SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NETWORK PENETRATION AND VULNERABILITY TESTING TOOL (SOFTWARE)

APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER TO PROVIDE QUOTATION (RFQ) FOR THE PROVISION OF THE NETWORK PENETRATION AND VULNERABILITY TESTING TOOL (SOFTWARE) SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY (SASSA) HEAD OFFICE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS.

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1. PURPOSE

1.1 The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) invites qualified vendors to submit request for quote (RFQ) for a procurement **of a** Network Penetration and Vulnerability Testing tool (software) for 1 (one) user license that is transferrable amongst users in cases of change in staff or equipment. Furthermore, if the subscription is annual or perpetual, the quotation should include renewal costs as well as annual support for a total of 3 (three) years' subscription.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 **Current Limitations with Nessus:** SASSA's Internal Audit Services unit currently relies on the Professional Nessus scanning tool to detect network vulnerabilities. While Nessus excels at identifying vulnerabilities, it lacks the capability to conduct penetration testing. This shortfall means that while vulnerabilities are detected, there is no way to validate or address potential risks effectively. The absence of penetration testing tools hinders the unit's ability to thoroughly assess and fortify the network against cyber threats.

2.2 **Need for Robust Penetration Testing:** To bridge this gap and bolster SASSA's network security, the Internal Audit Services unit requires a robust penetration testing tool. Such a tool not only verifies identified vulnerabilities but also simulates real-world attacks to gauge the network's resilience. By actively attempting to exploit vulnerabilities, this tool ensures accuracy in reporting and aids in crafting effective mitigation strategies.

2.3 **Strengthening SASSA's Security Posture:** By incorporating Penetration and Vulnerability Testing tool (software) into its arsenal, SASSA's Internal Audit Services unit seek to gain the necessary tools and insights to safeguard the organization's network infrastructure effectively. This proactive approach not only strengthens defense mechanisms but also fosters a culture of continuous improvement in cybersecurity practices.

2.4 **Alignment with Internal Audit Standards:** In terms of Standard 2130 of the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, the internal audit activity must assist the organization in maintaining effective controls by evaluating their effectiveness and efficiency and promoting continuous improvement. This aids in identifying any risks or weaknesses in the current system and making recommendations for improvement. Internal audit activities should also assure management and the audit committee that the organization functions effectively.

2.5 **COBIT 2019 Assurance Guidelines:** MEA04 Managed Assurance of COBIT 2019 states: "Enable the organization to design and develop efficient and effective assurance initiatives,

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providing guidance on planning, scoping, executing, and following up on assurance reviews, using a road map based on well-accepted assurance approaches." This includes assurance of the effective implementation of controls and the achievement of business objectives, ensuring that IT processes are aligned with the organization's broader goals. Assurance activities should be tailored to the organization's specific needs.

2.6 **ISACA IT Audit Framework:** Standard 2203.7.1 of the ISACA IT Audit Framework states that "IT audit and assurance practitioners should include in the audit plan assignment-specific issues, such as identification of tools needed for gathering evidence, performing tests, and preparing/summarizing information for reporting." The tools needed should be identified as soon as possible because they can affect the quality of the audit. These tools should be selected based on their accuracy, reliability, and cost. Additionally, the audit plan should also include the assignment timeline and the audit objectives.

3. OUTPUTS

3.1 Vulnerability Penetration Testing tool (Software) to enable SASSA to do the following:

3.1.1 Make use of a built-in web vulnerability scanner to crawl targeted websites to identify vulnerabilities;

3.1.2 Ability to intercept everything the targeted browser sees;

3.1.3 Ability to quickly assess your target (size, enumeration and URL parameters);

3.1.4 Make use of HTTP/2 requests in an advanced approach;

3.1.5 Manage recon data collected on the target site;

3.1.6 Manually test for out-of-band vulnerabilities;

3.1.7 Expose hidden attack surface / discover invisible content; and

3.1.8 Perform advanced / custom automated attacks like CSRF exploits, test XSS vulnerabilities, automated brute-force attacks, modify HTTP responses, etc.

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4.1SCOPE OF THE SERVICE REQUIRED

The successful service provider will be required to provide the following embedded **non-negotiable capabilities**:

- Built in web vulnerability scanner to crawl targeted websites to identify vulnerabilities;
- Access to a lab environment for stimulated penetration testing;
- Guidance on possible techniques (security attack methods) that can be used to exploit identified vulnerabilities;
- Ability to intercept everything the targeted browser sees;
- Ability to quickly assess target site (e.g. size, enumeration and URL parameters);
- Use of HTTP/2 requests in an advanced approach;
- Manage recon data collected on the target site;
- Manually test for out-of-band vulnerabilities;
- Expose hidden attack surface / discover invisible content; and
- Perform advanced / custom automated attacks like: CSRF exploits, test XSS vulnerabilities, automated brute-force attacks, modify HTTP responses, etc.
- **Detailed Reporting and Versatility:** The Penetration and Vulnerability Testing tool (software) is needed to provide detailed reports that highlight vulnerabilities and suggest remediation steps, facilitating informed decision-making and enabling proactive security measures. Its versatility extends beyond traditional network assessments, offering support for web application security testing and API security evaluations, further enhancing SASSA's overall security posture.

5. CONTRACT DURATION

The service provider is expected to provide the following:

The software subscription for the Vulnerability Penetration Testing tool (software) will be for the period of three (3) – years.

NB: No support and maintenance required.

6. COMPULSORY INFORMATION / BRIEFING SESSION

Not applicable

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7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

This bid will be evaluated into two stages

7.1.1 **Stage One: Phase One – Mandatory Requirements**

7.1.1.1 Only South African Partners/ resellers / distributor for the respective Penetration and Vulnerability Testing tool (software)is eligible to respond to the bid.

7.1.1.2 Bidder to submit a letter from the Original Product Owner confirming distribution, partner or service agent, or reseller status of the required software subscription solution.

NB: SASSA will perform due diligence to verify South African Partnership/ resellers / distributor for the Penetration and Vulnerability Testing tool (software)and failure to comply with the above will be disqualify the bidder. All the status of the distributors must be valid.

7.1.2 Stage One: Phase Two- Administrative Compliance

Bidders to submit the following:

7.1.2.1 Tax Compliance verification pin from SARS.

7.1.2.2 Fully complete and sign SBD forms.

NB: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REQUIREMENTS MAY RESULT IN THE BID PROPOSAL BEING DISQUALIFIED

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8. STAGE TWO: PHASE ONE: PRICE AND SPECIFIC GOALS

8.1 PRICE AND SPECIFIC GOALS

This bid will be evaluated in terms of the 80/20 preference point system.

EVALUATION CRITERIA ON PRICE AND SPECIFIC GOALS

Price and Specific Goals	**100**
Price	**80**
Specific Goals	**20**

80 points will be for price and the **20** points will be for specific goals.

Price

$$Ps = 80\left(1 - \frac{Pt - P\,min}{P\,min}\right)$$

Where

Ps = Points scored for the price of tender under consideration

Pt = Price of tender under consideration

Pmin = Price of lowest acceptable tender

Specific Goals

Preference points will be awarded to a bidder for attaining the specific goals by the table below:

Specific Goals	**Number of points (80/20)**
B-BBEE Status Level 1 - 2 contributor with at least 51% black women ownership	20
B-BBEE Status Level 3 - 4 contributor with at least 51% women ownership	18
B-BBEE Status Level 1 - 2 contributor with at least 51% black youth or disabled ownership	16
B-BBEE Status Level 1 - 2 contributor	14
B-BBEE Status Level 3 - 8 contributor with at least 51% youth or disabled ownership	12
B-BBEE Status Level 3 - 4 contributor	8
B-BBEE Status Level 5 - 8 contributor	4

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Others (Non-Compliant)	0
Note: In the event of a bidder claiming more than one specific goal category, SASSA will allocate points based on the specific goal with the highest points.	

8.2 Failure to submit the required documents shall be interpreted to mean that preference points for specific goals are not claimed.

8.3 **Bidders are required to comply with the following :**

8.3.1.1 The price must be fixed and quoted in South African Rand (excluding VAT).

8.3.1.2 The price should include variable costs or any additional costs such as freight, insurance until acceptance, duty (if applicable), and so on.

8.3.1.3 The supplier must submit a quotation on their official company letterhead.

8.3.1.4 The supplier must quote on all of the items/services listed in the Bill of Quantities/Pricing schedule by the specified specifications.

8.3.1.5 All costs and expenses incurred by the potential service provider about their project proposal will be borne by the respective service provider. The SASSA is not liable to pay such costs and expenses or to reimburse or compensate the service provider in the process under any circumstance, including the rejection of any proposal or the cancellation of this project.

- **NB**: Payment will be made by SASSA Payment Terms and Conditions.

NB: The price should be firm and include all costs and services necessary to deliver the required goods and/or services.

The supplier must quote as per the below Bill of Quantities (BOQ):

Description	Quantity	Duration	Total Amount
Vulnerability Penetration Testing tool (Software)	1	3 Years	
Sub-Total			
VAT 15%			
Total			

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NB: The above cost must include all costs associated with providing the required services by the above scope of work and specifications.

9. CONDITIONS OF THE BID

- SASSA reserve the right to negotiate price with the preferred bidder.
- SASSA may require responsive bidders to present/discuss their proposals in person when called to.
- SASSA reserves the right to request new or additional information regarding each bidder and any individual or other persons associated with this proposal.
- SASSA reserves the right not to make any appointment from the proposals submitted.
- SASSA reserves the right not to consider further any bid where such a conflict of interest exists or where such potential conflict of interest may arise.
- Any project proposals shall become the property of SASSA and shall not be returned to the bidders.
- The quotation should be valid and open for acceptance by SASSA for a period of 60 days from the date of submission.
- Bidders are advised that submission of a quotation gives rise to no contractual obligations on the part of SASSA.
- SASSA reserves the right not to award the bid to the bidder that scores the higher points.
- The tenderer acknowledges that any errors in pricing and calculations are at their own risk.
- Tenders or documents received after the closing date and time will be deemed late. Late submissions will be ignored.
- If the bidder intends to subcontract, the value of the work in Rands to be subcontracted about the total tender amount must be specified. The supplier must also include the company/name(s)/ contractors.

- **In the case of a joint venture proposal, the following must be submitted along with the proposal/Quotation:**
  - Joint venture agreement with work division signed by both parties;
  - The valid copy of the joint venture's B-BBEE certificate;
  - Each joint venture member's SARS Tax Compliance Pin;
  - Proof of ownership/shareholder certificates/copies;
  - Company registration certificates;
  - A bidder awarded a contract may not sub-contract more than 25% of the value of the contract

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to any other enterprise that does not have an equal or higher B-BBEE status level than the person concerned unless the contract is sub-contracted to an exempted micro enterprise that has the capability and ability to execute the sub-contract.

10. SUBMISSSION OF BIDS

10.1 Bidders to submit documents according to the Request for Quotation.

10.2 Documents submitted via cloud services such as We-Transfer, Google Drive, Dropbox, and others will be rejected.

10.3 The bidders to confirm through their proposals that the quotations are correct and valid.

11. DISCLAIMER

- This RFQ is only a request for quotations, not an offer document. Responses to this RFQ should not be interpreted as an acceptance of an offer or as implying the existence of a contract between the parties. Tenderers are deemed to have satisfied themselves with and accepted all Terms & Conditions of this RFQ by submitting their quotation. The SASSA makes no representations, warranties, assurances, guarantees, or endorsements to the tenderer regarding the RFQ, whether regarding its accuracy or completeness. In connection with it, the SASSA shall have no liability to the tenderer or any other party.
- Without an official SASSA Purchase order or a signed supplier agreement, no goods or services should be delivered to SASSA. The invoice must include the SASSA purchase order number. Invoices that do not include SASSA purchase order numbers will be returned to the supplier.

12. Enquiries

Technical enquiries may be directed as per Request for Quotation.

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