



**SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Electoral Commission**

**Bid Specifications**

**Auction XXXXXXX**

**Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Protection and Mitigation,  
Caching and Web Application Firewall (WAF) Service**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Failure to comply with the completion of the auction conditions and the required information or submission of the required stipulated documents indicated above (i.e. non submission of the required reseller authorisation details and maintenance stipulations) shall invalidate a bid.**

# **1 Introduction**

The Electoral Commission (IEC) is seeking an upstream Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) protection and mitigation, caching and Web Application Firewall solution for a period not exceeding 36 months from 01 January 2023.

The IEC is looking to protect at least one domain (elections.org.za) and about twenty (20) elections related sub-domains. The service provider must provide on-boarding and technical support over and above telephonic support. Moreover, the IEC wants to be able to add / remove / replace domains in the list as the need arises. The IEC is therefore looking for an enterprise DDoS protection and mitigation solution that covers an unlimited number of domains/subdomains and is not limited in terms of the number of mitigations against DDoS attacks.

The IEC also is looking to have Caching services for at least one domain (elections.org.za) and about twenty (20) sub-domains. The service provider must provide on-boarding and technical support over and above telephonic support. Moreover, the IEC wants to be able to add / remove / replace domains in the list as the need arises. The IEC is therefore looking for an enterprise caching solution that covers an unlimited number of domains and subdomains and is not limited in terms of the bandwidth utilization or cached data volumes

The IEC is also looking for a Cloud based Web Application Firewall (WAF) service as part of the solution to protect the IEC's websites against cyber-criminals in particular against the OWASP Top 10 Threats.

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 Electoral Commission's ICT Department intends to continue running a highly efficient and stable ICT environment making full use of industry standards, best practices and disciplines based upon stable and reliable technologies.

## **2 Background**

The IEC has employed DDoS protection and mitigation service during National and Provincial Elections 2019 (NPE 2019) and Local Government Elections 2021 (LGE 2021) with remarkable results. A great number of attempted DDoS attacks were mitigated as a result.

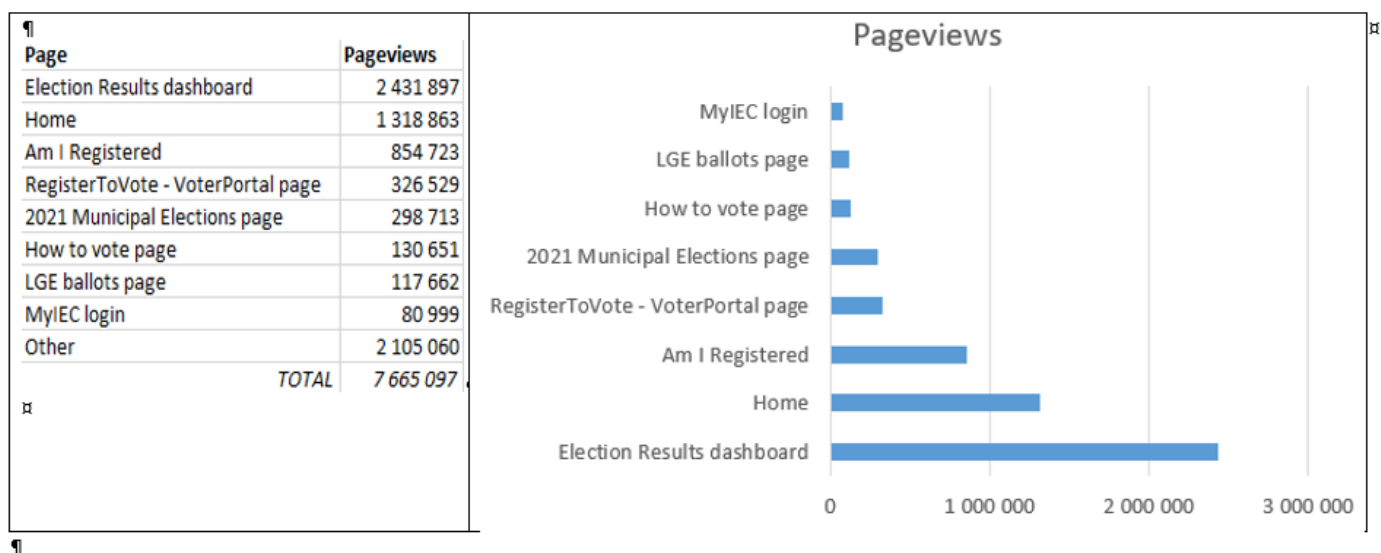
The caching of the websites' static sections assisted the IEC greatly to deal with the increased load during NPE 2019 and LGE 2021. This allowed the IEC's websites not to be overwhelmed even during peak period of results without increasing the allocated bandwidth.

Most of the interactions between the IEC and external stakeholders is via the web. A Web Application Firewall (WAF) service helps to secure this service.

The contract period for this service includes the period of National and Provincial Elections (NPE) 2024, as anticipated to take place between May and August 2024. The solution should therefore be flexible enough to accommodate this heightened period and other normal months.

For the purposes of this bid requirement, we define a heightened election period as a period of about six (6) months encompassing the period of voter registration, election day and a few days after election day as the results are released and analysed.

The figure below shows the statistics from the 2021 Local Government Elections (LGE) in terms of page views.



**Figure 1 Pageviews LGE 2021**

The bandwidth utilization statistics below were previously recorded:

From Date	To Date	Bandwidth (GB)	Comment
2022/08/05	2022/08/11	38.7	
2022/07/29	2022/08/04	47.65	
2022/07/22	2022/07/28	51.68	
2022/07/15	2022/07/21	36.54	
2022/07/08	2022/07/14	40.16	
2022/07/01	2022/07/07	78.63	
2022/06/24	2022/06/30	72.23	
2022/06/17	2022/06/23	41.79	
2022/06/10	2022/06/16	64.51	
2022/06/03	2022/06/09	38.16	
2022/05/27	2022/06/02	41.29	
2022/05/20	2022/05/26	39.34	
2022/05/13	2022/05/19	42.93	
2022/05/05	2022/05/12	46.52	
2022/04/29	2022/05/04	25.49	
2022/04/20	2022/04/28	61.12	
2022/04/10	2022/04/20	57.71	
2022/04/04	2022/04/10	83.89	
2022/03/05	2022/04/03	257.08	
30-Oct-21	01-Nov-21	21400.00	Local Government Elections (LGE) 2021
02-Nov-21	04-Nov-21	58800.00	Local Government Elections(LGE) 2021
06-May-19	11-May-19	44700.00	National and Provincial Elections (NPE) 2019

### 3 Bid and Technical Requirements

It must be noted that the technical specifications below are the minimum requirements; the only deviation that may be accepted will be in case where the bidder's specification is better. Anything below specification will be disqualified.

The IEC seeks the following services:

- 3.1 An enterprise DDoS Protection and Mitigation solution that covers at least one domain (elections.org.za) and twenty (20) elections related sub-domains and is unmetered in terms the number of mitigations against DDoS attacks. Moreover, the IEC must be able to able to add / remove domains and/or subdomains without incurring extra cost.
- 3.2 A website caching solution (CDN) that is an enterprise solution that covers at least one domain (elections.org.za) and twenty (20) elections related sub-domains and is not limited in terms of the bandwidth utilization and cached data volumes. Moreover, the IEC must able to add / remove domains and/or subdomains without incurring extra cost

- 3.3 The service must include Web Application Firewall (WAF) automatic protection from vulnerabilities and the flexibility to create custom WAF rules and also to deal with OWASP Top 10 Threats. The bidder will be responsible for setting this up as part of the service provided
- 3.4 An Enterprise support service which includes on-boarding and operational support services.
- 3.5 Access to 24/7/365 phone, chat and email support especially during heightened election period.
- 3.6 A flexible solution that provides for high usage during heightened election period and normal use during other months of the 3 years' period.
- 3.7 Access to the solution portal for self-service purposes. The accounts should be controlled via a Role based Account Control allowing technicians to make changes and others to view and draw reports
- 3.8 The solution should also allow for load balancing between two data centres. The data centres are both located in South Africa.
- 3.9 The solution should include access to real Time http logs and other WAF reports
- 3.10 The solution should also be able to push logs (including audit logs) to the IEC's SIEM (FortiSIEM)
- 3.11 The IEC must be able to access the Analytics (Cache, Site, DNS, Firewall) of the solution in the form of reports
- 3.12 The IEC is licensed for Microsoft 365 (M365) products and is busy with the migration and adoption of M365 workloads. The solution should support M365 and allow for enhanced connectivity to Microsoft 365 services.

- 3.13 The service must include Caching facility / Content Delivery Network (CDN) to provide high availability and performance by distributing the service spatially to over 100 data centres including more than two (2) in South Africa and more than ten (10) across the African continent.
- 3.14 A minimum edge-cache-expire Time-To-Live (TTL) on the caching facility of not more than 30 seconds is required especially during the heightened election period.
- 3.15 The CDN facility must allow for purge-by-tag and purge-by-host intervention.
- 3.16 The service must guarantee 100% uptime during the heightened election period. Outside of this period, a 99.9% uptime will be acceptable.
- 3.17 During heightened election period, there must be granular insight into the traffic and audit logs. A 1-minute or less analytical range is required during this time. However, during the other months an analytical range of at least 15 minutes will be sufficient.
- 3.18 The solution must include an automated data driven (e.g. behavioural analysis, machine learning and other techniques to detect anomalies) bot management capability.
- 3.19 The solution must provide the ability to set Custom Upload Size and Cache Object size that are not limited to 500 MB.
- 3.20 The solution must include an annual health check of the environment
- 3.21 The solution must be Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) 3.2 or higher compliant.
- 3.22 The following domain and subdomains have been identified for the purposes of the of this bid. The list may increase / decrease over time.

Item	Domain/URL
1.	<a href="http://www.elections.org.za">www.elections.org.za</a>
2.	api.elections.org.za
3.	maps.elections.org.za
4.	online.elections.org.za
5.	sms.elections.org.za
6.	registertovote.elections.org.za

Item	Domain/URL
7.	results.elections.org.za
8.	atlas.elections.org.za
9.	eLearning.elections.org.za
10.	votaquotes.elections.org.za
11.	vmd.elections.org.za
12.	geomaps.elections.org.za
13.	events.elections.org.za
14.	mail.elections.org.za
15.	sfb.elections.org.za
16.	meet.elections.org.za
17.	dashboard.elections.org.za

## 4 General Auction Conditions

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

- 4.1 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
- 4.2 The bidder must complete and submit [SBD4 – Bidder's Disclosure](#)
- 4.3 The bidder must provide detailed technical specifications in accordance with the technical requirements to demonstrate compliance by completing and submitting [Technical Response Sheet](#).
- 4.4 A letter of proof of the reseller agreement either from the OEM or an authorized distributor; (i.e. if the reseller is authorized by a distributor) must be included. If the reseller agreement is from a distributor, then proof from the OEM authorizing the distributor needs to be included
- 4.5 The bidder must provide at least two (2) contactable references of past services of a similar nature 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 and value of services offered, per annum. The bidder must use [Reference Schedule](#) as guideline

- 4.6 Bidder must have at least three-(3) years' experience in providing the services required. Bidder must provide a profile or letter to confirm.

## **5 Quality Control**

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

- 5.1 The successful bidder will have the primary responsibility of ensuring that the proposed product complies with the required specifications in terms of functionality and technical specification including quantity and quality.
- 5.2 The proposed product 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.
- 5.3 Delivery of the required products and services shall only be accepted by the Electoral Commission on the basis of presentation of the service provider's own delivery note. Such notes shall not be substituted by another service provider's delivery notes.
- 5.4 It must be noted that the Electoral Commission seeks to gain the best product technically, functionally and financially, and will select the product that it deems to give the best investment.
- 5.5 Preference will be given to solutions that are based on a standard existing product in the market and not products specifically designed and/or cloned for this bid. The Electoral Commission may require market penetration indicators and references.
- 5.6 Upon a successful bid being accepted, the Electoral Commission reserves the right to request an inspection of the preferred service provider's facilities.
- 5.7 The successful service provider has the primary responsibility to ensure that quantity and quality are in accordance with the bid specifications.

- 5.8 The Electoral Commission will issue a formal purchase order to the successful bidder before any services can be delivered.
- 5.9 Awarding of the auction to any successful bidder shall be subject to the Electoral Commission's due diligence audit requirements, where applicable.
- 5.10 No payment shall be made until full and final delivery has taken place and the product has been confirmed and delivered in accordance with the specifications.
- 5.11 In addition, the Electoral Commission may also call on bidders to make further submissions and/or presentations in order for the Electoral Commission to ensure full compliance with all its requirements and as part of the bid evaluation process prior to the conclusion of the adjudication of the auction.

## **6 Pricing Requirements**

When pricing bid proposals, service providers are advised to take into account that the following issues are factored into the price. The Electoral Commission will not entertain additional charges on these items.

- 6.1 Pricing must include Subscription costs, configuration and/or customization services and support costs; and must be for 36 months;
- 6.2 Bidder must complete and submit [Pricing Schedule](#)
- 6.3 The bid is for a period of 3 years however payment will be done on annual basis. No financing charges or arrangements will be entered into.
- 6.4 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, whereby the price for year 1 will be without fluctuations whilst the price payable in years 2 and 3 will be based on the firm price, subject to exchange rate fluctuation as set out in paragraph 6.6. below.
- 6.5 Bid price must be submitted online on the eProcurement (Votaquotes) portal. The bid price on the Pricing Schedule must be the same as the bid price submitted online. If there is a discrepancy between the Pricing Schedule bid price and the online submitted bid price, the online submitted bid price will be used for adjudication
- 6.6 In the event that the price has FOREX dependencies, the bidder must state the portion

of the price that has FOREX dependency and state the exchange rate that the price is based on at the time of bidding. Where applicable, FOREX based up or down adjustments will be allowed in Years 2 and 3 to account for exchange rate impact on the Rand. The original bid price will apply as stated in paragraph 6.4 above, subject to the exchange rate which shall be based on the specified Bank Selling Rate at the time of making payment on the purchase orders issued for years 2 and 3.

## **7 Award of Order**

- 7.1 The selection process may include short-listing, presentation and demonstration of the products by short-listed potential service providers.
- 7.2 A contract/purchase order will be awarded to a bidder whose bid complies with these specifications and in accordance with the terms of the provisions of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 and more specifically the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017.
- 7.3 The Electoral Commission will issue a formal order before any services or products can be delivered.
- 7.4 It should be noted that the Electoral Commission seeks to gain the best product technically and financially and will select from the results of the auction a solution it deems to give the best investment.

## **8 Delivery and Implementation Timeframe**

- 8.1 The successful bidder will be required to complete delivery within one (1) month from receipt of an order for these services.

## **9 Written Submissions**

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 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 XXXXXXXXXX**

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.

## **10 Summary of Submission Requirements**

10.1 Detailed technical specifications in accordance with the technical requirements to demonstrate compliance by completing and submitting [Technical Response Sheet](#) as per 4.3;

10.2 Complete and submit [Pricing Schedule](#) as per 6.2

10.3 A letter of proof of the reseller agreement either from the OEM or an authorized distributor; (i.e. if the reseller is authorized by a distributor). If the reseller agreement is from a distributor, then proof from the OEM authorizing the distributor needs to be included as per 4.4;

10.4 At least two (2) contactable references of past services of a similar nature that the bidder provided or was involved in, as per clause 4.5;

10.5 A profile or letter showing that the bidder has at least three (3) years' experience as per 4.6.

## **11 Closing Date**

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

## **12 Bidder's Disclosure (SBD4)**

The bid evaluation team noted that 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 Annexure A below, was extended to all entities which were invited to participate in the auction process.

The bid evaluation committee noted that, 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, the bid evaluation team 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.

The bid evaluation team, furthermore, noted that 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

## 13 Bidder's Response (SBD4)

Bidder's Disclosure – SBD 4			
The Bidder must complete and submit the SBD4 form. Failure to submit the SBD4 will lead to disqualification			
Company Name (Bidder):			
No.	Description	Yes / No	Comment
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 Completion 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 late bid, as a whole or in part, shall be accepted.

\*\* 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.

## 14 Technical Bid Response Sheet

<p align="center"><b><u>Technical Bid Response</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.</b></p>					
	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Reference	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response technical specification for proposed solution – more details
			Yes	No	
1.	The bidder must provide an enterprise DDoS Protection and Mitigation solution that covers at least one domain (elections.org.za) and twenty (20) elections related sub-domains and is unmetered in terms the number of mitigations against DDoS attacks. Moreover, the IEC must be able to able to add / remove domains and/or subdomains without incurring extra cost.	3.1			
2.	A website caching solution (CDN) that is an enterprise solution that covers at least one domain (elections.org.za) and twenty (20) elections related sub-domains and is not limited in terms of the bandwidth utilization and cached data volumes. Moreover, the IEC must able to add / remove domains and/or subdomains without incurring extra cost	3.2			
3.	The bidder must provide a service that includes a Web Application	3.3			

### Technical Bid Response

**Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.**

**Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.**

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

	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Reference	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response technical specification for proposed solution – more details
			Yes	No	
	Firewall (WAF) automatic protection from vulnerabilities and the flexibility to create custom WAF rules and also to deal with OWASP Top 10 Threats. The bidder will be responsible for setting this up as part of the service provided				
4.	The bidder must provide an Enterprise support service that includes on-boarding and operational support services; and access to 24/7/365 phone, chat and email support especially during heightened election period.	3.4 3.5			
5.	The solution has a self-service portal whose accounts are managed via a Role based Account Control allowing technicians to make changes and others only to view and draw reports including analytics (cache, site, DNS, Firewall)	3.7 3.11			
6.	The solution should include access to real Time http logs and other WAF	3.9 3.10			

### Technical Bid Response

**Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.**

**Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.**

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

	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Reference	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response technical specification for proposed solution – more details
			Yes	No	
	reports. The solution is also able to push logs (including audit logs) to the IEC's SIEM (FortiSIEM)				
7.	The Caching facility / Content Delivery Network (CDN) must be able to distribute services to over 100 data centres including more than two (2) in South Africa and more than ten (10) across the African continent.	3.13			
8.	A minimum edge cache expire Time-To-Live (TTL) on the caching facility of not more than 30 seconds is required especially during the heightened election period	3.14			
9.	The CDN facility must allow for purge-by-tag and purge-by-host intervention.	3.15			
10.	The service must guarantee 100% uptime during the heightened election period. Outside of this period, a 99.9% uptime is acceptable	3.16			

### Technical Bid Response

**Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.**

**Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.**

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

	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Reference	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response technical specification for proposed solution – more details
			Yes	No	
11.	DDoS protection and mitigation and CDN (Caching) must be provided for the following domains at a minimum: <i>a)</i> <a href="http://www.elections.org.za">www.elections.org.za</a> <i>b)</i> api.elections.org.za <i>c)</i> online.elections.org.za <i>d)</i> maps.elections.org.za <i>e)</i> atlas.elections.org.za <i>f)</i> results.elections.org.za <i>g)</i> registertovote.elections.org.za <i>h)</i> geomaps.elections.org.za <i>i)</i> events.elections.org.za <i>j)</i> gisapi.elections.org.za <i>k)</i> sms.elections.org.za <i>l)</i> votaquotes.elections.org.za <i>m)</i> eLearning.elections.org.za <i>n)</i> eRecruitment.elections.org.za	3.22			

### Technical Bid Response

**Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.**

**Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.**

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

	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Reference	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response technical specification for proposed solution – more details
			Yes	No	
	<p><i>o)</i> vmd.elections.org.za</p> <p><i>p)</i> dashboard.elections.org.za</p>				
12.	The solution must be flexible to allow for heightened election period and other months of normal usage during the 3 years' period	3.6			
13.	The solution must include an automated data driven (e.g. behavioural analysis, machine learning and other techniques to detect anomalies) bot management capability.	3.18			
14.	The solution includes an annual health check of the environment	3.20			
15.	During heightened election period there must be granular insight into the traffic and audit logs. A 1-minute analytical range is required during this time. However during the other months an analytical range of at least 15 minutes is required.	3.17			

**Technical Bid Response**

**Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory.**

**Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet.**

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

	<b>Compliance Minimum Requirements</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable</b>		<b>Bidder's response technical specification for proposed solution – more details</b>
			<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
16.	The solution includes an automated data driven bot management capability	3.18			
17.	The solution must be Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) 3.2 or higher compliant.	3.21			

## 15 Pricing Schedule

<b>Pricing Schedule</b> Completion of this Price Breakdown response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet. Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.						
	Category	More Information	Once Off [A]	Annual Cost[B]	Number of Years[C]	Costs Over 3 Years[D]
1.	DDoS Protection and Mitigation and Caching Service (CDN) on domains	Enterprise Package including <i>a)</i> Unlimited number of domains <i>b)</i> Unlimited mitigation against attacks <i>c)</i> WAF <i>d)</i> Support and maintenance over contract period <i>e)</i> On-boarding services	R.....	R.....	3	R.....
SUB-TOTALS			R.....			R.....
**TOTAL BID PRICE (ONCE OFF COSTS [A] + COSTS OVER 3 YEARS [D])						R.....

\*\*The total bid price is the bid price that must be placed on eProcurement (auction). No any other additional costs will be accepted for bid evaluation and adjudication purposes.

## 16 References Guideline

<b><u>Guideline Reference Table</u></b> <b><u>Bidder must provide 2 References as per Section 5</u></b>		
EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS AT THE LEAST		
<b>Customer name</b>		
<b>Contact Person</b>		
<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>Email</b>	
	<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Product</b>	
	<b>Services Provided</b>	
<b>Services Provided</b>	<b>Number of domains and Sub-domains DDOS protected</b>	Domains: _____ Sub-Domains: _____
	<b>Number of domains and sub-domains cached (CDN)</b>	Domains: _____ Sub-Domains: _____
	<b>Was this service provided in the last 24 months? (Y/N)</b>	_____ If N, how long ago was the service provided: _____

## 17 Bid Evaluation

### Bid Evaluation Process

#### ***17.1 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 Annexure B, was extended to all entities which were invited to participate in the SCM 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:

- (e) 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-
  - (iii) Is prohibited from conducting business with the State in terms of Section 8 of the Public Administration Management Act, 2014; or
  - (iv) has permission to perform other remunerative work outside of their employment, where the PAMA does not apply to such employee;
- (f) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004;
- (g) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Competition Act, 1998, the conduct must be reported to the Competition Commission; and

(h) 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-

(c) the Register of Tender Defaulters; and

(d) 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:

	Assessment Criteria	Bidder Requirement (YES/NO)	Comments
1.	Bidder is registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD). *		
2.	Bidder is tax compliant. **		
3.	The bidder is not an employee of the state.		
4.	Having certified the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act.		
5.	Having certified to the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Competition Act.		
6.	The bidder is not a tender defaulter as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		
7.	The bidder is not a restricted supplier as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		

\* No bid shall be accepted if a supplier is not registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD).

\*\* A bidder must be tax compliant before a contract is awarded. A bid will be disqualified if the bidder's tax affairs remains non-compliant as per the provisions of National Treasury Instruction No 09 of 2017/2018 Tax Compliance Status Verification.

## 17.2 Stage 2 - Key Qualifying Criteria

Stage 2 – Key Qualifying Criteria				
Company Name (Bidder):				
Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified				
No.	Description	Yes	No	Comments
1.	Has the bidder completed and submitted technical specification (Technical Response Sheet) as per clause 4.3?			
2.	Has the bidder completed and submitted detailed pricing schedule as per 6.2?			
3.	Has the bidder submitted two (2) contactable references as per 4.5?			
4.	Has the bidder has provided an OEM or Distributor and OEM letter as per 4.4?			
Overall Stage 2 Outcomes:		<b><u>Assessment Comments:</u></b>		
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):		

### 17.3 Stage 3 – Technical Bid Evaluation

<b><u>Stage 3 – Technical Bid Evaluation</u></b>					
	<b>Compliance Minimum Requirements</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable</b>		<b>Comments</b>
			<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
1.	The bidder must provide an enterprise DDoS Protection and Mitigation solution that covers at least one domain (elections.org.za) and twenty (20) elections related sub-domains and is unmetered in terms the number of mitigations against DDoS attacks. Moreover, the IEC must be able to able to add / remove domains and/or subdomains without incurring extra cost.	3.1			
2.	A website caching solution (CDN) that is an enterprise solution that covers at least one domain (elections.org.za) and twenty (20) elections related sub-domains and is not limited in terms of the bandwidth utilization and cached data volumes. Moreover, the IEC must able to add / remove domains and/or subdomains without incurring extra cost	3.2			
3.	The bidder must provide a service that includes a Web Application Firewall (WAF) automatic protection from vulnerabilities and the flexibility to create custom WAF rules and also to deal with OWASP Top 10 Threats. The bidder will	3.3			

### **Stage 3 – Technical Bid Evaluation**

	<b>Compliance Minimum Requirements</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable</b>		<b>Comments</b>
			<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
	be responsible for setting this up as part of the service provided				
4.	The bidder must provide an Enterprise support service that includes on-boarding and operational support services; and access to 24/7/365 phone, chat and email support especially during heightened election period.	3.4 3.5			
5.	The solution has a self-service portal whose accounts are managed via a Role based Account Control allowing technicians to make changes and others only to view and draw reports including analytics (cache, site, DNS, Firewall)	3.7 3.11			
6.	The solution should include access to real Time http logs and other WAF reports. The solution is also able to push logs (including audit logs) to the IEC's SIEM (FortiSIEM)	3.9 3.10			
7.	The Caching facility / Content Delivery Network (CDN) must be able to distribute services to over 100 data centres including more than two (2) in South Africa and more than ten (10) across the African continent.	3.13			

### Stage 3 – Technical Bid Evaluation

	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Reference	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Comments
			Yes	No	
8.	A minimum edge cache expire Time-To-Live (TTL) on the caching facility of not more than 30 seconds is required especially during the heightened election period	3.14			
9.	The CDN facility must allow for purge-by-tag and purge-by-host intervention.	3.15			
10.	The service must guarantee 100% uptime during the heightened election period. Outside of this period, a 99.9% uptime is acceptable	3.16			
11.	DDoS protection and mitigation and CDN (Caching) must be provided for the following domains at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <a href="http://www.elections.org.za">www.elections.org.za</a></li> <li>b) api.elections.org.za</li> <li>c) online.elections.org.za</li> <li>d) maps.elections.org.za</li> <li>e) atlas.elections.org.za</li> <li>f) results.elections.org.za</li> <li>g) registertovote.elections.org.za</li> </ul>	3.22			

### Stage 3 – Technical Bid Evaluation

	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Reference	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Comments
			Yes	No	
	<i>h)</i> geomaps.elections.org.za <i>i)</i> events.elections.org.za <i>j)</i> gisapi.elections.org.za <i>k)</i> sms.elections.org.za <i>l)</i> votaquotes.elections.org.za <i>m)</i> eLearning.elections.org.za <i>n)</i> eRecruitment.elections.org.za <i>o)</i> vmd.elections.org.za <i>p)</i> dashboard.elections.org.za				
12.	The solution must be flexible to allow for heightened election period and other months of normal usage during the 3 years' period	3.6			
13.	The solution must include an automated data driven (e.g. behavioural analysis, machine learning and other techniques to detect anomalies) bot management capability.	3.18			
14.	The solution includes an annual health check of the environment	3.20			

### **Stage 3 – Technical Bid Evaluation**

	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Reference	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Comments
			Yes	No	
15.	During heightened election period there must be granular insight into the traffic and audit logs. A 1-minute analytical range is required during this time. However during the other months an analytical range of at least 15 minutes is required.	3.17			
16.	The solution includes an automated data driven bot management capability	3.18			
17.	The solution must be Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) 3.2 or higher compliant.	3.21			
Overall Stage 3 Outcomes:		<b><u>Assessment Comments:</u></b>			
		<b>Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):</b>			

## 17.4 Stage 4 – Technical Scoring

Stage 4 – Technical Scoring					
To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (~19/25)					
	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
1	Relevant Reference	20	<p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Customer name = 1 point</li> <li>b) Contact Person = 1 point</li> <li>c) Email = 1 point</li> <li>d) Telephone = 1 point</li> <li>e) Product/Solution = 1 point</li> <li>f) Description of Services provided = 1 point.</li> <li>g) Number of Domains and Sub-Domains DDOS Protected = 2 point</li> <li>h) Number of Domains and Sub-Domains Cached (CDN) = 1 point</li> <li>i) Services Provided in the Last 24 Months = 1 point</li> </ul> <p><b>Total for references = maximum 10 points per reference (minimum 2 references required).</b></p>		
		5	<p>Experience in providing DDOS service. (5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The bidder has at least three (3) years' experience in</li> </ul>		

Stage 4 – Technical Scoring					
To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (~19/25)					
	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
			providing DDOS mitigation services (2 points). b) The bidder has at least three (3) years' experience in providing Caching (CDN) services (2 points). c) The bidder has at least three (3) years' experience in providing services around Web Application Firewalls (WAF) (1 point).		
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>25</b>			

## **17.5 Stage 5 – PPPFA Scoring**

### **Phase 4 - Evaluation Based on the 80/20 Preference Point System (PPPFA Scoring)**

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

Only market related bids will be acceptable.

Adjudication of qualifying bids will be done in accordance with the 80/20 preference point system provided for in the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017.

### **Bid Evaluation Team**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		