

RFI 2763-2023: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) FOR THE PROVISIONING OF A PRIVATE GOVERNMENT CLOUD REGION TO COMPLEMENT THE RINGFENCED GOVERNMENT SECURE CLOUD WITHIN A FULLY MANAGED DATA CENTRE (FMDC)

NO	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1.	What are the sizes of the Primary and Secondary data centres required (MW, racks, sqm)?	At this stage, the estimated requirements are as follows: Start with 300 sqm to grow to 1 000 sqm per site. This excludes the pipeline and future growth. The actual sizes will be in the RFB to be published.
2.	Is there a minimum initial capacity (MW, racks) required for each data centre?	Refer to response in 1
3.	What land or building space is available at SITA Centurion for a new Primary data centre?	There is sufficient land available at the SITA Offices in Centurion, approximately 2 000 sqm.
4.	How much mains power is available at SITA Centurion for a new Primary data centre?	We have 10 MVA available for the entire site including for existing facilities and minimum 2.5MVA will be available for the new Primary data centre.
5.	Would a purpose-built Primary data centre elsewhere in Centurion be considered?	No, as close proximity to the current data centre in Centurion is preferred. For purposes of the connectivity to the NGN and SAPS network.
6.	Is the Secondary data centre site to be provided by the bidder? Can it be a shared site?	Yes, the Secondary data centre site is to be provided by the bidder. It can be a shared site, but physically separated environment with biometrics and the possibility to apply for it to be a National Key Point (NKP).
7.	What criteria determine the minimum distance from the Primary data centre to the Secondary data centre? What criteria would need to be met should 25 km be physically impossible to achieve?	It is a standard industry acceptable norm. AGSA uses that as a benchmark for audits.
8.	Is this RFI an electronic submission (via	The response must be submitted through email provided. No hard copies will be accepted.

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NO	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	tenders@sita.co.za) or hard copy submission or both? The RFI mentions electronic submission on the cover page of the 'Invitation to Bid' but under '1.2 Bid Instructions', it mentions original proposal in hard copy and an electronic version on USB. Please clarify?	
9.	Will the closing date be extended	Yes, the closing date is extended to 15 July 2023. The response must be submitted via email before 11:00 am on 15 July 2023
10.	Can you share the presentation and recording	The presentation is loaded on the SITA website and the briefing session meeting did not record.
11.	The RFI mentions that it will be governed by the General and Special Conditions of Contract. Is this correct, as there are no commercials/pricing as part of this RFI requirement?	RFI is for the client to gather information for the required solution. The RFI will not be awarded. Once the client decided on the solution the RFB process may follow as an open bid for bidders to compete for award purposes.
12	And binding : "The original proposal will be the legal and binding document that will be used for the purposes of evaluation" - P 6 of Invitation to Tender.	There is no evaluation process that will be conducted. The client will consolidate the information received from all bidders and make a final decision on how the information may be used for a formative solution and subsequent supply chain processes.
13	Will the RFB be a closed or open RFB going forward	The RFB will be open
14	Please clarify since the RFI, purpose and background talk interchangeably between "to provide a Private Government Cloud Region within a Fully Managed Data Centre deployed on SITA's premises." and a service provider providing for hosting and private cloud offerings that meet tier 3/4 criteria?	The ask from SITA can be summarised as follows: 1.Modular Tier III/IV primary and secondary Data Centre/s at NKP sites: a. Primary DC preferred at Centurion; and b. Secondary DC within 100km to be proposed with possibility to become a NKP; 2.Within the modular DC, the partner must provision: a. Cloud Infrastructure inclusive of maintenance and support of the infrastructure up to Hypervisor and Operating System (OS) software level; and b. White space for the housing of IT infrastructure. 3.Contract term will be ever-green; a. Potential viable commercial model/s to be provided – this could for example be a Shared profit model based on usage, royalty fee, but should exclude a rental model; and b. Shared responsibility matrix. 4.The above will be underpinned by the following:

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NO	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
		a. Partner must engage with all software layers to ensure certification of hardware; b. Data sovereignty, residency and privacy; c. Interoperability between all layers of hardware and software; and d. Mitigations to address East/West embargo.
15	As per the previous question please clarify SITA's intent and strategy "(x) Provide a list of guidelines and compliance criteria that will be needed for the data centres to be located on SITA premises.". Is the intent to gear SITA's own on premise data centre to meet the RFI requirement to for service providers to provision their data centre hosting and cloud services to meet the RFI requirements?	The purpose of the RFI is to solicit appetite from industry for the establishment of a Private Government Cloud by a single provider for a pro-longed period of time to compliment and augment the two(2) On-Premise Government Clouds already established by SITA. Based on the response from industry, SITA will consider publishing a RFB to award and partner with the successful bidder.
16	What is the technology stack that SITA is experiencing impact as a result of East/West embargo or is concerned may be potentially impacted by sanctions?	SITA already have impact and is also concerned about it snowballing
17	Please clarify is the strategy and intent for SITA to make use of existing Cloud Service provider or Hype Scaler Data centre facilities or to bolster their own capability and data centre facilities in relation to the RFI requirement for "(x) Provide a list of guidelines and compliance criteria that will be needed for the data centres to be located on SITA premises."	The purpose of the RFI is to solicit appetite from industry for the establishment of a Private Government Cloud by a single provider for a pro-longed period of time to compliment and augment the two(2) On-Premise Government Clouds already established by SITA. Based on the response from industry, SITA will consider publishing a RFB to award and partner with the successful bidder.
18	Please advise what the MISS interoperability requirements are?	MISS document available on https://www.sita.co.za/sites/default/files/documents/MISS/Minimum%20Information%20Security%20Standards%20(MISS).pdf
19	If the Service Provider is proposing our own data centre facilities or a VNF hosting facility such as Teraco please confirm what the	The shared responsibility framework will spell this out in the RFB.

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NO	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	anticipated SITA Training Options and Skills Transfer requirements will be and to what extent SITA would like to be enabled?	
20	Is the AaaS required on a Hardware or Software level?	Both