**SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY (SANSA)**

**SPACE ENGINEERING PROGRAMME**

**Request for Information (RFI)**

**for**

**the repair, maintenance and upgrade of the Optical Vacuum Chamber and DTE**

**at Houwteq Assembly, Integration and Test Facility**

**RFI No.: RFI/010/08/2025**

Request for Information Issue Date: **12 August 2025**

Request for Information Due Date**: 05 September 2025 at 16:00**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) was established by an Act of Parliament – SANSA Act 36 of 2008. SANSA’s mandate is to provide for the promotion and use of space and cooperation in space-related activities, foster research in space science, advance scientific engineering through human capital and support the creation of an environment conducive to industrial development in space technologies within a framework of national government policy.

Furthermore, SANSA has a legislative mandate to develop the space industry in South Africa.

The Houwteq Assembly Integration and Test (AIT) Facility has been established as part of a previous era of space technology development in South Africa in 1985. It served and is still serving as a dedicated satellite Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) facility, comparable to similar facilities worldwide. The facility is in the process of being upgraded.

This RFI is issued as a means of technical discovery and information gathering only, and aims to determine work scope and indicative costing. This RFI is not an invitation to pre-qualify prospective contractors and participation is voluntary. Furthermore, all the information provided may be used for planning purposes and is none binding on either parties.

**2. BACKGROUND**

This SANSA project aims to upgrade Houwteq AIT Facilities to a state with which the local space industry could professionally address their future growing needs for development testing, qualification and at times acceptance of primarily space equipment and systems.

This RFI is issued solely for information gathering and planning purposes; this RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals. Note that responses to this RFI will be kept strictly confidential and used only for topic development for future in support of the South African space engineering industry sector.

**3. INFORMATION REQUESTED**

All information shall be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided in this document. Classified responses will not be accepted.

SANSA request that respondents assess the requirements as stated in Annexure A of this RFI and submit proposals for solutions that they are able to provide. The proposals should address the technical solution concepts and scope, implementation plan and timeline, risk aspects, assumptions made, expected customer supplied items and interfaces, long lead items, and any relevant SHEQ aspects.

**4. RFI INQUIRIES**

Inquiries to this RFI must be submitted to [scm@sansa.org.za](mailto:scm@sansa.org.za). No telephone inquiries will be accepted. SANSA will review queries and if relevant post responses on the SANSA website in the RFI site. Queries must be submitted by 05 August 2025 to be considered by SANSA for a response.

**5. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Responses to this RFI are due **no later than 16:00, on 05 September 2025**. All submissions must be electronically submitted to [scm@sansa.org.za](mailto:scm@sansa.org.za), as a PDF file attachment not to exceed 10MB. The information provided in response to this RFI will not be disclosed publicly.

The information is requested for planning purposes only. The release of the RFI does not indicate that SANSA will issue a solicitation, nor does it obligate SANSA to invest any resources specific to the targeted system areas declared in the responses to this market research activity.

A voluntary site visit shall be attended by respondents for the **25 August 2025** at the Houwteq site. Although all responses will be considered, it is highly recommended that respondents attend due to the uniqueness of the site.

All respondents are to indicate their attendance by no later than 24 August 2025 to [scm@sansa.org.za](mailto:scm@sansa.org.za).

SANSA may request respondents to present their proposal after the submissions have been assessed.

**6. DISCLAIMERS AND IMPORTANT NOTES**

This RFI is issued solely for information gathering and planning purposes; this RFI does not constitute a formal solicitation. Respondents are advised that SANSA is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI.

Responses to this RFI are not offers and cannot be accepted by SANSA to form a binding contract. Respondents are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI. SANSA will not provide reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to this RFI. It is the respondent’s responsibility to ensure that the submitted information has been approved for public release by the information owner.

SANSA does not intend to award a contract on the basis of this RFI or to otherwise pay for the information solicited, nor is SANSA obligated to issue a solicitation based on responses received. Neither proprietary nor classified information should be included in the submittal.

**Annexure A: Houwteq AIT Facility Electrical Perimeter Fence Requirements Statement**

PROBLEM STATEMENT / PURPOSE

The existing optical test facility of interest consists of a collimator mounted on a granite table as shown in Figure 1 below. This existing collimator provides for geometrical testing and MTF performance testing of optical instruments with apertures less than 300 mm.

The purpose of this RFI is to establish the definition of the upgrade requirements and obtain information on the related scope of work and cost estimation of the upgrade requirements to accommodate the assembly and integration of optical systems which are lesser than 300 mm in diameter.

SCOPE OF WORK

All responses should include an Implementation Plan giving sufficient details of the following:

- a list of requirements for the upgrade work

- a breakdown of recommended activities to achieve/satisfy these requirements (i.e. statement of work/work scope)

- a preliminary Bill of Materials

- indicative costing, where possible

- estimated timelines

The following information will be required regarding the Optical Integration Facility’s operational environment:

* Inputs essential to operational processes and procedures
* Software required for conducting tests and reporting
* Other development test equipment (DTE) that may be required



*Figure 1: Current Optical Integration Facility*

**COMPLIANCE WITH PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ACT, 2013 (ACT NO. 4 OF 2013) (“POPIA”)**

1. The Constitution guarantees citizens the right to privacy, including the right not to have the privacy of their communications infringed.
2. POPIA aims to promote the protection of privacy through the application of its guiding principles for the processing of personal information in a context-sensitive manner.

**Committed to your Privacy**

1. SANSA fully comprehends that your personal and company information is valuable to you; your privacy is important to SANSA. SANSA commits to safeguarding and lawfully processing your personal information.

**Purpose for Processing your Personal Information**

1. SANSA collects, holds, uses and discloses your personal information mainly to provide you with access to its services. SANSA will only process your personal information for a purpose you would reasonably expect, including:

* Complying with any legal and regulatory requirements such as contract agreements, etc.
* Confirming, verifying and updating your details.
* Invoicing or paying you to ensure payment and tax compliance.

1. SANSA may collect your personal information which may include your first name and last name, company name and its registration number, identity numbers, email address, physical or postal address, other contact information, banking details, etc.

**Consent to Disclose and Share your Personal Information**

1. SANSA may need to share your personal information, with third parties, to provide advice, and/or services. Where SANSA shares your personal information, it will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the third party will treat your personal information with the same level of protection as required by SANSA.

**Request and Access to your Personal Information**

1. Should you require further information on this or have any concerns about how your personal information is processed or used, you can contact SANSA’s Information Officer on [popi\_paia@sansa.org.za](mailto:popi_paia@sansa.org.za).
2. You can request access to the personal information SANSA has on you at any time. If you think that SANSA has outdated information, you may request to update or correct it. You can also opt-out and request the removal of your personal information at any time. If there are any lawful reasons for requiring SANSA to retain any information, SANSA will advise so.
3. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE** that your personal information is securely hosted on infrastructure / system managed by SANSA. SANSA assures you that your information will not be shared for any marketing or promotional purposes without your consent.
4. SANSA will continue to manage, monitor, refine and develop policies, processes and systems. This will ensure that SANSA takes every practical and reasonable step(s) to ensure data protection, is in line with POPIA.