



national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X115, Pretoria, 0001

TRANSVERSAL CONTRACTING

Enquiries: Mr. Karabo Mmola

Email: Demand.Acquisition2@treasury.gov.za

Email: Karabo.Mmola@treasury.gov.za

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – RT33-2026 –SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE OF DNA EQUIPMENT, SYSTEMS, ACCESSORIES AND RELATED CONSUMABLES FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS

No.	Question	Answer
1	Are bidders required to bid for all items in the pricing schedule, or may they bid only for products they can supply?	Bidders are not required to bid for every item. They should complete the pricing schedule only for the items/products they are offering and are capable of supplying.
2	Row 274 specifies a 30µL filter pipette tip. Should this perhaps be a 20µL filter tip, since 20µL is more commonly available?	The 30 µL tip is the current requirement. A 20 µL tip cannot meet a 30 µL volume requirement. Suppliers may indicate what they can offer, including products with a capacity greater than 30 µL, for consideration during evaluation.
3	If the same item may be awarded to more than one bidder, how will validation work where bidders do not know which combination of instruments and chemistries will ultimately be used?	For multiple chemistries, there must be concordance between the chemistries. For PCR kits, the kits must share common loci so that samples generated using one company's chemistry can be compared with those generated using another. The final combination will depend on operational requirements.
4	What should the scope of validation be when a new instrument or chemistry is introduced? Must validation cover the complete workflow from sample/exhibit to the final result?	Validation must demonstrate that the instrument and/or kit performs as intended and produces a DNA result. It should cover the applicable sample types specified in the technical specification and follow a scientifically acceptable approach.
5	If a bidder is awarded only one component of the workflow, who will be responsible for costs associated with other upstream and downstream components required for validation?	The successful/awarded bidder will be responsible for the associated validation and integration costs, including appropriate chemistries, consumables and integration with the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), where required.
6	Will a manufacturer's certificate be accepted, and should the required reference letters come from the bidder, third party or manufacturer?	Where the requirement relates to the applicable ISO certificate, the certificate should come from the manufacturer. References issued for the manufacturer may be accepted where they demonstrate relevant previous supply experience. References demonstrating the bidder/distributor's relevant experience may also be submitted.

7	Can international reference letters be submitted, and are two reference letters required for every line item or only two references overall?	The references are intended to demonstrate that the bidder or manufacturer has previously supplied related or DNA-related products. The two references do not have to be provided separately for every line item.
8	Some consumables are linked to existing ABI 3500/3500XL equipment. How should a bidder offering a different new CE system deal with these consumables?	The identified consumables support existing equipment that may remain operational. A bidder offering a new CE system should specify the consumables required for its proposed system. The bidder does not have to respond to existing-equipment consumable line items that are not applicable to its offered system.
9	May bidders offer compatible or generic consumables for the existing instruments?	Yes. Compatible or generic consumables may be offered. They will be tested to establish whether they are compatible with the existing equipment and meet the required specifications.
10	If a bidder has more than one instrument available for a particular phase of analysis, may it submit multiple offers?	Yes. Bidders may submit different options, for example Offer 1, Offer 2 and Offer 3, where they have multiple suitable instruments/products.
11	What throughput is expected for the DNA isolation, qPCR, PCR and CE liquid-handling setup?	Throughput varies according to the operational area. Using the existing workflow as a benchmark, approximately 300 samples per instrument per day are processed, with instruments operating for approximately eight hours per day. Approximately 300 samples per day was indicated as the current minimum benchmark.
12	Will SAPS continue using its existing LIMS, and can bidders receive the technical specifications for the applicable LIMS?	SAPS indicated that it had moved from its previous LIMS and deployed LabWare LIMS. Instruments offered under the bid may therefore need to operate or integrate within this environment.
13	For demonstrations and sample submissions, must bidders demonstrate the entire workflow, or is the requirement mainly to demonstrate the chemistry?	For equipment/instruments, the committee intends to visit shortlisted bidders' sites to assess the instruments and their capabilities. For manual kits, samples may be submitted for testing. Where a kit operates with a specific instrument, the kit and instrument may be demonstrated together at the bidder's site.
14	For the automated Rapid DNA solution, would a bidder be disqualified if its cartridge handles multiple samples rather than the configuration referred to in the specification?	No, not automatically. A bidder would not automatically be disqualified because, for example, it offers a five-sample cartridge. The cartridge must be compatible with and operate correctly with the device being offered.
15	Will a full validation be required at one site followed by verification at other sites, or must validation be performed separately at every site?	Validation is expected to be conducted per site, since different sites could ultimately receive systems/products from different awarded suppliers.
16	Should the pricing schedule reflect a cost per test, individual item, kit or pack size?	Prices should align with the unit of measure specified in the pricing schedule. Where the unit is 'each', bidders should preferably provide an individual unit price. Where products can only be supplied in fixed packs, the bidder should clearly indicate the pack size and corresponding price.

17	How many samples will bidders be required to use for validation at each site and for each sample type?	SAPS did not prescribe a single fixed number of samples for all validations. The bidder should develop and submit a scientifically acceptable validation/experimental design, supported by appropriate scientific evidence, developmental validation information or references.
18	The specification mentions 78 post-coital samples in eight hours. How was this calculated, and is the eight-hour period elapsed time or instrument runtime?	The figure is based on SAPS's existing automated post-coital workflow, which has the capacity to process approximately 78 samples in eight hours. Therefore, 78 samples is the minimum threshold. Higher throughput offered by newer technology is acceptable.
19	Is there a required number of tests per day per Rapid DNA instrument?	No specific 24-hour or daily throughput requirement was stipulated. However, bidders should indicate the operational capabilities of the instrument, including whether it can operate continuously for 24 hours or requires downtime between runs.
20	The liquid-handling specification refers to allowing the addition and use of third-party devices. What are examples of such devices?	Examples include a barcode scanner for barcoded samples/tubes and devices such as a plate or tube sealer.
21	The liquid-handling system must be configured according to end-user requirements. When will the detailed requirements be communicated to the successful supplier?	The specific configuration will depend on what the bidder is awarded and the site where the solution will be deployed. Detailed requirements are therefore expected to be finalized after award, in consultation with the successful supplier.
22	Should the unit price include delivery, or should delivery be priced separately?	All prices must include delivery. The quoted price should therefore be inclusive of applicable delivery costs.
23	Should the 1.6 mL reaction tube have a screw cap or clip lid?	A clip lid is required, not a screw-cap tube.
24	What bottom and cap configuration is required for the 5mL tubes?	Either conical or round bottom may be considered, and the 5 mL tubes should have a screw cap.
25	What configuration is required for the 96-well plates?	The plates should have a conical bottom, and both skirted and semi-skirted plate configurations are required.
26	Is ISO 18385 mandatory for all products, including consumables?	For chemistries/kits, ISO 18385 is required. For consumables such as tips and tubes, ISO 18385 certification is not necessarily required, provided an appropriate certificate confirms that the products are DNA/RNA-free. The application of ISO 13485 to medical-device-related products requires further clarification in the formal Q&A.
27	Is RT33-2026 a national tender?	Yes. RT33-2026 is a national/transversal tender.