please provide a detailed Solution Architecture overview diagram depicting the proposed solution including its interfaces b) Provide the benefits and risks of each deployment model/option c) Please provide a high level estimated cost breakdown for each deployment model/option detailing costs for implementation as well as support and maintenance over 5 years d) Describe how you ensure for each deployment option,		X				

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	availability of the solution in the event of failure e.g DR, backups and recovery, failover e) For cloud options please specify geo-location options for cloud deployment including backup and DR e.g SA, EU etc.						
4.3	**Architecture Vision**						
4.3.1	Please provide information around your solution's future alignment. Description should include, but do not have to be limited to the criteria below: a) Provide the roadmap for product development and support for at least the next 3-5 years. b) The functionality your solution offers to enable the Smart Utility of the future. Specific details should be provided around Smart Grid Enablement, Digital Twin and the enablement of the Mobility. c) The role that innovation and	X					

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	research play in your product development d) Describe/motivate how you keep abreast of the latest technology and market trends?							
4.3.1	Is there a roadmap for product development and support for at least the next 3-5 years?		X					
	What functionality does your solution offer to enable the Utility of the future? Specific details should also be provided around Smart Grid Enablement, digital Twin and the enablement of the Workforce		X					
	What role does innovation and research play in your product development? How do you make sure you keep abreast of the latest technology and market trends?		X					
4.4	**Architecture - Capabilities**							
4.4.1	Provide a functional breakdown of your solution, differentiating between core application/platform		X					

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	functionalities and supporting/add-on/additional functionalities. Indicate whether your solution is tightly coupled, loosely coupled or decoupled architecture.						
4.4.2	Describe how you support agility in your solution architecture e.g. microservices, containerisation etc.		X				
4.4.3	Describe the capabilities your solution brings to the table to enhance user experience and enable operational efficiencies e.g. configure/personalise toolbars/reports/dashboards, self-service reports, other self-service capability, modelling efficiencies, automation of repetitive tasks, etc.		X				
4.4.4	Describe your solutions capability to deploy on a mobile device e.g. html 5 compliance Provide details on the features that will be available.		X				
4.5	**Integration Architecture**						

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| 4.5.1 | Describe your interaction model to other systems (spatial and non-spatial) including the technologies
a) how you integrate, transport and communicate complex topological data
b) Enable bi-directional integration using multiple methods with other systems on both a spatial and non-spatial level e.g. integration messages, CIM alignment
c) Support for GIS web services, specifically OGC web services
d) Support for open and flexible architecture to integrate to any other solution and/or third tools/software e.g. secure open API's or plug-in | | X | X | X | X | |

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4.5.2	Describe your NIS product's capability to workflow and integrate to the following systems: a) **Portfolio and Project Management software such as SAP Portfolio Project Management & Primavera**, in the context of: Planning from the base of commissioned networks ensuring that requirements for future planned networks can seamlessly flow through a managed workflow system, to acquire the necessary lands and rights for the physical location of the planned infrastructure. Furthermore, the approval status of jobs, projects, and plans (defined to be the business planning hierarchy) need to be aggregated across categories of capital expenditure required for a Development Plan. The business planning hierarchy needs to be integration with SAP Project Portfolio Management to track the progress of plans from inception to commissioning.		X	X	X	

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b) **Power System Simulation Software (PSS**), to integrate, exchange, or export quality assured electrical topological network data to recreate the power system. CRITICAL

c) **GeoBase Load Forecasting (GLF) tools**, to integrate, exchange, or export quality assured electrical topological network data to support and enable a Distribution, Transmission and National energy forecasting. CRITICAL.

d) **Mobile Workforce Management Solutions**: to integrate the electrical geospatial and topological network data in order to enable e.g network inspections and capturing of defects and asset health conditions via mobile devices.

Please note: Incorrect, corrupted, or invalid data affects the time to an effective solution and impedes

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	the capital expenditure decision. The Network information System must therefore have the capability to write-out the network models together with the commissioned or commissioned and planned network, into a PSS and GLF Tool as defined by the client. In the production of a Network Development Plan, each job / project must be validated against technical assurance by ensuring that the planned network can be simulated in both a PSS and GLF Tool							
4.6	**Data Architecture**							
4.6.1	Explain your key data dependencies from other data sources. Specify the type of data sources and the criticality thereof.		X					
4.7	**Security Architecture**							
4.7.1	Describe your security model related to data at rest and in transit including encryption, authentication protocols, etc. List all relevant Security Certifications		X					
5	**Project Aspect**							

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5.1	Provide a high level project plan detailing:
	a) Estimated timeline for the implementation of three instances (Distribution, Transmission and Telecommunications)
	b) Resources plan
	c) Deliverables breakdown and work breakdown structure for all fixed-cost deliverables provided detailing
	   - System Design, Build, Testing, Implementation, Training, Stabilisation stages has been provided.
	   - Unit Testing, System Testing, Integrated Testing, Dress Rehearsal Testing, User acceptance Testing provided.
		X	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**		

5.2	Can you implement two instances of your solution in parallel and how does that influence the costing of the implementation?	**x**						

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5.   INDICATIVE COST

Please provide an indicative breakdown of the cost associated with your proposed solution.

6.   SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

To ensure the receipt of communication with regard to this request for information process, kindly complete Appendix A – Acknowledgement Form and return it by email as indicated on the form within 3 days of receiving this Invitation.

7.   METHOD OF DELIVERY

The RFI submissions must be sealed and delivered at the Tender Office Box located at the following address:

Eskom Holdings SOC Limited,
Megawatt Park, North side
1 Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill
Johannesburg, 2000

All submission responses must be clearly marked as follows:

- Offer Confidential Enquiry Reference no: **MWP1711TX**
- Closing date: **15 November 2022**
- Closing time: **10h00 AM** South African Standard Time.
- Non-compulsory Clarification Meeting: will be held on the **28th October 2022 from 10:00 to 11:00** on Virtual on Microsoft Teams. **The link will be sent according to the Appendix A returnable acknowledgement form received.**

NB: **PLEASE NOTE: THE TENDER BOX WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FROM 6:00 TO 18:00 (MONDAY TO FRIDAY)**

8.   HANDLING OF CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

The submission may not be addressed to any Eskom Holdings employee, nor may any Eskom employee deposit a tender in the tender box on behalf of a respondent, except one lodged by courier.

Eskom Holdings does not take responsibility for tenders delivered to any other site than the Tender Office as specified in the above. Any tender which is not delivered as above will be deemed a late tender.

You are urged to ensure that all issues in your submission are sufficiently clear and all documentation completed and incorporated in your submission at the time of submission. Non-adherence to this will prejudice and may disqualify your offer from further consideration.

Your RFI submission should have a thorough index and reference all documentation submitted. RFI documentation should be neatly filed / bound.

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FORMAT OF SUBMISSION

EACH RFI SHALL BE SUPPLIED IN PRINTED AND IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT. ALL PRINTED AND ELECTRONIC COPIES OF EACH SUBMISSION SHALL BE IDENTICAL TO THE ORIGINAL SUBMISSION IDENTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

- **1 X ORIGINAL RFI**
- **1 X COPY RFI AND**
- **1 X COPY RFI – ELECTRONIC COPY (MEMORY STICK)**

QUERIES AND QUESTIONS

No questions, during the RFI period will be answered telephonically.
Questions must be submitted in writing, either via e-mail to:
Attention: Tlou Mashalane
E-mail Mashalst@eskom.co.za

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AS FOLLOWS:

Request for information is required to determine Enterprise Network Information System technology options available in the market as well as associated estimated timelines and indicative costs for acquiring and implementing the solution.

Non-Compulsory clarification meeting will be held on the 28th October 2022 from 10:00 to 11:00 on Virtual on Microsoft Teams. The link will be sent according to the Appendix A returnable acknowledgement form received.
Clarification of questions and queries is **3 working days** before the deadline of the submission

11. REQUIREMENTS OF YOUR SUBMISSION

This submission will not be considered unless it is -
Received on or before the time and date as indicated
Sealed and signed by person(s) duly authorised to act on behalf of your company
Received in full
Eskom reserves the right to cancel this RFI process at any time prior to entering into any contract that may result from this process and will not accept or incur any liability for such cancellation.
Eskom is not bound to accept any of the submissions, nor give reasons for any decisions in this respect.
The Information provided below may be used when going out on enquiry for a request for proposal or a quotation.

IMPORTANT NOTES

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10.1 Please note that this enquiry is not a Request for Quotation/Proposal but a Request for Information only and therefore non-committal and does not constitute a guarantee of business, or an agreement to negotiate a binding agreement.

10.2 Due to the specific need that this RFI process has to fulfil, Eskom wishes to clarify that this invitation is not intended to impede, amend or replace any current or future procurement process that Eskom has engaged in or will engage in.

10.3 This RFI is a stand-alone information-gathering and market-testing exercise, intended only to inform and assist Eskom's further decisions. No respondent, through submission of information will gain any right to participate in any future process, and participates herein on the basis that it is providing information voluntarily to strengthen a potentially beneficial process for all stakeholders. In addition, no participant shall be prevented or excluded from participation in the bidding process due to submission of information in response to this RFI.

10.4 Any information provided pursuant to this RFI process and any subsequent processes and/or engagement is not confidential but Eskom will use the information only in the course of its process for a strategy for Customer Information and Billing Replacement.

10.5 Through making a submission, a respondent accepts the terms and conditions which govern this process.

10.6 All participants responding to this RFI process need to ensure that they have received all information and remain solely responsible for satisfying themselves as to the information required in responding hereto and are fully responsible for all costs incurred in relation hereto and under no circumstances will any resultant cost be borne by Eskom.

10.7 Eskom reserves the right not to proceed with any further engagements on the requirements presented.

10.8 Please complete the attached Acknowledgement Form and return it by email as indicated on the form within 3 days of receiving this Invitation.

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APPENDIX A: RETURNABLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

TO:	ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED's *Representative*	FROM:	
Attention:	Tlou Mashalane	Sender:	
Contact No:	011 800 4854	Contact No:	
e-mail:	Mashalst@eskom.co.za	E-mail address::	

RFI reference number: Confirmations of respondents to participate in a Request for Information

We are in receipt of Eskom Holdings SOC Limited request for information dated………….

We confirm the following (please mark the appropriate response):

No	Statement	Yes	No	Comments
1.	We are interested in submitting a response in terms of Eskom's RFI process requirements			
2.	We have noted the deadline for the RFI submission			
3.	We intend to submit the information in the name of the organisation stated above			
4.	We would like to receive all further information and correspondence at our e-mail address as above			
5.	We have read and understood all the "important notes" under point 9 above.			

Yours faithfully

_____

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