



SOUTH AFRICA

Electoral Commission

Auction #: 0010559549

EMAIL SECURITY SERVICES

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Failure to comply with the completion of the auction conditions and the required information (i.e. technical specifications) or submission of the required stipulated documents shall invalidate a bid.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Electoral Commission (IEC) seeks to invite qualified, professional and accredited Service Providers / Resellers to provide email security services including support and maintenance for a period of one (1) year.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 The Electoral Commission is a constitutional institution reporting directly to Parliament. In line with its mandate, the Electoral Commission manages the national, provincial and municipal elections, ensures that those elections are free and fair, and declares the results within a prescribed period. The Electoral Commission was established in terms of the Electoral Commission Act (51 of 1996), which sets out the composition, powers, functions and duties of the Electoral Commission. The Commission aims to continuously entrench the Electoral Commission as the focal point in the delivery of cost effective, free and fair elections. This is not only the core of its constitutional mandate, but also an important factor in its interaction with other Chapter 9 and associated institutions and other election management bodies.
- 2.2 The Electoral Commission derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic and the Electoral Commissions Act of 1996. The objects of the Commission, as defined in section 4 of the Electoral Commission Act, 1996, are to strengthen constitutional democracy and promote democratic electoral processes. In addition to the provisions in the Electoral Act, the Municipal Electoral Act 2000 (Act 24 of 2000) deals with the specific nature of local government elections.
- 2.3 The Electoral Commission has presence in all nine Provinces and almost every municipality within the Republic of South Africa.
- 2.4 The Electoral Commission has adopted a net-centric architecture that operates on a wide area network connecting more than 300 offices at various locations around the country and around 1200 users, using a combination of platforms including the Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS). Breakout to the internet occurs at the National Office and the DR site.

- 2.5 Majority of the offices currently connect to the MPLS via fibre connectivity with a number still on Microwave and very few on VSAT and LTE.
- 2.6 The Electoral Commission has recently commissioned a VoIP PABX system that is hosted at its National Office and the DR site.
- 2.7 The Electoral Commission is also using Microsoft 365 SaaS suite including Teams; however, the email system is on-premises. It is also using other Cloud based Software as a Service (SaaS) solution such as Zoom.
- 2.8 The IEC has invested extensively in ICT technologies, which provide a platform to effectively support and enable its business processes and to meet its goal of providing a free and fair election process in an open and transparent environment. The IEC's ICT Department intends to continue running a highly efficient, secure and stable ICT environment making full use of industry standards, best practices and disciplines based upon stable, secure and reliable technologies.

3 Technical Specifications

- 3.1 It must be noted that the technical specifications below are the minimum requirements; the only variation that may be accepted will be in case where the bidder's specification is better. Anything below specification will be disqualified.
- 3.2 The Electoral Commission seeks to conclude a service contract supported by a Service Level Agreement for Email security services for a period of 12 months. It is envisaged that the contract will commence on 01 April 2026.
- 3.3 The Electoral Commission has about 1200 users, however the number increases during major election events to about two to three thousand (2000 – 3000) users. For the purposes of the auction, the bidder must work on 1200 users. The bidder must also state the cost per user in Appendix B. This cost will be used to determine the costs when the numbers increase during heightened times of elections.
- 3.4 The required Email Security services include the following:
 - 3.4.1 Email Security - protect email accounts and communications from unauthorized access, loss, or compromise. This includes protecting against malicious threats

such as: malware, spam, phishing attacks, and data breaches. Inbound and Outbound messages should be scanned and protected.

3.4.2 Email Archive for at least 12 months

3.4.3 Phishing protection

3.4.4 URL analysis and rewriting

3.4.5 Attachment scanning/sandboxing

3.4.6 Insider risk protection

3.4.7 Email continuity

3.4.8 Sync & Recover

3.4.9 Email backup and restoration

3.4.10 Remote access to the emails at the service provider in cases where the Electoral Commission's email system is inaccessible

3.4.11 Maintenance and 24 x 7 Support including call logging and resolution

3.4.12 Anti-Spam solution that will scan all incoming mail for at least 1200 mailboxes, with a minimum delay of not more than 5 minutes

3.4.13 Flexible and scalable capacity, to provide for fluctuations in consumption volumes that are driven by electoral business cycles

3.4.14 Operational and management reporting including the following:

3.4.14.1 Secure Email Gateway Reports

3.4.14.2 URL Protect Reports

3.4.14.3 Attachment Protect Reports

3.4.14.4 Impersonation Reports

3.4.14.5 User Activity Reports

3.4.15 Account / Service management - contact to escalate service-related queries

- 3.5 The successful bidder must ensure smooth and quick transition of the existing services from the current service provider. The service provider's implementation plan will be used to determine this.
- 3.6 The National Office of the Electoral Commission is at 1303 Heuwel Avenue, Centurion and the Disaster Recovery site is also located in Centurion elsewhere.

4 Planning Assumptions

The Electoral Commission has made the following assumptions:

- 4.1 The Electoral Commission will provide technical resources for all IEC's designated work including setup and configuration of own systems and databases.
- 4.2 Wherever the need arises, the successful bidder shall do initial equipment configuration of operating systems and environmental specific requirements.
- 4.3 The implementation of the services required must be completed within the days stipulated in the Delivery and Implementation Schedule (Section 11) below.
- 4.4 The bidder's change control management process must be flexible enough to facilitate speedy deployment and resolution of problems without compromising management controls and security.
- 4.5 The recommended service provider shall provide all relevant details needed to ensure successful operations capability within the organization.
- 4.6 The successful bidder will be required to enter into a service level agreement including a non-disclosure agreement.
- 4.7 The successful bidder and their personnel who will be supporting the service may be subjected to security clearance through authorised state security institutions.

5 General Auction Conditions

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

- 5.1 Bidders must place bids online on the Electoral Commission's eProcurement website by not later than the stipulated closing date and time on the auction.

- 5.2 To demonstrate compliance with the technical requirements of the auction, the bidder must complete and submit Appendix-A – Technical Response Sheet. Failure to complete and submit Appendix A shall invalidate a bid.
- 5.3 The bidder must provide at least three (3) contactable references of past services of a similar nature and scope that the bidder provided or was involved in. Reference details must include the following: customer name, contact person, contact details (telephone, email, physical address) and service description, value of services offered and size (number of email addresses,) of Email Security services. Appendix C is also provided as guideline. Some other guideline definitions include:
- 5.3.1 Service value defined in terms of indicative number users.
 - 5.3.2 Similar nature services are Email Security Services.
 - 5.3.3 Similar scope of services refers to configuration, commissioning and support of email security and routing services.
- 5.4 Adjudication points will be given to bidders that have at least five-year's experience in providing Email Security services. The bidder must provide an indication in the form of a comprehensive profile showing the numbers of years they have been providing Email Security Services.
- 5.5 The Electoral Commission requires services that are based on a standard existing product/service in the market and not products specifically designed and/or cloned for this bid. The bidder is required to provide proof of available local (South African) support for the proposed solution including an indication of the number of clients in South Africa. The bidder will be allocated more points if the bidder lists the names of the customers. The bidder is also required to provide a data sheet for the product/service.
- 5.6 The bidder must be authorized to sell the Email Security Services (OEM) products.
- 5.7 An OEM letter of proof of the reseller agreement/authorization must accompany the written documentation for this bid.
- 5.8 Should the reseller authorization be from a distributor, then a proof of authorization authorizing the distributor to resell and/or to authorize others by the OEM, must be submitted.
- 5.9 Bidders must provide a service plan / structure / Service Level Agreement example with call logging processes, service levels and escalation procedures. Bidders can submit an example SLA to meet this requirement.

- 5.10 The Electoral Commission would like to deal directly with the OEM. The SLA must be in such a way that it can facilitate such three-way interaction between the winning bidder, the Electoral Commission and the OEM.
- 5.11 The bidder with the most recent experience (say 36 months) will be allocated more points than a bidder who provided the services long time ago.
- 5.12 Awarding of the bid to any successful bidder will be subject to the IEC's due diligence audit requirements.
- 5.13 The Electoral Commission reserves the right and discretion to cancel and not award this bid based on any reason including operational or financial, likewise the Electoral Commission reserves the right to reduce the scope and size of the service.
- 5.14 By bidding on this auction, the bidder warrants and agrees to all the terms and conditions of this bid specification.

6 Quality Control

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

- 6.1 The successful bidder will have the primary responsibility of ensuring that the proposed solution and services comply with the required specifications in terms of functionality and technical specification including quantity and quality.
- 6.2 The proposed solution must be complete, fully functional and ready for deployment without dependencies on additional equipment, software or components that may be required to make it work if such additional requirements are not included in the bid.
- 6.3 It must be noted that the Electoral Commission seeks to gain the best solution technically, functionally and financially.
- 6.4 Upon the successful bid being accepted, the Electoral Commission reserves the right to request an inspection of the successful bidder's facilities.
- 6.5 The successful bidder has the primary responsibility to ensure that quantity and quality are in accordance with the specifications.
- 6.6 The bidder must undertake and warrant that the proposed solution is in good condition and in-line with bid specifications.
- 6.7 In addition, the Electoral Commission may also call on bidders to make presentations and

demonstration of the proposed solution in order for the Electoral Commission to ensure full compliance with all its requirements and as part of the auction evaluation process prior to the conclusion of the adjudication of the bid.

7 Pricing requirements

- 7.1 The total bid price must be submitted online on the eProcurement (Votaquotes) portal.
- 7.2 The bidder must populate and submit Appendix B – Pricing Schedule. The total bid price in Appendix B will be used for adjudication. The bidder is allowed any other additional line items for pricing completeness in accordance with their solution. Failure to complete and submit Appendix B will invalidate the bid.
- 7.3 All costs associated with the supply of the services must be included in the total bid price.
- 7.4 The Electoral Commission reserves the right to adjust costs by adjusting the quantities and/or excluding some cost factors.
- 7.5 The bid price placed on the submission must be the bidder's total bid price for delivering the solution as proposed. It must be inclusive of the once off implementation and services costs over 12 months.
- 7.6 The monthly costs stipulated on Appendix B: Pricing Schedule below will be used for monthly payments to the successful bidder and must be completed and submitted. Failure to do so will invalidate the bid.
- 7.7 The Electoral Commission will pay the service provider on a monthly basis based on submitted invoices.
- 7.8 The bid price must include the following:
 - 7.8.1 Software and licensing cost;
 - 7.8.2 Unit cost / cost per email address per year.
 - 7.8.3 Solution delivery including implementation labour and professional services fees;
 - 7.8.4 Delivery costs to Electoral Commission's national office in Centurion;
 - 7.8.5 Minimum warranty costs – where applicable;
 - 7.8.6 Any Once off costs;
 - 7.8.7 Total Monthly Costs;
 - 7.8.8 Any maintenance cost – where applicable;

7.8.9 Twelve (12) months contract;

7.8.10 All applicable costs above should be included in the total bid price;

7.8.11 Total bid price must be inclusive of VAT;

7.8.12 If volume discounts are available, the bidder should indicate the breakdowns.

7.9 Bid prices must be VAT inclusive and must be firm for a period of 180 days. The firm price shall apply for the duration of the contract.

8 Special Requirements

8.1 All physical appliances are to be fully assembled and loaded with the current recommended Operating Systems, all specified modules and patches installed before delivery.

8.2 The solution must be kept at the latest patch levels throughout the duration of the contract.

9 Data Protection and Confidentiality of Information

Due to the sensitive nature of the information and data which will become available to the successful bidder, it will be required that the successful bidder sign a Service Level Agreement which will, *inter alia*, incorporate a clause addressing the protection of same in line with paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 below (read together with paragraph 18 of Appendix A - Technical Bid Response Sheet).

9.1 Data Protection

9.1.1 During the course of executing on this contract, the successful bidder will have access to the data collected or provided and stored by the Electoral Commission on the service provider's disk storage units and data backup facilities. The successful bidder shall have the responsibility for protecting information resources against accidental or intentional damage or loss of data, interruption, or the compromise of this information into the hands of third parties. The successful bidder or its members of staff, whether employed or contracted shall also not process the data without a prior written agreement with the Electoral Commission or without written instructions from the Electoral Commission beyond what is necessary to fulfil its obligations towards the Electoral Commission.

9.1.2 The successful bidder shall keep confidential all the Electoral Commission's

information that they have in their possession. The successful bidder shall ensure that each member of their staff, whether employed or contracted, having access to or being involved with the processing of the Electoral Commission's data undertakes a duty of confidentiality and is informed of and complies with the data privacy obligations of this bid.

9.1.3 The successful bidder shall also ensure that the Electoral Commission's data in its possession is returned to the Electoral Commission and/or deleted from its computer systems as per instruction by the Electoral Commission at the end of the contract period.

9.2 ***Confidentiality of Information***

9.2.1 "Confidential Information" means irrespective of its format, confidential trade, commercial, financial and management information and data, or other proprietary information which is either designated as confidential or by its nature is confidential howsoever such confidential information may be disclosed or made available to the Recipient including, without limiting the afore-going, whether direct or indirect, orally, visually or in electronic format or by reason of inspection of documentation or other matter on or at the Discloser's premises or elsewhere including, but not limited to:

9.2.2 The successful bidder shall irrevocably undertake and agree:

9.2.2.1 to protect all confidential information that they may get access to in course of executing the resulting contract. Without limiting the generality of confidential information, Confidential Information shall include any information that falls within the definition of 'Personal Information' as defined in the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013, as amended or substituted and/or

9.2.2.2 not to divulge or disclose to any third party in any form or manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, any confidential information of the Discloser without the Consent of the Discloser.

9.2.2.3 not to, directly or indirectly, detract from, expand on, amend, decompile, reverse engineer, use, exploit, permit the use of, or in any other manner whatsoever apply the confidential information for its own benefit or the

benefit of any other person or for any purpose whatsoever other than for the Engagement and otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement;

9.2.2.4 to treat all Information as confidential information where it is uncertain of the nature of the Information until written notice to the contrary is received from the Electoral Commission.

9.2.2.5 to take reasonable security (including IT security) measures in line with its own security measures to keep the confidential information confidential.

9.2.2.6 to immediately notify the Electoral Commission upon discovery of any unauthorised use or disclosure of the confidential information or any other breach of this clause.

9.2.2.7 to take all necessary steps or assist the Electoral Commission to regain possession of the confidential information or to prevent its further unauthorised use.

9.2.2.8 to immediately at the Electoral Commission's reasonable request or in any event at the completion of an Engagement to forthwith return all originals, copies, reproductions, summaries or extracts of the confidential information, or at the Electoral Commission's option destroy these and certify that it has done so; and

9.2.2.9 that all confidential information is and shall remain the property of the Electoral Commission and that disclosure thereof does not grant the Receiver any express or implied license to use such Confidential Information or right other than as provided for in this Agreement.

9.2.3 Notwithstanding the above, the successful bidder shall be entitled:

9.2.3.1 in compliance with the applicable laws and its professional obligations, to retain copies of all Information of the Electoral Commission which is relevant to or forms part of the Services.

9.2.3.2 to share the confidential information with its Personnel and any of the Service Provider's parties to the extent required to render the Services; and

9.2.3.3 to share the confidential information with its Professional Advisors or insurers in the event of a claim arising from or in connection with this Agreement, provided that the provisions of this clause shall still apply to such copies.

9.3 This clause shall not apply to:

9.3.1 information in the public domain otherwise than by breach of this Agreement.

9.3.2 information that was not obtained under any obligation of confidentiality; and

9.3.3 information obtained from a third party who the receiving Party believes, after reasonable inquiry, is free to divulge the information so long as such information was not obtained by the receiving Party under any obligation of confidentiality to the third party.

10 Supplier Performance

10.1 Contracting of any service provider to render goods and/or services to the Electoral Commission are subject to the fulfilment of the Electoral Commission's due diligence audit requirements.

10.2 An essential component of the Electoral Commission's due diligence audit requirements may involve site visits to potential suppliers/contractors as well as inspection of various key documents underpinning the establishment of the companies involved in bids of the Electoral Commission. This also includes confirmation of capability and capacity requirements to execute the services specified in such bids.

10.3 Upon notification of the Electoral Commission's intention to award a contract, the successful bidder may be required to enter into a service level agreement (SLA/contract) with the Electoral Commission.

10.4 The purpose of the SLA (if applicable other than what the Electoral Commission's standard purchase orders provide for) is to fix performance criteria within the key requirements of

this auction, namely quantity, quality and delivery.

10.5 The SLA may contain elements such as supplier progress milestones, delivery schedules, quality checkpoints and invoicing procedures.

10.6 The Electoral Commission reserves the right to reject any services delivered not conforming to the bid specification.

10.7 Where previously-agreed delivery schedules are not met by a supplier, the Electoral Commission shall have the right to appoint an alternative supplier to make good the shortfall in supply. Any additional costs incurred by the Electoral Commission in obtaining such corrective services or products from another source will be for the account of the defaulting supplier.

11 Delivery and Implementation Timeframe

11.1 The successful bidder will be required to implement Email Security services within one (1) month of receipt of the Purchase Order (PO) including the migration from the current service provider.

12 Awarding of Order

12.1 The adjudication process may include presentation and demonstration of the solution and services by the recommended bidder.

12.2 The order will be awarded to a bidder whose solution successfully conforms to specifications and is able to deliver and support the product, and in terms of the provisions of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2022.

12.3 The Electoral Commission reserves the right to run a proof of concept (POC) with the leading bidder as part of adjudicating the bid before a final award is made.

12.4 The successful bidder will be required to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA/Contract) with the Electoral Commission in order to formalize and confirm the exact solutions to be delivered.

12.5 The Electoral Commission will enter into a formal contract and issue a formal purchase order before any services or equipment can be delivered

13 Duration

13.1 The contract is for a period of twelve (12) months and may be extended at the sole

discretion of the Electoral Commission as may be deemed necessary.

14 Briefing Session

14.1 There will be no briefing session for this requirement.

15 Submissions of Bid Documentation

All submissions must be received before the closing date and time for submissions as stipulated on the eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>. Submissions received after the final date and time will lead to bids being disqualified and not considered.

All bids must be placed online on eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>. Supporting documentation can be submitted in any or both of the following options:

Upload to the auction site.

Place in the Electoral Commission tender box situated in the foyer of the Electoral Commission National Office in Centurion at the following address before the closing date and time of this auction:

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

Note: Clearly mark your submission: For the attention of Procurement and Asset Management Department – Auction **0010559549**

Failure to submit all of the required documentation before the closing date and time shall invalidate the bid. It remains the responsibility of the bidder to confirm receipt of the required documentation with the Electoral Commission Procurement and Asset Management Department.

15.1 **Summary of Submission Requirements**

- 15.1.1 Detailed technical specifications in accordance with the technical requirements to demonstrate compliance. Bidder must complete and submit Appendix A (Technical Response Sheet) to demonstrate compliance as per 5.2.
- 15.1.2 Provide a detailed pricing breakdowns (breakdown of the bid price into monthly support and maintenance costs, delivery cost and any other element if any) as per 7.2 (Appendix B).
- 15.1.3 The bidder shall provide at least 3 references on customer letter heads of similar work as specified in 5.3 using Appendix D as a guideline.
- 15.1.4 Bidders to provide proof of experience in providing Email Security Services as specified in 5.4.
- 15.1.5 Authorization to sell Email Security Services as per 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8.
- 15.1.6 Data sheet and proof of local support as per 5.5
- 15.1.7 An Example SLA as per 5.9 and 5.10

16 **Briefing Session**

16.1 No briefing will be held for this requirement.

17 **Enquiries**

All enquiries regarding this bid must be submitted exclusively through the VotaQuotes platform. This requirement supports the principles of fairness, openness, and transparency in the procurement process.

All questions and the official responses will be published on the public VotaQuotes website (www.votaquotes.elections.org.za) where the bid is advertised.

Bidders are responsible for regularly monitoring the platform for any updates, clarifications, or additional information published during the bidding period.

No telephonic, email, or other forms of communication regarding bid enquiries will be accepted or responded to.

An enquiry cut-off date applies to all bids. The final date and time for submitting enquiries is published on the VotaQuotes platform under the specific bid listing

18 Closing Date

The closing date and time of this auction is as specified on the bid and eProcurement (Votaquotes) website. The closing date and time is determined by the clock on the Electoral Commission's servers and is not negotiable. Bidders must also take note supporting documentation must be delivered **before closing date and time**.

19 APPENDIX A – Technical Bid Response Sheet

Appendix A – Technical Bid Response Sheet					
Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. Bidder must comply each and every item of the requirements. Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.					
	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Compliance Indicator		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
			Yes	No	
1.	Email Security Services	The required email security services include the following:			
2.		Email Security - protect email accounts and communications from unauthorized access, loss, or compromise. This includes protecting against malicious threats such as: malware, spam, phishing attacks, and data breaches			
3.		Email Archive for at least 36 months			
4.		Remote access to the emails at the service provider in cases where the Electoral Commission's email system is inaccessible			
5.		Maintenance and 24 x 7 Support including call logging and resolution			
6.		Anti-Spam solution that will scan all incoming mail for at least 1200 mailboxes, with a minimum delay of not more than 5 minutes			
7.		Flexible and scalable capacity, to provide for fluctuations in consumption volumes that are driven by electoral business cycles.			
8.	Operational and Management Report	Operational and management reporting including the following:			
9.		Secure Email Gateway Reports			
10.		URL Protect Reports			
11.		Attachment Protect Reports			
12.		Impersonation Reports			
13.		User Activity Reports			

Appendix A – Technical Bid Response Sheet

**Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. Bidder must comply each and every item of the requirements.
Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.**

	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Compliance Indicator		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
			Yes	No	
14.	Transition	The successful bidder must ensure smooth and quick transition of the existing services from the current service provider.			
15.	Existing Product	The services are based on a standard existing product/service in the market and not products specifically designed and/or cloned for this bid			
16.		The bidder has included a Product data sheet for the service being proposed.			
17.	Service Management	The SLA facilitates a three-way relationship between the successful bidder, the OEM and the Electoral Commission in such a way that the Electoral Commission can deal directly with the OEM.			
18.		24 x 7 Service Availability – access to call logging facility and access to technical support.			
19.		Account / Service management - contact to escalate service-related queries			
20.	Data Confidentiality and Privacy Requirements	The bidder undertakes to agree and comply will the Electoral Commission's requirements on data protection and confidentiality of information section above of this document.			

20 APPENDIX B: PRICING SCHEDULE (Grand Total Bid Price)

APPENDIX B: PRICING SCHEDULE						
The completion of all pricing schedules is compulsory.						
Failure to complete the below will result in the bid being disqualified. All costs must be inclusive of VAT						
No.	Description of Primary Services	Quantity	Implementation / Once Off Costs including VAT [A]	Unit Cost per email address per year***	Monthly Costs including VAT [B]	Total costs over 1 year including VAT[C]
1.	Email Security for 1200 email addresses	1	R.....	R.....	R.....	R.....
2.	Email Archive for at least 12 months	1	R.....	R.....	R.....	R.....
3.	Remote access to the emails at the service provider in cases where the Electoral Commission's email system is inaccessible	1	R.....	R.....	R.....	R.....
4.	Maintenance and 24 x 7 Support including call logging and resolution	1		R.....	R.....	R.....
5.	Grand Total Bid Price:*[SUB TOTALS: A + C]		R.....		R.....	R.....

* The Grand Total Bid Price must be in full and complete for the proposed solution and must be uploaded on e-Procurement. The bid price on e-Procurement will be used for adjudication.

** Monthly costs provide an indication of invoice amounts.

*** Unit cost per year will be used to determine the costs of adding more users during heightened election season

21 APPENDIX C: GUIDELINE REFERENCE TABLE

21.1 As per 5.3 above, the bidder is to provide at least three (3) contactable references of past services of a similar nature that the bidder provided or was involved in. The table below serves as a guideline of what information the IEC requires from the references.

Reference #1

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Project Size Based on number of email addresses	
	When was the service provided (dates)?	

Reference #2

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Project Size Based on number of email addresses	
	When was the service provided (dates)?	

Reference #3

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Project Size Based on number of email addresses	
	When was the service provided (dates)?	

22 Appendix D - Bid Evaluation Criteria

22.1 *Stage 1: Assessment of Bidder's Disclosure*

All bids received will be evaluated and assessed in respect of the mandatory information provided in the Bidder's Disclosure (SBD4) as well as the register for restricted suppliers and tender defaulters.

Any potential issues that may arise or transgressions that may identified will be pursued in accordance with statutory obligations and requirements.

In this regard, the following must be noted:

The Electoral Commission must, as part of its supply chain management (SCM) processes, identify and manage all potential conflicts of interest and other disclosures made by a person participating in procurement process to enable the accounting officer or delegated authority to make informed decisions about the person participating in the SCM process.

As such, the Bidders Disclosure form, issued as Standard Bidding Document (SBD) 4, attached as Appendix A, was extended to all entities which were invited to participate in the RFQ process.

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

In so doing, it must be noted that if the bid evaluation establishes that:

- a) a person within the bidding entity is an employee of the State, the Electoral Commission's Accounting Officer/accounting authority must request the relevant accounting officer/accounting authority whether the person-
 - i. Is prohibited from conducting business with the State in terms of Section 8 of the Public Administration Management Act, 2014; or
 - ii. has permission to perform other remunerative work outside of their employment, where the PAMA does not apply to such employee;
- b) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004;
- c) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Competition Act, 1998, the conduct must be reported to the Competition Commission; and
- d) the conduct of a person must be dealt with in terms of the prescripts applicable to the Electoral Commission.

If it is established that a person has committed a transgression in terms of the above, or any other transgression of SCM prescripts, the bid may be rejected and the person may be restricted.

The Electoral Commission’s Accounting Officer/accounting authority must inform National Treasury of any action taken against a person within 30 days of implementing the action.

During the bid evaluation process, the Electoral Commission must in addition to other due diligence measures, establish if a person is not listed in-

- a) the Register of Tender Defaulters; and
- b) the list of restricted suppliers.

A bid related to a restricted bidder or tender defaulter shall be rejected.

The under-mentioned assessment criteria will be used to evaluate the elements relating to SBD4, CSD registration, tax compliance, restricted suppliers and tender defaulters

Stage 1 – Bidder’s Disclosure.				
Important Note: Detail on any transgression must be reported if issues are identified as mandatory steps must be taken as prescribed in <i>National Treasury PMFA SCM Instruction Note 3 of 2016/2022: Enhancing Compliance, Transparency and Accountability in Supply Chain Management.</i>				
Company Name (Bidder):				
No.	Description	Yes	No	Comments
1.	Bidder is registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD). *			
2.	Bidder is tax compliant. **			
3.	The bidder is not an employee of the state.			
4.	Having certified the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder’s conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act.			
5.	Having certified to the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder’s conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Competition Act.			
6.	The bidder is not a tender defaulter as per the register published on the National Treasury website.			
7.	The bidder is not a restricted supplier as per the register published on the National Treasury website.			
* No bid shall be accepted if a supplier is not registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD).				
** A bidder must be tax compliant before a contract is awarded. A bid will be disqualified if the bidder’s tax affairs remains non-compliant as per the provisions of National Treasury Instruction No 09 of 2017/2018 Tax Compliance Status Verification.				

22.2 Stage 2: Key Qualifying Criteria

Stage 2 – Bid Evaluation Criteria

Stage 2 – Key Qualifying Criteria - Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified

No.	Description	Yes	No	Comments
1.	Bidder submitted bid online?			
2.	Bidder completed and submitted technical specification as per 5.2 - Appendix A			
3.	The bidder has completed and submitted detailed pricing as per Appendix B – Pricing Schedule as per 7.2			
4.	Bidder submitted three (3) contactable references as per 5.3			
5.	Bidder is authorized to sell email security services as per 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8			
Overall Stage 2 Outcomes:		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>		
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):		

22.3 Stage 3: Technical Bid Adjudication

Stage 3 – Technical Evaluation

Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Compliance Indicator		Comments
			Yes	No	
1.	Email Security Services	The required email security services include the following:			
2.		Email Security - protect email accounts and communications from unauthorized access, loss, or compromise. This includes protecting against malicious threats such as: malware, spam, phishing attacks, and data breaches			
3.		Email Archive for at least 36 months			
4.		Remote access to the emails at the service provider in cases where the Electoral Commission's email system is inaccessible			
5.		Maintenance and 24 x 7 Support including call logging and resolution			
6.		Anti-Spam solution that will scan all incoming mail for at least 1200 mailboxes, with a minimum delay of not more than 5 minutes			
7.		Flexible and scalable capacity, to provide for fluctuations in consumption volumes that are driven by electoral business cycles.			
8.	Operational and Management Report	Operational and management reporting including the following:			
9.		Secure Email Gateway Reports			
10.		URL Protect Reports			
11.		Attachment Protect Reports			
12.		Impersonation Reports			
13.		User Activity Reports			
14.	Transition	The successful bidder must ensure smooth and quick transition of the existing services from the current service provider.			

Stage 3 – Technical Evaluation

Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

	Category	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Compliance Indicator		Comments
			Yes	No	
15.	Existing Product	The services are based on a standard existing product/service in the market and not products specifically designed and/or cloned for this bid			
16.		The bidder has included a Product data sheet for the service being proposed.			
17.	Service Management	The SLA facilitates a three-way relationship between the successful bidder, the OEM and the Electoral Commission in such a way that the Electoral Commission can deal directly with the OEM.			
18.		24 x 7 Service Availability – access to call logging facility and access to technical support.			
19.		Account / Service management - contact to escalate service-related queries			
20.	Data Confidentiality and Privacy Requirements	The bidder undertakes to agree and comply with the Electoral Commission’s requirements on data protection and confidentiality of information section above of this document.			
Overall Stage 3 Outcomes:		<p><u>Assessment Comments:</u></p>			
		<p>Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):</p>			

22.4 **Stage 4: Other Functionality**

Stage 4 – Technical Scoring

To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (39/52)

	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
1.	Relevant Reference	30	References: a) Customer name = 1 point b) Contact Person = 1 point c) Email = 0.5 point d) Telephone = 0.5 point e) Physical address = 0.5 points f) Product/Solution = 2 points g) Description of Services Provided = 2 points h) Project Size Based number of email addresses = 2 points i) Services Provided in the Last 36 Months = 0.5 point Total for references = maximum 10 points per reference (minimum 3 references required).		
2.	Relevant Experience	10	Relevant Experience: a) 10 years and above = 10 points b) 5 to 9 years (both years inclusive) = 6 points c) less than 5 years = 0 points		

Stage 4 – Technical Scoring

To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (39/52)

	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
3.	SLA	2	Bidder has included an example SLA document (2 points)		
4.	Product Local Support	8	The product / service is used by: a) Over 10 local customers (2 points) b) Over 20 local customers (4 points) c) Over 50 local customers (8 points)		
5.	Account Management	2	The bidder has proposed a dedicated Account Manager and/or Service Manager to handle service-related queries and escalations		
	TOTAL:	52			
Overall Stage 4 Outcomes:		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>			
		Bid qualifies for further consideration (YES/NO):			

Appendix D - Stage 5 – Adjudication of Bids

Only bids that comply with the requirements and conditions of the bid and that meet the minimum criteria in the bid evaluation process as stipulated above will be considered for bid adjudication purposes.

Acceptable bids must be market related.

This bid is deemed to not exceed R50 million including VAT.

Therefore, the 80/20 preference point system (PPPFA scoring) in terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2005 (PPPFA) and the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022 shall apply in the adjudication process of this auction where all acceptable bids received are below R50 million including VAT. Preference points will be allocated as follows:

B-BBEE Status Level of Contributor	Number of Points
1	20
2	18
3	14
4	12
5	8
6	6
7	4
8	2
Non-compliant contributor	0

Bid Evaluation Committee

	Committee Member's Name	Signature	Date
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Overall Adjudication Outcomes:
