



SOUTH AFRICA

Electoral Commission

Auction #: 0010506300

ADDITIONAL DATACENTRE STORAGE CAPACITY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Failure to comply with the completion of the auction conditions and the required information or submission of the required stipulated documents indicated shall invalidate a bid.

1 Introduction

The Electoral Commission (IEC) seeks to appoint a suitably qualified service provider to supply 200 Terabyte (TB) of usable storage for Production site and 200 TB usable storage for the Disaster Recovery (DR) environment. The storage supply must be accompanied by installation, configuration and migration services, at least 5 years' warranty and support and maintenance.

Note: The Electoral Commission defines usable storage as capacity before data reduction and ARRAY Subsystem Overhead.

2 Background Information

The Electoral Commission is working very hard to prepare for National and Provincial Elections 2024. To this end, there are a number of projects that are being undertaken that will reside on-premises. These projects will require extra storage capacity over and above the current storage landscape. The requirement is not brand specific; however, the storage must be Solid State Devices (SSD) based.

The storage must be delivered with OEM warranty that covers parts and software updates at a minimum of at least 5 years. The storage must also be accompanied by support and maintenance of 5 years.

The targeted workloads include the following systems / applications: Microsoft Exchange, Oracle databases, Microsoft SQL Server databases, Web based Portal Applications, VMware, HyperV, Fileservers (images, office application files), SharePoint, Security Information and Events Management (SIEM) solutions, MongoDB and SAP.

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.

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

3 Technical Specifications

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 bidder's specification is better. Anything below specification will be disqualified.

- 3.1 The Electoral Commission wants to acquire 00 Terabyte (TB) of usable storage for Production site and 00 TB usable storage for the Disaster Recovery (DR) environment. The Electoral Commission required Solid

State Devices (SSD) drives. The solution must be complete with all the storage controllers, switches, power supplies, racks etc. The storage supply must be accompanied by installation, configuration and migration services, at least 5 years' warranty and support and maintenance

- 3.2 The Electoral Commission has over 250 TB at Production and similar storage size at the Disaster Recovery site. This requirement is to add to the capacity already deployed. Connection from the servers to the storage is via Fibre Channels. There will be no integration between the two storage environments, however some servers will access the existing storage while other server will access the new disks environment while other servers must be able to access both.
- 3.3 The storage must support access from physical as well as virtual servers
- 3.4 The storage must support mixed workloads (Microsoft Exchange, Oracle databases, Microsoft SQL Server databases, Web based Portal Applications, VMware, HyperV, Fileservers (images, office application files), SharePoint, Security Information and Events Management (SIEM) solutions, MongoDB and SAP) and still manage to perform optimally.
- 3.5 The storage must be Cloud ready in case the Electoral Commission decides to go to the cloud in the future.
- 3.6 Storage is one of the most important components of a data centre as we prepare for NPE 2024. The IEC would therefore prefer a bidder who can provide at least 30 minutes' response time that includes a phone call from some assigned service provider personnel, a 4-hour onsite attendance and a 24x7 service. The IEC also prefers same day parts shipment. Bidder must include example SLA as part of their bid submission.
- 3.7 All possible licensing must be included with the bid. No special environment license or per TB license is to be charged in the future unless of course new features are announced by the OEM after submission of the bid.
- 3.8 The bidder will be responsible for the racking and stacking of the equipment, Telemetry and other hardware setup related activities. The Electoral Commission will be responsible for the operating system configuration and beyond.
- 3.9 The warranty, support and maintenance must enable the Electoral Commission to access on-site hardware support and maintenance including patches and firmware upgrades.
- 3.10 The storage units must be delivered fully assembled and ready for installation and configuration.
- 3.11 All the supplied components must be certified by the OEM.
- 3.12 For the ease of maintenance and support, the Electoral Commission will standardize on a single brand for the controller and disk unit. The switches can be of a different brand.
- 3.13 The bidder must provide system administration training to a minimum of two (2) technical staff on the

proposed solution.

- 3.14 The bidder must provide post implementation documentation such as As-Built documents, specification sheets and user manuals.
- 3.15 The SAN switches supplied must cater for at least 96 ports

The storage must have the following features and characteristics:

- 3.16 Support for **modern Storage features such as deduplication** (thereby save storage space by eliminating redundant data blocks) **and compression** (thereby reduces the physical capacity that is required to store data on the storage system).
- 3.17 **High Availability and Resiliency:** The storage must have redundancy of all components including storage controllers, switches, power supplies, fans, disks etc. and avoid a single point of failure. The Electoral Commission requires a 99.9999 (six nines) availability.
- 3.18 **Replication:** The Electoral Commission requires storage for the Production (National Office) and the DR site and there must be native disk to disk active-active, synchronous or asynchronous replication between the two sites that is near instant (Note: replication software must not be an external tool, but an integral part of the solution). The storage must have the intelligence to replicate only incremental data. A storage array must also be able to rehydrate data, to replicate or move volumes between appliances. Administrator should also be able to replicate data from specified source volumes to specified destination volumes. There must be no bandwidth or file size limitation for replication.
- 3.19 **Data Integrity:** The storage must provide mechanisms to ensure that data stored on it is not corrupted. Examples of corruption opportunities could be power interruptions. The storage unit must have mechanisms to ensure that there is a clean shutdown even when there are power interruptions. Data should also be protected from 3-disk failure per availability group without any loss. The Raid mechanism should also be spread across a number of units to avoid corruption or loss of data from a complete unit failure
- 3.20 **Scalability:** The Storage supplied must be scalable, allowing the addition of new storage capacity and connectivity as needed to meet evolving business requirements. Bidders must state the maximum Storage Capacity of the proposed disk unit. The IEC prefers a unit that is scalable to at least 1,000 TB
- 3.21 **Unified architecture:** The Storage must be built with a unified architecture that allows the storage to be accessed by multiple servers and applications simultaneously.
- 3.22 **Virtualization / Thin provisioning:** The Storage must include virtualization capabilities that allow administrators to create virtual storage resources that are decoupled from the physical storage hardware. This enables administrators to provision more logical storage space to the hosts than the available physical storage space and allocate storage space on demand instead of provisioning pre-allocated

storage space

- 3.23 **High-performance:** The SAN must provide high performance through features such as data caching, load balancing etc. and the ability to use higher speed connectivity technologies such as fibre channel to ensure that data is rapidly accessible. Storage array can exceed 90% of usable capacity without degradation in performance. At least 16 Gbps fibre connectivity, preferably 32 Gbps must be supported.
- 3.24 **Security:** The SAN must offer advanced security features such as authentication, encryption, and access controls to ensure that data is protected from unauthorized access. Included in the features should be protection from ransomware. The necessary encryption software licenses must be included in the solution. The storage must be integrated to Active Directory for User Authentication.
- 3.25 **Automation and management:** The SAN must include automation features and centralized management tools that help administrators to perform routine tasks more efficiently and with fewer errors. The management tool must be comprehensive with a Web Graphical User Interface (GUI) and Command Line Interface (CLI)
- 3.26 **Analytics:** The storage must be accompanied by analytics capability. There is a wealth of information contained in the KPIs obtained from the storage infrastructure, such as IOPS, bandwidth, faults, latencies, etc. which help understand health and performance status of the storage. It is required that the storage be supplied with a capability to collect and analyse this infrastructure data over time so as to can reveal resource usage trends, anomalies, and patterns of failures which can help forewarn of impending issues and pre-emptively avert them before any performance impact. This capability must use Machine learning techniques that can process all this data and transform the information contained in them into intelligence.
- 3.27 At a minimum the analytics should include: Descriptive Analytics (chunks of aggregated data are processed to provide descriptive insights; Predictive Analytics (provide the ability to know in advance an issue is going to happen so that it can be prevented without impacting data access and storage performance based on the data collected); Prescriptive Analytics (based on intelligence gained, the analytics tool presents suggestions and recommendations to fix the problem by taking corrective/preventive measures) and Diagnostics Analytics (understanding the root cause of the issues by taking a deeper look at the data collected).
- 3.28 Analytics should also pinpoint issues between storage and Virtual system and underutilized resources to improve performance, drive higher availability and optimize resource utilization and planning
- 3.29 The storage should support Snapshot copies which are read-only images volumes or aggregates that capture the state of the storage system at a point-in-time
- 3.30 The storage must have support for VMWare ESXi, Microsoft Hyper-V, Microsoft Windows Server, Ubuntu Server Edition, Oracle Linux, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Suse Linux Enterprise Server, Centos or Rocky Linux
- 3.31 The storage must support backup software in use at the IEC, namely Veritas Netbackup and Veeam at a

minimum.

4 Planning Assumptions

The Electoral Commission has made the following assumptions:

- 4.1 The Electoral Commission will provide technical resources for all of its designated work including setup and configuration of own systems and databases;
- 4.2 Wherever the need arises the successful bidder shall do initial equipment configuration of operating systems and environmental specific requirements;
- 4.3 The delivery of the hardware, software licenses and implementation services required must be completed within the days as stipulated in the delivery and implementation schedule stipulated in section 10;
- 4.4 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;
- 4.5 Bidder to provide applicable change management processes;
- 4.6 The recommended service provider shall provide all relevant details needed to ensure successful operations capability within the organization.

5 General Bid Conditions

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

- 5.1 All bids must be placed online on eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>
- 5.2 Bidders must complete and submit [Appendix A: Technical Bid Response](#) to demonstrate compliance with the required technical specification.
- 5.3 The bidder must be authorized to sell the product supplied; an OEM proof of reseller authorization is required. Likewise, an OEM proof of accreditation for maintenance of the product is required.
- 5.4 An OEM letter(s) of proof of the reseller agreement, authorization and/or maintenance accreditation must accompany the written documentation for this bid.
- 5.5 Should the reseller authorization and/or maintenance accreditation be from a distributor, then a proof of authorization authorizing the distributor to resell and/or to authorize others by the OEM, must be submitted.
- 5.6 The bidder must submit a statement of service, describing the service and support that is covered under

the contract/warranty including the roles of the bidder and the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)

- 5.7 Written confirmation of the 5-year warranty from the OEM must be submitted with the bid.
- 5.8 The bidder must also include the product lifecycle for the Storage proposed. It is expected that the storage proposed should have a lifespan of at least 5 years from bid closure date. Bidder to provide proof thereof as part of the bid submission.
- 5.9 Bidder must have at least five (5) years' experience in providing products and services required. Bidder must provide a profile or letter to confirm
- 5.10 Bidder must submit at least five (5) contactable references where a project of similar scope (supply and installation of storage) was successfully delivered.
- 5.11 The bidder must demonstrate that the proposed product is available in South Africa, has market penetration and local technical and engineering support. Proof must be submitted as part of the bid submission.
- 5.12 Preference will be given to solutions that are based on a standard existing product in the market and not products specifically designed or cloned for this bid. Bidders are to submit datasheets of all the proposed products or components that make up the solution.
- 5.13** Bidders must adhere to the delivery schedule in **Section 10**
- 5.14 Bidder must provide an example SLA that incorporates the OEM Warranty as part of the submission

6 Quality Control

The following quality control conditions must be adhered to and complied with, failing which the bid may be disqualified.

- 6.1 The bidder takes responsibility for the completeness and quality of their bid submission.
- 6.2 The bidder must undertake and warrant that the Storage hardware is in good condition and in line with the tender specifications
- 6.3 The bidder will have the primary responsibility of ensuring that the proposed equipment complies with the required specification in terms of functionality and technical specification including quantity and quality.
- 6.4 The Electoral Commission 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. 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.

- 6.5 The bidder must provide the associated support and maintenance for the duration of the contract. The support and maintenance must include all services as per product code.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 Bidders are expected to examine carefully and respect all instructions and standard formats contained in these specifications
- 6.8 A bid that does not contain all the required information and documentation will be disqualified.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 Notwithstanding any shortcomings in these specifications, service providers must ensure that the proposed solution will form a workable and complete solution.
- 6.11 The Electoral Commission will issue a formal purchase order to the successful bidder before any products and services can be delivered.
- 6.12 Awarding of the bid to the successful bidder will be subject to the IEC's due diligence audit requirements, where applicable.
- 6.13 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.
- 6.14 Awarding the bid to a successful bidder will be subject to the bidder entering into a service level agreement (SLA) with the IEC that will formalize and regulate the final deliverables and associated processes and procedures.

7 Supplier Performance

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.

- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 The SLA may contain elements such as supplier progress milestones, delivery schedules, quality checkpoints and invoicing procedures.
- 7.6 The Electoral Commission reserves the right to reject any services delivered not conforming to the above.
- 7.7 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.

8 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.

- 8.1 Bid price must be submitted online on the eProcurement (Votaquotes) portal
- 8.2 Bid price [Appendix B: Pricing Schedule](#) must be submitted as part of the bid and will be used for adjudication.
- 8.3 The bidder must submit a price schedule or quotation for the storage proposed. Details of all the components on the storage include the make and model must be included in the price schedule / quotation.
- 8.4 All costs associated with the supply, delivery, installation and configuration of the storage, associated warranty and 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) Any Hardware and Software costs.
 - b) Delivery costs to the Electoral Commission's national office in Centurion, Gauteng, South Africa.
 - c) Warranty for 5 years
 - d) Support and Maintenance for 5 years
 - e) Installation and Configuration Services
- 8.5 Bid prices must be VAT inclusive and must be firm for a period of 180 days. The firm price shall apply for the duration of the contract.
- 8.6 The Electoral Commission reserves the right to adjust costs by excluding some cost factors.

- 8.7 All costs associated with the solution must be captured on the pricing schedule - no additional costs will be entertained.
- 8.8 The equipment proposed must be complete.

9 Adjudication and Award of Contract

- 9.1 Bidders are advised to refer to the [Appendix D: Bid Evaluation Criteria](#) to ensure that they have addressed all critical bid requirements.
- 9.2 The bid will be awarded to a bidder whose solution successfully conforms to specifications and is able to deliver the services, and in terms of the provisions of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 and specifically the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022.
- 9.3 The Electoral Commission will issue a formal order before any services can be delivered
- 9.4 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.
- 9.5 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.

10 Delivery and Implementation Timeframe

- 10.1 The successful bidder will be required to complete delivery within eight (8) weeks from receipt of an order for the solution (hardware and services).
- 10.2 Bidder must include confirmation from the OEM or distributor regarding the lead times of the Storage proposed as part of the submission.
- 10.3 Delivery of the equipment and services will be at the following address:

**Election House
Riverside Office Park,
1303 Heuwel Avenue,
Centurion,
0157**

- 10.4 Successful bidder must be able to install and configure the storage units within 7 days of delivery of the equipment excluding the migration of data. Bidder must include an implementation project plan as part of the submission.

11 Technical Enquiries

- 11.1 Enquiries pertaining to the specifications can be directed to Libisi Maphanga at telephone number 012 622 5700 or libisi@elections.org.za or to Bridget Ndlovu at email ndlovub@elections.org.za.

12 Briefing Session

- 12.1 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/

13 Written Submissions

All submissions must be received on or before the closing date and time for submissions, as stipulated on the e-Procurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>. Submissions received after the final date and time will lead to bids being disqualified and not considered. Written submissions must be delivered to the Electoral Commission's Procurement & Asset Management Department. Delivery can be through any of the following means:

- Upload to the auction website;
- 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 – AUCTION: 0010506300

Failure to submit all of the required documentation before the closing 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.

14 Summary of Submission Requirements

- 14.1 All bids must be placed online on eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>.
- 14.2 All written supporting documentation must be submitted as stipulated in the bid requirement.
- 14.3 Submissions received after the closing date and time will lead to bids being disqualified and not considered.
- 14.4 The following supporting documents must be submitted as part of the written submissions. Failure to submit these will lead to the bid being disqualified;
 - 14.4.1 Completed technical specifications in accordance with the requirements in [Appendix A: Technical Bid Response Sheet](#) to demonstrate compliance with the bid specification as per 5.2
 - 14.4.2 Five (5) relevant contactable References, as per 5.10 - [Appendix C: Guideline Reference Table](#)
 - 14.4.3 Completed pricing schedule as per 8.2 - [Appendix B: Pricing Schedule](#)
 - 14.4.4 A letter of proof of the reseller agreement either from the OEM or an authorized distributor; (i.e. if the reseller is authorized by a distributor) as per 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5. If the reseller agreement is from a distributor, then proof from the OEM authorizing the distributor needs to be included
 - 14.4.5 A statement of service, describing the service and support that is covered under the warranty including the roles of the bidder and the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) as per 5.6
 - 14.4.6 5-years' OEM Warranty documentation as per 5.7
 - 14.4.7 A price schedule / quotation showing all the components of the Storage being proposed as per 8.3
 - 14.4.8 Profile or letter showing at least 5 years' experience as per 5.11
 - 14.4.9 Product lifecycle for the storage proposed as per 5.8
 - 14.4.10 OEM or distributor delivery lead times confirmation as per 10.2
 - 14.4.11 An example SLA document incorporating OEM's warranty as per 5.14

15 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.

16 APPENDIX A: Technical Bid Response Sheet

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.						
	Specification			Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
				Yes	No	
	Category	Description	Reference			
1.	Storage Description	The bidder has proposed 200 TB of usable storage for Production and 200 TB of usable storage for the DR environment	3.1			
2.		The Storage is based on SSD drives	3.1			
3.		The solution is complete with controllers, switches, power supplies etc.	3.1			
4.		The solution includes installation and configuration services	3.1			
5.		The solution includes 5 years' OEM warranty, support and maintenance	3.1			
6.		The solution will connect to servers via Fibre Channel of at least 16 Gbps	3.2			
7.		Some servers may need to connect to both this storage and legacy storage.	3.2 and 3.19			
8.		The storage supports access by physical and virtual servers	3.3			
9.		The storage solution is cloud ready	3.4			
10.	Storage Features	The solution supports deduplication and compression	3.14			
11.	High Availability and Resiliency	All the components(controllers, switches, power supplies, fans, disks) of the storage solution have redundancy and avoid single point of failure	3.15			
12.		The solution meets the 99.9999% availability requirement	3.15			
13.	Replication	The solution provides native disk-to-disk active-active, synchronous or asynchronous replication between Production and the DR site	3.16			
14.		The replication tool in an integral part of the storage solution, not an external third party tool	3.16			

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.

	Specification			Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
				Yes	No	
15.		The storage supports incremental data replication	3.16			
16.		A storage array can also rehydrate data to replicate data or move volumes between appliances	3.16			
17.		An administrator is able to replicate data from specified source volumes to specified destination volumes	3.16			
18.		The solution has no bandwidth or file size limitation for replication	3.16			
19.	Data Integrity	The storage unit has its own UPS to ensure clean shutdown of the controller / disk units in case of power interruptions	3.17			
20.		The storage protects data from a 3 disk failure per availability group from data loss	3.17			
21.		The Raid mechanism should also be spread across a number of units to avoid corruption or loss of data from a complete unit failure	3.17			
22.	Scalability	The proposed solution is scalable	3.18			Maximum capacity:
23.	Virtualization / Thin provisioning	More logical storage space can be allocated than available physical storage	3.20			
24.		Disk space can be allocated on demand instead of provisioning pre-allocated space	3.20			
25.	High Performance	The SAN provides high performance through features such as caching, load balancing, high speed fibre connectivity	3.21			
26.		Storage array can exceed 90% of usable capacity without degradation in performance	3.21			
27.		The solution support at a minimum 16 Gbps Fibre Connectivity	3.21			

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.

	Specification			Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
				Yes	No	
28.	Security	Storage has features such as authentication, encryption and access control	3.22			
29.		The solution has ransomware protection	3.22			
30.		The encryption licenses are included as part of the solution	3.22			
31.		The storage solution can be integrated into Active Directory for authentication	3.22			
32.	Automation and Management	The solution includes automation features and centralized management tool with Web GUI and CLI	3.23			
33.	Analytics	The proposed storage has analytics capability. The ability to collect and analyse storage data over time so as to reveal resource usage trends, anomalies and patterns of failure.	3.24			
34.		Analytics capability used AI/Machine learning	3.24			
35.		The solution provides Descriptive Analytics	3.25			
36.		The solution provides Predictive Analytics	3.25			
37.		The solution provides Prescriptive Analytics	3.25			
38.		The solution provides Diagnostics Analytics	3.25			
39.		The solution is able to pinpoint issues between storage and Virtual system and underutilized resources to improve performance, drive higher availability and optimize resource utilization and planning	3.25			
40.	Backups	The solution supports snapshots copies	3.27			
41.	Operating environment	The solution supports VMWare (ESXi) version 7 and 8	3.28			

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.

	Specification			Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
				Yes	No	
42.		The solution supports Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2016 and later	3.28			
43.		The solution supports Microsoft Windows Server	3.28			
44.		The solution supports Ubuntu Server Edition	3.28			
45.		The solution supports Oracle Linux	3.28			
46.		The solution supports Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL)	3.28			
47.		The solution supports Suse Linux Enterprise Server (SELS)	3.28			
48.		The solution supports backup softwares: Veritas Netbackup and Veeam	3.29			

17 APPENDIX B: PRICING SCHEDULE

PRICING SCHEDULE – DETAILED BREAKDOWN					
Bidder to provide a detailed quotation as part of the submission detailing all the components of the solution					
The bidder must summarise the quotation by providing the product codes, quantities and descriptions below:					
	Product Code	Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1.		Storage Unit(s): Production including controllers, disks including OEM Warranty		R.....	R.....
2.		Storage Unit(s): Disaster Recovery including controllers, disks including OEM Warranty		R.....	R.....
3.		Redundant SAN Switches (at least 48 ports each) including OEM Warranty (2 for Production and 2 for DR)	4	R.....	R.....
4.		Installation and configuration (both Production and DR)		R.....	R.....
5.		Support and Maintenance for 5 years		R.....	R.....
*TOTAL BID PRICE					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.**

18 APPENDIX C: Guideline Reference Table

Reference #1

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Budget (estimate)	
	Storage size (TB) delivered	
Timeframe	Where was this done?	

Reference #2

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Budget (estimate)	
	Storage size (TB) delivered	
Timeframe	Where was this done?	

Reference #3

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Budget (estimate)	
	Storage size (TB) delivered	
Timeframe	Where was this done?	

Reference #4

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Budget (estimate)	
	Storage size (TB) delivered	
Timeframe	Where was this done?	

Reference #5

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Budget (estimate)	
	Storage size (TB) delivered	
Timeframe	Where was this done?	

19 APPENDIX D: Evaluation Criteria

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

19.1 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 be identified will be pursued in accordance with statutory obligations and requirements.

In this regard, the following must be noted:

- 19.1.1 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.
- 19.1.2 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.
- 19.1.3 As part of the evaluation of the procurement process, the information provided by a person on the SBD4 form must be evaluated.
- 19.1.4 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.

- 19.1.5 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.
- 19.1.6 The Electoral Commission's CEO must inform National Treasury of any action taken against a person within 30 days of implementing the action.
- 19.1.7 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.
- 19.1.8 A bid related to a restricted bidder or tender defaulter shall be rejected.
- 19.1.9 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.		
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.

19.2 Stage 2: Key Qualifying Criteria

Stage 2 – Key Qualifying Criteria				
Company Name (Bidder):				
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 5.1			
2.	Did the bidder complete and submit technical specification as per 5.2? (Appendix A: Technical Bid Response Sheet)			
3.	Did the bidder complete and submit pricing schedule as per 8.2? (Appendix B: Pricing Schedule)			
4.	Did the bidder submit a letter of proof of the reseller agreement either from the OEM or an authorized distributor (i.e. if the reseller is authorised by a distributor) as per 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5? If the reseller agreement is from a distributor, did the bidder provide proof from the OEM authorizing the distributor?			
5.	Did the bidder submit a statement of service, describing the service and support that is covered under the contract including the roles of the bidder and the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) as per 5.6?			
6.	Did the bidder include price schedule / quotation showing all the components of the solution being proposed as per 8.3?			
7.	Did the bidder submit confirmation of the 5-year OEM warranty for the proposed solution as per 5.7?			
8.	Did the bidder submit a product lifecycle showing a lifespan of at least 5 years for the proposed solution as per 5.8?			
9.	Did the bidder submit OEM's or distributor's delivery lead times confirmation as per 10.2? Are the delivery lead times aligned to IEC's requirements as per 10.1?			
Overall Stage 2 Outcomes:		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>		
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):		

19.3 Stage 3: Technical Evaluation

Technical Bid Evaluation Does the bidder comply with all the technical requirements?.						
Specification				Bidder indicated?		Comments
				Yes	No	
1.	Storage Description	Did the bidder propose 200 TB of usable storage for Production and 200 TB of usable storage for the DR environment?	3.1			
2.		Is the Storage based on SSD drives?	3.1			
3.		Is the solution complete with controllers, switches, power supplies etc.?	3.1			
4.		Does the solution include installation and configuration services?	3.1			
5.		Does the solution include 5 years' OEM warranty, support and maintenance?	3.1			
6.		Does the solution connect to servers via Fibre Channel of at least 16 Gbps?	3.2			
7.		Does the solution allow for some servers to connect to both this storage and legacy storage?	3.2 and 3.19			
8.		Does the storage support access by physical and virtual servers?	3.3			
9.		Is the storage solution cloud ready?	3.4			
10.	Storage Features	Does the solution support deduplication and compression?	3.14			
11.	High Availability and Resiliency	Do all the components(controllers, switches, power supplies, fans, disks) of the storage solution have redundancy and avoid single point of failure?	3.15			
12.		Does the solution meet the 99.9999% availability requirement?	3.15			
13.	Replication	Does the solution provide native disk-to-disk active-active, synchronous or asynchronous replication between Production and the DR site?	3.16			
14.		Is the replication tool an integral part of the storage solution, not an external third party tool?	3.16			
15.		Does the storage support incremental data replication?	3.16			
16.		Can a storage array also rehydrate data to replicate data or move volumes between appliances?	3.16			

<p align="center">Technical Bid Evaluation</p> <p align="center">Does the bidder comply with all the technical requirements?.</p>						
Specification				Bidder indicated?		Comments
				Yes	No	
17.		Is an administrator able to replicate data from specified source volumes to specified destination volumes?	3.16			
18.		Does the solution have no bandwidth or file size limitation for replication?	3.16			
19.	Data Integrity	Does the storage unit have its own UPS to ensure clean shutdown of the controller / disk units in case of power interruptions?	3.17			
20.		Does the storage protect data from a 3 disk failure per availability group from data loss?	3.17			
21.		The Raid mechanism should also be spread across a number of units to avoid corruption or loss of data from a complete unit failure	3.17			
22.	Scalability	Is the proposed solution scalable?	3.18			
23.	Virtualization / Thin provisioning	Can more logical storage space be allocated than available physical storage?	3.20			
24.		Can disk space be allocated on demand instead of provisioning pre-allocated space?	3.20			
25.	High Performance	Does the SAN provide high performance through features such as caching, load balancing, high speed fibre connectivity?	3.21			
26.		Can storage array exceed 90% of usable capacity without degradation in performance?	3.21			
27.		Does the solution support at a minimum 16 Gbps Fibre Connectivity?	3.21			
28.	Security	Does the storage have features such as authentication, encryption and access control?	3.22			
29.		Does the solution have ransomware protection?	3.22			
30.		Are the encryption licenses are included as part of the solution?	3.22			
31.		Can the storage solution be integrated into Active Directory for authentication?	3.22			

Technical Bid Evaluation Does the bidder comply with all the technical requirements?.						
Specification				Bidder indicated?		Comments
				Yes	No	
32.	Automation and Management	Does the solution include automation features and centralized management tool with Web GUI and CLI?	3.23			
33.	Analytics	Does the proposed storage have analytics capability? The ability to collect and analyze storage data over time so as to reveal resource usage trends, anomalies and patterns of failure.	3.24			
34.		Does the Analytics capability use AI/Machine learning?	3.24			
35.		Does the solution provide Descriptive Analytics ?	3.25			
36.		Does the solution provide Predictive Analytics?	3.25			
37.		Does the solution provide Prescriptive Analytics?	3.25			
38.		Does the solution provide Diagnostics Analytics?	3.25			
39.		Is the solution able to pinpoint issues between storage and Virtual system and underutilized resources to improve performance, drive higher availability and optimize resource utilization and planning?	3.25			
40.	Backups	Does the solution support snapshots copies?	3.27			
41.	Operating environment	Does the solution support VMWare (ESXi) version 7 and 8?	3.28			
42.		Does the solution support Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2016 and later?	3.28			
43.		Does the solution support Microsoft Windows Server?	3.28			
44.		Does the solution support Ubuntu Server Edition?	3.28			
45.		Does the solution support Oracle Linux?	3.28			
46.		Does the solution supports Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL)?	3.28			

<div>Technical Bid Evaluation</div> <div>Does the bidder comply with all the technical requirements?.</div>						
Specification				Bidder indicated?		Comments
				Yes	No	
47.		Does the solution supports Suse Linux Enterprise Server (SELS)?	3.28			
48.		Does the solution support backup softwares: Veritas Netbackup and Veeam?	3.29			
Overall Stage 3 Outcomes:		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>				
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):				

19.4 Stage 4: Technical Scoring

<p align="center">Bid Evaluation Criteria</p> <p align="center">Stage 4 – Technical Scoring</p> <p align="center">To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (52.5/70)</p>					
	Criteria	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
1	Relevant Reference	50	<p>References: (10 points per reference)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Customer name = 1 point b) Contact Person = 1 point c) Email = 0.5 point d) Telephone = 0.5 point e) Physical address = 0.5 point f) Product/Solution = 2 points g) Description of Services provided = 1 points. h) Value (Budget Estimate) = 1 point i) Value (Size of the Storage delivered) = 2 points j) Service provided within the last 5 years = 0.5 point <p>Total for references = maximum 50 points per reference (5 references)</p>		
	Experience	4	<p>Bidder has experience that is: (4 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Between 5 and 7 years = 3 points b) More than 7 years = 4 points 		
	Storage Lifespan	4	<p>The servers proposed have a lifespan of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Storage and Controller (2 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 5-7 years (1 point) ii. More than 7 years (2 points) b) Switches (2 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 5-7 years (1 point) 		

<p style="text-align: center;">Bid Evaluation Criteria</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stage 4 – Technical Scoring</p>					
To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (52.5/70)					
	Criteria	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
			ii. More than 7 years (2 points)		
	Support and Maintenance	6	<p>Bidder's response time (2 points)</p> <p>a) Bidder can provide a 20 min response time (including a phone call from an assigned resource) or less on a 24/7 basis (2 points)</p> <p>b) Bidder can provide a 30 min response time (including a phone call from an assigned resource) or less on a 24/7 basis (1 point)</p> <p>On-site attendance</p> <p>a) Bidder can provide a 2 hour on site attendance or less on a 24/7 basis (2 points)</p> <p>b) Bidder can provide a four hour attendance or less on a 24/7 basis (1 point)</p> <p>Parts Replacement</p> <p>a) Bidder can provide parts replacement on the same day on a 24/7 basis (2 points)</p> <p>b) Bidder can provide parts replacement on the Next business day on a 24/7 basis (1 point)</p>		
	Datasheets	6	<p>Bidder submitted data sheets for the products proposed.</p> <p>a) Storage and Controllers (4 points)</p> <p>b) Switches (2 points)</p>		
Overall Stage 4 Outcomes:		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>			
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):			

19.5 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 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:
