

Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

RFP No. 3781/07/10/2026

Date of Issue	Tuesday, 22 September 2026	
Non-compulsory Briefing Session	Date and Time: Monday, 28 September 2026 at 08:00	Link to Non-Compulsory Briefing Session: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/360132770351466?p=qB0t6U9ict0chWbe1a
Enquiries	Supply Chain Management	E-mail: tender@csir.co.za
	Please use RFP No and RFP Description as subject reference	
Last date for submission enquiries/clarifications	Monday, 28 September 2026 at 16:30	
Electronical Submission	tender@csir.co.za (If tender submission exceeds 25MB multiple emails must be sent)	
CSIR business hours	08h00 – 16h30	
Category	Essential High-Performance Computing Storage Infrastructure	
Closing Date and Time	Wednesday, 07 October 2026 at 16:30	
Bid Validity	180 Calendar Days from RFP Closing Date	

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SECTION A

GENERAL RFP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 INTRODUCTION

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is one of the leading scientific research and technology development organisations in Africa. In partnership with national and international research and technology institutions, the CSIR undertakes directed and multidisciplinary research and technology innovation that contributes to the improvement of the quality of life of South Africans. The CSIR's main site is in Pretoria while it is represented in other provinces of South Africa through regional offices.

1.1 National Integrated Cyber Infrastructure System (NICIS)

National Integrated Cyber Infrastructure System (NICIS) promotes scientific and industrial development through the provision of high-performance computing capability, high-speed network capacity and a national research data infrastructure integrated hierarchically into globally connected systems and into local systems, providing seamless access for the research and education communities of South Africa. It is a national initiative of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation and implemented by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

1.2 NICIS Vision

The realisation of a vibrant and competitive knowledge-based economy impacting socioeconomic development by enabling education, research, and innovation through shared access to advanced cyberinfrastructure facilities and services.

1.3 NICIS Mission

To provide a world class national integrated cyberinfrastructure system that enables research, innovation and learning comprising a national high-performance computing facility, a national research and education network and a national data intensive research infrastructure

accessible across the research and higher education sector through integrated eResearch services and the development of relevant human capital.

The Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC) is one of the three pillars of the NICIS. It provides massive parallel processing capabilities and services to researchers in industry and academia. The other main pillars are the South African National Research Network (SANReN), which provides high-speed connectivity and advanced networking services, as well as the Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA), which implements services that enable sound data management practices and support efficient data-driven scientific and engineering discoveries.

CHPC, a hosted program within the CSIR, recently concluded procuring a 4 PetaFlop (Pflop) HPC to replace the current Lengau cluster. CHPC supports over 1500 users and over 100 applications across various science disciplines, including chemistry, material science, astronomy, climate science, bioinformatics, and more. The project entails implementing a high-performance computing (HPC) cluster to support the rapidly increasing computational and storage demands of the entire spectrum of South Africa's computational research. The cluster needs to provide significant computational capabilities, with a target performance of 4Pflops sustained Linpack performance, to deliver the mandate of the CSIR.

2 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

- 2.1 All proposals are to be submitted electronically to tender@csir.co.za. No late proposals will be accepted.
- 2.2 All proposals will only be considered if received by the CSIR before the closing date and time (***as indicated on the cover page***).
- 2.3 All proposal submissions are to be clearly subject-referenced with the **RFP number and RFP Description**. Proposals must consist of two parts, each of which must be sent in separate emails with the following subject:

PART 1: Technical Proposal (**Please indicate the RFP Number on each File/folder**)

PART 2: Pricing Proposal, Specific Goals claim documentation: (**Please indicate the RFP Number on each File/folder**)

- 2.4 Proposals submitted must be signed by a person or persons duly authorised.
- 2.5 Proposals submitted at incorrect location and/or address, will not be accepted for considerations.
- 2.6 Proposals received after the closing date and time, at the address indicated in the bid documents, will not be accepted for consideration. All dates and times in this bid are South African Standard Time.
- 2.7 Any time or date in this bid is subject to change at the CSIR's discretion. The establishment of a time or date in this bid does not create an obligation on the part of the CSIR to take any action or create any right in any way for any bidder to demand that any action be taken on the date established. The bidder accepts that, if the CSIR extends the deadline for bid submission (the Closing Date) for any reason, the requirements of this bid otherwise apply equally to the extended deadline.
- 2.8 Documents submitted via cloud solutions such as: WeTransfer, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc. will not be considered.
- 2.9 The naming / labelling syntax of files or documents must be short and simple.
- 2.10 The CSIR will award the contract to the qualified bidder whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the CSIR, taking into consideration the technical (functional) solution, price, specific goals and objective criteria if invoked.

3 COUNTER CONDITIONS

Bidders' attention is drawn to the fact that amendments to any of the RFP Conditions or setting of counter conditions by Bidders or qualifying any RFP Conditions will result in the invalidation of such bids.

4 FRONTING

- 4.1 Government supports the spirit of broad based black economic empowerment and recognizes that real empowerment can only be achieved through individuals and businesses conducting themselves in accordance with the Constitution and in an honest, fair, equitable, transparent and legally compliant manner. Against this background the Government condemn any form of fronting.
- 4.2 The Government, in ensuring that Bidders conduct themselves in an honest manner will, as part of the RFP evaluation processes, conduct or initiate the necessary enquiries/investigations to determine the accuracy of the representation made in bid documents. Should any of the fronting indicators as contained in the Guidelines on Complex Structures and Transactions and Fronting, issued by the Department of Trade and Industry, be established during such enquiry / investigation, the onus will be on the Bidder / contractor to prove that fronting does not exist. Failure to do so within a period of 14 days from date of notification may invalidate the bid / contract and may also result in the restriction of the Bidder /contractor to conduct business with the public sector for a period not exceeding ten years, in addition to any other remedies the CSIR may have against the Bidder / contractor concerned.

5 PRICING PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Pricing must be provided in South African Rand (including all applicable taxes less all unconditional discounts. The discounts must be reflected on the pricing schedule.)
- 5.2 For prices subject to rates of exchange variations, the items or proportion of the contract price subject to exchange rate variation and the rates of exchange used in calculating the prices must be disclosed. Bidders must indicate the ROE used by 12:00 p.m. (South African Time) on the date of issuing this tender. Bidders must also indicate the source of ROE used. The bidder must provide a total cost breakdown and escalation formula.
- 5.3 Price should include additional cost elements such as travel cost, freight, insurance until acceptance, duty where applicable, etc.

5.4 Bidder must submit a pricing proposal for each of the following hardware capacity points, and the final selection of capacity will be based on affordability:

- Option 1: 1.0 PB total physical storage
- Option 2: 1.25 PB total physical storage
- Option 3: 1.5 PB total physical storage
- Option 4: 1.75 PB total physical storage
- Option 5: 2.0 PB total physical storage
- Option 6: 2.2 PB total physical storage
- Option 7: 2.4 PB total physical storage

Note: All quoted capacities must represent actual usable hardware capacity without relying on deduplication, compression, or any other data-reduction technologies.

See Table 0 in Annexure C—Terms of Reference (below) for the detailed technical capacities of each option.

5.5 Payment will be according to the [CSIR Payment Terms and Conditions](#).

5.6 Please provide detailed pricing using a Pricing Schedule under Annexure E. Pricing must strictly be in accordance with the Pricing Schedule.

5.7 Prices must be firm and valid for the duration of the contract period.

6 APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER

6.1 The contract will be awarded to the bidder who scores the highest total number of points during the evaluation process, except where the law permits otherwise.

6.2 Appointment as a successful service provider shall be subject to the parties agreeing to mutually acceptable contractual terms and conditions. In the event of the parties failing to reach such an agreement, CSIR reserves the right to appoint an alternative supplier.

6.3 Awarding of contracts will be published on the same platform where the bid was published, and no regret letters will be sent to unsuccessful bidders.

7 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

- 7.1 Upon award, the CSIR and the successful bidder will conclude an agreement regulating the specific terms and conditions applicable to the services being procured by the CSIR.
- 7.2 The CSIR reserves the right to accept or reject any or all amendments or additions proposed by a bidder if such amendments or additions are unacceptable to the CSIR or pose a risk to the organisation.

8 ENQUIRIES AND CONTACT WITH THE CSIR

Any enquiry regarding this RFP shall be submitted in writing to CSIR to the email and format outlined in the table on cover page of this RFP document.

Any other contact with CSIR personnel involved in this tender is not permitted during the RFP process other than as required through existing service arrangements or as requested by the CSIR as part of the RFP process.

9 MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION

All documentation submitted in response to this RFP must be in English.

10 CORRECTNESS OF RESPONSES

- 10.1 The bidder must confirm satisfaction regarding the correctness and validity of their proposal and that all prices and rates quoted cover all the work/items specified in the RFP. The prices and rates quoted must cover all obligations under any resulting contract.
- 10.2 The bidder accepts that any mistakes regarding prices and calculations will be at their own risk.

11 VERIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 11.1 Bidders should check the numbers of the pages to satisfy themselves that none is missing or duplicated. No liability will be accepted by the CSIR in regard to anything arising from the fact that pages are missing or duplicated.

- 11.2 Pricing schedule and specific goals credentials should be submitted with the proposal, but as a separate document and no such information should be available in the technical proposal.

12 RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUB-CONTRACTORS AND BIDDER'S PERSONNEL

A bidder is responsible for ensuring that its personnel (including agents, officers, directors, employees, advisors and other representatives), its sub-contractors (if any) and personnel of its sub-contractors comply with all terms and conditions of this bid. In the event that the CSIR allows a bidder to make use of sub-contractors, such sub-contractors will at all times remain the responsibility of the bidder and the CSIR will not under any circumstances be liable for any losses or damages incurred by or caused by such sub-contractors.

13 ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 13.1 A bidder shall not assume that information and/or documents supplied to CSIR, at any time prior to this request, are still available to CSIR, and shall consequently not make any reference to such information document in its response to this request.
- 13.2 Copies of any affiliations, memberships and/or accreditations that support your submission must be included in the tender.
- 13.3 In case of proposal/s from a joint venture, the following must be submitted together with the proposal/s:
- A joint venture agreement signed by both parties clearly indication the lead partner, including split of work;
 - Copy of a valid certificate or consolidated B-BBEE score card;
 - The Tax Compliance Status (TCS) or CSD Report of each joint venture partner;
 - Proof of ownership/shareholder certificates/copies; and
 - Company registration certificate/s.
- 13.4 An omission to disclose material information, a factual inaccuracy, and/or a

misrepresentation of fact may result in the disqualification of a tender, or cancellation of any subsequent contract.

- 13.5 No goods and/or services should be delivered to the CSIR without an official CSIR Purchase order or signed supplier agreement. The CSIR purchase order number must be quoted on the invoice. Invoices without CSIR purchase order numbers will be returned to supplier.
- 13.6 Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions as set out in this document will invalidate the Proposal.

14 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The CSIR reserves the right to:

- 14.1 Extend the closing date of this RFP;
- 14.2 Correct any mistakes before closing date and time of the tender that may have been in the Bid documents or occurred at any stage of the tender process;
- 14.3 Verify any information contained in the bidder's submission;
- 14.4 Request documentary proof regarding the bidder's submission;
- 14.5 Carry out site inspections, product evaluations or explanatory meetings in order to verify the nature and quality of the product/service offered by the bidder(s) or verify any information whether before or after the adjudication of this RFP;
- 14.6 Award this tender to a bidder that did not score the highest total number of points, only in accordance with Section 2(1)(f) of the PPPFA (Act 5 of 2000);
- 14.7 Request audited financial statements or other documents for the purpose of a due diligence exercise to determine if the bidder will be able to execute the contract;
- 14.8 Award this RFP as a whole or in part;
- 14.9 Cancel and/or terminate the tender process at any stage, including after the Closing Date and/or after presentations have been made, and/or after tenders have been evaluated

and/or after the preferred bidder(s) have been notified of their status as such;

14.10 Post tender negotiate on any elements on the bid, including but not limited to technical, transformation, price, and contractual terms and conditions.;

14.11 Not to award a contract to a bidder who is associated with a security breach that materially adversely affects other entities or if any directors or officers of a bidder are formally charged of fraudulent or illegal conduct which would harm the CSIR's reputation by its continued association with the bidder.

15 CONFLICT OF INTEREST, CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

15.1 The CSIR reserves its right to disqualify any bidder who either itself or any of whose members (save for such members who hold a minority interest in the bidder through shares listed on any recognised stock exchange), indirect members (being any person or entity who indirectly holds at least a 15% interest in the bidder other than in the context of shares listed on a recognised stock exchange), directors or members of senior management, whether in respect of CSIR or any other government organ or entity and whether from the Republic of South Africa or otherwise ("Government Entity")

a. engages in any collusive tendering, anti-competitive conduct, or any other similar conduct, including but not limited to any collusion with any other bidder in respect of the subject matter of this bid;

15.1.1 seeks any assistance, other than assistance officially provided by a Government Entity, from any employee, advisor or other representative of a Government Entity in order to obtain any unlawful advantage in relation to procurement or services provided or to be provided to a Government Entity;

b. makes or offers any gift, gratuity, anything of any value or other inducement, to any Government Entity's officers, directors, employees, advisors or other representatives in order to obtain any unlawful advantage in relation to procurement or services provided or to be provided to a Government Entity;

c. accepts anything of value or an inducement that would or may provide financial gain, advantage or benefit in relation to procurement or services provided or to be provided to a Government Entity;

- d. pays or agrees to pay to any person any fee, commission, percentage, brokerage fee, gift or any other consideration, that is contingent upon or results from, the award of any tender, contract, right or entitlement which is in any way related to procurement or the rendering of any services to a Government Entity;
- e. has in the past engaged in any matter referred to above; or
- f. has been found guilty in a court of law on charges of fraud and/or forgery, regardless of whether or not a prison term was imposed and despite such bidder, member or director's name not specifically appearing on the List of Tender Defaulters kept at National Treasury.

16 MISREPRESENTATION DURING THE LIFECYCLE OF THE CONTRACT

- 16.1 The bidder should note that the terms of its Tender will be incorporated in the proposed contract by reference and that the CSIR relies upon the bidder's Tender as a material representation in making an award to a successful bidder and in concluding an agreement with the bidder.
- 16.2 It follows therefore that misrepresentations in a Tender may give rise to service termination and a claim by the CSIR against the bidder notwithstanding the conclusion of the Service Level Agreement between the CSIR and the bidder for the provision of the Service in question. In the event of a conflict between the bidder's proposal and the Service Level Agreement concluded between the parties, the Service Level Agreement will prevail.

17 PREPARATION COSTS AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

The Bidder will bear all its costs in preparing, submitting and presenting any response or Tender to this bid and all other costs incurred by it throughout the bid process. Furthermore, no statement in this bid will be construed as placing the CSIR, its employees or agents under any obligation whatsoever, including in respect of costs, expenses or losses incurred by the bidder(s) in the preparation of their response to this bid.

A bidder participates in this bid process entirely at its own risk and cost. The CSIR shall not be liable to compensate a bidder on any grounds whatsoever for any costs incurred or any damages suffered as a result of the Bidder's participation in this Bid process.

18 INDEMNITY

If a bidder breaches the conditions of this bid and, as a result of that breach, the CSIR incurs costs or damages (including, without limitation, the cost of any investigations, procedural impairment, repetition of all or part of the bid process and/or enforcement of intellectual property rights or confidentiality obligations), then the bidder indemnifies and holds the CSIR harmless from any and all such costs which the CSIR may incur and for any damages or losses the CSIR may suffer.

19 PRECEDENCE

This document will prevail over any information provided during any briefing session whether oral or written, unless such written information provided, expressly amends this document by reference.

20 TAX COMPLIANCE

No tender shall be awarded to a bidder who is not tax compliant. If a recommended bidder is not tax compliant, the bidder will be notified in writing of their non-compliant status and the bidder will be requested to submit written proof from SARS of their tax compliant status or proof that they have made an arrangement to meet their outstanding tax obligations within seven (7) working days. Should they fail to do so CSIR will reject their bid.

The CSIR reserves the right to withdraw an award made, or cancel a contract concluded with a successful bidder in the event that it is established that such bidder was in fact not tax compliant at the time of the award or has submitted a fraudulent Tax Clearance Certificate to the CSIR, or whose verification against the Central Supplier Database (CSD) proves non-compliant. The CSIR further reserves the right to cancel a contract with a successful bidder in the event that such bidder does not remain tax compliant for the full term of the contract.

21 TENDER DEFAULTERS AND RESTRICTED SUPPLIERS

No tender shall be awarded to a bidder whose name (or any of its members, directors, partners or trustees) appear on the Register of Tender Defaulters kept by National Treasury, or who have been placed on National Treasury's List of Restricted Suppliers. The CSIR reserves the right to withdraw an award, or cancel a contract concluded with a Bidder should it be established, at any time, that a bidder has been blacklisted with National Treasury by another government institution.

22 GOVERNING LAW

South African law governs this bid and the bid response process. The bidder agrees to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the South African courts in any dispute of any kind that may arise out of or in connection with the subject matter of this bid, the bid itself and all processes associated with the bid.

23 CONFIDENTIALITY

Except as may be required by operation of law, by a court or by a regulatory authority having appropriate jurisdiction, no information contained in or relating to this bid or a bidder's tender(s) will be disclosed by any bidder or other person not officially involved with the CSIR's examination and evaluation of a Tender.

No part of the bid may be distributed, reproduced, stored or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, in whole or in part except for the purpose of preparing a Tender. This bid and any other documents supplied by the CSIR remain proprietary to the CSIR and must be promptly returned to the CSIR upon request together with all copies, electronic versions, excerpts or summaries thereof or work derived there from.

Throughout this bid process and thereafter, bidder(s) must secure the CSIR's written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to (i) the potential work or activities to which this bid relates; or (ii) the process which follows this bid. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in disqualification from the bid process and civil action.

24 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Should funds no longer be available to pay for the execution of the responsibilities of this bid, the CSIR may terminate the Agreement at its own discretion or temporarily suspend all or part of the services by notice to the successful bidder who shall immediately make arrangements to stop the performance of the services and minimize further expenditure: Provided that the successful bidder shall thereupon be entitled to payment in full for the services delivered, up to the date of cancellation or suspension.

25 PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 25.1 Each Party consents to the other Party holding and processing “personal information” (as defined in the POPI Act) relating to it for legal, personnel, administrative and management purposes (including, if applicable, any “special personal information” relating to him/her, as defined in the POPI Act). Notwithstanding the generality of the aforesaid, each Party hereby undertakes to comply with all relevant provisions of the POPI Act and any other applicable data protection laws. The bidder further agrees to comply with all CSIR’s reasonable internal governance requirements pertaining to data protection.
- 25.2 Each Party consents to the other Party making such information available to those who provide products or services to such parties (such as advisers, regulatory authorities, governmental or quasi-governmental organisations and potential purchasers of such Party or any part of their business).
- 25.3 While performing any activity where a Party is handling personal information as a “responsible party” (as defined in the POPI Act), each Party undertakes that it will process the personal information strictly in accordance with the terms of the POPI Act, this Contract, and the other Party’s instructions from time to time, and take appropriate operational measures to safeguard the data against any unauthorised access.
- 25.4 Each Party acknowledges that in the course of conducting business with each other, each Party intends to maintain and process personal information about the other Party in an

internal database. By signing this Contract, each Party consents to the maintenance and processing of such personal information.

Where relevant, the bidder shall procure that all of its personnel, agents, representatives, contractors, sub-contractors and mandataries shall comply with the provisions of this clause 25 (Personal Information). The CSIR shall be entitled on reasonable notice to conduct an inspection or audit bidders' compliance with the requisite POPI Act safeguards.

26 DISCLAIMER

This RFP is a request for proposals only and not an offer document. Answers to this RFP must not be construed as acceptance of an offer or imply the existence of a contract between the parties. By submission of its proposal, bidders shall be deemed to have satisfied themselves with and to have accepted all Terms & Conditions of this RFP. The CSIR makes no representation, warranty, assurance, guarantee or endorsements to bidder concerning the RFP, whether with regard to its accuracy, completeness or otherwise and the CSIR shall have no liability towards the bidder or any other party in connection therewith.

SECTION B

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

27 TERMS OF REFERENCE

This RFP is for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period. The service offering must include all requirements as set out in **Annexure D - Technical Evaluation Matrix/Rubrics**

28 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The CSIR has set minimum standards that a bidder needs to meet in order to be evaluated and selected as a successful bidder. The minimum standards consist of the following:

Elimination Criteria (Phase 1)	Technical Evaluation Criteria (Phase 2)	Price and Preference Points Evaluation (Phase 3)	Objective Criteria
Only bidders that comply with ALL the criteria set in paragraph 28.1 on Phase 1 below will proceed to Technical/Functional Evaluation (Phase 2).	Bidder(s) are required to achieve a predetermined minimum threshold of 50% on each of the individual criteria. Only bidder (s) who meet and/or exceed the minimum threshold points on each of the individual criteria in Phase 2 below will proceed to Price and Preference Points Evaluation. (Phase 3)	Bidder(s) will be evaluated out of 100 points i.e. 80 points for Price and 20 points for Preference Points.	The CSIR reserves the right to award this tender to a bidder that did not score the highest total number of points in accordance with Section (2) (1) (f) of the PPPFA (Act 5 of 2000).

28.1 Elimination Criteria (Phase 1)

Proposals will be eliminated under the following conditions:

- Bidder that submitted late bids will not be considered.
- Bidder that submitted to the incorrect location or email address will not be considered (Only electronic submission to tender@csir.co.za would be considered).
- Bidder that is listed on the NT database of restricted suppliers will not be considered.
- Bidder that is registered on the NT Register of Tender Defaulters will not be considered.
- Proposals submitted via cloud solutions such as WeTransfer, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc. will not be considered
- Bidder that did not meet any of the technical requirements in Annexure A: Technical Specifications Requirements will not be considered.
- Bidder that did not submit mandatory returnable documents as listed on **Annexure F: Proposal Form and List of Returnable Documents** will not be considered.

28.2 Technical Evaluation Criteria (Phase 2)

The evaluation of the functional/technical detail of the proposal will be based on the following criteria:

No	ELEMENT	WEIGHT
1	Company Experience in Parallel File System	30
2	Engineer(s) with experience in Parallel File System	30
3	Delivery Lead Time of the full Parallel File System Storage Hardware	40
TOTAL (%)		100

Proposals with functionality / technical points of less than **50 %** on each of the individual criterion will be eliminated from further evaluation on Price and Preference Points Evaluation.

Refer to **Annexure D (Technical Evaluation Matrix/Rubrics)** for the scoring ranges/rubrics that will be used to evaluate functionality.

28.3 Price and Preference Points Evaluation (Phase 3)

Only Bidders that have met minimum thresholds on Technical/functional Evaluation will be

evaluated for price and preference points. Price and Preference Points will be evaluated as per **Annexure H: Preference Points Award Form**.

29 OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

The CSIR reserves the right to award this tender to a bidder that did not score the highest total number of points in accordance with Section (2) (1) (f) of the PPPFA (Act 5 of 2000)", under the following conditions:

- The directors, shareholders or officers of the bidder must not be formally charged of fraudulent or illegal conduct, which could harm CSIR's reputation by associating with the bidder.

30 NATIONAL TREASURY CENTRAL SUPPLIER DATABASE (CSD) REGISTRATION

Respondents are required to self-register on National Treasury's Central Supplier Database (CSD) which has been established to centrally administer supplier information for all organs of state and facilitate the verification of certain key supplier information. Business may not be awarded to a Respondent who has failed to register on the CSD. Only foreign suppliers with no local registered entity need not register on the CSD. In order to enable the CSIR to verify information on the CSD, Respondents are required to provide the unique registration reference number.

Before any negotiations will start with the winning bidder it will be required from the winning bidder to:

- be registered on National Treasury's Central Supplier Database (CSD). Registrations can be completed online at: www.csd.gov.za;
- provide the CSIR of their CSD registration number.

Annexure B

Standard Bidding Document (SBD) 1

PART A: INVITATION TO BID

YOU ARE HEREBY INVITED TO BID FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CSIR					
BID NUMBER:	3781/07/10/2026	CLOSING DATE:	07 October 2026	CLOSING TIME:	16:30
DESCRIPTION	The Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, and Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.				
BID RESPONSE DOCUMENTS MAY BE DEPOSITED IN THE BID BOX SITUATED AT (STREET ADDRESS)					
The CSIR requires that all tender submissions be submitted electronically to tender@csir.co.za . Should tender file size exceed 25MB, bidders must submit tender in multiple emails. Use the tender number 3781/07/10/2026 and description of the tender as the subject on your email.					
BIDDING PROCEDURE ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO			TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO:		
CONTACT PERSON			CONTACT PERSON		
TELEPHONE NUMBER			TELEPHONE NUMBER		
FACSIMILE NUMBER			FACSIMILE NUMBER		
E-MAIL ADDRESS	tender@csir.co.za		E-MAIL ADDRESS	tender@csir.co.za	
SUPPLIER INFORMATION					
NAME OF BIDDER					
POSTAL ADDRESS					
STREET ADDRESS					
TELEPHONE NUMBER	CODE		NUMBER		
CELLPHONE NUMBER					
FACSIMILE NUMBER	CODE		NUMBER		
E-MAIL ADDRESS					
VAT REGISTRATION NUMBER					
SUPPLIER COMPLIANCE STATUS	TAX COMPLIANCE SYSTEM PIN:		OR	CENTRAL SUPPLIER DATABASE No:	MAAA

1 ARE YOU THE ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE GOODS /SERVICES /WORKS OFFERED?	☐ Yes ☐ No [IF YES ENCLOSE PROOF]	2 ARE YOU A FOREIGN BASED SUPPLIER FOR THE GOODS /SERVICES /WORKS OFFERED?	☐ Yes ☐ No [IF YES, ANSWER THE QUESTIONNAIRE BELOW]
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QUESTIONNAIRE TO BIDDING FOREIGN SUPPLIERS

IS THE ENTITY A RESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (RSA)?
☐ YES ☐ NO

DOES THE ENTITY HAVE A BRANCH IN THE RSA? ☐
 YES ☐ NO

DOES THE ENTITY HAVE A PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT IN THE RSA? ☐
 YES ☐ NO

DOES THE ENTITY HAVE ANY SOURCE OF INCOME IN THE RSA? ☐
 YES ☐ NO

IS THE ENTITY LIABLE IN THE RSA FOR ANY FORM OF TAXATION? ☐
 YES ☐ NO

IF THE ANSWER IS “NO” TO ALL OF THE ABOVE, THEN IT IS NOT A REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER FOR A TAX COMPLIANCE STATUS SYSTEM PIN CODE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE (SARS) AND IF NOT REGISTER AS PER 2.3 BELOW.

PART B: TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR BIDDING

1. BID SUBMISSION:

- 1.1. BIDS MUST BE DELIVERED BY THE STIPULATED TIME TO THE CORRECT ADDRESS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION.
- 1.2. **ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE OFFICIAL FORMS PROVIDED--(NOT TO BE RE-TYPED) OR IN THE MANNER PRESCRIBED IN THE BID DOCUMENT.**
- 1.3. THIS BID IS SUBJECT TO THE PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK ACT, 2000 AND THE PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, 2022, THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT (GCC) AND, IF APPLICABLE, ANY OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.
- 1.4. **THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE REQUIRED TO FILL IN AND SIGN A WRITTEN CONTRACT FORM (SBD7).**

2. TAX COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 BIDDERS MUST ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR TAX OBLIGATIONS.
- 2.2 BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR UNIQUE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN) ISSUED BY SARS TO ENABLE THE ORGAN OF STATE TO VERIFY THE TAXPAYER’S PROFILE AND TAX STATUS.
- 2.3 APPLICATION FOR TAX COMPLIANCE STATUS (TCS) PIN MAY BE MADE VIA E-FILING THROUGH THE SARS WEBSITE WWW.SARS.GOV.ZA.
- 2.4 BIDDERS MAY ALSO SUBMIT A PRINTED TCS CERTIFICATE TOGETHER WITH THE BID.

- 2.5 IN BIDS WHERE CONSORTIA / JOINT VENTURES / SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE INVOLVED, EACH PARTY MUST SUBMIT A SEPARATE TCS CERTIFICATE / PIN / CSD NUMBER.
- 2.6 WHERE NO TCS PIN IS AVAILABLE BUT THE BIDDER IS REGISTERED ON THE CENTRAL SUPPLIER DATABASE (CSD), A CSD NUMBER MUST BE PROVIDED.
- 2.7 NO BIDS WILL BE CONSIDERED FROM PERSONS IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE, COMPANIES WITH DIRECTORS WHO ARE PERSONS IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE, OR CLOSE CORPORATIONS WITH MEMBERS PERSONS IN THE SERVICE OF THE STATE.”

NB: FAILURE TO PROVIDE / OR COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE PARTICULARS MAY RENDER THE BID INVALID.

SIGNATURE OF BIDDER:

.....

CAPACITY UNDER WHICH THIS BID IS SIGNED:

.....

(Proof of authority must be submitted e.g. company resolution)

DATE:

.....

Annexure C

Terms of Reference

Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, and Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

RFP No. 3781/07/10/2026

1 INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL

Proposals are hereby invited for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain information on the capabilities, experience, pricing, and overall business qualifications of prospective Contractors. This information will be used by the CSIR to evaluate and identify the Contractor(s) best positioned to deliver the required services in accordance with the CSIR's operational, technical, and commercial requirements.

This RFP document details and incorporates, as far as possible, the tasks and responsibilities of the potential bidder required by CSIR.

This RFP does not constitute an offer to do business with the CSIR but merely serves as an invitation to bidder(s) to facilitate a requirements-based decision process.

Responses to this Request for Proposal (RFP) (hereinafter referred to as a Bid or a Proposal) are requested from suitably qualified entities (hereinafter referred to as a Respondent or Bidder) for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

2 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

All proposals are to be submitted in a format specified in this enquiry.

2.1 Technical Proposal

The following must be submitted as part of the **technical** proposal:

- a. Company profile.

- b. Detailed Technical Proposal
- c. Response to **Annexure D - Technical Evaluation Matrix**
- d. Company References (OEM and/or Bidders references will be acceptable)
- e. Proof of Engineer Experience (Curriculum Vitae)
- f. Response to Annexure A – Technical Specification Requirements.
- g. The OEM support letter is dated and specific to this RFP.
 - OEM confirming support for the PFS solution, and that the vendor has direct support from the original equipment manufacturer. *(However, if the bidder is an OEM, this requirement does not apply.)*
 - OEM to confirm the lifespan of the proposed solution.
 - OEM can provide information on the end-of-life support.
- h. In the case of Joint Ventures, the bidder must submit a copy of the signed Joint Venture Agreement. (The Joint Venture Agreement must be signed by all parties.)
- i. In the case of subcontracting arrangements, the bidder must submit a copy of the signed subcontracting agreement. (If the agreement is not fully signed by both parties by the closing date and time, and where the subcontracting agreement has not been finalised, the bidder must submit a signed letter of intent or preliminary agreement, and a signed subcontracting agreement will be submitted within seven (7) days upon request).

2.2 Financial Proposal:

The following must be submitted as part of the **financial** proposal:

- Cover Letter.
- Completed Pricing Schedule (**Annexure E**).
- CSD registration report (RSA suppliers only).
- BBB-EE Certification/ Affidavit

2.3 Mandatory Elimination requirements:

- Completed **Annexure E – Pricing Schedule**
- Response to **Annexure A – Technical Specification Requirements**.
- In the case of Joint Ventures, the bidder must submit a copy of the signed Joint Venture Agreement. (The Joint Venture Agreement must be signed by all parties.)
- In the case of subcontracting arrangements, the bidder must submit a copy of the signed subcontracting agreement. (If the agreement is not fully signed by both parties by the

closing date and time, and where the subcontracting agreement has not been finalised, the bidder must submit a signed letter of intent or preliminary agreement, and a signed subcontracting agreement will be submitted within seven (7) days upon request).

3 PROPOSAL SPECIFICATION

3.1 Scope of Work

The parallel file system will be integrated with the Cluster for High Performance Computing's (CHPC) new 4 petaflops High Performance Computing (HPC) system (iHlosi). The bidder must propose a 1.0 Petabyte (PB) usable capacity base storage configuration, excluding deduplication, compression, or other data reduction techniques. In addition to the base configuration, the bidder must provide incremental expansion options, as listed fully in Table 0:

Table 0: Full list of storage configuration options required to be proposed.

Option	Nominal Usable Storage Capacity	Actual usable storage capacity limits
Option 1	1.0 PB base system	at least 1.0 PB and less than 1.25 PB
Option 2	1.25 PB	at least 1.25 PB and less than 1.5 PB
Option 3	1.5 PB	at least 1.5 PB and less than 1.75 PB
Option 4	1.75 PB	at least 1.75 PB and less than 2.0 PB
Option 5	2.0 PB	at least 2.0 PB and less than 2.2 PB
Option 6	2.2 PB	at least 2.2 PB and less than 2.4 PB
Option 7	2.4 PB	at least 2.4 PB, or larger

Note: All quoted storage capacities must represent actual usable hardware capacity without relying on deduplication, compression, or any other data-reduction technologies. Note: SI units are used where 1 PB = 10¹⁵ bytes.

The desired expansion capability is up to at least 20 PB total using standard hardware. The storage system must be capable of expanding physical capacity without reliance on data reduction technologies such as compression or deduplication.

The proposed solution must deliver a system that has adequate redundancy to support high availability (HA) and is free of any single point of failure. Long service life is essential, and the

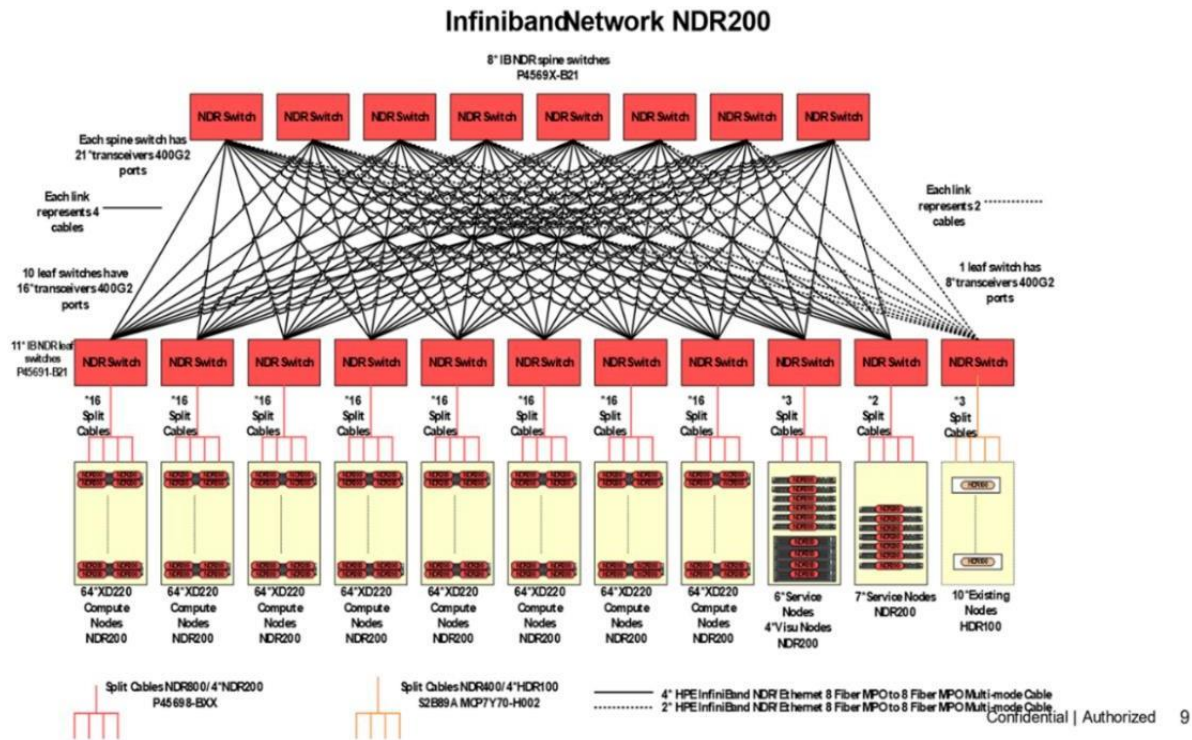
CSIR strongly prefers a system that can be easily maintained and repaired with widely available parts beyond a three (3) year service plan.

New HPC system

Table 1: New HPC technical information

HPE HPC System	Systems Configuration
HPE 42U racks (Computer Nodes)	8
HPE 42U racks (mgmt. and network)	2
Interconnect Network	HPE Infiniband NDR (400Gbp/s)
Total Power	690Kw
Computer Nodes	
Number of Nodes	512
CPU Type	8593Q (64c, 2.2GHz. 385W)
Total Cores	65 536
Memory Per Nodes (GiB)	512
Total Peak Performance (Tflop/s)	4613
Reported Linpack Rmax (Tflop/s)	4000
Management Nodes	
Management Nodes	3 (HA)
Scheduler nodes	2 (HA)
NFS Servers	3 (HA)
Login Nodes	2
DTN servers	2
MedeA server	1
Visualization nodes	4
Mslogin	1
Lnet Routers	2
Software Stack	Systems Configurations
Cluster Manager	HPCM
Operations System	RedHat
Job Scheduling	Systems Configurations
Job Scheduler	Altair PBS Professional

Figure 1 : New HPC network diagram



3.2 Technical Requirements.

The project aims to procure, implement, and integrate high-performance Parallel File System (PFS) that supports the growing data storage and performance needs of the CSIR's HPC infrastructure. The bidder will be responsible for delivering a robust, scalable, and reliable storage solution that integrates seamlessly with the new HPC system.

Key tasks include:

3.2.1 Design and Proposal of the Storage Solution

- Propose PFS solution that provides a usable hardware capacity, excluding compression, deduplication or other reduction techniques based on the capacity configurations listed fully in Table 0 (above). By "usable storage capacity" is meant the capacity reported by the Linux command: `df --si`
- The PFS solution must deliver minimum sustained read and write throughput of at

least 100 Gigabytes per second (GB/s). The bidder must clearly indicate the expected performance at each of the listed capacity configurations (Table 0) and confirm that the proposed solution can maintain required performances as storage capacity is expanded

- The desired expansion capability is up to at least 20 PB hardware capacity in total using standard hardware. The CSIR strongly prefers standard, widely available, non-proprietary hardware and software.
- Design a fault-tolerant architecture that eliminates single points of failure;
- Ensure the storage system meets performance requirements, particularly for high Input/Output Operations Per Second (IOPS) and handling both small and large files efficiently;
- Provide a design that incorporates policy-based data management, including tiering, security, and workload prioritisation;
- The storage system must be capable of expanding physical capacity without reliance on data reduction technologies such as compression or deduplication;
- The proposed solution must provide the specific usable hardware capacity to ensure these targets are met;
- Proposed PFS solution must include all required components, including cables, switches, racks, and any other necessary peripherals to ensure full functionality and integration.

3.2.2 System Performance and Benchmarking

- The purpose of this section is to document the performance requirements and the method of demonstrating compliance with Clause 3.2.5 Performance specifications during commission and acceptance testing.
- Ensure that the system meets all technical and performance requirements before final acceptance by CSIR, as described in the preceding Clause 3.2.6 describing compliance demonstration.
- There should be no failures that trigger downtime during the acceptance test. A failure is defined as any scheduled or unscheduled event that triggers downtime, where downtime is when the system is inoperable and is unable to correctly run the Acceptance Test Suite.

3.2.3 Envisaged process

- Proposed design may be based on theoretical calculations, experience, and comparison to similar systems.
- Vendor of the selected system may perform commission testing of the completed storage system using its own facilities before shipping to South Africa. Commission testing may also be performed after installation in the CHPC's HPC system. Commission testing must demonstrate compliance with the CHPC's stated minimum performance specifications.
- The CHPC will perform acceptance testing according to the criteria documented in this section.

3.2.4 Evaluation methods to be used during testing

- Operational capability;
- `df --si` to confirm usable capacity size
- IOR benchmark¹ to test sustained read and write performance;
- FlashIO test to evaluate performance of practical parallel IO methods; and
- OpenFOAM stability test.

3.2.5 Performance specification

- Minimum sustained read and write performance of 100 GB/s.
- Minimum FlashIO benchmark result of 10 GB/s, using up to 10 compute nodes
- Minimum data ingest rate of 50 TB per day.
- System to support at least 1200 compute nodes simultaneously to make allowance for future expansion.
- Ability to sustain simultaneous burst write operations from 1600 processes, each writing output for a total of 12 GB of data at 4-second intervals, for at least 1 hour.

¹ <https://github.com/hpc/ior>

3.2.6 Compliance demonstration

Notwithstanding the formal performance specifications, bidder's submissions must include a section motivating the suitability of the proposed storage system for a 4 Petaflop general-purpose scientific high-performance computing system with 512 compute nodes, each with 128 cores. This motivation can include theoretical calculations as well as examples of similar

storage systems used with similar HPC systems.

All commission test results must be documented. The test documentation must also describe the testing environment configuration, such as CPU, memory, storage type and network configuration.

The following tests will be performed on the system delivered to CHPC as acceptance tests after operational capability is confirmed:

a. Usable capacity size – df command

The Linux command `df --si` will be used to confirm the size of the usable storage capacity provided by the storage system. This will be run on all management, login and compute nodes of the cluster.

b. Sustained read and write performance – IOR benchmark

The IOR benchmark will be used to demonstrate the underlying sustained read and write performance. Details of this test are as follows:

- Perform the test over a range of nodes from 1 node up to 10 nodes.
- Use a minimum of 64 MPI processes per node.
- Suppress caching for both read and write tests.
- Minimum sustained read and write performance of 100 GB/s must be demonstrated.
- Provide the command line used to perform the commission test.

As an example, the CHPC has used the following command line in its own tests:

```
mpirun -np 640 ior -a POSIX -b 2G -t 2M -s 100000 -F -r -w -k -o /path/to/testfile
```

c. FlashIO parallel NetCDF benchmark

- Perform test over a range of nodes from 1 to 10, utilizing at least 8 MPI processes per node.
- Graph the achieved bandwidth against the number of MPI processes
- The minimum acceptable bandwidth is 10 GB/s.

d. OpenFOAM stability test

The CHPC has developed a stability test for storage systems, based on the OpenFOAM library for the solution of transport equations. A set of input files and running instructions will be provided on request. The test procedure is as follows:

- Launch two identical simpleFoam runs, each using at least 800 compute cores.
- Set the solver parameters to produce output at every time step.
- As each MPI process writes its own output, this will result in 1600 MPI processes each

writing data to the storage at approximately 4 second intervals. The combined data output at each time step will be approximately 12 GB.

- Set the input parameters to keep the data of the most recent 100-time steps. Older data will be deleted automatically. The purpose of this is to ensure that the data is written to the physical storage media and not simply cached by the storage servers.
- Continue the test for at least 1 hour to demonstrate:
 - No dramatic slowing of the solution process; and
 - No failure of the solution process

3.2.7 Integration with new HPC Infrastructure

- a. Integrate the PFS with the new HPC infrastructure via NDR200 (NVIDIA InfiniBand NDR 64-port OSFP Switch), following the network configuration provided in Figure 1.
- b. The PFS should connect to the NDR200 switches inside the service node racks for High Availability.
- c. Ensure compatibility with the current system, including any necessary software or hardware adjustments with the system in Table 1.
- d. Collaborate with the CSIR (CHPC) team to ensure seamless integration with minimal downtime or disruption to ongoing HPC workloads.
- e. Operational capability is demonstrated after integration: the storage system is fully operational, the management and monitoring systems are active, the parallel file system is connected to all nodes of the CHPC cluster using the appropriate POSIX client and is mounted and visible on all nodes.

3.2.8 System Monitoring, Management, and Data Management Capabilities

- a. Implement monitoring and alerting systems to proactively manage and report on system health and performance.
- b. Set up data management policies for quotas for users, groups, and directories to ensure optimal storage utilisation and data access control.
- c. Ensure the system supports tiering, security, and workload prioritisation to meet CSIR's operational needs.

3.2.9 Documentation and Training

- a. Provide comprehensive documentation, configuration, troubleshooting, and maintenance guides.
- b. Deliver training for CSIR staff, covering the management and operational aspects of the new storage solution.
- c. Include a comprehensive training program for the CSIR team on system management, including configuration, monitoring, and troubleshooting

3.2.10 Validation and Acceptance Testing

- a. Conduct a thorough acceptance testing phase, using real-world workloads and performance benchmarks.
- b. Address any performance issues, bottlenecks, or stability concerns observed during testing.

3.2.11 Power and Space

- a. Include 3-phase smart PDUs in High Availability mode.
- b. Information regarding the power and cooling of the new 4 PFlop HPC cluster (iHlosi) is provided in **Annexure C1 - Power and System Information**.

3.2.12 Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)

- a. Propose a solution from one OEM.
- b. Provide OEM support letter dated and specific to this RFP.
- c. Ensure OEM support for the PFS solution, confirming that the vendor has direct support from the equipment manufacturer

3.2.13 References

- a. Submit engineer CVs demonstrating relevant experience in HPC system integration of systems similar to the proposed solution (OEM and/or Bidders' CV will be acceptable).
- b. Ensure that the CVs highlight specific experience on projects of a similar scale and complexity.
- c. Guarantee that the implementation team will consist of the same or equally

qualified engineers.

- d. Provide a minimum of 3 contactable references from clients who have received similar solutions (OEM and/or Bidder's references will be acceptable).

3.2.14 Support and Maintenance

- a. Provide ongoing technical support and maintenance services to ensure the long-term stability and performance of the PFS solution, for a minimum of three (3) years.
- b. Hardware support will require replacement of failed or faulty critical components by the next business day or sooner. A critical component is defined as one that is required to enable ninety (90%) of the system to be able to run projects successfully. Software support will require telephone and email response to problem calls and questions. Response to software support calls to be next business day or sooner.
- c. Bidders should describe both the hardware and software support provided for the proposed system during the support and maintenance period.
- d. Bidders should specify the location of the nearest parts depot and explain the conditions under which support will be contracted out to a third party.
- e. Offer options for future expansions or upgrades.

3.2.15 Implementation

- a. The installation and setup of the PFS must be performed at the CSIR facility in Cape Town at 15 Lower Hope Road, Rosebank, Cape Town, South Africa.
- b. The bidder must provide a detailed project management plan and related information. The project plan must include the estimated time of delivery of the equipment.
- c. The supplier's implementation team will be expected to work closely with CSIR staff to configure and test the PFS until the acceptance stage and readiness to run the production workloads.
- d. It is also expected that the knowledge of the system configuration, installation, and maintenance package will be transferred to CSIR staff during this period.

3.2.16 Warranty and Licenses

- a. The cost of the proposed PFS shall include all warranties and licensing (if applicable) for all hardware and any software delivered with the system. This must include hardware that is not manufactured by the primary Vendor. Warranties and licenses (if applicable) shall be for a period of three (3) years of operation.
- b. The license and the software must continue working even after the three (3) year support period.

3.2.17 Delivery Leadtime

- a. Bidder must indicate in **Annexure E – Pricing Schedule** the delivery lead time of the full Parallel File System Storage Hardware (equipment) in weeks to the CSIR Rosebank Campus in Cape Town from the date of receiving a CSIR purchase order.
- b. By delivery of equipment, this means shipping only and excludes the installation, integration, and commissioning of the Parallel File System. Delivery time is measured in calendar weeks from the issuing of the Purchase Order (PO) to the full delivery of the Hardware equipment.

3.2.18 Performance Acceptance and Retention

- a. The CSIR/CHPC shall not provide final acceptance, sign-off, or deem the PFS system fully compliant until the bidder has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the CSIR/CHPC, that all mandatory performance, functionality, stability, availability, and integration requirements specified in this RFP have been successfully achieved.
- b. The bidder shall be responsible for addressing and rectifying any performance shortfalls, configuration issues, bottlenecks, interoperability issues, or stability problems identified during acceptance testing. Where necessary, the bidder shall provide additional configuration, tuning, hardware, software, licenses, cabling, or other components required to achieve the specified requirements at no additional cost to the CSIR.
- c. The CSIR/CHPC reserves the right to repeat the acceptance tests following remediation or system tuning until the specified acceptance criteria have been met.

- d. A portion of the contract payment shall be withheld by the CSIR until successful completion of the acceptance testing and formal written acceptance of the system. The withheld amount shall only become payable once the PFS has demonstrated compliance with all mandatory acceptance criteria, including the minimum sustained read and write performance of 100 GB/s.
- e. The bidder shall clearly state in its proposal:
 - i. The proposed remediation and retesting process in the event that the system fails to meet any mandatory acceptance criterion; and
 - ii. Any assumptions, dependencies, or configuration requirements necessary for the proposed solution to achieve the specified 100 GB/s sustained read and write performance.
- f. The CSIR/CHPC reserves the right to specify the final acceptance-test environment and methodology, provided that such tests remain within the requirements and methodology defined in this RFP.
- g. The CSIR will withhold 10% of the total contract value until the bidder has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the CSIR/CHPC, that all mandatory performance, functionality, stability, availability, and integration requirements specified in this RFP have been successfully met. The retained 10% will be paid only after the CSIR/CHPC has provided final acceptance and sign-off, confirming that the PFS system is fully compliant with all requirements.

3.2.19 Bidder's Experience

- a. Bidder(s) to complete the information requested below and provide a minimum of three (3) contactable references where the bidder supplied, delivered, installed and commissioned **Parallel File System Storage hardware; software maintenance and support**.
- b. It is the bidders' responsibility to ensure that the details provided are correct before submitting this tender and that the references will be available and be able to provide additional feedback, if necessary.
- c. If the references are unable to validate, verify or provide additional information on the projects, the submission will be disqualified.

Client, contact person, Email address, and telephone number, where available	Description of work (service)	Value of work (the service provided) inclusive of VAT (ZAR)	Date completed

Annexure D

Technical Evaluation Matrix/Rubrics

Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, and Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

RFP No. 3781/07/10/2026

The CSIR will review all proposals based only on evidence submitted as part of the bidder's proposal. Provide evidence and describe processes where applicable to assist the CSIR with its evaluation. The final interpretation of evidence and proposed solutions resides with the CSIR, and this interpretation will be used as the basis for evaluation against the requirements in Annexure B and the functional criteria as described in this document.

Bidders should note that information provided in the submitted proposals will be reflected in the service level agreement that will be signed with the successful service provider.

The bidders will be evaluated according to the functional/technical evaluation criteria in the table below. Bidders must indicate their ability to do the following and substantiate as required with supporting documentation:

Criteria	Score Description	Weighting (%)	Reference page in the bidder's document
Company Experience in Parallel File System	Bidder(s) must complete the information requested in Clause 3.2.19 Bidder's Experience and provide a minimum of three (3) contactable references where the bidder supplied, delivered, installed and commissioned Parallel File System Storage Hardware; software maintenance and support. Note: - It is the bidders' responsibility to ensure that the details provided are correct before submitting this tender and that the references will be available and be able to provide additional feedback, if necessary. - If the references are unable to validate, verify, or provide additional information on the projects, the submission will be disqualified.	30	
	• Bidder submitted five (5) or more contactable references where the bidder supplied, delivered, installed and commissioned Parallel File System Storage Hardware; software, maintenance and support, and references were verified = 10 Points		
	• Bidder submitted four (4) contactable references where the bidder supplied, delivered, installed and commissioned Parallel File System Storage Hardware; software, maintenance and support, and references were verified = 7 Points		
	• Bidder submitted three (3) contactable references where the bidder supplied, delivered, installed and commissioned Parallel File System Storage Hardware; software, maintenance and support, and references were verified. = 5 points		
	• No submission, or bidder submitted less than three (3) contactable references where the bidder supplied, delivered, installed and		

Criteria	Score Description	Weighting (%)	Reference page in the bidder's document
	commissioned Parallel File System Storage Hardware; software maintenance and support, or the contactable references submitted did not demonstrate experience where the bidder supplied, delivered, installed and commissioned Parallel File System Storage Hardware; software, maintenance and support, or references were not verified = 0 points		
Engineer(s) with experience in Parallel File System.	Bidder must submit Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Engineer(s) demonstrating five (5) years of relevant experience in HPC, integration of HPC system and storage.	30	
	Bidder submitted a Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Engineer(s) that demonstrate more than ten (10) years of relevant experience in HPC, integration of HPC systems and storage. = 10 Points		
	Bidder submitted a Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Engineer(s) that demonstrate at least five (5) and up to ten (10) years of relevant experience in HPC, integration of HPC systems and storage. = 5 Points		
	No submission, or • Bidder did not submit a Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Engineer(s) that does not demonstrate five (5) years of relevant experience in HPC, integration of HPC systems and storage. = 0 Points		
Delivery Lead Time of the full Parallel File System Hardware	Bidder must indicate in Annexure E – Pricing Schedule the delivery lead time of the Parallel File System Storage Hardware in weeks to the CSIR Rosebank Campus in Cape Town from the date of receiving a CSIR purchase order.	40	
	Delivery Lead Time of the Parallel File System Storage Hardware is within 4 weeks = 10 Points		

Criteria	Score Description	Weighting (%)	Reference page in the bidder's document
	Delivery Lead Time of the Parallel File System Storage Hardware is more than 4 and up to 8 weeks = 5 Points		
	No submission or Delivery Lead Time of the Parallel File System Storage Hardware is more than 8 weeks = 0 Points		
Total		100	

Proposals with functionality / technical points of less than **50 %** on each of the individual criterion will be eliminated from further evaluation on Price and Preference Points Evaluation.

Annexure F

Proposal Form and List of Returnable Documents

Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, and Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

RFP No. 3781/07/10/2026

I/We _____

[name of entity, company, close corporation or partnership] of [full address]

carrying on business trading/operating as

represented by _____ in my capacity as

being duly authorised thereto by a Resolution of the Board of Directors or Members or Certificate of Partners, dated to enter into, sign execute and complete any documents relating to this proposal and any subsequent Agreement. The following list of persons are hereby authorised to negotiate on behalf of the abovementioned entity, should CSIR decide to enter into Post Tender Negotiations with shortlisted bidder(s).

FULL NAME(S) CAPACITY SIGNATURE

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I/We hereby offer to supply the abovementioned Services at the prices quoted in the schedule of prices in accordance with the terms set forth in the documents listed in the accompanying schedule of RFP documents.

I/We agree to be bound by those conditions in CSIR's:

1. General RFP Terms and Conditions; and [CSIR's Purchasing Terms and Conditions](#) or Any other standard or special conditions mentioned and/or embodied in this Request for Proposal.

I/We accept that unless CSIR should otherwise decide and so inform me/us in writing of award/intent, this Proposal [and, if any, its covering letter and any subsequent exchange of correspondence], together with CSIR's acceptance thereof shall constitute a binding contract between CSIR and me/us.

I/We further agree that if, after I/we have been notified of the acceptance of my/our Proposal, I/we fail to enter into a formal contract if called upon to do so, or fail to commence the supply of Services within 4 [four] weeks thereafter, CSIR may, without prejudice to any other legal remedy which it may have, recover from me/us any expense to which it may have been put in calling for Proposals afresh and/or having to accept any less favourable Proposal.

I/We accept that any contract resulting from this offer will be for a period as determined by the CSIR.

Furthermore, I/we agree to a penalty clause/s which will allow CSIR to invoke a penalty against us for non-compliance with material terms of this RFP including the delayed delivery of the Services due to non-performance by ourselves, failure to meet Subcontracting.

I/we agree that non-compliance with any of the material terms of this RFP, including those mentioned above, will constitute a material breach of contract and provide CSIR with cause for cancellation.

ADDRESS FOR NOTICES

The law of the Republic of South Africa shall govern any contract created by the acceptance of this RFP. The domicilium citandi et executandi shall be a place in the Republic of South Africa to be specified by the Respondent hereunder, at which all legal documents may be served on the Respondent who shall agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of the Republic of South Africa. Foreign Respondents shall, therefore, state hereunder the name of their authorised representative in the Republic of South Africa who has the power of attorney to sign any contract which may have to be entered into in the event of their Proposal being accepted and to act on their behalf in all matters relating to such contract.

Respondent to indicate the details of its domicilium citandi et executandi hereunder: Name of Entity:

Facsimile:

Address:

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD OF RFP

As soon as possible after approval to award the contract(s), the successful Respondent [**the Service provider**] will be informed of the acceptance of its Proposal. Unsuccessful Respondents may be advised in writing of the name of the successful Service provider and the reason as to why their Proposals have been unsuccessful, for example, in the category of price, delivery period, quality, B-BBEE or for any other reason.

VALIDITY PERIOD

CSIR requires a validity period of 180 [One Hundred and Eighty calendar Days from closing date] against this RFP.

Bidders are to note that they may be requested to extend the validity period of their bid, at the same terms and conditions, if the internal evaluation process has not been finalised within the validity period. However, once the adjudication body has approved the process and award of the business to the successful bidder(s), the validity of the successful bidder(s)' bid will be deemed to remain valid until a final contract has been concluded.

NAME(S) AND ADDRESS / ADDRESSES OF DIRECTOR(S) OR MEMBER(S)

The Respondent must disclose hereunder the full name(s) and address(s) of the director(s) or members of the company or close corporation [**C.C.**] on whose behalf the RFP is submitted.

1. Registration number of company / C.C.

2. Registered name of company / C.C.

3. Full name(s) of director/member(s) Address/Addresses ID Number(s)

RETURNABLE DOCUMENTS

Returnable Documents means all the documents, Sections and Annexures, as listed in the tables below.

a. Mandatory Returnable Documents

Failure to provide any Mandatory Returnable Documents at the closing date and time of this bid will result in a Respondent's disqualification. Bidders are therefore urged to ensure that all these documents are returned with their Proposals.

Please confirm submission of the mandatory Returnable Documents detailed below by so indicating **[Yes or No]** in the table below:

MANDATORY RETURNABLE DOCUMENTS	SUBMIT TED [Yes/No]
Response to Annexure A - Technical Specification Requirements.	
Completed Annexure E – Pricing Schedule	
In the case of Joint Ventures, the bidder must submit a copy of the signed Joint Venture Agreement. (The Joint Venture Agreement must be signed by all parties.)	
In the case of subcontracting arrangements, the bidder must submit a copy of the signed subcontracting agreement. (If the agreement is not fully signed by both parties by the closing date and time, and where the subcontracting agreement has not been finalised, the bidder must submit a signed letter of intent or preliminary agreement, and a signed subcontracting agreement will be submitted within seven (7) days upon request.)	

b. Essential Returnable Documents

In addition to the requirements of section (a) above, Respondents are further required to submit with their Proposals the following **essential Returnable Documents** as detailed below.

Essential Returnable Documents required for evaluation purposes:

Failure to provide any essential Returnable Documents used for purposes of scoring a bid, by the closing date and time of this bid will not result in a Respondent's disqualification. However, Bidders will receive an automatic score of zero for the applicable evaluation criterion. Bidders are therefore urged to ensure that all these documents are returned with their Proposals.

Please confirm submission of these essential Returnable Documents by so indicating [Yes or No] in the table below:

ESSENTIAL RETURNABLE DOCUMENTS USED FOR SCORING	SUBMIT TED
Annexure H: Preference Points Award Form in Terms of the Preferential Procurement Regulations 2022 (Mandatory documents to claim preference points) - Valid copy of BBBEE certificate/ sworn affidavit ✓ In case of unincorporated trust, consortium or joint venture, they must submit their consolidated B-BBEE scorecard with their <u>individual B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit</u>. ✓ In case of sub-contracting both parties must submit copies of their valid BBBEE certificates. NB: Non-submission or invalid submission will result in zero points. Should the individual entity's B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit of the unincorporated trust, consortium or joint venture parties <u>be invalid</u>, the joint venture scorecard will also be invalid.	
Company profile.	
Detailed Technical Proposal	
Response to Annexure D - Technical Evaluation Matrix	
Company References	
Proof of Engineer Experience (Curriculum Vitae)	

c. Other Essential Returnable Documents:

Failure to provide other essential Returnable Documents may result in a Respondent's disqualification. Bidders are therefore urged to ensure that all these documents are returned with their Proposals. However, if the bidder indicated YES in the SUBMITTED column and the document is not submitted, then the bidder may be given two (2) days to provide the missing information.

Please confirm submission of these other essential Returnable Documents by indicating Yes or No in the table below

OTHER ESSENTIAL RETURNABLE DOCUMENTS	SUBMIT TED [Yes/No]
Annexure B: Standard Bidding Document (SBD) 1 Form	
Annexure F: Proposal Form and List of Returnable documents (<u><i>This document</i></u>)	
Annexure G: Certificate of Acquaintance with RFP, Terms & Conditions & Applicable Documents	
Annexure I: Standard Bidding Document (SBD) 4 Form	
Annexure J: RFP Declaration and Breach of Law Form	

OTHER ESSENTIAL RETURNABLE DOCUMENTS	SUBMIT TED [Yes/No]
Annexure K: Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement	
OEM support letter must be dated and specific to this RFP. • OEM confirming support for the PFS solution. • OEM confirms that the vendor has direct support from the original equipment manufacturer. (However, if the bidder is an OEM, this requirement does not apply.) • OEM to confirm the lifespan of the proposed solution. • OEM to provide information on the end-of-life support.	

CONTINUED VALIDITY OF RETURNABLE DOCUMENTS

The successful Respondent will be required to ensure the validity of all returnable documents, including but not limited to its Tax Clearance Certificate and valid B-BBEE Verification Certificate, for the duration of any contract emanating from this RFP. Should the Respondent be awarded the contract **[the Agreement]** and fail to present CSIR with such renewals as and when they become due, CSIR shall be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies that it may have in terms of the eventual Agreement, to terminate such Agreement forthwith without any liability and without prejudice to any claims which CSIR may have for damages against the Respondent.

SIGNED at _____ on this _____ day of _____ 20_____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESSES AND NAME OF WITNESSES

1. Name _____
2. Name _____

SIGNATURE OF RESPONDENT'S AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: _____ Designation: _____

Annexure G

Certificate of Acquaintance with RFP, Terms & Conditions & Applicable Documents

Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, and Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

RFP No. 3781/07/10/2026

By signing this certificate, the Respondent is deemed to acknowledge that he/she has made himself/herself thoroughly familiar with and agrees with all the conditions governing this RFP. This includes those terms and conditions contained in any printed form stated to form part hereof, including but not limited to the documents stated below. As such, CSIR will recognise no claim for relief based on an allegation that the Respondent overlooked any such condition or failed properly to take it into account for the purpose of calculating tendered prices or any other purpose:

Should the Bidder find any terms or conditions stipulated in any of the relevant documents quoted in the RFP unacceptable, it should indicate which conditions are unacceptable and offer alternatives by written submission on its company letterhead, attached to its submitted Bid. Any such submission shall be subject to review by CSIR's Legal Counsel who shall determine whether the proposed alternative(s) are acceptable or otherwise, as the case may be. A material deviation from any term or condition may result in disqualification.

Bidders accept that an obligation rests on them to clarify any uncertainties regarding any bid which they intend to respond on, before submitting the bid. The Bidder agrees that he/she will have no claim based on an allegation that any aspect of this RFP was unclear but in respect of which he/she failed to obtain clarity. The bidder understands that his/her Bid will be disqualified if the Certificate of Acquaintance with RFP documents included in the RFP as a returnable document, is found not to be true and complete in every respect.

SIGNED at _____ on this _____ day of _____ 20_____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESSES AND NAME OF WITNESSES

1 _____ Name __ 2 ____
Name _____

SIGNATURE OF RESPONDENT'S AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: _____ Designation: ____

Annexure H

Preference Points Award Form in Terms of the Preferential Procurement Regulations 2022

Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, and Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

RFP No.3781/07/10/2026

This preference form must form part of all bids invited. It contains general information and serves as a claim form for the preference points allocated on the basis of specific goals outlined in point 3 below.

NB: BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM, BIDDERS MUST STUDY THE GENERAL CONDITIONS, DEFINITIONS AND DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE IN RESPECT OF SPECIFIC GOALS, AS PRESCRIBED IN THE PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, 2022

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.1 The following preference point systems are applicable to this bid:

- the 80/20 system for requirements with a Rand value of up to R50 000 000 (all applicable taxes included).

1.2 Points for this bid shall be awarded for:

- (a) Price; and
- (b) Preference Points based on specific goals.

1.3 The maximum points for this bid are allocated as follows:

	POINTS
PRICE	80
Preference Points	20
Total points for Price and Preference Points must not exceed	100

1.4 Failure on the part of a bidder to submit proof of preference points together with the bid, will be interpreted to mean that preference points are not claimed.

1.5 The CSIR reserves the right to require of a bidder, either before a bid is adjudicated or at any time subsequently, to substantiate any claim in regard to preferences, in any manner required by the CSIR.

2. POINTS AWARDED FOR PRICE

2.1 The 80/20 preference points systems

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

80/20

$$P_s = 80 \left(1 - \frac{P_t - P_{\min}}{P_{\min}} \right)$$

Where

- P_s = Points scored for price of bid under consideration
 P_t = Price of bid under consideration
 $P_{\min}$ = Price of lowest acceptable bid

3. PREFERENCE POINTS AWARDED

- 3.1 In terms of Regulation 4 (2) and 4 (2) of the Preferential Procurement Regulations, preference points may be awarded to a bidder for the specific goal specified for the tender in accordance with the table below:
- 3.2 Specific goals must be determined per tender.

Specific Goals	Preference Points
Black Ownership	15
Black Women Ownership	5
Total	20

- 3.3 Total preference points per specific goal to be determined per tender.

- 3.3.1. Total preference points per specific goal to be awarded as follows:

- 3.3.1.1. Preferential points for black ownership will be awarded as follows:

Black Ownership	% of Preferential points
Bidder with 100% black ownership	100%
Bidder with 51% to 99% black ownership	50%
Bidder with less than 51% black ownership	0%

3.3.1.2. Preferential points for black women ownership will be awarded as follows:

Black Women Ownership	% of Preferential points
Bidder with 100% black women ownership	100%
Bidder with 30% to 99% black women ownership	50%
Bidder with less than 30% black women ownership	0%

3.4. Joint Ventures, Consortiums and Trusts

A trust, consortium or joint venture², will qualify for preference points as a legal entity (Incorporated), provided that the entity submits its valid B-BBEE certificate. Only valid BBEE certificates issued by SANAS accredited verification agency will be considered for allocation of points.

A trust, consortium or joint venture will qualify for preference points as an unincorporated entity, provided that the entity submits their consolidated B-BBEE scorecard as if they were a group structure and that such a consolidated B-BBEE scorecard is prepared for every separate bid. Only valid consolidated BBEE certificates issued by SANAS accredited verification agency will be considered for allocation of points.

Bidders must submit concrete proof of the existence of joint ventures and/or consortium arrangements. The CSIR will accept signed agreements as acceptable proof of the existence of a joint venture and/or consortium arrangement. Furthermore, in bids where unincorporated joint venture and/or consortium/sub-contractors are involved, each party must submit a separate TCS PIN and CSD number.

The joint venture and/or consortium agreements must clearly set out the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Partner and the joint venture and/or consortium party. The agreement must also clearly identify the Lead Partner, who shall be given the power of attorney to bind the other party/parties in respect of matters pertaining to the joint venture and/or consortium arrangement.

3.5. Sub-contracting

A bidder must not be awarded preference points if it is indicated in the tender documents that such a bidder intends sub- contracting more than 25% of the value of the contract to any other enterprise that does not

qualify for at least the points that such a bidder qualifies for, unless the intended sub-contractor is an EME that has the capability and ability to execute the sub-contract.

A bidder awarded a contract may not sub-contract more than 25% of the value of the contract to any other enterprise that does not have an equal or higher B-BBEE status level than the bidder concerned, unless the contract is sub-contracted to an EME that has the capability and ability to execute the sub-contract.

4. BID DECLARATION

Bidders who claim points in respect of specific goals **must** submit the following documents:

Mandatory documents to claim preference points	Submitted	
	Yes	No
Valid copy of BBEE certificate/ sworn affidavit to claim Black Ownership, Black	√	√

Women Ownership preference points ³		
--	--	--

DECLARATION WITH REGARD TO COMPANY/FIRM

Name of company/firm:..... VAT registration

number:..... Company registration

number:.....

I/we, the undersigned, who is / are duly authorised to do so on behalf of the company/firm, certify that the documents submitted to claim preference points based on the specific goals are valid, and I / we acknowledge that:

- i) The information furnished is true and correct;
- ii) The preference points claimed are in accordance with the General Conditions as indicated in paragraph 3 of this form;
- iii) In the event of a contract being awarded as a result of points claimed as shown in paragraphs 3, the contractor may be required to furnish further documentary proof to the satisfaction of the CSIR that the awarded are correct;
- iv) If any document is obtained on a fraudulent basis or any of the conditions of contract have not been fulfilled, the CSIR may, in addition to any other remedy it may have –
 - (a) disqualify the person from the bidding process;
 - (b) recover costs, losses or damages it has incurred or suffered as a result of that person's conduct;
 - (c) cancel the contract and claim any damages which it has suffered as a result of having to make less favourable arrangements due to such cancellation;
 - (d) recommend that the bidder or contractor, its shareholders and directors, or only the shareholders and directors who acted on a fraudulent basis, be restricted by the National Treasury from obtaining business from any organ of state for a period not exceeding 10 years, after the *audi alteram partem* (hear the other side) rule has been applied; and
 - (e) forward the matter for criminal prosecution.
- v) If the CSIR is of the view that a bidder submitted false information regarding a specific goal, it must—

- (a) inform the bidder accordingly; and
- (b) give the bidder an opportunity to make representations within 14 days as to why the tender may not be disqualified or, if the tender has already been awarded to the bidder, the contract should not be terminated in whole or in part.

³ In case of unincorporated trust, consortium or joint venture, they must submit their consolidated B-BBEE scorecard with submitting their **individual B- BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit**, and each party must submit a separate TCS PIN and CSD number.
In case of sub-contracting both parties must submit copies of their valid BBEE certificates

- vi) After considering the representations referred to in subregulation (v)(b), the CSIR may, if it concludes that such information is false—
 - (a) disqualify the bidder or terminate the contract in whole or in part; and
 - (b) if applicable, claim damages from the bidder.

WITNESSES	
1.	
2.	

..... SIGNATURE(S) OF BIDDERS(S)
DATE:

Annexure I

Standard Bidding Document (SBD) 4

RFP No. 3781/07/10/2026

BIDDER'S DISCLOSURE

1. PURPOSE OF THE FORM

Any person (natural or juristic) may make an offer or offers in terms of this invitation to bid. In line with the principles of transparency, accountability, impartiality, and ethics as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and further expressed in various pieces of legislation, it is required for the bidder to make this declaration in respect of the details required hereunder.

Where a person/s are listed in the Register for Tender Defaulters and / or the List of Restricted Suppliers, that person will automatically be disqualified from the bid process.

2. Bidder's declaration

- 2.1 Is the bidder, or any of its directors / trustees / shareholders / members / partners or any person having a controlling interest⁴ in the enterprise,

employed by the state?

YES

☐

/NO

☐

- 2.1.1 If so, furnish particulars of the names, individual identity numbers, and, if applicable, state employee numbers of sole proprietor/ directors / trustees / shareholders / members/ partners or any person having a controlling interest in the enterprise, in table below.

Full Name	Identity Number	Name of State institution

- 2.2 Do you, or any person connected with the bidder, have a relationship with any person who is employed by the procuring institution?

YES

☐

/NO

☐

⁴ the power, by one person or a group of persons holding the majority of the equity of an enterprise, alternatively, the person/s having the deciding vote or power to influence or to direct the course and decisions of the enterprise.

2.2.1 If so, furnish particulars:

.....
.....

2.3 Does the bidder or any of its directors / trustees / shareholders / members / partners or any person having a controlling interest in the enterprise have any interest in any other related enterprise whether or not they are bidding for this contract? YES ☐ / NO ☐

2.3.1 If so, furnish particulars:

.....
.....

3 DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, (name)..... in submitting the accompanying bid, do hereby make the following statements that I certify to be true and complete in every respect:

- 3.1 I have read and I understand the contents of this disclosure;
- 3.2 I understand that the accompanying bid will be disqualified if this disclosure is found not to be true and complete in every respect;
- 3.3 The bidder has arrived at the accompanying bid independently from, and without consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with any competitor. However, communication between partners in a joint venture or consortium⁵ will not be construed as collusive bidding.
- 3.4 In addition, there have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements with any competitor regarding the quality, quantity, specifications, prices, including methods, factors or formulas used to calculate prices, market allocation, the intention or decision to submit or not to submit the bid, bidding with the intention not to win the bid and conditions or delivery particulars of the products or services to which this bid invitation relates.
- 3.4 The terms of the accompanying bid have not been, and will not be, disclosed by the bidder, directly or indirectly, to any competitor, prior to the date and time of the official bid opening or of the awarding of the contract.
- 3.5 There have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements made by the bidder with any official of the procuring institution in relation to this procurement process prior to and during the bidding process except to provide clarification on the bid submitted where so required by the institution; and the bidder was not involved in the drafting of the specifications or terms of reference for this bid.
- 3.6 I am aware that, in addition and without prejudice to any other remedy provided to combat any restrictive practices related to bids and contracts, bids that are suspicious will be

reported to the Competition Commission for investigation and possible imposition of administrative penalties in terms of section 59 of the Competition Act No 89 of 1998 and

-
- 4 Joint venture or Consortium means an association of persons for the purpose of combining their expertise, property, capital, efforts, skill and knowledge in an activity for the execution of a contract. or may be reported to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for criminal investigation and or may be restricted from conducting business with the public sector for a period not exceeding ten (10) years in terms of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act No 12 of 2004 or any other applicable legislation.

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED IN PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 and 3 ABOVE IS CORRECT.

I ACCEPT THAT THE STATE MAY REJECT THE BID OR ACT AGAINST ME IN TERMS OF PARAGRAPH 6 OF PFMA SCM INSTRUCTION 03 OF 2021/22 ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING ABUSE IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SHOULD THIS DECLARATION PROVE TO BE FALSE.

..... Signature
Date

..... Position
Name of bidder

Annexure J

DECLARATION BY BIDDER AND BREACH OF LAW FORM

Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, and Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

RFP No. 3781/07/10/2026

NAME OF ENTITY:

We _____ do hereby certify that:

1. CSIR has supplied and we have received appropriate responses to any/all questions [as applicable] which were submitted by ourselves for RFP Clarification purposes;
2. we have received all information we deemed necessary for the completion of this Request for Proposal [**RFP**];
3. we have been provided with sufficient access to the existing CSIR facilities/sites and any and all relevant information relevant to the Services as well as CSIR information and Employees, and has had sufficient time in which to conduct and perform a thorough due diligence of CSIR's operations and business requirements and assets used by CSIR. CSIR will therefore not consider or permit any pre- or post-contract verification or any related adjustment to pricing, service levels or any other provisions/conditions based on any incorrect assumptions made by the Respondent in arriving at his Bid Price.
4. at no stage have we received additional information relating to the subject matter of this RFP from CSIR sources, other than information formally received from the designated CSIR contact(s) as nominated in the RFP documents;
5. we are satisfied, insofar as our entity is concerned, that the processes and procedures adopted by CSIR in issuing this RFP and the requirements requested from Bidders in responding to this RFP have been conducted in a fair and transparent manner; and
6. furthermore, we declare that a family, business and/or social relationship **exists / does not exist** [delete as applicable] between an owner / member / director / partner / shareholder of our entity and an employee or board member of the CSIR Group including any person who may be involved in the evaluation and/or adjudication of this Bid.
7. In addition, we declare that an owner / member / director / partner / shareholder of our entity **is / is not** [delete as applicable] an employee or board member of the CSIR.
8. If such a relationship as indicated in paragraph 7 exists, the Respondent is to complete the following section:

FULL NAME OF OWNER/MEMBER/DIRECTOR/ PARTNER/SHAREHOLDER: ADDRESS:

Indicate nature of relationship with CSIR:

[Failure to furnish complete and accurate information in this regard may lead to the disqualification of a response and may preclude a Respondent from doing future business with CSIR]

9. We declare, to the extent that we are aware or become aware of any relationship between ourselves and CSIR [other than any existing and appropriate business relationship with CSIR] which could unfairly advantage our entity in the forthcoming adjudication process, we shall notify CSIR immediately in writing of such circumstances.
10. We accept that any dispute pertaining to this Bid will be resolved through the Ombudsman process and will be subject to the Terms of Reference of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman process must first be exhausted before judicial review of a decision is sought.
11. We further accept that CSIR reserves the right to reverse an award of business or decision based on the recommendations of the Ombudsman without having to follow a formal court process to have such award or decision set aside.

BREACH OF LAW

12. We further hereby certify that I/we (the bidding entity and/or any of its directors, members or partners) have/have not been [delete as applicable] found guilty during the preceding 5 [five] years of a serious breach of law, including but not limited to a breach of the Competition Act, 89 of 1998, by a court of law, tribunal or other administrative body. The type of breach that the Respondent is required to disclose excludes relatively minor offences or misdemeanours, e.g. traffic offences. This includes the imposition of an administrative fine or penalty.

Where found guilty of such a serious breach, please disclose: NATURE OF BREACH:

DATE OF BREACH: _____

Furthermore, I/we acknowledge that CSIR reserves the right to exclude any Respondent from the bidding process, should that person or entity have been found guilty of a serious breach of law, tribunal or regulatory obligation.

SIGNED at ____ on this _____ day of _____ 20_____

For and on behalf of _____	AS WITNESS:
duly authorised hereto	
Name:	Name:
Position:	Position:
Signature:	Signature:
Date	Registration No of Company/CC
Place	Registration Name of Company/CC