BID CLARIFICATION MATRIX 2

TENDER FOR

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY.

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20240162

04 September 2024

TRADEMARK AFRICA

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR KENYA REVENUE AUTHORITY.

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20240162

SECTION 1: QUERIES AND RESPONSES

This clarification matrix forms an integral part of the tender document and therefore, _must be considered_ carefully considered by service providers in preparation and submission of bids.

 It is divided into two sections: -

1. Section 1 contains the clarifications to queries raised a n d requested through the official bidding clarification email address (that is procurement@trademarkafrica.com).
2. Section 2 contains general tips on how to prepare and submit a competitive bid.

All communications must be directed to the procuring entity, Trademark Africa through procurement@trademarkafrica.com as provided for in the tender document.

SECTION 1: QUERIES AND RESPONSES

These clarifications are for those queries sought by bidders in line with the IFB of the tender document:

Sl. No.	Clause No. as per IFB	Point of Queries	Our Comments / Clarifications required	Clarification Response	Status
1.	**Tender Document**	**VMware Licenses:**	• Will these licenses be used on the same site or across different sites? • How many years of support/subscription are needed? (1yr / 3yrs / 5yrs)? • Which VMware product is required? (e.g., vSphere Foundation, vSphere Standard, vSphere Essentials Plus)	• **VMware licenses will be deployed on one site.** • **3 yrs. support/subscription are required.** **VMware product required is VMware vSphere Foundation**	Closed

Sl. No.	Clause No. as per IFB	Point of Queries	Our Comments / Clarifications required	Clarification Response	Status
2.	**Tender Document**	**Red Hat Licenses:**	The tender indicates the requirement for 100 RHEL Licenses for Virtual Machines on Blade servers and 100 RHEL Licenses for Virtual Machines on AI/ML machines. Could you please clarify the following: • **Environment:** Is this for a physical or virtual environment? ○ If **Physical**: ▪ How many servers in total will be running the RHEL software? ▪ How many CPU sockets are on each server? ○ If **Virtual**: ▪ How many hosts in total will be running the RHEL software? ▪ How many guests will each host machine support? ▪ How many CPU sockets are on each host? • What level of support do you require? **Standard (8 to 5, Mon-Fri)** or **Premium (24/7/365)**? • What support duration do you require? **1 year** or **3 years**?	• **The requirement for RHEL licenses is for 100 subscriptions. This will provide flexibility for us to determine whether to deploy on physical or virtual machines.** • **Support level required is standard support** • **Support duration required is 3 years**	Closed
3.	**Specifications**	**LOT 2: Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Servers**	Lot 2 number 6 you have indicated at least E3.S NVMe drives, can we offer Gen5 NVMe drives? The ES.3 pre-requisite looks to be quite unique to DELL. Most OEMs do not have ES.3 – Industry standard is normally U.2	**Gen5 NVMe drives that meet the performance requirements/benchmarks similar to E3S drives are acceptable.**	Closed

Sl. No.	Clause No. as per IFB	Point of Queries	Our Comments / Clarifications required	Clarification Response	Status
			(2.5" NVMe) format. Can we propose U.2 which meets the performance requirements?		
4.	Specifications	LOT 2: Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Servers	Lot 2 number 6 you have indicated at least E3.S NVMe drives with necessary redundancy but on point number 7 the Storage Controller requested is Integrated 6Gbps SAS hardware RAID 0, 1, 5 and 10 and 60 which is RAID for SAS drives and NOT NVMe. Can we propose the necessary RAID technology for NVMe?	**NVMe drives should be supplied with the appropriate NVMe RAID technology.**	Closed
5.	Specifications	LOT 2: Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Servers	Lot 2 number 9 you have indicated Secured Component Verification which is specific to DELL. Other OEMs have different terminologies for the same process. Please advise if we can propose equivalent/alternative solution (terminology) that meets the same requirement.	**The bidder is required to ensure that the server equipment delivered have a supply chain security validation and verification capability that will facilitate confirmation that the servers are genuine and unaltered from the OEM assembly process**	Closed
6.	Tender Requirement	Specification	Your processor requirement is 2 x 24-Cores. Nvidia recommend 2 x 48 Core CPU to utilise the 8-way required GPU. For example, Intel Xeon 8558. It is important NOT to under spec the CPU to maximise the GPU utilisation. Please advise if we should propose 2 x 48Core CPUs or maintain the 2 x 24-Core CPUs.	**The specifications stated are minimum. The bidder is free to propose better/higher specifications that can provide better performance.**	Closed
7.	Tender Requirement	Specification	NVIDIA AI Enterprise Essentials" is Nvidia's Enterprise support on their software library. In our experience, this accelerates the time to production. Please advise if you have the AI Software(s) required in place or we should quote for "NVIDIA AI Enterprise Essentials per GPU 3-year Subscription"	**NVIDIA AI Enterprise Essentials is not required.**	Closed

Sl. No.	Clause No. as per IFB	Point of Queries	Our Comments / Clarifications required	Clarification Response	Status
8.	**Tender Submission**	**Closing Date**	Please confirm the closing time for the bids is it 11 am, 2 pm or 4 pm?	**The deadline for bid submission is on or before 12 September 2024 11:00am Kenyan Time.**	Closed.
9.	**Specifications**	**Lot 1 – Blade Servers and Blade Chassis**	Based on our site survey, 12 Blade Servers are not in production due to the lack of a Blade Chassis. Annex 1 of the Terms of Reference indicates the requirement for an additional 8 Blade Servers and 1 Blade Chassis. Should the 12 Blade Servers be included as part of the upgrade? If so, can we include 2 additional Blade Chassis while maintaining the requirement for 8 Blade Servers and 1 Blade Chassis?	**The 12 blade servers are not to be included in the upgrade therefore the bidder should not quote for 2 additional blade chassis. Bidder to quote only for 8 blade servers and 1 blade chassis as per the bidding document**	Closed
10.	**Specifications**	**Lot 2 – Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Rack Mount Servers**	The technical specifications in Annex 1 do not include any switching for the rack mount servers. Should we proceed as per the Terms of Reference, or should we include TOR switches for this infrastructure?	**TOR switches are not required.**	Closed
11.	**Specifications**	**Lot 4 – Storage Area Network (SAN) Switch Modules**	The Cisco MDS 9148 switches currently in production at Times Towers DC are fully populated with modules. However, the Bill of Materials specifies an expansion module for the Cisco MDS 9132T, which differs from the MDS 9148. Should we proceed with the MDS 9132T as specified, or is there an alternative requirement given the current usage of the MDS 9148?	**Bidders are required to quote for an expansion module for Cisco MDS 9132T. The expansion module should have all 16 ports licensed and activated and the module should be supplied with 16 transceiver modules.**	Closed
12.	**Specifications**	**VMware Licenses:**	Which VMware product is required? (e.g., vSphere Foundation, vSphere Standard, vSphere Essentials Plus)	**VMWare product required is VMware vSphere Foundation**	Closed
13.	**Technical Specifications**	**Lot 4: Storage Area Network Switch Modules**	Kindly clarify on the number of modules as the one indicated on the document indicates 16 modules ports' and from the physical survey the has 12 modules ports	**The module required is the 16 port expansion module for the Cisco MDS 9132T. The expansion module should have all 16 ports licensed and**	

Sl. No.	Clause No. as per IFB	Point of Queries	Our Comments / Clarifications required	Clarification Response	Status
				activated and fully populated with 16 transceiver modules	
14.	Technical Specifications	Lot 2: Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning Servers	On lot 2 there is no switch requirement and on network requirements for the server is 25 Gigabit Ethernet ports- **Kindly advice on the port speed where the endpoint will patch to?**	The port speed where the server will patch to is 10G but will be upgraded to 25G. The Ethernet ports should support 10/25G connectivity for future upgrade	
15.	Technical Specifications	Lot 2: Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning Servers	On lot 2 there is requirement for OEM led training for 20 staff at authorized and accredited OEM training partners- **Kindly clarify on the products that needs training.**	The OEM led training should be provided as outlined in the attached addendum	

SECTION 2: TIPS ON HOW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A COMPETITIVE BID

1. **Administrative: -**
1.1 Correct language (with translation/s where different language is used);
1.2 Timelines complied with;
1.3 Full response to tender requirements;
1.4 Attachment of required documents as per the bid instructions such as:
1.4.1 Registration certificate/s;
   1.4.2 Tax compliance/ registration;
   1.4.3 Professional registrations such as that for engineers, architects, environmentalists, accountants, supply chain experts, etc, etc;
   1.4.4 Power of attorney; and
   1.4.5 Audited accounts for the years requested.
1.5 Accurate sealing/ naming of bids envelopes; and
1.6 Timely submissions (no last minute rush!).

2. **Technical: -**
2.1 Very good methodology:
   2.1.1 Good work-plan.
   2.1.2 Understanding of TORs.
2.2 Evidenced based experience;
2.3 Excellent proposed team of experts/ personnel;
2.4 Compliant structure of bid;
2.5 Signed CVs of proposed experts/ personnel alongside declaration by individual of her/ his CV not being used by any other firm within the same bid especially where cross-biding is barred;
2.6 Keen attention on high/ important technical requirements/ qualifications areas & scoring more;
2.7 Quality assurance of the bid;
2.8 Well arranged, titled and easy to read proposal;
2.9 Defined jargon where used;
2.10 Demonstrated creativity and uniqueness of the technical bid;

3. **Financial: -**
3.1 Inclusion of taxes when advised to.
3.2 Fair pricing.
3.3 Signed submission form/s.

4. **Post-award: -**
4.1 Positive due diligence.
4.2 Accurate bid information.
4.3 Good performance (quality, cost, quantity, etc) on award of contract.

TRADEMARK AFRICA

September 2024