

**CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

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| <b>TENDER DESCRIPTION</b> | <b>FOR THE PROVISION OF DATA ARCHIVING APPLIANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS</b> |
| <b>RFP NUMBER</b>         | <b>TCC/2026/04/0063/4729/RFP</b>  |

**CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS AND TRANSNET RESPONSES**

| <b>No:</b> | <b>CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS</b>  | <b>TRANSNET RESPONSE</b>   |
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| 1.         | Reference to Fig 2 in Annex F.<br>You indicated in the below "To -Be " that the architecture / solution needs to only archive data from your Backup storage to new Archive tier storage. Or is Archiving also required for your PROD storage (Tier1) to be archived to Archive storage. This archiving – known as File Archiving. | For Both old backup copies and PROD storage.   |
| 2.         | Please can you advise if you are using Huawei native backup tools or as you using any 3rd party products, such as Veritas NBU as stated in Annex F – page 3.  | Any 3 <sup>rd</sup> party products   |
| 3.         | Would this be a single site deployment or multiple sites ( JHB & KZN)   | Single JHB   |
| 4.         | Please can you provide the current storage capacity between your PROD ( Tier1) and Backup storage?  | The request is for 34PB effectively, but the system that the bidders are responding with should have a capability for future expansion.                                      |
| 5.         | Reference to the Annex A – Technical evaluation criteria  | The Archiving solution should be integrated with our current private cloud, so we need service provider to fully understand private cloud solution and handle the data flow. |



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|           | <p>Q4) You require bidder must demonstrate successful supply, commissioning, and maintenance of a private cloud data center for at least three (3) years – Why would this be relevant as the scope of the project refers to implementation of an data archive solution. My understanding is that we will not be responsible to manage your current private cloud, but work hand in hand with you current service provider to assist us to integrate the archive solution into your current private cloud.</p>                             |   |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>Backup &amp; Archiving Architecture:<br/>Will the solutions utilizing enterprise-grade third-party backup and archival platforms be considered compliant, provided that all required functionality, centralized management, and operational support requirements are fully achieved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For clarification purposes, does “built-in” refer specifically to OEM-native tooling, or to operationally integrated functionality delivered as part of the proposed solution architecture?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third-party backup and archival platforms could be proposed. But please refer to Annexure A Evaluation Criteria Sheet to make sure the platforms meet the technical requirements.</li> <li>Built-in refers to OEM-native tooling.</li> </ul> |
| <p>7.</p> | <p>Unified Management Platform:<br/>Can Transnet clarify whether support for the existing unified management</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third-party integrations will also be considered acceptable, but please refer to Annexure A</li> </ul>   |



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|     | <p>platform requires native OEM integration only, or whether supported API-based and interoperable third-party integrations will also be considered acceptable?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can a supported interoperability certification from the relevant OEMs therefore, be accepted as evidence of compliance?</li> <li>• Would interoperable enterprise solutions with validated lifecycle support and operational accountability still be eligible for evaluation?</li> </ul>  | <p>Evaluation Criteria Sheet to make sure the platforms meet the technical requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide official product data sheet or official OEM white paper to prove the interoperability.</li> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>  |
| 8.  | <p>Scalability Requirement:<br/>With respect to the requirement for scalability to at least 32 nodes, will equivalent enterprise scalability models based on alternative architectural approaches (e.g., controller expansion, object-storage scaling, or modular capacity expansion) be considered acceptable where equivalent operational outcomes are achieved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can Transnet confirm that the scalability assessment will therefore focus on operational outcomes rather than specific infrastructure scaling methodologies?</li> <li>• Is the intent of the requirement to prescribe node-based architecture</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equivalent enterprise scalability models will be considered, but please refer to Annexure A Evaluation Criteria Sheet to make sure the platforms meet the technical requirements.</li> <li>• The specific infrastructure scaling methodologies will be used to ensure the real operational outcomes.</li> <li>• To ensure long-term enterprise scalability capability.</li> </ul> |



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|     | <p>specifically, or to ensure long-term enterprise scalability capability?</p>  |   |
| 9.  | <p>OEM Ecosystem Flexibility:<br/>                     Will Transnet consider multi-vendor enterprise architectures where interoperability, centralized management, and supportability requirements are fully met through validated integrations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can compliance therefore be demonstrated through interoperability validation and OEM-backed support agreements?</li> <li>• Would centralized operational governance achieved through interoperable enterprise tooling still satisfy this objective?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide official product data sheet or official OEM white paper to prove the interoperability as Annexure A required.</li> <li>• The new archiving system should be directly monitored and managed by current unified platform.</li> </ul>  |
| 10. | <p>Backup Dependency Interpretation:<br/>                     Can Transnet clarify whether the requirement for “built-in backup and archiving software” excludes enterprise-integrated third-party backup platforms that operate as part of a unified archival solution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can supported enterprise backup ecosystems integrated into the archive</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The enterprise-integrated third-party backup platforms will be considered, but please refer to Annexure A Evaluation Criteria Sheet to make sure the platforms meet the technical requirements.</li> <li>• Please provide official product data sheet or official OEM white paper to prove the interoperability as Annexure A required.</li> </ul> |



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|     | <p>platform, therefore, qualify under this requirement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For clarification purposes, would tightly integrated enterprise backup platforms embedded operationally within the solution architecture be considered non-native?</li> </ul>   |   |
| 11. | <p>Certification / Compliance:<br/>Will equivalent OEM-certified interoperability and support validation be accepted where solutions are integrated into the Huawei environment through supported compatibility frameworks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will an official OEM-issued authorization letter or certificate be accepted where the OEM's partner program does not use Platinum or Gold tier classifications, provided the letter confirms that the tenderer is a recognized and officially authorized partner of that OEM for the equipment being supplied?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The equivalent OEM-certified interoperability and support validation could be accepted, but please refer to Annexure A Evaluation Criteria Sheet to make sure the platforms meet the technical requirements.</li> <li>Please provide official product data sheet or official OEM white paper to prove the interoperability as Annexure A required.</li> <li>No, please refer to mandatory requirements.</li> </ul> |
| 12. | <p>Operational Outcome Clarification: Can Transnet confirm whether the tender evaluation will prioritize operational outcomes and supportability objectives</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will evaluate according to Annexure A Evaluation Criteria Sheet.</li> <li>The equivalent enterprise architectures achieving the same operational objectives may be considered, but please refer to Annexure A Evaluation Criteria sheet</li> </ul>  |



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|     | <p>over specific underlying OEM architectural methodologies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can Transnet therefore confirm that equivalent enterprise architectures achieving the same operational objectives may be considered compliant irrespective of underlying OEM implementation methodology?</li> </ul>  | <p>to make sure the platforms meet the technical requirements.</p>  |
| 13. | <p>Lifecycle &amp; Support Ownership:<br/>For multi-vendor integrated solutions, can Transnet clarify expectations regarding primary support ownership, escalation management, and OEM accountability responsibilities during the maintenance period?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would Transnet therefore accept consortium or OEM-backed support structures where centralized accountability and escalation governance are contractually maintained?</li> <li>• Would integrated support governance models with clearly defined escalation ownership across OEMs satisfy this objective?</li> </ul> | <p>Please refer to Annexure E Service Levels of Data Archiving System. The SLA and maintenance level is clearly stated there.</p>       |
| 14. | <p>Existing Environment Compatibility: Can Transnet provide further details regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Huawei Cloud Stack versions,</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCS 8.5.1 Version.</li> <li>• Fusion Sphere 8.7.0 version.</li> <li>• Standard API.</li> </ul> |



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|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FusionSphere versions,</li> <li>• API integration standards,</li> <li>• and supported interoperability frameworks relevant to the proposed archive environment?</li> <li>• Can indicative compatibility requirements or supported integration standards be provided to assist bidders with architecture validation and pricing accuracy?</li> <li>• Would assumptions regarding interoperability and supported API compatibility therefore form part of bidder risk allocation during implementation?</li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please provide official product data sheet or official OEM white paper to prove the interoperability as Annexure A required.</li> <li>• Please provide official product data sheet or official OEM white paper to prove the interoperability as Annexure A required.</li> <li>• Yes, you can do the assumptions and state it as a risk for implementation.</li> </ul>                                    |
| 15. | <p>Future Expansion Philosophy:<br/>Is the long-term archive platform expected to support future hybrid-cloud, object-storage, or multi-site archival expansion models as part of Transnet's long-term infrastructure strategy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will architectural flexibility and long-term interoperability therefore form part of the technical evaluation considerations?</li> <li>• Should bidders therefore optimize strictly for current operational requirements, or should future extensibility and scalability still be</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Yes, architectural flexibility and long-term interoperability therefore form part of the technical evaluation considerations, but please refer to Annexure A Evaluation Criteria sheet to make sure the proposed solution meet the technical requirements'</li> <li>• Current operational requirements are important and please consider future extensibility and scalability.</li> </ul> |



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|     | considered within proposed architectures? |                   |
|     |   |                   |