



SOUTH AFRICA

Electoral Commission

Auction 0010540836

Kemp Network Load Balancers Subscription Renewal

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Failure to comply with the completion of the auction conditions and the required information or submission of the required stipulated documents indicated in this document shall invalidate a bid.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Electoral Commission (IEC) seeks to renew its two (2) Kemp Virtual Load balancers license subscriptions for a period of 36 months.
- 1.2 The Electoral Commission has been using these Kemp Virtual Load balancers for a number of years and the current license subscriptions expire on 17 June 2025.
- 1.3 **Bidders must place a bid on the Votaquotes (e-Procurement) system and then provide all the required documentation before the due dates as specified in this document and on the Votaquotes web site.**

2 Background Information

- 2.1 The Electoral Commission has invested extensively in ICT technologies, which provide a platform to effectively support and enable its business processes and to meet its goal of providing a free and fair election process in an open and transparent environment. The Electoral Commission's ICT Department intends to continue running a highly efficient, secure and stable ICT environment making full use of industry standards, best practices and disciplines based upon stable, secure and reliable technologies.
- 2.2 The Electoral Commission has implemented some redundancy in terms of providing duplicate servers in most instances and a load balancers are used to implement High Availability and load sharing.

3 Technical Specifications

- 3.1 The technical specification for the required products is as per the bid specifications provided below. It must be noted that the technical specifications below are the minimum requirements. The only deviation that may be accepted will be in case where the service provider's specification exceeds the minimum requirements. Any offers below the minimum specification requirement will be disqualified at the evaluation stage.
- 3.2 The specifications are as below:

	Product Code	Description	Quantity
1.	VLM-MAX-SUB-3Y	Internal Load Balancers Licenses with 3 Year Enterprise Plus Subscription Serial numbers: 1193705, 1193938 including support and maintenance over 3 years	2
2.	OEM SERVICES	Cloud GSLB Configuration on The Electoral Commission's Azure's instance	1
3.		WAF Configuration	1
4.		KEMP 360 Configuration	1
5.		Tier 3 UAT Support	1
6.		Configuration Documentation	1
7.		Security Assessment	1

4 Planning Assumptions

The Electoral Commission has made the following assumptions:

- 4.1 The Electoral Commission will provide technical resources for all the Electoral Commission's designated work including setup and configuration of own systems and databases;
- 4.2 Wherever the need arises the successful bidder shall do initial equipment configuration of operating systems and environmental specific requirements;
- 4.3 The delivery of the software licenses and implementation services required must be completed within the days as stipulated in the delivery and implementation schedule below
- 4.4 The bidder's change control management process must be flexible enough to facilitate speedy deployment and resolution of problems without compromising management controls and security;
- 4.5 Bidder to provide applicable change management processes;
- 4.6 The recommended service provider shall provide all relevant details needed to ensure successful operations capability within the organization.

5 General Auction Conditions

The following standard bid conditions must be adhered to and complied with; failing which the bid will be disqualified.

- 5.1 All bids must be placed online on eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>
- 5.2 Bidders must complete and submit [Appendix A: Technical Bid Response](#) Sheet to demonstrate compliance with the required technical specification.
- 5.3 The bidder must provide at least two (2) contactable references of past and current products and installation and configuration services of a similar nature that the bidder provided or is currently providing (Kemp Load balancer licenses). Reference details must include the following: customer name, contact person, contact details (telephone, email, physical address) and service description and value of services defined in terms of budget and number of licenses supplied. The table in [Appendix C: Guideline Reference Table](#) is attached as a guideline for the compilation of the required reference information to be submitted for each reference.
- 5.4 The bidder must be authorized to sell the product supplied.
- 5.5 An OEM letter of proof of the reseller agreement/authorization must accompany the written documentation for this bid.

- 5.6 Should the reseller authorization be from a distributor, then a proof of authorization authorizing the distributor to resell and/or to authorize others by the OEM, must be submitted.
- 5.7 Bidder must have at least three (3) years' experience in providing the services required. Bidder must provide a profile or letter to confirm
- 5.8 Bidders must adhere to the delivery schedule in **Section 9****

6 Quality Control

The following quality control conditions must be adhered to and complied with, failing which the bid may be disqualified.

- 6.1 The bidder takes responsibility for the completeness and quality of their bid submission.
- 6.2 The Electoral Commission may also call on bidders to make presentations in order for the Electoral Commission to ensure full compliance with all its requirements and as part of the bid evaluation process prior to the conclusion of the adjudication of the bid. Any such request for presentations shall only be for clarification purposes in support of mandatory requirements that must be adhered to as part of the written submission requirements of this bid. Failure to submit mandatory requirements shall not be rectified by the call for presentations.
- 6.3 Any restrictions or conditions associated with any elements of the service offering/s must be detailed. The Electoral Commission reserves the right to reject conditions which are considered unfavourable to its business or unacceptable.
- 6.4 The bidder must provide the associated support and maintenance for the duration of the contract. The support and maintenance must include all services as per product code.
- 6.5 The submission of a bid implies acceptance of the terms specified in the provisions laid down in the specifications, the procurement and, where applicable, additional documents.
- 6.6 Bidders are expected to examine carefully and respect all instructions and standard formats contained in these specifications.
- 6.7 A bid that does not contain all the required information and documentation will be disqualified.
- 6.8 Although the Electoral Commission will only deal with the principal service provider, if a bidder plans to sub-contract any of the services in this bid, they are required to attach copies of sub-contracting agreements in their bid response documentation.
- 6.9 Notwithstanding any shortcomings in these specifications, service providers must ensure that the proposed solution will form a workable and complete solution.

- 6.10 The Electoral Commission will issue a formal purchase order to the successful bidder before any services can be delivered.
- 6.11 Awarding of the bid to the successful bidder will be subject to the Electoral Commission's due diligence audit requirements, where applicable.
- 6.12 The Electoral Commission reserves the right and discretion to amend the quantities or cancel or not award this bid based on any reason including operational or financial requirements.
- 6.13 Awarding the bid to a successful bidder may be subject to the bidder entering into a service level agreement (SLA) with the Electoral Commission that will formalize and regulate the final deliverables and associated processes and procedures.

7 Pricing Requirements

Completion of the detailed pricing schedule by responding to each item is compulsory. Failure to complete and submit this detailed pricing schedule as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.

- 7.1 Total bid price must be submitted online on the eProcurement (Votaquotes) portal.
- 7.2 Bidders must complete and submit [Appendix B: Pricing Schedule](#). The bid price on the [Appendix B: Pricing Schedule](#) must be the same as the bid price submitted online. If there is a discrepancy between the Pricing Schedule bid price and the online submitted bid price, the online submitted bid price will be used for adjudication.
- 7.3 All costs associated with the software licensing, implementation services and associated support must be included in the total bid price. The total bid price must be inclusive of all factors which may contribute the cost of fulfilling the bid, factors such as:
 - a) Software subscription costs over 36 months.
 - b) Delivery costs to the Electoral Commission's national office in Centurion, Gauteng, South Africa.
 - c) Support and Maintenance over 36 months
 - d) The Electoral Commission will pay annually in advance for the subscription
 - e) Configuration and Customization costs as per 3.2 above
- 7.4 Bid prices must be VAT inclusive and must be firm for a period of 180 days. The firm price shall apply for the duration of the contract, whereby the price for year 1 will be without fluctuations whilst the price payable in years 2 and 3 will be based on the firm price, subject to exchange rate fluctuation as set out in paragraph 7.5 below.
- 7.5 In the event that the price has FOREX dependencies, the bidder must state the portion of the price that has FOREX dependency and state the exchange rate that the price is based on at the time of bidding. Where applicable, FOREX based up or down adjustments will be allowed in Years 2 and 3 to account for exchange rate impact on the Rand. The original bid price will apply as stated in paragraph 7.2 above, subject to the exchange rate which shall be based on the specified Bank Selling Rate at the time of making

payment on the purchase orders issued for years 2 and 3.

- 7.6 The Electoral Commission reserves the right to adjust costs by excluding some cost factors.
- 7.7 All costs associated with the solution must be captured on the pricing schedule - no additional costs will be entertained.

8 Adjudication and Award of Contract

- 8.1 Bidders are advised to refer to the [Appendix D: Bid Evaluation Criteria](#) to ensure that they have addressed all critical bid requirements.
- 8.2 The bid will be awarded to a bidder whose solution successfully conforms to specifications and is able to deliver the services, and in terms of the provisions of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 and specifically the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022.
- 8.3 The Electoral Commission will issue a formal order before any services can be delivered
- 8.4 It should be noted that the Electoral Commission seeks to gain the best solution technically and financially.
- 8.5 Awarding the bid to a successful bidder is subject to the bidder entering into a service level agreement (SLA) with the Electoral Commission that will formalize and regulate the final deliverables and associated processes and procedures.

9 Delivery and Implementation Timeframe

- 9.1 The successful bidder will be required to complete delivery within ten (10) days from receipt of an order for the licenses.
- 9.2 Delivery will be at the Electoral Commission's National Office in Centurion, Gauteng, South Africa

10 Written Submissions

All submissions must be received before the closing date and time for submissions as stipulated on the eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>

Submissions received after the final date and time will lead to bids being disqualified and not considered.

All bids must be placed online on eProcurement website <https://votaquotes.elections.org.za>. Supporting documentation can be submitted in any or both of the following options:

- Upload to the auction site.
- Place in the Electoral Commission tender box situated in the foyer of the Electoral Commission National Office in Centurion at the following address before the closing date and time of this auction

Election House
Riverside Office Park,
1303 Heuwel Avenue,
Centurion,
0157

Note: Clearly mark your submission: For the attention of Procurement and Asset Management Department – Auction **0010540836**

Failure to submit all of the required documentation before the closing date and time shall invalidate the bid. It remains the responsibility of the bidder to confirm receipt of the required documentation with the Electoral Commission Procurement and Asset Management Department.

11 Summary of Submission Requirements

- 11.1 All bids must be submitted online on eProcurement (Votaquotes) portal.
- 11.2 All written supporting documentation must be submitted as stipulated on the bid requirement.
- 11.3 Submissions received after the closing date and time will lead to bids being disqualified and not considered.
- 11.4 The following supporting documents must be submitted as part of the written submissions. Failure to submit these will lead to the bid being disqualified:
 - 11.4.1 Completed technical specifications in accordance with the requirements in [Appendix A: Technical Bid Response Sheet](#) to demonstrate compliance with the bid specification as per 5.2.
 - 11.4.2 Two (2) relevant contactable References, Guideline [Appendix C: Guideline Reference Table](#) as per 5.3
 - 11.4.3 Completed pricing [schedule in Appendix B: Pricing Schedule](#) as per 7.2
 - 11.4.4 A letter of proof of the reseller agreement either from the OEM or an authorized distributor as per 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6; (i.e. if the reseller is authorized by a distributor). If the reseller agreement is from a distributor, then proof from the OEM authorizing the distributor needs to be included.

12 Closing Date

The closing date and time of this auction is specified on the eProcurement (Votaquotes) website in accordance the bidding requirements. The closing date and time is determined by the clock on the Electoral Commission's servers and is not negotiable. Bidders must also take note supporting documentation must be delivered before closing date and time.

13 Appendix A: Technical Bid Response Sheet

Appendix A: Technical Bid Response Sheet Completion of this technical response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet. Failure to complete and submit this technical bid response sheet as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.						
	Product Code and Description	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Quantity	Bidder must indicate whichever is applicable		Bidder's response/technical specification for proposed solution – if providing more than minimum requirement
				Yes	No	
1.	VLM-MAX-SUB-3Y	Internal Load Balancers Licenses with 3 Year Enterprise Plus Subscription. Serial Numbers: 1193705, 1193938 including Support and Maintenance over 3 years	2			
2.	OEM SERVICES	Cloud GSLB Configuration on the Electoral Commission's Azure's instance	1			
3.		WAF Configuration				
4.		KEMP 360 Configuration	1			
5.		Tier 3 UAT Support	1			
6.		Configuration Documentation	1			
7.		Security Assessment	1			

14 Appendix B: PRICING SCHEDULE

14.1 Detailed Pricing Schedule

PRICING SCHEDULE Completion of this Price Breakdown response sheet by the bidder is compulsory. Bidder must respond to each and every item in the response sheet. Failure to complete and submit this pricing schedule as part of the bid submission shall lead to disqualification.						
	Product Code	Description	Quantity	Once Off Costs inclusive of VAT	Annual Cost inclusive of VAT	Total Cost over 3 years inclusive of VAT
1.	VLM-MAX-SUB-3Y	Internal Load Balancers Licenses with 3 Year Enterprise Plus Subscription starting 17 June 2025. Serial Numbers: 1193705, 1193938 including Support and Maintenance over 3 years	2		R.....	R.....
2.	OEM SERVICES	a) Cloud GSLB Configuration on the Electoral Commission's Azure's instance b) KEMP 360 Configuration c) WAF Configuration d) Tier 3 UAT Support e) Configuration Documentation f) Security Assessment	1	R.....	R.....	R.....
*TOTAL BID PRICE						R.....

*The total bid price is the bid price that must be placed on eProcurement (auction). No any other additional costs will be accepted for bid evaluation and adjudication purposes.

14.2 ANNUAL PRICING BREAKDOWN

ANNUAL PRICING BREAKDOWN Completion of this Schedule is Compulsory. Failure to Complete and Submit this Schedule shall lead to Disqualification The Electoral Commission will pay annually in advance			
	Service Descriptions	Price Including VAT	Comments
1	Year One (1) License Subscription and Maintenance Support Services including Once off Costs	R	
2	Year Two (2) License Subscription and Maintenance Support Services	R	
3	Year Three (3) License Subscription and Maintenance Support Services	R	
4	TOTAL Over the Three (3) Years	R	
5	*Total Bid price	R	
* The Total Bid Price must be all inclusive and complete for the delivery of the proposed solution. The Total Bid Price must be inclusive of VAT. The Electoral Commission will pay annually in advance at the beginning of each year of the contract. The Total Bid Price will be used for Bid Adjudication.			

Baseline Rate of Exchange (ROE) on which the Bid Price is based: US \$ 1 = ZAR _____

15 Appendix C: Guideline Reference Table

Reference #1

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Budget (estimate)	
	Number of Licenses supplied	

Reference #2

EACH REFERENCE MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:		
Customer name		
Contact Person		
Contact Details	Email	
	Telephone	
	Physical address	
Service Description	Product	
	Services Provided	
Service Value	Budget (estimate)	
	Number of Licenses supplied	

16 Appendix D: Evaluation Criteria

Bidders are advised to refer to this appendix to ensure that they have addressed all critical bid requirements which will be used for assess the bids. Bidders are NOT required to complete and submit this section.

16.1 Stage 1: Assessment of Bidder's Disclosure

All bids received will be evaluated and assessed in respect of the mandatory information provided in the Bidder's Disclosure (SBD4) as well as the register for restricted suppliers and tender defaulters.

Any potential issues that may arise or transgressions that may identified will be pursued in accordance with statutory obligations and requirements.

In this regard, the following must be noted:

- 16.1.1 The Electoral Commission must, as part of its supply chain management (SCM) processes, identify and manage all potential conflicts of interest and other disclosures made by a person participating in procurement process to enable the accounting officer or delegated authority to make informed decisions about the person participating in the SCM process.
- 16.1.2 As such, the Bidders Disclosure form, issued as Standard Bidding Document (SBD) 4, is attached herewith for all entities who participate in the bid process.
- 16.1.3 As part of the evaluation of the procurement process, the information provided by a person on the SBD4 form must be evaluated.
- 16.1.4 In so doing, it must be noted that if the bid evaluation establishes that:
 - (a) a person within the bidding entity is an employee of the State, the Electoral Commission's CEO must request the relevant accounting officer/accounting authority whether the person-
 - (i) Is prohibited from conducting business with the State in terms of Section 8 of the Public Administration Management Act, 2014; or
 - (ii) has permission to perform other remunerative work outside of their employment, where the PAMA does not apply to such employee;
 - (b) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004;
 - (c) the conduct of a person constitutes a transgression of the Competition Act, 1998, the conduct must be reported to the Competition Commission; and
 - (d) the conduct of a person must be dealt with in terms of the prescripts applicable to the Electoral Commission.

- 16.1.5 If it is established that a person has committed a transgression in terms of the above, or any other transgression of SCM prescripts, the bid may be rejected and the person may be restricted.
- 16.1.6 The Electoral Commission's CEO must inform National Treasury of any action taken against a person within 30 days of implementing the action.
- 16.1.7 During the bid evaluation process, the Electoral Commission must in addition to other due diligence measures, establish if a person is not listed in-
- (a) the Register of Tender Defaulters; and
 - (b) the list of restricted suppliers.
- 16.1.8 A bid related to a restricted bidder or tender defaulter shall be rejected.
- 16.1.9 The under-mentioned assessment criteria will be used to evaluate the elements relating to SBD4, CSD registration, tax compliance, restricted suppliers and tender defaulters:

	Assessment Criteria	Bidder Requirement (YES/NO)	Comments
1.	Bidder is registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD). *		
2.	Bidder is tax compliant. **		
3.	The bidder is not an employee of the state.		
4.	Having certified the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act.		
5.	Having certified to the SBD4, it is accepted that the bidder's conduct does not constitute a transgression of the Competition Act.		
6.	The bidder is not a tender defaulter as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		
7.	The bidder is not a restricted supplier as per the register published on the National Treasury website.		

* No bid shall be accepted if a supplier is not registered on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database (CSD).

** A bidder must be tax compliant before a contract is awarded. A bid will be disqualified if the bidder's tax affairs remains non-compliant as per the provisions of National Treasury Instruction No 09 of 2017/2018 Tax Compliance Status Verification.

16.2 Stage 2: Key Qualifying Criteria

Stage 2 – Key Qualifying Criteria				
Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified				
No.	Description	Yes	No	Comments
1.	Did the bidder place their bid online as per 5.1			
2.	Did the bidder complete and submit technical specification as per 5.2? (Appendix A: Technical Bid Response Sheet)			
3.	Did the bidder complete and submit pricing schedule as per 7.2? (Appendix B: Pricing Schedule)			
4.	Did the bidder submit a letter of proof of the reseller agreement either from the OEM or an authorized distributor (i.e. if the reseller is authorised by a distributor) as per 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6?			
Overall Stage 2 Outcomes:		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>		
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):		

16.3 Stage 3: Technical Evaluation

Stage 3 – Technical Evaluation – Technical Disqualifying Factors.						
Failure to comply with any of the requirements below will result in the bid being disqualified						
	Product Code and Description	Compliance Minimum Requirements	Quantity	Bidder indicated?		Comments
				Yes	No	
1	VLM-MAX-SUB-3Y	Internal Load Balancers Licenses with 3 Year Enterprise Plus Subscription - Serial Numbers: 1193705, 1193938 including support and maintenance	2			
2	OEM SERVICES	Cloud GSLB Configuration on the Electoral Commission’s Azure’s instance	1			
		WAF Configuration				
3		KEMP 360 Configuration	1			
4		Tier 3 UAT Support	1			
5		Configuration Documentation	1			
6		Security Assessment	1			
Overall Stage 3 Outcomes:		<u>Assessment Comments:</u>				
		Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):				

16.4 Stage 4: Technical Scoring

Bid Evaluation Criteria Stage 4 – Technical Scoring					
To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (18.75/25)					
	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
1	Relevant Reference	20	References: a) Customer name = 1 point b) Contact Person = 1 point c) Email = 1 point d) Telephone = 1 point e) Physical address = 0.5 point f) Product/Solution = 2 points g) Description of Services provided = 2 points. h) Value (Budget Estimate) = 0.5 point i) Value (Number of Licenses Supplied) = 1 points Total for references (20 points): 2 references (maximum 10 points per reference)		
2	Relevant Experience	5	Experience with Network Load Balancers. (Max 5 points) a) The bidder has at least three (3) years' or more experience with Kemp Network Load Balancers (4 points). b) The bidder has at least five (5) years' or more experience with Kemp Network Load Balancers (5 points).		

Bid Evaluation Criteria					
Stage 4 – Technical Scoring					
To qualify to the next phase of adjudication a bidder must score a minimum of 75% (18.75/25)					
	Product Description	Available Score	Points Allocation	Actual Score	Comments
Overall Stage 4 Outcomes:	<u>Assessment Comments:</u>				
	Bid qualifies for further consideration: (YES/NO):				

16.5 Stage 5: Adjudication of Bids

Only bids that comply with the requirements and conditions of the bid and that meet the minimum criteria in the bid evaluation process as stipulated above will be considered for bid adjudication purposes.

Acceptable bids must be market related.

This bid is deemed not to exceed R50 million including VAT.

Therefore, the 80/20 preference point system (PPPFA scoring) in terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2005 (PPPFA) and the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022 shall apply in the adjudication process of this auction where all acceptable bids received are equal to or below R50 million including VAT. Preference points will be allocated as follows:

B-BBEE Status Level of Contributor	Number of Points
1	20
2	18
3	14
4	12
5	8
6	6
7	4
8	2
Non-compliant contributor	0

Bid Evaluation Team

	Evaluation Team Member's Name	Signature	Date
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Overall Adjudication Outcomes:
