



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE: HEAD OFFICE

TERMS OF REFERENCE NUMBER: DSAC2025/26-B2

THE APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER TO PROVIDE A SERVICE FOR SOPHOS FIREWALL XGS THROUGH ACTIVATION, SUPPORT, AND MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS TO LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE.

CLOSING DATE: 11TH AUGUST 2025

CLOSING TIME: 11H00

BID VALIDITY PERIOD: 120 DAYS

TENDER BOX ADDRESS:

**21 BICCARD STREET
OLYMPIC TOWERS
POLOKWANE
0699**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Department of Sport Arts and Culture has six Sophos Firewalls, one in Head Office and five in District offices (Capricorn District, Sekhukhune District, Waterberg District, Vhembe District, and Mopani District). Without active firewalls, the Department's Administration is at risk of unauthorized access (e.g. hacking, denial of service, etc.).

1.2. Sophos Firewalls will be activated, supported, maintained and utilized at the following sites for 350 users: -

- ❖ XGS 2300 - Head Office – 21 Biccard Street Polokwane.
- ❖ XGS 126 - Capricorn District – 104 Oost Street Polokwane Ext 4.
- ❖ XGS 126 - Vhembe District Office, Casino Blvd Thohoyandou.
- ❖ XGS 126 - Mopani District Office, Giyani Government Complex Giyani D.
- ❖ XGS 126 - Sekhukhune District Office, Unit 1, Group Floor, 489 Chris Wild Street Lebowakgomo.
- ❖ XGS 126 - Waterberg District Office, 67 Elias Motswaledi Street. Waterberg, Modimolle.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture intends to appoint a service provider to provide a service for Sophos Firewall XGS through activation, support, and maintenance for a period of three years.

3. DEFINITIONS

DSAC means the organ of state, Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

SLA means Service Level Agreement; a contract between the successful bidder and DSAC that defines the level of service expected from the successful bidder.

VAT means Value Added Tax.

4 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE BID

4.1. Tax Legislation

4.1.1 Bidder(s) must be compliant when submitting a proposal to DSAC and remain compliant for the entire contract term with all applicable tax legislation, including but not limited to the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act No. 58 of 1962) and Value Added Tax Act, 1991 (Act No. 89 of 1991).

4.2. Procurement Legislation

4.2.1 DSAC has a detailed evaluation methodology premised amongst others, on Treasury Regulation 16A3 read with Limpopo Provincial Treasury Instruction Note 02 of 2014 promulgated respectively under Section 76 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act, No. 1 of 1999) and Section 18(1) (c) read together with Section 18(2) (a), (b), (f) and (i).

4.3. Technical Legislation and/or Standards

4.3.1 Bidder(s) should be cognisant of all the legislation and/or standards specifically applicable to the services to be rendered for DSAC. It is the service provider's responsibility that (it / they) i.e. the service provider(s), always use National Treasury and Limpopo Provincial Treasury prescripts when procuring goods and/or services for DSAC.

5. BRIEFING SESSION

There will be compulsory briefing session for this tender.

6. TIMELINE OF THE BID PROCESS

The validity period of the tender is 120 days after the closing date and time. The project timeframes of this bid are set out below:

Advertisement of bid on tender portal / tender bulletin

18th July 2025

Bid closing date.

11th August 2025 at 11:00

Compulsory Briefing Session date

30th July 2025 @ 10h00

21 Biccard Street, Olympic Towers building, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

Notice to bidder(s) DSAC will endeavour to inform bidders of the progress until conclusion of the tender.

All dates and times in this bid are South African standard time.

Any time or date in this bid is subject to change at DSAC's discretion. The establishment of a time or date in this bid does not create an obligation on the part of DSAC to take any action or create

any right in any way for any bidder to demand that any action be taken on the date established. The bidder accepts that, if DSAC extends the deadline for bid submission (the Closing Date) for any reason, the requirements of this bid otherwise apply equally to the extended deadline.

7. CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION

7.1. A nominated official of the bidder(s) can make enquiries in writing, to the specified person, Mr Mabasa L and/ or and Mrs Modiba M.V via email address mabasal@sac.limpopo.gov.za and/ or modibav@sac.limpopo.gov.za. Bidder(s) must reduce all telephonic enquiries to writing and send to the above email address.

7.2. The delegated office of DSAC may communicate with Bidder(s) where clarity is sought in the bid proposal.

7.3. Any communication with an official or a person acting in an advisory capacity for DSAC in respect of the bid between the closing date and the award of the bid by the Bidder(s) is discouraged.

7.4. All communication between the Bidder(s) and DSAC must be done in writing.

7.5. Whilst all due care has been taken in the preparation of this bid, DSAC makes no representations or warranties that the content of the bid or any information communicated to or provided to Bidder(s) during the bidding process is, or will be, accurate, current, or complete. DSAC, and its employees and advisors will not be liable with respect to any information communicated which may not be accurate, current, or complete.

7.6. If Bidder(s) finds or reasonably believes it has found any discrepancy, ambiguity, error or inconsistency in this bid or any other information provided by DSAC (other than minor clerical matters), the Bidder(s) must promptly notify DSAC in writing of such discrepancy, ambiguity, error, or inconsistency in order to afford DSAC an opportunity to consider what corrective action is necessary (if any).

7.7. Any actual discrepancy, ambiguity, error or inconsistency in the bid or any other information provided by DSAC will, if possible, be corrected and provided to all Bidder(s) without attribution to the Bidder(s) who provided the written notice.

7.8. All persons (including Bidder(s)) obtaining or receiving the bid and any other information in connection with the Bid or the Tendering process must keep the contents of the Bid and other such information confidential and not disclose or use the information except as required for the purpose of developing a proposal in response to this Bid.

8. LATE BIDS

Bids received after the closing date and time, at the address indicated in the bid documents, will not be accepted.

9. COUNTER CONDITIONS

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

10. FRONTING

10.1. Government supports the spirit of broad based black economic empowerment and recognizes that real empowerment can only be achieved through individuals and businesses conducting themselves in accordance with the Constitution and in an honest, fair, equitable, transparent, and legally compliant manner. Against this background the Government condemn any form of fronting.

10.2. The Government, in ensuring that Bidders conduct themselves in an honest manner will, as part of the bid evaluation processes, conduct, or initiate the necessary enquiries/investigations to determine the accuracy of the representation made in bid documents. Should any of the fronting indicators as contained in the Guidelines on Complex Structures and Transactions and Fronting, issued by the Department of Trade and Industry, be established during such enquiry / investigation, the onus will be on the Bidder / contractor to prove that fronting does not exist. Failure to do so within a period of 14 days from date of notification may invalidate the bid / contract and may also result in the restriction of the Bidder /contractor to conduct business with the public sector for a period not exceeding ten years, in addition to any other remedies DSAC may have against the Bidder / contractor concerned.

11. SUPPLIER DUE DILIGENCE

11.1 DSAC reserves the right to conduct supplier due diligence prior of this award of the bid. The due diligence will include but not limited to the existence and capacity of the company to efficiently render the services as described in this bid.

11.2 The Department reserves the right to report any bidder who submits fraudulent documents to National Treasury for listing on the register of list of restricted supplier and tender defaulters.

12. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

12.1. Bid documents must be placed in the tender box on the aforesaid address on or before the closing date and time.

12.2. Bid documents will only be considered if received by DSAC before the closing date and time, regardless of the method used to send or deliver such documents to DSAC.

12.3. The bidder(s) are required to submit one (1) original copy marked correctly and sealed.

12.4 Bidder(s) are requested to initial each page of the tender document and the attachments.

13. DURATION OF THE CONTRACT

13.1 The successful bidder will be appointed for a period of three (3) years.

14. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of services includes Sophos activation, support, and maintenance for a period of three years.

Item No.	Code	Detailed Description	Quantity
1	XS126Z36ZZNCAA	XGS 126 Xstream Protection	05
2	ES126Z36ZZNCAA	XGS 126 Email Protection	05
3	SS126Z36ZZNCAA	XGS 126 Webserver Protection	05
4	XS230036ZZNCAA	XGS 2300 Xstream Protection	01
5	ES230036ZZNCAA	XGS 2300 Email Protection	01
6	SS230036ZZNCAA	XGS 2300 Webserver Protection	01

15. EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

DSAC has set minimum standards that a bidder(s) needs to meet to be evaluated and selected as a successful bidder. The minimum standards consist of the following:

- a) Administrative Compliance and Mandatory Requirements (Phase 1)
- b) Functionality Criteria (Phase 2)
- c) Price and Specific Goals (Phase 3)

15.1. PHASE 1: ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE.

Bidder(s) must submit the documents listed in Table 1 below. All documents must be completed, initialled, and signed by the duly authorised representative of the prospective bidder(s). During this phase Bidders' response will be evaluated based on compliance with the listed administrative and mandatory requirements. The bidder(s) proposal will be disqualified for non-submission of any of the bid documents.

Phase 1: Table 1: DOCUMENTS THAT MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED, INITIALLED AND SUBMITTED.

TABLE 1.1: ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Non-submission of the enclosed SBD 1, Annexure A to SBD 3.1, SBD 4, and SBD 6.1 will result in the disqualification of the bidder.
- However, non-completion, and partial completion of SBD 6.1 will not lead to the disqualification of the bidder but will result in the non-awarding of the Specific Goals.
- Only service providers that are registered under the list of accredited SITA Contract, RFB1183/2022 service providers in the region (Limpopo) will be considered.

Document	Document description.
SBD 1	Invitation to bid.
SBD 6.1	Preference points claim form in terms of the Preferential Procurement Regulations 2022.
Registration on National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD).	Bidder(s) must be registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD) on or before closing date of this bid.
Tax compliant	To be verified on National Treasury's Central Supplier Database.
GCC	General Conditions of Contract

TABLE 1.2: MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Annexure A to SBD 3.1 - Pricing schedule – Firm Prices.	Non-completion, partial completion of the enclosed Annexure A to SBD 3.1 will lead to disqualification of the bidder. Not indicating if your period for delivery is firm or not firm on SBD 3.1 will disqualify your bid.
SBD 4 - Bidders' disclosure.	Non-completion, partial completion, and non-disclosure in terms of paragraph 1,2,3 of the SBD 4 will result in the disqualification of the bidder. Disclose other company(ies) using Central Supplier Database number(s). i.e MAAA
Sophos partnership.	Attach proof of Sophos partner (reseller), certified copy not older than three months on the closing date of this bid.
ISO/IEC 27001:2022 International Standard for Information Security Management.	Attach proof, certified copy not older than three months on the closing date of this bid.
SITA 1183/2022 Contract: FOR THE PROVISION OF IT SERVICES AND SKILLS FOR SITA AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS	Service providers must be registered under the list of accredited SITA Contract, RFB1183/2022 service providers in the region (Limpopo).

15.2 PHASE 2 - FUNCTIONALITY CRITERIA

Bids must meet the minimum eligibility criteria in respect of functionality of **70 points out of 100** points to be evaluated further to Phase 3.

Any bid that does not meet the minimum eligibility threshold will be automatically disqualified.

The functionality criteria together with the maximum points to be awarded are set out below:

The weight that will be allocated to each functionality criteria is as follows:

1 = poor, 2 = average, 3 = good, 4 = very good, and 5 = excellent (0 = non-compliance)

NO	EVALUATION CRITERIA	GUIDELINES FOR CRITERIA APPLICATION	WEIGHT	BIDDER SCORE
1	Methodology	Provide a detailed methodology including the capacity of the company to execute the required services (Sophos Firewall XGS activation, support, and maintenance) as per the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activation of Sophos Firewall XGS. Outline how to activate Sophos Firewall XGS for three years. • Ongoing Support and Maintenance. Outline how to provide ongoing support and maintenance for three years including the response time in resolving the reported issues. • Compliance with Network Security. Outline if the company complies with ISO 27001:2022 International Standard for Information Security Management. • Resources. Outline the company structure with experienced personnel who will be providing support and maintenance. Attach 3 CVs with Sophos Firewall qualification with at least a minimum of three years' experience each. 	(40)	
		4 out of 4 points above outlined.	40	
		3 out of 4 points above outlined.	30	
		2 out of 4 points above outlined.	20	
		1 out of 4 points above outlined.	10	
		Nothing provided:	0	
2	Company Experience and Track Record in providing Sophos support and maintenance Attach contactable reference letters with your client's letterhead and signed by authorized persons, from government entities or departments or municipalities or private institutions not older than three years	Reference letters must indicate - Duration of service, and value.	(60)	
		Excellent: 5 References	5 = 60	
		Very good: 4 References	4 = 48	
		Good: 3 References	3 = 36	
		Average: 2 References	2 = 24	
		Poor: 1 Reference	1 = 12	
		Nothing provided	0	

TOTAL

100 points

15.3 PHASE 3: 80/20 PREFERENCE POINTS SCORING SYSTEM IN TERMS OF PPR 2022.

Points for this tender shall be awarded for:

- (a) Price; and
- (b) Specific Goals.

The maximum points for this tender are allocated as follows:

	POINTS
PRICE	80
SPECIFIC GOALS	20
Total points for Price and SPECIFIC GOALS	100

The specific goals allocated points in terms of this tender.	Number of points allocated (80/20 system) (To be completed by the organ of state)	Means of Verification	Number of points claimed (80/20 system) (To be completed by the tenderer)
Black People	10	To be verified through CSD report	
Women	02	To be verified through CSD report	
Youth	02	To be verified through CSD report	
Disabled People	02	To be verified through CSD report (Attach medical certificate with practice number from the registered doctor or hospital not older than 12 months of issue)	
Military Veterans	02	To be verified through CSD report (Attach proof from Department of Military Veterans)	
Rural / Township Business	02	To be verified through CSD report (Attach letter from tribal authority and / municipal bill not more than 12 months)	

16. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

16.1 Any award made to a bidder(s) under this bid is conditional, amongst others, upon –

- a. The bidder(s) accepting the terms and conditions contained in the General Conditions of Contract as the minimum terms and conditions upon which DSAC is prepared to enter a contract with the successful Bidder.
- b. The bidder submitting the General Conditions of Contract to DSAC together with the bid, duly initialled on each and every page by an authorised representative of the bidder.
- c. The Department reserves the right to negotiate a fair market price with the successful bidder.

16.2 SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

16.2.1 Payment will be made upon the receipt of an invoice after service rendered on a yearly basis for a period of three years.

17. CONTRACT PRICE

- a) All prices must be VAT inclusive and must be quoted in South African Rand (ZAR).
- b) Bid price will be valid for a period of 120 days from the closing date of the bid.
- c) The bid price of the successful bidder shall remain fixed for the entire duration of the contract.

18. DSAC REQUIRES BIDDER(S) TO DECLARE

In the Bidder's Technical response, bidder(s) are required to declare the following:

Confirm that the bidder(s) is to: –

- a. Act honestly, fairly, and with due skill, care and diligence, in the interests of DSAC;
- b. Have and employ effectively the resources, procedures and appropriate technological systems for the proper performance of the services;
- c. Act with circumspection and treat DSAC fairly in a situation of conflicting interests;
- d. Comply with all applicable statutory or common law requirements applicable to the conduct of business;
- e. Make adequate disclosures of relevant material information including disclosures of actual or potential own interests, in relation to dealings with DSAC;
- f. Avoidance of fraudulent and misleading advertising, canvassing and marketing;
- g. To conduct their business activities with transparency and consistently uphold the interests and needs of DSAC as a client before any other consideration; and
- h. To ensure that any information acquired by the bidder(s) from DSAC will not be used or disclosed unless the written consent of the client has been obtained to do so.

19. CONFLICT OF INTEREST, CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

DSAC reserves its right to disqualify any bidder who either itself or any of whose members:

- a. engages in any collusive tendering, anti-competitive conduct, or any other similar conduct, including but not limited to any collusion with any other bidder in respect of the subject matter of this bid;
- b. seeks any assistance, other than assistance officially provided by a Government Entity, from any employee, advisor or other representative of a Government Entity in order to obtain any unlawful advantage in relation to procurement or services provided or to be provided to a Government Entity;
- c. makes or offers any gift, gratuity, anything of value or other inducement, whether lawful or unlawful, to any of DSAC's officers, directors, employees, advisors or other representatives;
- d. makes or offers any gift, gratuity, anything of any value or other inducement, to any Government Entity's officers, directors, employees, advisors or other representatives in order to obtain any unlawful advantage in relation to procurement or services provided or to be provided to a Government Entity;
- e. accepts anything of value or an inducement that would or may provide financial gain, advantage or benefit in relation to procurement or services provided or to be provided to a Government Entity;
- f. pays or agrees to pay to any person any fee, commission, percentage, brokerage fee, gift or any other consideration, that is contingent upon or results from, the award of any tender, contract, right or entitlement which is in any way related to procurement or the rendering of any services to a Government Entity;

g. has in the past engaged in any matter referred to above; or
h. has been found guilty in a court of law on charges of fraud and/or forgery, regardless of whether or not a prison term was imposed and despite such bidder, member or director's name not specifically appearing on the List of Tender Defaulters kept at National Treasury.

20. MISREPRESENTATION DURING THE LIFECYCLE OF THE CONTRACT

20.1. The bidder should note that the terms of its Tender will be incorporated in the proposed contract by reference and that DSAC relies upon the bidder's Tender as a material representation in making an award to a successful bidder and in concluding an agreement with the bidder.

20.2. It follows therefore that misrepresentations in a Tender may give rise to service termination and a claim by DSAC against the bidder notwithstanding the conclusion of the Service Level Agreement between DSAC and the bidder for the provision of the Service in question. In the event of a conflict between the bidder's proposal and the Service Level Agreement concluded between the parties, the Service Level Agreement will prevail.

21. PREPARATION COSTS

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

22. INDEMNITY

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

23. PRECEDENCE

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

24. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

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

25. TAX COMPLIANCE

No tender shall be awarded to a bidder who is not tax compliant. DSAC reserves the right to withdraw an award made, or cancel a contract concluded with a successful bidder in the event that it is established that such bidder was in fact not tax compliant at the time of the award, or has

submitted a fraudulent Tax Clearance Certificate to DSAC, or whose verification against the Central Supplier Database (CSD) proves non-compliant. DSAC further reserves the right to cancel a contract with a successful bidder in the event that such bidder does not remain tax compliant for the full term of the contract.

26. NATIONAL TREASURY'S REGISTER OF TENDER DEFAULTERS

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

27. GOVERNING LAW

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

28. RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUB-CONTRACTORS AND BIDDER'S PERSONNEL

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

29. CONFIDENTIALITY

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

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

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

No confidential information relating to the process of evaluating or adjudicating tenders or appointing a bidder will be disclosed to a bidder or any other person not officially involved with such process.

30. DSAC PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Bidder will on their bid cover letter make declaration that they did not have access to any DSAC proprietary information or any other matter that may have unfairly placed that bidder in a preferential position in relation to any of the other bidder(s).

CONFIDENTIAL

ANNEXURE “A” TO SBD 3.1 PRICING SCHEDULE – FRIM PRICES

Item No.	Description of Services	Quantity	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
			Total Price (All costs inclusive)	Total Price (All costs inclusive)	Total Price (All costs inclusive)
1	XGS 126 Xstream Protection	05	R	R	R
2	XGS 126 Email Protection	05	R	R	R
3	XGS 126 Webserver Protection	05	R	R	R
4	XGS 2300 Xstream Protection	01	R	R	R
5	XGS 2300 Email Protection	01	R	R	R
6	XGS 2300 Webserver Protection	01	R	R	R

TOTALS

R

R

R

TOTAL BID PRICE TO BE USED FOR EVALUATION (TOTALS YEAR 1 + YEAR 2+ YEAR 3)

R

CONFIDENTIAL

THE APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER TO PROVIDE A SERVICE FOR SOPHOS FIREWALL XGS THROUGH ACTIVATION, SUPPORT, AND MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS TO LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE.

CONFIDENTIAL