

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER PROVIDE AN EDITING TOOL FOR WRITING FOR 12 MONTHS (45 LICENSES).

RFQ Number	ASA 09/10/2024
Date of Issue	18 October 2024
Closing Date & Time	25 October 2024 @12:00 Mid - day NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED
Submissions	procurement@agrement.co.za

Technical inquiries may be directed to:

Procurement@agrement.co.za

1. BACKGROUND

The Agrément South Africa Act was accented to by the Honourable President of the Republic of South Africa as Act No 11 of 2015 from 1 April 2017. Agrément South Africa (ASA) was established as a Schedule 3A entity on 1 April 2017. The entity operates under a delegation of authority from the Minister of Public Works.

The main objectives are:

- To provide assurance of fitness-for-purpose of non-standard construction-related products and systems to specifiers and users.
- To support and promote the process of integrated socio-economic development in the Republic as it relates to the construction industry.
- To support and promote the introduction and use of certified non-standardized construction-related products or systems in the local or international market.
- To support policymakers in minimizing the risk associated with the use of non-standard construction-related products or systems; and
- To be an impartial and internationally acknowledged South African center for assessing and confirming fitness-for-purpose of non-standard construction-related products or systems.

2. INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASA is requesting proposals from qualified service providers to provide enterprise-grade writing assistance and editing tools. This tool should enhance communication quality, support collaborative writing, and ensure consistent language use across the organization. ASA requires a user-friendly solution, integrates with our existing systems, and meets security and compliance standards.

3. SPECIFICATIONS

Service Provider will be required to provide the following:

- **Product Overview:** Description of the software, its core features, and how it addresses the needs of a business environment.
- **Integration Capabilities:** The tool must integrate with popular platforms such as Microsoft Office, and Google Docs.
- **Customization:** Ability to create custom dictionaries, and style guides, and ensure industry-specific terminology is supported.
- **Team Collaboration Features:** Support for multiple users, centralized admin controls, and tracking of team-wide writing metrics.

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- **Security and Compliance:** Assurance that the software complies with security standards, with strong data protection measures in place.
- **Plagiarism Detection:** Ensure originality of written content by comparing text against a vast database of web pages and publications.

4. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

4.1. Submission of Procurement documents

- Latest National Treasury's Central Supplier Database (CSD) report. It must be noted that no contract with a service provider will be entered if such a service provider is not registered on the CSD,
- Completed and signed standard bidding documents, **SBD 4 and 6.1 forms**.
- Signed General Conditions of Contract.
- Completed price schedule.

4.2. Evaluation

4.2.1. Phase 1: Comply with the table below:

The proposed solution must comply with the below-mentioned requirements in order to move to the next phase. Failure to Comply will lead to disqualification. **Pursuant to compliance with solution requirements, bidders must note the necessity for product demonstration to highlight the category requirements pursuant to the evaluation of all submitted proposals. The demonstrations are herein anticipated to the date that will be scheduled after the closing date. (Time schedules will be provided).**

CATEGORY	DETAILS	COMPLY/NOT COMPLY
Core Writing Assistance	1. Automatically identifying grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. 2. Offering style suggestions to improve sentence structure, word choice, and conciseness for better readability. 3. Providing punctuation corrections, ensuring proper usage of commas, periods, quotation marks, etc. 4. Suggesting synonyms to improve language variety and tone consistency.	

CATEGORY	DETAILS	COMPLY/NOT COMPLY
Tone and Clarity Analysis	1. Tone Detection: Identifies whether the tone is formal, casual, or confident, and provides suggestions for adjustments. 2. Clarity: Highlights areas of ambiguity or complex wording, suggesting edits to enhance simplicity and clarity, making it ideal for business communication.	
Plagiarism Detection	Plagiarism Checker: Compares the text against a vast database of online content to prevent unintentional plagiarism.	
Cross-Platform Integration	Supports integration across multiple platforms, ensuring a seamless experience for users across various devices: 1. Browser Extensions: Available for browsers like Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Edge, offering real-time writing suggestions when composing emails or posts. 2. Microsoft Integration: Direct integration with Microsoft Office products for in-app grammar and style checks. 3. Google Docs Integration: Provides real-time suggestions for improved writing during document collaboration in Google Docs.	

CATEGORY	DETAILS	COMPLY/NOT COMPLY
Team and Enterprise Features	1. Centralized Admin Controls: Allows administrators to manage user accounts and oversee license usage. 2. Team Style Guides: Enables the creation of custom style guides and rules to ensure uniform communication standards across the organization. 3. Security and Compliance: Ensures enterprise-grade data protection, including encryption and compliance with global standards, safeguarding sensitive corporate information.	
Customizable Features	1. Custom Dictionaries: Supports the addition of industry-specific terminology or jargon, ensuring accurate suggestions in context. 2. Brand-Specific Language: Ensures that the writing reflects the organization's tone and language guidelines consistently across all departments.	
Reporting and Analytics	1. Writing Quality Trends: Tracks common errors and areas for improvement across teams, offering analytics on writing quality	

4.2 Phase 2: Calculation of points

Please note for acquisitions below or equal to R50 Million, ASA evaluates these in terms of the 80/20 preference point system where:

80 points are allocated for price and 20 points will be awarded based on the specific goals.

Points for price will be calculated for all shortlisted service providers by the following formula:

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$$P_s = 80 \left(1 - \frac{P_t - P_{\min}}{P_{\min}} \right)$$

Where:

P_s = Points scored for the price of the quotation under consideration

P_t = Price of the quotation under consideration

$P_{\min}$ = Price of lowest acceptable quotation

Preference points for the specific goals will be allocated as follows:

NO.	SPECIFIC GOALS ALLOCATED POINTS	PREFERENCE POINTS ALLOCATION	SUPPORTING EVIDENCE TO BE SUBMITTED
1.	SMMEs	10 points	- A B-BBEE certificate /sworn affidavit as supporting evidence / CSD report
2.	>50% Black female ownership	5 points	- CSD report or, - Company registration certificate, as issued by the CIPC, clearly indicating the percentage shareholding of all owners
3.	>50% Black youth ownership	5 points	- CSD report, - Company registration certificate, as issued by the CIPC, clearly indicating the percentage shareholding of all owners, or - Identification Documentation of all owners

The final points will be calculated as follows:

CRITERIA	WEIGHTING POINTS
Price	80
Specific goal	20
TOTAL	100

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ASA also reserves the right to conduct an investigation of the bidder's financial position, previous contracts carried out, availability of skills or knowledge, existing workload, etc.

A recommendation for award will then be formulated for approval by the relevant delegated authority.

5. TERMS OF CONTRACT AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Before the bid is awarded, the successful bidder shall be required to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Agrément South Africa (ASA). The SLA shall form the contractual basis for the delivery of the service as well as how performance shall be measured. Contract extensions are at the sole discretion of ASA.

6. PRICE SCHEDULE

ITEM NO	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
01	ASA 45 Licences		
02	Support and Maintenance		
TOTAL AMOUNT (EXCL VAT)			
15% VAT			
TOTAL AMOUNT (ALL INCLUSIVE)			

7. COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

In consideration of the fees paid, the service provider expressly assigns to ASA any copyright arising from the works the consultant produces while executing this contract. The consultant may not use, reproduce or otherwise disseminate or authorise others to use, reproduce, or disseminate such works without prior consent from ASA.

8. FINAL APPROVAL

ASA reserves the right not to accept the lowest bid. ASA also reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals, and/or not to appoint any service provider.

9. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

9.2 All proposals must be submitted electronically to procurement@agrement.co.za .

9.3 Respondents must use the RFQ number as the subject reference number when submitting their bids.

9.4 All documents submitted electronically via e-mail must be clear and visible.

9.5 All proposals, documents, and late submissions after the due date will not be evaluated.

NB: NO HARD COPIES OR PHYSICAL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

10. VALIDITY PERIOD OF PROPOSAL

Each proposal shall be valid for a minimum period of **three (3) months** calculated from the closing date.

11. APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER

11.1 The contract will be awarded to the bidder who scores the highest total number of points during the evaluation process, except where the law permits otherwise.

11.2 Appointment as a successful service provider shall be subject to the parties agreeing to mutually acceptable contractual terms and conditions. In the event of the parties failing to reach such an agreement, ASA reserves the right to appoint an alternative supplier.

11.3 Awarding of contracts will be announced on the National Treasury website, and no regret letters will be sent to unsuccessful bidders.

12. ENQUIRIES AND CONTACT WITH ASA

12.1 Any enquiry regarding this RFQ shall be submitted in writing to procurement@agrement.co.za with RFQ No: ASA 09/10/2024 "Appointment of a service provider to provide an editing tool for writing for 12 months" as reference.

12.2 Any other contact with ASA personnel involved in this Quotation is not permitted during the RFQ process other than as required through existing service arrangements or as requested by ASA as part of the RFQ process.

13. MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION

All documentation submitted in response to this RFQ must be in English.

14. COST OF PROPOSAL

Tenderers are expected to fully acquaint themselves with the conditions, requirements, and specifications of this RFP before submitting proposals. Each bidder assumes all risks for resource commitment and expenses, direct or indirect, of proposal preparation and participation throughout the RFP process. ASA is not responsible directly or indirectly for any costs incurred by tenderers.

15. CORRECTNESS OF RESPONSES

15.1 The bidder must confirm satisfaction regarding the correctness and validity of their proposal and that all prices and rates quoted cover all the work/items specified in the RFP. The prices and rates quoted must cover all obligations under any resulting contract.

15.2. The bidder accepts that any mistakes regarding prices and calculations will be at their own risk.

16. VERIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS

16.1 Bidders should check the numbers of the pages to satisfy themselves that none are missing or duplicated. ASA will accept no liability concerning anything arising from the fact that pages are missing or duplicated.

16.2 Only one electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted via email to procurement@agrement.co.za. If the bidder sends more than one proposal, the first submission shall take precedence should it not have been recalled/withdrawn in writing by the bidder.

17. ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

17.1 A tenderer shall not assume that information and/or documents supplied to ASA, at any time prior to this request, are still available to ASA, and shall consequently not make any reference to such information document in its response to this request.

17.2 Copies of any affiliations, memberships and/or accreditations that support your submission must be included in the tender.

17.3 An omission to disclose material information, a factual inaccuracy, and/or a misrepresentation of fact may result in the disqualification of a tender, or cancellation of any subsequent contract.

17.4 Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions as set out in this document will invalidate the proposal.

18. ASA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO

- 18.1 Extend the closing date.
- 18.2 Verify any information contained in a proposal.
- 18.3 Request documentary proof regarding any tendering issue.
- 18.4 Appoint one or more service providers, separately or jointly (whether or not they submitted a joint proposal).
- 18.5 Award this RFQ as a whole or in part.
- 18.6 Cancel or withdraw this RFQ as a whole or in part

19. DISCLAIMER

This document is only a RFQ is a request for proposals only and not an offer document. Answers to this RFQ must not be construed as acceptance of an offer or imply the existence of a contract between the parties. By submission of this proposal, tenderers shall be deemed to have satisfied themselves with and to have accepted all Terms & Conditions of this RFQ. ASA makes no representation, warranty, assurance, guarantee or endorsements to tenderer concerning the RFQ, whether with regard to its accuracy, completeness or otherwise and ASA shall have no liability towards the tenderer or any other party in connection therewith.

20. POPIA

Protection of Personal Information - All bidders agree that personal information of persons related to or linked with bidders or respondents to this request for proposals may be required to fulfil the requirements for submitting a bid. All bidders agree that the ASA may collect, keep and process such information provided that the aforesaid uses shall be for purposes of evaluating the bid submitted. Where the information is sought to be used for other purposes, further and specific consent shall be obtained.