

RFP143/2026: Written Responses to Clarification Questions Raised During the Compulsory Briefing Session

1. How many pre-feasibility studies are included in the assignment?

The assignment shall include the preparation of three PIM pre-feasibility studies per province in each of the three target provinces (Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Northern Cape), resulting in a total of **nine (9)** PIM pre-feasibility studies. In addition, **three (3)** SORE pre-feasibility studies will be conducted, one in each of the three provinces: KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, and Eastern Cape.

2. How should bidders cost the assignment?

Bidders are required to cost their proposals based on a total of **twelve (12)** pre-feasibility studies, comprising **nine (9)** PIM pre-feasibility studies (three per province across the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape) and **three (3)** SORE pre-feasibility studies. Costing should be informed by the scope, deliverables, stakeholder engagement activities, travel requirements, and other obligations outlined in the RFP, as well as the bidder's professional experience in undertaking similar assignments.

3. Will the consultant be responsible for project identification and prioritisation under the PIM workstream?

No. The PCC is already undertaking stakeholder engagements and project prioritisation activities under the PIM process. The appointed consultant will receive the prioritised project pipeline and focus primarily on conducting the required pre-feasibility assessments.

4. Will the consultant be responsible for stakeholder engagement under the SORE workstream?

Yes. For the SORE workstream, the appointed consultant will be responsible for undertaking and facilitating the stakeholder engagement processes necessary to complete the pre-feasibility studies. This will include stakeholder consultations required to inform the studies and all related assessments, including site identification and selection; technical assessment; financial and economic assessment; social and environmental assessment; Legal and regulatory assessment.

5. Can appointment letters be submitted instead of reference letters?

No. Where the evaluation criteria require reference letters, bidders must submit reference letters. Appointment letters will not be accepted as substitutes.

6. Can subcontractor experience be used?

Yes. Relevant experience and reference letters of nominated subcontractors may be considered, provided the proposed arrangement and roles are clearly defined. Bidders should clearly indicate which aspects of the assignment will be delivered by the subcontractor and demonstrate how the subcontractor's experience is relevant to the services being proposed.

7. Can a company with limited corporate experience still qualify?

Yes. Although company/consortium experience forms part of the evaluation, bidders may still qualify if: The proposed team demonstrates the required expertise and experience; and the submission achieves the overall minimum functional threshold. The contracting arrangement must reflect genuine participation and expertise, and should not constitute a fronting arrangement or the inclusion of entities solely for evaluation purposes without a meaningful role in project delivery.

8. Is there a limit on consortium size or staffing arrangements?

No. DBSA confirmed that there is no prescribed limit on consortium size or staffing arrangements.

9. Will financial assessments of bidders be used to exclude smaller firms?

No. Reviewing financial information is not intended to exclude smaller firms that may not have large balance sheets. Bidders will be evaluated primarily against the requirements and criteria set out in the RFP, including their proposed methodology, relevant experience, and the qualifications and expertise of the proposed team.

10. What is the contract duration?

The assignment will be implemented over a period of 12 months, with the PIM and SORE workstreams expected to run concurrently

11. Can an international firm participate in this tender?

- Yes. The tender is open to both local and international firms. However, international bidders are required to register on the **Central Supplier Database (CSD)** and comply with all applicable tender requirements including SAQA requirements for qualifications of proposed resources
- [Welcome - Central Supplier Database Application](#)

12. SAQA - South African Qualifications Authority

- [Home - SAQA](#)
- Where an international qualification has not yet been evaluated by SAQA, bidders must provide proof that the qualification has been submitted to SAQA for evaluation. Acceptable evidence includes a SAQA acknowledgement of receipt, application reference number, or other written confirmation from SAQA that the evaluation process is underway. The final SAQA evaluation outcome is not required at bid submission stage; however, proof of submission must be provided.