

INVITATION TO BID

REFERENCE NUMBER	ECS01/26/27	
SERVICES NEEDED	DEVELOP GEOSPATIAL INTERACTIVE PLANNING ATLAS SYSTEM MODULE	
CLOSING DATE	14 SEPTEMBER 2026	
CLOSING TIME	15H00	
EVALUATION CRITERIA	80/20 PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM	
BIDDING PROCEDURES ENQUIRIES MUST BE DIRECTED TO:		TECHNICAL RELATED ENQUIRIES MUST BE DIRECTED TO:
MR MALWANDE NTONGANA TENDERS@ECSECC.ORG TENDERS.ECSECC@GMAIL.COM		MS BULELWA LUBELWANA BULELWA.LUBELWANA@ECSECC.ORG TENDERS@ECSECC.ORG TENDERS.ECSECC@GMAIL.COM

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY:

NAME OF COMPANY	
PHYSICAL ADDRESS	

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. ECSECC is a Schedule 3C public entity reporting to the OTP which was established as a multi-stakeholder Council to advise the provincial government and a provincial hub for socio-economic research, knowledge and innovation to support decision making, policy formulation and planning towards the sustainable development of the province.
- 1.2. It is a multi-stakeholder centre of excellence in strategic foresight, social collaboration and innovative solution design.
- 1.3. ECSECC is also governed by the ECSECC Act, Act No. 5 of 2024 which came to effect on 1 April 2025.
- 1.4. As a knowledge-based organization, ECSECC seeks to generate, effectively manage and disseminate information and knowledge. Its core vision is a prosperous, productive and sustainable Eastern Cape where all people realize their potential.

2 BACKGROUND

- 1.5. The need for the Interactive Planning Atlas product stems from the ECSECC mandate. Per the approved 2025/2026 Annual Performance Plan (APP), ECSECC must operate a Regional Observatory that provides data to support decision-making and policy development.
- 1.6. Accordingly, the environmental context informing the requirement is to develop and operate an interactive module that makes the current data hosted on the ECSECC GIS platforms, in the Interactive Planning Atlas format, available to stakeholders. In other words, the current geospatial data hosted by ECSECC needs to be linked to a module that enables stakeholders and users within and outside ECSECC to access and interact with the data. The requirement is therefore to link the data in the existing GIS Platform into a module that enables visualisation and interaction with that data.
- 1.7. The product's life expectancy is defined by the fact that the Regional Observatory and the Interactive Planning Atlas are longitudinal interventions that will span many years. However, at a minimum, the implementation period would need to cover the current Medium Term Development Framework and Strategic focus up to 2030.
- 1.8. Accordingly, the lifespan is indefinite and once-off. Once the Interactive Module has been developed and integrated with the GIS platform, it will require only annual data link updates, and the system and framework can operate indefinitely.
- 1.9. The Interactive Planning Atlas is an integrated, GIS-based decision-support platform designed to consolidate research, spatial and socio-economic information into a single, shared view of the province. It functions as a planning intelligence data management, enabling government departments, municipalities, and development partners to base decisions on consistent, evidence-driven insights.
- 1.10. Its core purpose is to move planning away from fragmented reports and siloed datasets toward a unified spatial understanding of development conditions. By presenting data geographically, the atlas allows decision-makers to answer critical questions: what is happening, where, and why it matters. This strengthens policy

formulation, improves the targeting of public investment, and enhances accountability in service delivery. Building an Eastern Cape Geospatial Interactive Atlas that is linked to development convention commitments (e.g., SDGs, AU Agenda, NDP, Provincial Development Plan, etc.) is a major strategic initiative that integrates spatial intelligence, socio-economic planning, and monitoring frameworks. Below is a detailed, structured breakdown of what it takes — in technical, institutional, data, and strategic dimensions.

1.11. The key benefits of ECSECC and the province include:

- **Data Integration:** Data exists in multiple formats across spheres, which will be integrated into a single, unified platform.
- **Data Visualisation:** Current maps and reports are static and require a GIS specialist to prepare outputs. With the interactive module, data will be presented in an automated visual format to support each user's understanding and communication.
- **Accelerate Decision-Making:** The interactive module will eliminate the need for stakeholders to rely on manual reporting cycles that delay insights for urgent planning.
- **Strength Scenario Modelling:** The interactive module will address the limitations of existing tools that do not support easy simultaneous simulation of planning scenarios (e.g., urban growth, infrastructure investment, and climate impacts), by providing interactive data capabilities to support scenario planning and modelling.
- **Increased Accessibility:** The interactive module will address the limitations of non-technical users (policy makers, local officials, community organisations) who cannot easily access or interpret data because it is not in an interactive, easy-to-use format.
- **Centralise Data Access.** The interactive module will address the limitations of non-centralised databases for navigation for researchers, planners, and stakeholders
- **This portal will visually display spatial data for problem identification, change monitoring, land and resource management, demographic analysis, and network/transport modelling.** By consolidating various spatial datasets in one platform, the Atlas enables holistic spatial analysis for provincial planners, researchers' and policymakers and decision-makers.
- **Municipal Profiles:** Updated spatial profiles for municipalities to support local planning. Each of these contributions demonstrates how ECSECC's GIS capabilities are cascading spatial intelligence into provincial initiatives. By embedding GIS in long-term planning processes, ECSECC provides location-based insights that inform policy (such as identifying infrastructure gaps, environmental risks, or investment opportunities spatially). Geospatial products

are increasingly used by government departments for evidence-based planning and inter-sphere coordination, in line with the GIMS objectives.

- **Planning Alignment:** By spatially linking ward-level project data with municipal boundaries and IDP frameworks, bottom-up ward plans could align with higher-level plans. Ward priorities will be visible to district and provincial planners the geospatial, facilitating alignment with district One Plans and the provincial development strategy. This addresses the long-standing challenge of integrating community-level plans into the broader planning hierarchy.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Geospatial tools have emerged as powerful instruments for enhancing community and stakeholder engagement. Emphasis on how the Interactive Planning Atlas can facilitate engagement with political constituencies and communities. Ward councillors and Ward Committees will have access to easy-to-understand ward maps to engage residents on development progress. By providing a clear spatial picture of “who gets what” at ward level, empowers both government and communities to engage in more informed dialogues about development priorities.
- **Integration of Research, GeoSpatial, Business Intelligence and Data Science:** The Interactive Planning Atlas is not just a mapping tool, but a platform integrating research insights and data science outputs i.e. spatial analysis from the Socio-Economic Review and Outcome (SERO) of the province and data science models.
- **Incorporation of DDM One Plan Principle:** The Interactive Planning Atlas functionalities has been aligned with that of the District Development Model (DDM) One Plan principle. How the Atlas promotes a “single view” of development in a district – a core DDM concept – by overlaying multi-sectoral data (economic, social, infrastructure, environmental etc) on one map for each district.
- **Spatial Monitoring of Key Indicators:** The Interactive Planning Atlas will allow and assist M&E units to track development indicators spatially, enhancing the traditional M&E reports. Rather than just reporting province-wide averages, departments can use the Interactive Planning Atlas to monitor indicators (unemployment rate, access to electricity, clinic ratios, etc.) at municipal or ward level and see where progress is lagging.
- **Project Tracking and Impact Evaluation:** Through the Interactive Planning Atlas, a method for tracking projects and assessing their impact geographically. The Planning Atlas’s ability to integrate satellite imagery (for land use change) and project data proved valuable for such evaluations. It underscores how M&E can be enhanced with geospatial evidence, moving beyond spreadsheets to map-based storytelling. Production of user-friendly “Atlas Reports” for Decision Makers. The Interactive Planning Atlas shall become an integral tool for M&E and the Research Agenda in the Eastern Cape province. Its capability to bring data to life geographically will help monitor the implementation of development plans

(PDP, One Plans, IDPs) and evaluate their effectiveness in a way that is transparent and actionable.

- Building an Eastern Cape Geospatial Interactive Atlas that is linked to development convention commitments (e.g., SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, NDP, Provincial Development Plan, etc.) is a major strategic initiative that integrates spatial intelligence, socio-economic planning, and monitoring frameworks.

1.12. It is against this background that ECSECC is soliciting a service provider to develop an Interactive Planning Atlas which must be integrated with the existing GIS platforms.

3 PURPOSE

3.1. The purpose of this document is to detail the scope of work, incorporating the tasks and responsibilities of the bidder required by ECSECC for developing an Interactive Planning Atlas.

4 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE BID

4.1 Tax Legislation

Bidders must be compliant when submitting a proposal to ECSECC 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

This will be processed in accordance with the PPPFA requirements. ECSECC's Supply Chain Management Policy and Contract Management Policy outline the procurement process and a supplier performance evaluation process, respectively.

4.3 Technical Legislation and/or Standards

Bidders should be cognizant of the legislation and/or standards specifically applicable to the services.

5 COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION

5.1 There is no briefing session planned for this RFP.

6 TIMELINE OF THE BID PROCESS

6.1 The period of validity of this bid and the withdrawal of offers, after closing date and time is **120** days. The project timeframes of this bid are set out below:

Activity	Due Date
Advertisement of bid on Government e-Tender Portal/ Eastern Cape Tender Bulletin/ECSECC Website	21 August 2026
Bid documents will be accessed from the ECSECC website; www.ecsecc.org	21 August 2026
Questions relating to the bid from bidders	21 August 2026 To 03 September 2026
Bid closing date and time	14 September 2026 at 15H00
Notice to bidders: ECSECC will endeavour to inform bidders questions and answers that came out during the publication of the bid through ECSECC website www.ecsecc.org/tenders	04 September 2026

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

6.3 Any time or date in this bid is subject to change at the ECSECC's discretion.

6.4 The establishment of a time or date in this bid does not create an obligation on the part of ECSECC to take any action or create any rights in any way for any bidder to demand that any action be taken on the date established.

6.5 The bidder accepts that, if ECSECC 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 quoting the Bid Number, to Malwande Ntongana for enquiries, via email tenders@ecsecc.org and/or tenders.ecsecc@gmail.com by phone at 043 701 3400/081 486 1009. Bidders must reduce all telephonic enquiries by writing and sending them to the above email address.

7.2 The delegated official at ECSECC may communicate with the bidder(s) where clarity is sought in the bid proposal.

7.3 Any communication to an official or a person acting in an advisory capacity for ECSECC 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 ECSECC must be done in writing.

7.5 Whilst all due care has been taken in connection with the preparation of this bid, ECSECC makes no representations or warranties that the content of the bid or any information communicated to or provided to the bidder(s) during the bidding process is, or will be, accurate, current, or complete. ECSECC 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) find(s) or reasonably believe(s) it has found any discrepancy, ambiguity, error or inconsistency in this bid or any other information provided by ECSECC (other than minor clerical matters), the bidder(s) must promptly notify ECSECC in writing of such discrepancy, ambiguity, error, or inconsistency in order to afford ECSECC 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 ECSECC will, if possible, be corrected and provided to all bidder(s) via ECSECC website, 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 of the tendering process) must keep the contents on 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

8.1 Bids received after the closing date and time, at the address indicated in the bid documents, will not be accepted for consideration and where practicable, be returned unopened to the bidder(s).

9 COUNTER CONDITIONS

9.1 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 may result in the invalidation of such proposals.

10 SUPPLIER DUE DILIGENCE

10.1 ECSECC reserves the right to conduct supplier due diligence prior to final award or at any time during the contract period. This may include site visits.

11 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

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

11.2 Bids may be submitted either by:

11.2.1 Depositing **two (2) sets of original bid documents sealed by way of spiral-bound separately for ease of reference during the evaluation process and an electronic copy of the original document in .pdf on flash drive**, into the **tender box** placed in the reception at ECSECC, 69 Frere Road, Vincent, East London, the tender box is accessible during weekdays from 08:00 to 16:30.

OR

11.2.2 Electronically by way of compressing the documents into a zip format OR an email to send through a link pointing to your cloud account for the file access by email to tenders@ecsecc.org and tenders.ecsecc@gmail.com quoting the reference of the **Bid Number ECS01/26/27**.

11.3 The bidders must have the following documents in response to this bid:

11.3.1 A costed proposal with sufficient detail that demonstrates comprehension and competency to deliver as per the scope of work, including:

11.3.1.1 Proposed methodology for developing an Interactive Planning Atlas.

11.3.1.2 Proposed methodology to integrate the Interactive Planning Atlas with the GIS Platform.

11.3.1.3 A schedule of resources showing requisite competencies that will be committed to the project.

11.3.1.4 A process flow outlining key activity, time frames, milestones and costing.

11.3.1.5 A list of similar projects.

11.3.2 Completed and signed SBD Forms supplied with this bid.

11.3.3 Proof of required competencies.

11.4 Bids must be submitted **before or on 14 September 2026 at 15H00**

12 PRESENTATION/DEMONSTRATION

12.1 ECSECC reserves the right to request presentations/demonstrations from the short-listed bidders as part of the bid process.

13 SPECIFICATION

13.1 ECSECC solicits prospective service providers to develop or customize Geospatial Interactive Planning Atlas Interactive Module with seamless integration with Regional Planning Atlas datasets to ensure data interoperability, real-time updates, and comprehensive analytics.

13.2 The required system (and associated development services) must inform the Geospatial Interactive Planning Atlas Interactive Module and support the visualisation of data to inform evidence-based decision-making and implementation.

13.3 The interactive module must support:

13.3.1 Visualisation: enable interactive maps with multiple layers, legends, symbology, and thematic filtering.

13.3.2 Analytical tools: provide buffering, heat maps, accessibility analysis, scenario simulation, and trend analysis.

13.3.3 Search and query: accommodate location-based queries (parcel, ward, district) and attribute-based queries (land use, zoning).

13.3.4 Reporting and export: the ability to generate maps, charts, and downloadable reports.

13.3.5 Scenario planning: provide "what-if" analysis across the datasets.

13.3.6 Collaboration tools: provide user accounts, comments, annotations, and version tracking.

13.3.7 Embedded in the Interactive Planning Atlas will be a Research AI database engine that allows one to search for research papers, build up prompts with AI capabilities.

13.3.8 The Planning Atlas has been benchmarked with the STATISTA Institute, analysis of the World Economies, and the impact they have in the South African economy, and subsequently to the Eastern Cape province. It has been benchmarked with the World Economic Forum's Strategic Atlas to provide strategic intelligence insights for the province. This initiative links all development and investment efforts, scientific oversight, and future projections. Lastly, it has been benchmarked with the Harvard's Growth Lab Atlas and the Gauteng City Regional Observatory (GCRO).

13.4 The system will be hosted on premises by ECSECC, and it must:

13.4.1 Have data privacy and security features

13.4.2 Comply with relevant data governance policy consultations

13.4.3 Demonstrate transparency in methodology and reporting.

13.4.4 Support Role-Based Access Control to manage user permissions across different modules.

13.4.5 Support Data Encryption and Backup Systems to ensure data privacy and recovery in case of failure.

13.4.6 Ensure compliance and alignment with relevant data governance and ethical standards as defined by ECSECC.

13.4.7 Have spatial Data Infrastructure Act (SDI) compliance: Alignment with government spatial policies and frameworks, data governance, and spatialization guidelines.

- 13.4.8** Have open data policy: Where applicable, the system should allow controlled public access.
- 13.4.9** Have accessibility standards: Compliance with Web Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).
- 13.4.10** Have procurement and licensing: Clarifying use of proprietary versus. open-source software. **ECSECC is operating on ESRI platforms.**

13.5 From an integration perspective, the system must ensure:

- 13.5.1** Seamless integration with Regional Planning Atlas datasets to ensure data interoperability, real-time updates, and comprehensive analytics.
- 13.5.2** APIs for Data Exchange must support RESTful APIs, SOAP, or XML/JSON-based data transfers to integrate with platforms such as StatsSA, National Treasury, DRLR, all national and provincial departments, UNDP, World Economic Forum and OECD
- 13.5.3** Open government data portals integration
- 13.5.4** Ability to automatically fetch or push data on a regular schedule or based on triggers.
- 13.5.5** Compatible with tools like R, Python, SPSS, and STATA for custom analysis. Support for standard formats: CSV, XLSX, JSON, XML, and SHP
- 13.5.6** Integration with Tableau, Power BI, and QlikView for advanced visualisations.
- 13.5.7** Ability to generate embeddable dashboards.
- 13.5.8** GIS Support: Should allow import/export of shapefiles, GeoJSON, KML, and integration with platforms like ArcGIS, QGIS, or Google Maps.
- 13.5.9** Geo-Tagged Data Mapping: Ability to link indicators to specific geographic locations for spatial analysis and hotspot detection.
- 13.5.10** Support for secure, role-based data exchange between departments (e.g., health, education, etc).
- 13.5.11** Compatibility with existing national digital infrastructure for service delivery or monitoring, ECSECC portal and the provincial data centre.
- 13.5.12** Each component (data intake, processing, visualisation) should be independently deployable and scalable.
- 13.5.13** Flexible infrastructure that can integrate into both cloud-native and legacy IT environments.
- 13.5.14** Maintain logs of all data transactions and secure access via encrypted channels.
- 13.5.15** Integration with Feedback Platforms: Link SPI insights with citizen feedback portals or social media analytics platforms

14 COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

The bidders must demonstrate the following capabilities:

- 14.1** GIS or Remote Sensing Specialists
 - 14.1.1** Full-stack Developers
 - 14.1.2** Database Administrators
 - 14.1.3** UI/UX Designers
 - 14.1.4** Planning or Urban Development Experts (to ensure domain relevance)
 - 14.1.5** Project Manager with proven track record
- 14.2** Geospatial Technologies
 - 14.2.1** Proven experience in GIS software (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS, GeoServer, Mapbox, Leaflet, OpenLayers).
 - 14.2.2** Ability to integrate multiple spatial data formats (raster, vector, tabular, remote sensing, and cadastral data).
 - 14.2.3** Knowledge of spatial analysis, cartographic visualisation, and spatial database design (e.g., PostGIS, Spatialite).
- 14.3** Web and Application Development
 - 14.3.1** Strong experience in interactive web application development using modern frameworks (React, Angular, Vue).
 - 14.3.2** Expertise in Python (Django, Flask, FastAPI), Node.js, or equivalent.
 - 14.3.3** API integration skills (REST, GraphQL, OGC-compliant web services like WMS/WFS/WCS).
- 14.4** Database development & Data Management
 - 14.4.1** Expertise in designing and managing relational and non-relational databases (PostgreSQL/PostGIS, MongoDB).
 - 14.4.2** Data cleaning, standardisation, and metadata management.
 - 14.4.3** Knowledge of data interoperability standards (ISO 19115, INSPIRE, OGC standards).
- 14.5** Cloud and Hosting Infrastructure
 - 14.5.1** Experience with cloud deployment (AWS, Azure, GCP) or hybrid/on-prem solutions.
 - 14.5.2** Understanding of containerization (Docker, Kubernetes).
 - 14.5.3** Proven track record in secure hosting, system scaling, and high availability.
- 14.6** Domain Knowledge
 - 14.6.1** Familiarity with urban/regional planning, land use management, natural resources, or infrastructure development.
 - 14.6.2** Understanding of planning indicators, zoning maps, demographic overlays, environmental datasets, and SDGs.
 - 14.6.3** Familiarity with quantitative skills - Ability to work with complex datasets, conduct statistical analysis, and interpret indicators meaningfully.
 - 14.6.4** Ability to build dashboards, web platforms, mobile apps, and API integrations for real-time data reporting and visualisation.
 - 14.6.5** Integration of location-based data for GIS spatial analysis of economic

indicators.

- 14.6.6** Ability to translate planning data into interactive decision-support tools (dashboards, scenario modelling, trend analysis)
- 14.6.7** Strong ability to create/develop transformation maps (a visual tool that outlines an organisation's strategic change journey over time)
- 14.6.8** Qualified multi-disciplinary with ability to utilise modern tools like Python, R, Power BI, Tableau, SQL, ArcGIS, and cloud platforms (AWS, Azure).
- 14.6.9** Collaborations with government agencies and/or UN bodies

14.7 User-Centred Design and Visualisation

- 14.7.1** User-Interface/User Experience design expertise for intuitive map navigation, filters, dashboards, and reporting.
- 14.7.2** Proven experience in developing responsive applications (desktop, mobile, tablet).
- 14.7.3** Data storytelling and visualisation (charts, infographics, spatial-temporal animations).

14.8 Security and Compliance

- 14.8.1** Knowledge of data protection standards
- 14.8.2** Ability to implement user authentication, role-based access control, and secure APIs.
- 14.8.3** Experience in system backup, recovery, and data integrity assurance.

14.9 Project Management and Delivery

- 14.9.1** Demonstrated ability to deliver similar GIS-enabled planning platforms or atlases.
- 14.9.2** Capacity for agile development with iterative user feedback cycles.
- 14.9.3** Strong documentation skills (technical documentation, user manuals, training guides).
- 14.9.4** Experience in capacity building & knowledge transfer (training ECSECC planners, ECSECC staff, etc).

15 SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

Breach of Contract	a. Should the successful service provider fail to deliver on their obligations, ECSECC Project Management Team shall escalate by reporting to the Line Manager. b. Should a. above fails, the dispute can be escalated by reporting to the Programme Manager. c. Should b. above fails, the successful service provider can escalate their grievances to the ECSECC Chief Executive Officer. Failing which "Settlement of Disputes" clause in the SLA will apply.
Payment	a. The payment of invoices shall be made within thirty (30) days of the date on which the invoice and all supporting documentation is received. b. Payment will be processed by EFT to the successful service provider's bank account as recorded in the CSD and the SLA.

Prices	a. The prices charged on the invoices shall not exceed the prices quoted and committed in the purchase order, unless there is prior approval by ECSECC.
Tax compliancy	a. No contract shall be concluded with any bidder whose tax matters are not in order. b. The bidder must ensure that their tax matters are in order throughout the contract period.

16 PRICING MODEL

16.1 The pricing must include all costs that will ensure that all requirements as outlined in the Specification above is fully met.

16.2 Price must be in South African currency and must be inclusive of VAT.

16.3 Bidders must indicate the price in all elements listed in the pricing schedule supported by their proposals (**no hidden costs/ unknown costs will not be accepted**).

17 EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

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

Pre-qualification Criteria (Gate 0)	Bidders must submit all documents as outlined in (Table 1) below. Only bidders that comply with ALL these criteria shall proceed to Gate 1.
Specification Validation (Gate 1)	Bidders that meet a minimum of 80 percent of the Interactive Planning Atlas System Module specification requirements detailed in paragraph 13 shall proceed to Gate 2 (Functionality Criteria).
Functionality Criteria (Gate 2)	Bidder(s) are required to achieve a minimum of 80 points out of 100 points to proceed to Gate 3 (Price and Specific Goals).
Price and Specific Goals (Gate 3)	Bidder(s) will be evaluated out of 100 points, as per (Table 2), below and Gate 3 will only apply to bidders who have met and exceeded the threshold of 80 points .

17.1 Gate 0: Prequalification

17.1.1 The bidders must return the documents listed in **Table 1 below**.

17.1.2 All documents must be completed and signed by the duly authorized representative of the prospective bidders.

17.1.3 During this phase Bidders' responses will be evaluated based on compliance with the listed administration, using the Central Supplier Database (CSD), and mandatory bid requirements.

17.1.4 The bidders' proposals may be disqualified for non-submission of any of the documents.

Table 1: Documents that must be submitted for Pre-qualification.

Document that must be submitted	Non-submission may result in disqualification?	
1. SBD 1 -Invitation to Bid	YES	Complete and sign the supplied pro forma document.
2. Tax Clearance Certificate	YES	a. ECSECC transacts with service providers that have a compliant tax status. b. ECSECC makes use of the CSD report to verify tax status of suppliers. Please ensure that your tax affairs are in good order with SARS. c. ECSECC does not transact with service providers that have a non-compliant tax status.
3. SBD 3.3 -Pricing Schedule	YES	Complete and sign the supplied pro forma document.
4. SBD 4 -Bidders' Disclosure	YES	Complete and sign the supplied pro forma document.
5. SBD 6.1 -Preference Points Claim Form in terms of Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022	NO	Complete and sign the supplied pro forma document. Non-submission will lead to a zero (0) score on Specific Goals.
6. SBD 7.2 -Contract Form	NO	Complete and sign the supplied pro forma document. This will be followed up at award stage.
7. General Conditions of Contract (GCC)	YES	Complete and sign the supplied pro forma document.
8. Costed proposal showing how the scope of work will be accomplished	YES	Proposal must show: a. How the scope of work requirements including functional requirements will be accomplished. b. Proof of meeting all competency requirements. Non-submission will render bid non-responsive.

17.2 Gate1: Specification Validation

Bidders must score a minimum of 80 percent of the full specification to proceed to Gate 2:

Element	Description	Weight	Comply 1 = Yes 0 = No
Interactive Module	Visualisation: enable interactive maps with multiple layers, legends, symbology, and thematic filtering.	1.00	
	Analytical tools: provide buffering, heat maps, accessibility analysis, scenario simulation, and trend analysis.	1.00	
	Search and query: accommodate location-based queries (parcel, ward, district) and attribute-based queries (land use, zoning).	1.00	
	Reporting and export: the ability to generate maps, charts, and downloadable reports.	1.00	
	Scenario planning: provide "what-if" analysis across the datasets.	1.00	
	Collaboration tools: provide user accounts, comments, annotations, and version tracking.	1.00	
	Embedded in the Interactive Planning Atlas will be a Research AI database engine that allows one to search for research papers, build up prompts with AI capabilities.	1.00	
	The Planning Atlas has been benchmarked with the STATISTA Institute, analysis of the World Economies, and the impact they have in the South African economy, and subsequently to the Eastern Cape province. It has been benchmarked with the World Economic Forum's Strategic Atlas to provide strategic intelligence insights for the province. This initiative links all development and investment efforts, scientific oversight, and future projections. Lastly, it has been benchmarked with the Harvard's Growth Lab Atlas and the Gauteng City Regional Observatory (GCRO).	1.00	
Sub-Total		8.00	
Data Governance	Have data privacy and security features	1.00	
	Comply with relevant data governance policy consultations	1.00	
	Demonstrate transparency in methodology and reporting.	1.00	
	Support Role-Based Access Control to manage user permissions across different modules.	1.00	
	Support Data Encryption and Backup Systems to ensure data privacy and recovery in case of failure.	1.00	
	Ensure compliance and alignment with relevant data governance and ethical standards as defined by ECSECC.	1.00	
	Have spatial Data Infrastructure Act (SDI) compliance: Alignment with government spatial policies and frameworks, data governance, and spatialization guidelines.	1.00	
	Have open data policy: Where applicable, the system should allow controlled public access.	1.00	
	Have accessibility standards: Compliance with Web Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).	1.00	
	Have procurement and licensing: Clarifying use of proprietary versus. open-source software. ECSECC is operating on ESRI platforms.	1.00	
Sub-Total		10.00	

Data Integration	Seamless integration with Regional Planning Atlas datasets to ensure data interoperability, real-time updates, and comprehensive analytics.	1.00	
	APIs for Data Exchange must support RESTful APIs, SOAP, or XML/JSON-based data transfers to integrate with platforms such as StatsSA, National Treasury, DRLR, all national and provincial departments, UNDP, World Economic Forum and OECD	1.00	
	Open government data portals integration	1.00	
	Ability to automatically fetch or push data on a regular schedule or based on triggers.	1.00	
	Compatible with tools like R, Python, SPSS, and STATA for custom analysis. Support for standard formats: CSV, XLSX, JSON, XML, and SHP	1.00	
	Integration with Tableau, Power BI, and QlikView for advanced visualisations.	1.00	
	Ability to generate embeddable dashboards.	1.00	
	GIS Support: Should allow import/export of shapefiles, GeoJSON, KML, and integration with platforms like ArcGIS, QGIS, or Google Maps.	1.00	
	Geo-Tagged Data Mapping: Ability to link indicators to specific geographic locations for spatial analysis and hotspot detection.	1.00	
	Support for secure, role-based data exchange between departments (e.g., health, education, etc).	1.00	
	Compatibility with existing national digital infrastructure for service delivery or monitoring, ECSECC portal and the provincial data centre.	1.00	
	Each component (data intake, processing, visualisation) should be independently deployable and scalable.	1.00	
	Flexible infrastructure that can integrate into both cloud-native and legacy IT environments.	1.00	
	Maintain logs of all data transactions and secure access via encrypted channels.	1.00	
	Integration with Feedback Platforms: Link SPI insights with citizen feedback portals or social media analytics platforms	1.00	
Sub-Total		15.00	
Grand Total		33.00	

17.3 Gate2: Functionality Criteria

Bidders must score 80 points to proceed to Gate 2.

Criterion Element	Weight	Reference page for your response
Understanding scope of work a. The proposal must detail: - Approach and how the expected deliverables shall be met - Methodology to develop an Interactive Planning Atlas - Methodology to integrate the Interactive Planning Atlas with the GIS Platform or module - Explicit reference to the approach to training and the levels of support to be provided b. Comprehensive proposal covering all requirements in a., above (30 points) c. Good and innovative proposal but lacking some minor requirements (20 points) d. Average and theoretical proposal demonstrating substantial lack in some areas (10 points) e. Unclear proposal or irresponsible to the requirements (0 points) [points will be based on submission of the costed proposal]	30	
Relevant experience and expertise of firm Technical Expertise		
Geospatial Technologies - Minimum of 2 project examples with GIS software (2 points) - Minimum of 2 examples of integrating multiple spatial formats. (2 points) - Minimum of 1 example of spatial analysis, cartographic visualisation, and spatial database design (e.g., PostGIS). (1 point) Web and Application Design - Minimum of 2 contracts in interactive web application development using modern frameworks (React, Angular, Vue). (2 points) - Minimum of 2 contracts in expertise in Python (Django, Flask, FastAPI), Node.js, or equivalent. (2 point) - Minimum of 2 contracts in API integration skills (REST, GraphQL, OGC-compliant web services like WMS/WFS/WCS). (1 point) Database Development and Management - Minimum of 2 projects designing and managing relational and non-relational databases (PostgreSQL/PostGIS, MongoDB). (2 points) - Minimum of 2 projects in data cleaning, standardisation, and metadata management. (2 points) - Minimum of 2 projects in knowledge of data interoperability standards (ISO 19115, INSPIRE, OGC standards). (1 point) Cloud and hosting Infrastructure - Minimum of 1 project in cloud deployment (AWS, Azure, GCP) or hybrid/on-prem solutions. (2 points) - Minimum of 1 project that demonstrate an understanding of containerization (Docker, Kubernetes). (2 points) - Minimum of 1 project secure hosting, system scaling, and high availability. (1 point) [points based on submission of reference letters from previous and current clients]	20	

Domain Knowledge Urban and regional planning Minimum of 3 years demonstrating urban and regional development understanding through the provision of interactive atlases, spatial portals, or transformation maps, or dashboards. (10 points) User-centred Design and visualisation - Minimum of 2 projects that demonstrate an understanding of User-Interface/User Experience design expertise for intuitive map navigation, filters, dashboards, and reporting. (4 points) - Minimum of 2 projects that demonstrate the ability to implement user authentication, role-based access control, and secure APIs. (3 points) - Minimum of 1 project that demonstrate the ability in data storytelling or visualisation (charts, infographics, spatial-temporal animations). (3 points) Security and Compliance - Minimum of 1 project that demonstrate knowledge of data protection standards. (4 points) - Minimum of 1 project that demonstrate the ability to implement user authentication, role-based access control, and secure APIs. (3 points) - Minimum of 1 project that demonstrate experience in system backup, recovery, and data integrity assurance. (3 points) Project Management and Training - Minimum of 2 projects that demonstrate the ability to deliver projects of a similar scope. (5 points) - Minimum of 2 projects that demonstrate the ability to provide capacity building and knowledge transfer. (5 points) [points based on submission of direct links of projects developed or customised]	40	
Location a. Operational offices within borders of Eastern Cape (10 points) b. Operational offices outside the borders of Eastern Cape (5 points) [submit proof in the form of municipal utility bill or lease agreement, etc.]	10	
Total	100	

17.4 Gate 3: Price and Specific Goals

17.4.1 In terms of regulation 4 of the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022, pertaining to the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 (Act 5 of 2000), responsive bids will be adjudicated on the 80/20-preference point system in terms of which points are awarded to bidders on the basis of:

- The bid price (maximum 80 points) and
- Specific Goals (maximum 20 points).

17.4.2 The evaluation of price and specific goals will be evaluated as outlined in **Table 2 below**.

Table 2: Price and Specific Goals Evaluation

Element	Weight
Price	80
Specific Goals	20
Historically Disadvantaged Individuals (HDIs)	
- Enterprises owned by at least 51% black people (5 points)	
- EME or QSE or any entity owned by at least 51% women (5 points)	
- EME or QSE or any entity owned by at least 51% youth (5 points)	
- EME or QSE or any entity with at least 51% ownership by people living with disability (2 points)	
- Enterprises located and/or operating within the borders of the Eastern Cape. (3 points)	
Total	100

18 GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

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

18.2 The bidder(s) accepting the terms and conditions contained in the General Conditions of Contract (**GCC**) as the minimum terms and conditions upon which ECSECC is prepared to enter into a contract with the successful bidder(s).

18.3 The bidder submitting the **GCC to ECSECC together with its bid, duly signed** by an authorized representative of the bidder.

19 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

19.1 Upon award, ECSECC and the successful bidder will conclude a supplementary agreement regulating the specific terms and conditions applicable to the services being procured by ECSECC.

20 CONDITIONS OF THIS BID

20.1 Bidders must ensure compliance on a paragraph-to-paragraph basis. Bids that are not completed in the manner prescribed may be considered incomplete and rejected.

20.2 ECSECC reserves the right to:

20.2.1 Not award or cancel this bid at any time and shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any bid.

20.2.2 Negotiate with one or more preferred bidder(s) identified in the evaluation process, regarding any terms and conditions, including price without offering the same opportunity to any other bidder(s) who have not been awarded the status of the preferred bidder(s).

20.2.3 Accept part of a bid rather than the whole bid.

20.2.4 Carry out site inspections, product evaluations or explanatory meetings in order to verify the nature and quality of the service offered by the bidder(s), whether before or after adjudication of the bid.

20.2.5 Correct any mistakes at any stage of the bid that may have been in the bid documents or occurred at any stage of the tender process.

20.2.6 Cancel and/or terminate the bid process at any stage, including after the closing date and/or after presentations have been made, and/or after the bids have been evaluated and/or after the preferred bidder(s) have been notified of their status as such.

20.2.7 Conduct Financial Statement Analysis only on the recommended bidders after completion of the pricing and specific goals evaluation stage.

20.2.8 Award a bid based on which bidder is offering the best value for money, even if the bid is not the lowest priced bid.

20.2.9 Not award the bid to the bidder whose financial statements are not in order.

22.2.10 Award to multiple bidders to spread the risk.

21 BIDDER'S DECLARATION

21.1 The bidders are required to confirm that they will:

21.1.1 Act honestly, fairly, and with due skill, care, and diligence, in the interests of ECSECC,

- 21.1.2** Have and effectively employ the resources, procedures, and appropriate technological systems for the proper performance of the services,
- 21.1.3** Act with circumspection and treat ECSECC fairly in a situation of conflicting interests,
- 21.1.4** Comply with all applicable statutory or common law requirements applicable to the conduct of business,
- 21.1.5** Make adequate disclosures of relevant material information including disclosures or actual or potential own interests, in relation to dealings with ECSECC,
- 21.1.6** Avoid fraudulent and misleading advertising, canvassing, and marketing.
- 21.1.7** Conduct their business activities with transparency and consistently uphold the interests and needs of ECSECC as a client before any other consideration, and
- 21.1.8** Ensure that any information acquired by the bidder(s) from ECSECC will not be used or disclosed unless the written consent of ECSECC has been obtained to do so.

22 CONFLICT OF INTEREST, CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

ECSECC reserves the right to disqualify any bidder who either itself or any of whose members (save for such members who hold a minority interest in the bidder through shares listed on any recognized stock exchange), indirect members, being any person or entity who indirectly holds at least a 15% interest in the bidder other than in the context of shares listed on a recognized stock exchange, directors or members of senior management, whether in respect of ECSECC or any other government organ or entity and whether from the Republic of South Africa or otherwise "Government Entity".

- Engages in any collusive bidding, 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;
- 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;
- Makes or offers any gift, gratuity, anything of value or other inducement, whether lawful or unlawful, to any of ECSECC's officers, directors, employees, advisors or other representatives;
- 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;

- 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;
- 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 bid, contract, right or entitlement which is in any way related to procurement or the bidding of any services to a Government Entity;
- Has in the past engaged in any matter referred to above; or
- 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.

23 MISREPRESENTATION DURING THE LIFECYCLE OF THE CONTRACT

The bidder should note that the terms of its Tender will be incorporated in the proposed contract by reference and that ECSECC 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.

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

24 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 ECSECC, 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.

25 INDEMNITY

If a bidder breaches the conditions of this bid and as a result of that breach, ECSECC incurs costs or damages (including, without limitation, the costs 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 ECSECC harmless from any and all such costs which ECSECC may incur and for any damages or losses ECSECC may suffer.

26 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.

27 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

A bidder participates in this bid process entirely at its own risk and cost. ECSECC shall not be liable to compensate the 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.

28 TAX COMPLIANCE

No tender shall be awarded to a bidder who is not tax compliant. ECSECC 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 TCC to ECSECC, or whose verification against the Central Supplier Database (CSD) proves non-compliant. ECSECC 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.

29 NATIONAL TREASURY

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. ECSECC 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 the National Treasury by another government institution.

30 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.

31 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 ECSECC allows a bidder to make use of sub-contractors, such sub-contractors will at all times remain the responsibility of the bidder and ECSECC will not under any circumstances be liable for any losses or damages incurred by or caused by

such sub-contractors.

32 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 ECSECC's examination and evaluation of a Tender.

No part of the bid may be distributed, reproduced, stored or transmitted, in any form or by 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 ECSECC remain proprietary to ECSECC and must be promptly returned to ECSECC 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 ECSECC's written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to (a) the potential work or activities to which this bid relates; or (b) the process which follows this bid. Failure to adhere to requirement may result in disqualification from the bid process and civil action.

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

33 PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

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