

RFI-002/25

Request for Information for the provision of proposals required for network segmentation and security zoning

Closing Date and Time: 04 February 2026 at 11:00

NON COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION

Date:	26 January 2026
Time:	10:00
Venue:	MS Teams Meeting ID: 396 195 163 251 69 Passcode: sK6Lf9VS
Compulsory:	No

THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION WILL CLOSE ELECTRONICALLY ON THE eTENDER PLATFORM WHICH MAKES PROVISION FOR THE ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF BIDS, RFQs AND RFIs (<https://www.etenders.gov.za/>)

Responses to this RFI must ensure that they complete and submit all the documents issued with this RFI together with the response from the responder before the closing date and time of the RFI. Responses received after the closing time will NOT be considered.

ENQUIRIES:

Any clarification required regarding the meaning or interpretation of the document or any aspect concerning the submission is to be requested **in writing** from:

SCM: Acquisition Department
South African Weather Service
Email: rfq@weathersa.co.za

1 PURPOSE

This Request for Information (RFI) issued by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), is solely to conduct a market analysis to determine proposals required for network segmentation and security zoning.

2 INTRODUCTION

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is a public entity of Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and derives its mandate from the South African Weather Service Act (No 8 of 2001 as amended). The public entity is listed as a Schedule 3A Public Entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

SAWS is tasked with providing timely and accurate scientific data in the field of meteorology to the broader South African society: a combination of both public good and commercial services. The organisation plays a vital role in South African public life, not just as a provider of key services, but also in empowering citizens to adapt the effects of the ever-changing weather.

3 BACKGROUND

The requirement requires a service provider to provide network segmentation and security zoning leveraging the existing firewalls

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) requires a secure and resilient network to protect critical systems and ensure operational continuity. This proposal leverages SAWS's existing firewalls to deliver advanced network segmentation and a disaster recovery extension.

4 OBJECTIVE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This Request for Information (RFI) issued by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), is for ICT security service providers to provide responses for provision of network segmentation, security zoning and security enhancement services.

SAWS invites qualified service providers to submit information and indicative proposals for the implementation of network segmentation and security zoning using firewall technologies. This initiative aims to enhance SAWS's cybersecurity posture.

SAWS seeks information from vendors to ensure comprehensive solutions are delivered. This initiative will assist SAWS with the below amongst others:

- Reduce the attack surface by isolating systems and services.
- Limit lateral movement of threats within the network.
- Enforce least-privilege access through zone-specific firewall policies.
- Protect critical systems such as forecasting platforms, storage infrastructure, and cloud services.
- Align with cybersecurity best practices and compliance frameworks (e.g., ISO/IEC 27001, POPIA).
- Security: Reduced attack surface controlled lateral movement, and hardened posture.
- Resilience: DR-ready with tested replication and failover.
- Performance: Segmented domains reduce broadcast and improve efficiency.

SAWS will evaluate the Information with reference to the business requirements. SAWS may consider the Information for the preparation of a Tender or Request for Quotation, based on the Information Proposal received.

SAWS may request additional information, clarification or verification in respect of any information contained in or omitted from a respondent's information. SAWS will communicate in writing via email with the respondent.

This RFI is not a tender but a market engagement exercise. Responses will be evaluated based on:

- Technical capability and alignment with SAWS requirements.
- Experience and track record.
- Indicative cost-effectiveness.
- Innovation and scalability.
- Compliance with regulatory and governance standards.

The scope of work is are below, amongst others:

- Establish VDOMs – HQ, DR, SD_WAN and (APN?) (4 firewalls setup as failover at 2 main sites)
- Seven zones to isolate LAN (across Subnets per floors), Wi-Fi (4 x WiFi ID's with multiple Subnets across the country), Guest , and Voice networks.
- Plus a three-tier DMZ model (2 main sites).

- Security Enhancements: Enforce deny-all policies, IPS, anti-virus, and NAC integration.
- Disaster Recovery Integration: Deploy a direct fibre link between primary and DR firewalls with mirrored zones. (2 sites with 2 x subnets).
- Phased Implementation: Structured rollout covering planning, VLAN/VDOM setup, migration, and testing.

The expected deliverables are below, amongst others:

- **Approved Network and DR Design:** A validated design document reflecting segmentation, zoning, and DR architecture.
- **Configured VDOMs, VLANs, and Policies:** Fully implemented on current firewalls
- **Three-Tier Application Segmentation:** Frontend, Application, and Backend zones deployed with strict inter-zone controls.
- **Disaster Recovery Link Deployed and Tested:** Dedicated fibre link with replication, routing, and failover validation.
- **Comprehensive Documentation & Knowledge Transfer:** Final project documentation, updated diagrams, and training delivered to SAWS ICT staff.

5 COST IMPLICATIONS

The costs incurred by a service provider in respect of the preparation of any response to this RFI or the cost of attendance of the briefing session will be borne by the individual / organisation responding to this RFI. SAWS shall in no way be liable to reimburse any individual / organisation for such costs incurred.

This RFI does not constitute an offer to do business with SAWS but merely serves to facilitate a requirements-based decision process. Nothing in this RFI or any other communication made between SAWS (including its officers, directors, employees, advisers and representatives) is a representation that SAWS will offer, award or enter into an agreement with the Respondent.

6 SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

This Request for Information will close electronically on the etender platform which makes provision for the electronic submission of Bids, RFQs and RFIs (<https://www.etenders.gov.za/>)

Responses to this RFI must ensure that they complete and submit all the documents issued with this RFI together with the response from the responder before the closing date and time of the RFI. Responses received after the closing time will NOT be considered.

7 ENQUIRIES

Any clarification required regarding the meaning or interpretation of the document or any aspect concerning the submission is to be requested **in writing** from:

The Acquisition Administrator
South African Weather Service
Email: rfq@weathersa.co.za