

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BATCH 3

BOLEAN

NO.	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1.	1. Preferred OEM / Manufacturer 1.1 Does the Department have a preferred or mandatory Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for: • Layer 2 and Layer 3 switches; • Wi-Fi 7 access points; • SFP/SFP28 optical modules; and • Structured cabling components (Category 6A cable, patch panels, patch leads, fly leads, fibre accessories, etc.)? 1.2 Will equivalent products from alternative manufacturers be considered, provided they meet or exceed the minimum technical specifications stipulated in the tender document?	1.1 The Department has not prescribed a specific OEM/manufacture in this clarification. Bidders may propose equipment and components that comply with or exceed the minimum technical specifications and requirements stipulated in the tender documentation. 1.2 Yes. Equivalent products from alternative manufacturers may be considered, provided that the proposed products meet or exceed all minimum technical specifications, performance requirements, compatibility requirements, warranty requirements and other applicable requirements stipulated in the tender documentation. The bidder remains responsible for demonstrating compliance of the proposed solution.
2.	2. Existing Infrastructure 2.1 Is the project intended as a new (greenfield) installation or a replacement/upgrade of an existing LAN infrastructure? 2.2 If this is an upgrade project, are bidders expected to reuse any existing infrastructure such as: • Network cabinets/racks; • Structured cabling; • Fibre backbone infrastructure; and/or	2.1 The project is a NEW INSTALLATION of ICT network infrastructure at the identified Departmental sites. The scope provides for the supply, installation, configuration, testing and commissioning of NEW network equipment and NEW structured cabling infrastructure in accordance with the specifications and quantities contained in the tender documentation. 2.2 Not applicable. This is a new installation project. Bidders are required to provide new equipment, new structured cabling and all associated infrastructure required to deliver a complete, operational and compliant solution. Existing active network equipment and existing structured cabling are not to be assumed for reuse as part of the proposed solution.

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	Existing active network equipment?	
3.	3. Site Information 3.1 Can the Department provide floor plans, building layouts, or existing network diagrams for: - Head Office; - Capricorn District Office; and - Vhembe District Office? 3.2 Will a site inspection be arranged prior to tender submission, and if so, will it be compulsory or optional?	3.1 The compulsory site visits were conducted to enable prospective bidders to familiarise themselves with the physical environment and installation requirements at the identified sites. Bidders were expected to obtain the site-specific information required to develop their technical solution and pricing during the site visits. 3.2 Compulsory site visits were conducted as follows: Head Office – 6 August 2026 Time: 10:00 Venue: 76 Schoeman Street, Polokwane Central Capricorn District Office – 6 August 2026 Time: 11:30 Venue: 78 Hans Van Rensburg Street, Polokwane Central Vhembe District Office – 7 August 2026 Time: 10:00 Venue: Thohoyandou Old Parliament Building.
4.	4. Structured Cabling 4.1 Are all 662 Category 6A data points to be installed as new points, or should existing outlets be reused where feasible? 4.2 Are cable containment systems (trunking, conduits, cable trays, baskets, etc.) already in place, or should bidders allow for the supply and installation of all containment infrastructure required?	4.1 All 662 Category 6A data points are to be treated as NEW installations. Bidders must supply and install the complete Category 6A structured cabling infrastructure, including termination, patching, labelling, testing and certification as required by the tender. Existing outlets are not to be assumed for reuse in the bidder's pricing or solution. 4.2 As this is a new installation, bidders must allow for all containment infrastructure required to deliver a complete and compliant installation, including trunking, conduits, cable trays, baskets and other suitable containment systems where required. The final requirements must be determined from the physical site conditions observed during the compulsory site visits.
5.	5. Fibre Infrastructure 5.1 Can the Department provide guidance and/or drawings indicating the proposed fibre routing between communication rooms and buildings? 5.2 What fibre type is required (e.g., Single Mode or Multi-Mode), and are there any minimum core-count requirements for backbone links?	5.1 The fibre infrastructure forms part of the NEW network installation. Bidders are required to assess the physical site conditions and determine the appropriate fibre routing during the compulsory site visits. The bidder must provide all fibre infrastructure, accessories, termination and installation requirements necessary to deliver the required backbone connectivity. 5.2 Bidders must comply with the fibre type, optical modules and backbone requirements specified in the tender documentation. The proposed fibre infrastructure must be fully compatible with the new network equipment and provide the required capacity and performance. The bidder must comply with the fibre specifications and quantities stated in the tender.
6.	6. Network Switching	6.1 The bidder must provide all licences required for the full operation, management, monitoring and functionality of the NEW network equipment in accordance with the

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	6.1 Are software licences required for switch management, monitoring, and advanced features to be: • Perpetual licences; or • Subscription-based licences? 6.2 What is the intended use of the twenty-four (24) 10G SFP28 optical modules? • Switch uplinks/inter-switch connectivity; • Data centre/server connectivity; or • Other applications? 6.3 Is centralized network management software required as part of the proposed solution?	tender requirements. The bidder must clearly identify all licence types, quantities, validity periods and associated costs in the technical and financial submission. 6.2 The twenty-four (24) 10G SFP28 optical modules form part of the NEW network infrastructure and are intended to provide the required high-speed optical connectivity within the new switching environment, including switch uplinks/inter-switch connectivity and other applicable 10G connections required by the proposed network design. All proposed modules must be fully compatible with the proposed switches and fibre infrastructure. 6.3 The bidder must provide the network management functionality required to manage, monitor and administer the NEW network infrastructure in accordance with the tender requirements. Where centralized management software, controller functionality or cloud management is required for the proposed equipment, all necessary software, licences, subscriptions and associated components must be included in the proposal and pricing.
7.	7. Wireless Infrastructure 7.1 Has a wireless site survey already been completed, or must the successful bidder conduct a wireless survey prior to deployment? 7.2 Are the quantities and physical locations of the Wi-Fi 7 access points fixed, or may these be adjusted based on the findings of the wireless survey? 7.3 Is there a preferred wireless controller or cloud management platform that bidders should propose?	7.1 As this is a NEW wireless infrastructure installation, the successful bidder must conduct the necessary wireless site assessment/survey prior to final deployment to determine the optimal placement of the new Wi-Fi 7 access points and to ensure the required coverage, capacity and performance. 7.2 The quantity specified in the tender forms part of the required scope and must be priced accordingly. The final physical positioning of the Wi-Fi 7 access points may be optimised based on the findings of the wireless survey and actual site conditions, provided that the final deployment meets or exceeds the required coverage, capacity and performance. Any material changes must be agreed with the Department prior to implementation. 7.3 No specific wireless controller or cloud management platform is prescribed in this clarification. Bidders may propose an appropriate management solution that is fully compatible with the proposed Wi-Fi 7 access points and provides the required configuration, monitoring and management functionality. All required controller hardware, management software, licences and subscriptions must be clearly identified and included in the bidder's pricing where applicable.
8.	8. LAN Configuration 8.1 Will the Department provide:	8.1 The NEW network infrastructure must be configured in accordance with the Department's approved network architecture, VLAN requirements, IP addressing scheme, network segmentation requirements and applicable security policies. The

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	• VLAN design; • IP addressing schemes; • Network segmentation requirements; and • Network security policies? Alternatively, are bidders expected to design and propose these elements as part of the solution? 8.2 Should DHCP services be configured on the proposed Layer 3 core switches, or integrated with existing DHCP infrastructure? 8.3 Are there existing authentication and access control services (e.g., Active Directory, RADIUS, NAC) that the solution must integrate with?	successful bidder must provide the necessary technical expertise to configure and commission the new switches, access points and associated network infrastructure. Final configurations will be implemented in consultation with the Department. 8.2 DHCP services must be integrated with the Department's existing DHCP environment where applicable, in accordance with the approved network architecture. The bidder must provide all required DHCP relay, VLAN, routing and related configurations necessary for the NEW network infrastructure to operate correctly. 8.3 The NEW network infrastructure must support integration with the Department's applicable existing authentication and access-control environment. Where Active Directory, RADIUS, NAC or other authentication and access-control services are applicable, the proposed solution must support the required industry-standard integration mechanisms. Required configuration and integration will form part of implementation where applicable.
9.	9. Testing and Documentation 9.1 What certification standard is required for the Category 6A cabling installation? For example: • Fluke DSX-5000/8000 certification; • TIA/EIA standards compliance; or • Equivalent certification standard. 9.2 What as-built documentation is required upon project completion (e.g., network diagrams, rack layouts, cable schedules, test results, wireless heat maps, configuration backups)?	9.1 All NEW Category 6A cabling must be tested and certified in accordance with applicable structured cabling standards and the requirements specified in the tender. The successful bidder must provide certification test results for all installed Category 6A links. Testing must be performed using suitable calibrated certification equipment, such as a Fluke DSX-5000/8000 or equivalent certification tester capable of certifying the required Category 6A performance. 9.2 The successful bidder must provide comprehensive as-built documentation for the NEW installation, including, where applicable: updated network topology diagrams; logical and physical network diagrams; rack and cabinet layouts; patch-panel and port schedules; cable identification and schedules; Category 6A certification and test results; fibre test results; fibre routing information; switch and access-point installation details; wireless survey/coverage results; IP/VLAN configuration information; equipment inventory; relevant configuration backups; and other documentation reasonably required to support operation and maintenance of the installed infrastructure.
10.	10. Tender Submission and Supplier Registration	10.1 Supplier registration and tender submission must be undertaken in accordance with the official procurement and tender submission instructions contained in the RFB

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	10.1 Kindly advise the process for supplier registration and obtaining access to the portal required for submission of the tender. 10.2 Please confirm: • The portal/platform on which the tender must be submitted; • Registration requirements and supporting documentation required for portal access; and • Whether new suppliers must complete any onboarding process prior to submitting their bid.	3268-2026 tender documentation. Bidders are responsible for ensuring that they complete any applicable supplier registration and portal-access requirements before the tender closing date. 10.2 Bidders must comply with the official tender submission instructions, including the prescribed submission platform, registration requirements and supporting documentation. Any applicable supplier onboarding or registration requirements must be completed in accordance with the prescribed procurement process. Where the tender documentation provides specific portal or registration instructions, those instructions take precedence.