

RFP Number: T42/09/24

RFP description: APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER TO CONDUCT TECHNOLOGY BASED CONDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS FOR OVERCROWDING IN SCHOOLS IN 6 DISTRICTS WITHIN THE KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE

Answers Version 1

| No. | Question | Type | Answer |
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| 1 | Email Response Capacity for this Submission is 50MB, is it permissible to submit more than one email for the same bid? For example, if your Document is 300MB, can't I divide that into six email submissions | Admin | The submission can be splitted into different emails however all e-mails must come through before the cut off time (11h00 am) |
| General / scope questions | | | |
| 2 | What are the other objectives of the project, besides developing a business case for school expansion to address overcrowding? It seems that the need for updated EFMS data may be a secondary objective? Please clarify. | Technical | Yes, the EFMS is a secondary objective (see sections 3.2.1, 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 of the Terms of Reference). |
| 3 | The prescribed timeframe of 4 months is very short. We propose a 12 month timeframe: 1. 12 months will require 6 schools to be visited per day at least, with little/no room for any issues on site. This will not enable the teams to deliver a considered outcome, and risks "rushing" to get everything done in time. This is not ideal for using Hi-Tech equipment or data collection techniques, as such methods require care and don't work well in a rush. This is a quality risk to the project. 2. The tight timeline will result in many claims for additional time whenever there is an unexpected delay (no-show from school staff, access issues due to social pressure, unexpected events at the school etc.). The processing of many claims will be a burden on the Client. | Technical | The stipulated timeframe of 4 months cannot be amended. The aim is to appoint a service provider with the capacity to deliver the required models, at the right quality and timeously. |
| Liaison and Client Support questions | | | |
| 4 | Liaison and comms will be important for the assignment. What representation will the IDC / DoE provide to support, especially with coordination and comms? Will there be inspectors / supervisors from the LDoE to accompany the field teams to all schools to deal with questions, queries and complaints (these are most often forthcoming in local communities whenever project teams arrive on sites). | Technical | The Provincial Department of Education has allocated resources to facilitate and guarantee the successful execution of the project; mechanisms are in place to ensure access is enabled for all facilities. |
| 5 | Will the DoE have a project steering committee / project office / Liaison and engagement team that we will work with? This will be essential to maximise good quality logistics and comms with the local communities and school leaderships. | Technical | Mechanisms are in place to ensure access is enabled for all facilities. Moreover, a Steering Committee comprised of ISA, DBE and LDoE is in place. Once appointed, the PSP will be roped-in. |
| Technical questions | | | |
| 6 | The quality requirements of the deliverables is not yet clear. Can you please provide examples of the floor plans / drawings that must be provided, so that we know what the deliverables must contain. For example: Google Earth snapshots are very different from CAD layout drawings. Likewise a simple CAD outline sketch / site locality plan is very different from an as-built drawing. | Technical | Refer to Annexure 1 |
| 7 | The scope mentions various technologies including point clouds, aerial photos and internal capture. Are these merely suggestions, or are they required? While this technology is very powerful, it will have a significant impact on both the hardware required (3-4 teams, all equipped with expensive tech) and on the processing time and cost (converting raw data into 3D models, photogrammetry meshes and orthophotos). If these deliverables are required for further analysis by the LDoE, ISA or IDC, then it makes sense. If this is only optional, then it will drive the cost up, and not have good value to the taxpayer. | Technical | The aim is for the Bidder to produce/provide 3D models, to the level of detail as further clarified in Annexure 1 for the 2D and 3D Models. |
| Level of Detail | | | |
| 8 | The term "detailed" is used frequently in the document. This term is open to interpretation. Can you please clarify what is meant by : 1. "Detailed" – conditional assessments, elemental cost estimates, assessment report. | Technical | A detailed conditional assessment report and detailed elemental cost estimates need to facilitate the realisation of the objectives or requirements stipulated in the Terms of Reference (refer to sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3. deliverables. |

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| With regards to the "qualifications and skills of key personnel" on Page 19 of the bid document , what is the scoring associated with "comply", "partially comply" and "not comply"? | | | |
| 9 | Is there formalized method to award 5 points per personnel(rubric etc.)? | SCM | The scoring matrix the IDC uses is on a scale of 1 to 5 for example if the bidder meets the requirement as stipulated in the tender they will score a 3 and if they do not fully meet the requirements they score 1 or 2 bidders that are exceeding the minimum requirements will score 4 or 5. |
| 10 | As there are more than 6 key personnel required and there are a maximum of 30 points awarded, how does the "5-point system" work? | SCM | Refer to response above in 9 |
| Others | | | |
| 11 | The level of detail is required for the modelling – what exact 3D deliverable are they looking for (Survey/ as build or just architectural renders)? | Technical | The deliverables are as stipulated in Section 3.2.1 g) of the Terms of Reference. See Annexure 1 for further clarification on the 3D Models. |
| 12 | The Drone using photography will only provide a "point cloud" using pixel correlation and is not as accurate as a Lidar measurement – should the Lidar technology be used? | Technical | The most suitable technology should be used to achieve the desired outcome. See Annexure 1 for further clarifications on the 3D Model. |
| 13 | The drone will not be able to map the building detail, so should there be additional survey technology used to map the building inside and out and be combined with the Drone Lidar? | Technical | The most suitable technology should be used to achieve the desired outcome. See Annexure 1 for further clarifications on the 3D Model. |
| 14 | What flythrough and walkthrough is required? | Technical | The most suitable technology should be used to achieve the desired outcome. See Annexure 1 for further clarifications on the 3D Model. |
| 15 | The use of Drones should comply to all legislation, so must there be a licenced pilot with an ROC? | Technical | The bidder should ensure compliance with all relevant regulations required for providing professional services for work of this nature. Bidders who do not comply will not be considered. |
| 16 | Should the supply of survey data be signed off by a registered Professional with South African Geomatics Council ? | Technical | Yes, See section 5.4.1 (viii) in the Terms of Reference. |
| 17 | With regards to the "qualifications and skills of key personnel" on Page 19 of the bid document , what is the scoring associated with "comply", "partially comply" and "not comply"? | SCM | Refer to response above in 9 |
| 18 | Is there formalized method to award 5 points per personnel(rubric etc.)? | SCM | |
| 19 | As there are more than 6 key personnel required and there are a maximum of 30 points awarded, how does the "5-point system" work? | SCM | |
| 20 | Teams request for an extension of the project time frame. We believe that a project of this magnitude (250 schools in 4 months) will not yield accurate conditional assessment data. Therefore, we are proposing that the project duration be extended to 9 months at a minimum. | SCM | The stipulated timeframe of 4 months cannot be amended. The aim is to appoint a service provider with the capacity to deliver the required models, at the right quality and timeously. |
| 21 | Upon reviewing the scope of work, we understand that 250 schools need to be assessed using advanced 3D technology such as LIDAR and drones over a proposed time frame of 4 months. However, considering the large scale of some of the schools, their dispersal across the province, and the potential impact of weather conditions (such as rain), it may be challenging to complete the assessments within the given time frame. We would like to request an extension for the assessment period to accommodate these factors. Could you please confirm if this extension would be possible, and provide guidance on the revised schedule? | Technical | The stipulated timeframe of 4 months cannot be amended. The aim is to appoint a service provider with the capacity to deliver the required models, at the right quality and timeously. |
| 22 | With regard to the reference letters required for submission, will reference letters from sub-consultants who are part of a consortium be accepted, or are reference letters exclusively required from the lead consultant? | SCM | The bidders are required to complete Table A under Annexure 1 to indicate their experience this can be from all parties involved i.e. Prime bidder and sub consultants, this will assist in them demonstrating their different skills set. |
| 23 | With reference to the above are what type of skilled digital technical personnel do you require? (e.g. drone piloting, 3D modelling rendering, IT to setting up the Cloud Platform database) | Technical | See section 5.1.4 of the Terms of Reference. |
| 24 | What qualifications / registration / licencing are you looking for? | Technical | See section 5.1.4 of the Terms of Reference. The key technical team members for the digital technology should ensure compliance with all relevant regulations required for providing professional services for work of this nature. |
| 25 | Please may we have confirmation on how many teams are required for this project (i.e. do you want a team per district or can we propose 1 team) | Technical | Enough teams/resources to complete the project timeously. |
| Implications of Omitting Drone Usage: | | | |
| 26 | If drone usage is not feasible for certain schools, what alternative methods are acceptable for exterior data capture? | Technical | Alternatives that would allow for the successful delivery of the items under section 3.2.1 of the Terms of Reference, to the level of detail as specified in Annexure 1 ,which further provides clarifications on the 2D and 3D Models. |
| 27 | Would the use of Google Earth Imagery suffice for capturing the external building façades and site layout? | Technical | The most suitable technology should be used to achieve the desired outcome. |
| 28 | For roof assessments, such as determining roof angles and overall condition, would satellite imagery from Google Earth or similar sources meet the required level of detail? | Technical | The most suitable technology should be used to achieve the desired outcome. |

| No. | Question | Type | Answer |
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| Details of Required Deliverables: | | | |
| 29 | Could you please confirm the expected level of detail for the 3D models? Should they include intricate details like architectural finishes, or is the focus primarily on structural and civil elements? | Technical | See Annexure 1 for further clarifications on the 2D and 2D models. |
| 30 | What specific criteria should the 3D models meet for integration with the EFMS and other digital platforms? | Technical | Photos will be extracted from the 3D models and be exported onto the EFMS. |
| 31 | Can you please confirm whether a 2D site plan or a 2D floor plan is required as part of the deliverables, in addition to the 3D models? If so, could you specify the level of detail and scale expected for these 2D plans? | Technical | 2D site plans will be required as part of the deliverables, at a scale of 1:200. All plans and models to be measurable. |
| 32 | Page 14 of 59; Section 3.2.1 Item F: need to specify the size of the files and capacity portal/platform | Technical | EFMS is an online-based platform. Only photos will need to be uploaded on the system. The sizes of the photos should not be an issue. |
| Interior Scan Requirements: | | | |
| 33 | Does the 360° panoramic view need to be an actual scan of the interior, or would a walkthrough generated from the 3D model be acceptable for assessment purposes? | Technical | The level of detail of the 3D Models as further clarified in Annexure 1 is what is required for assessment purposes. |
| 34 | If interior scanning is not feasible in certain schools due to access restrictions, would annotated photographs or point-of-interest tagging suffice? | Technical | This is to be addressed upon appointment. The bidder may prepare bids under the assumption that all schools will be accessible. |
| Cloud-Based Platform Specifications: | | | |
| 35 | At the clarification meeting, it was mentioned that the cloud platform for data storage, reporting, and sharing will sit with the appointed service provider. Could you please clarify the following: | Technical | Refer to Annexure 1 |
| 36 | How long will the service provider be required to host the platform? | Technical | For as long as the contract period. |
| 37 | What are the expectations regarding the licensing of the cloud platform during and after project completion? | Technical | The appointed bidder is expected to have/acquire the relevant licenses required to store the data for the duration of the project. |
| 38 | Should the service provider maintain access for a defined period, or is there a plan for the ownership of the platform to transition to the client after project handover? | Technical | The service provider is expected to maintain access to the cloud for the duration of the contract period. |
| 39 | Can you provide more details on the expected functionalities and user access requirements for the cloud-based platform? Should it support multiple concurrent users, and are there any preferences for specific software | Technical | The platform should allow for concurrent access for multiple users. The users will be the built environment professionals who will be conducting the conditional assessments; thus, the number of users who will have access are dependent on the size of the bidder's team and should include all disciplines listed in the RFP plus 2 additional users from Infrastructure South Africa (ISA). |
| 40 | What level of integration is expected between the cloud-based platform and the EFMS tool? Should data synchronization be automated in real-time, or will manual uploads suffice? | Technical | EFMS is an online-based platform. Only photos will need to be uploaded on the system. |
| Defect Identification and Reporting: | | | |
| 41 | Should defect annotations and condition ratings be captured directly in the 3D models, or should they be compiled separately in an EFMS-compliant report format? | Technical | They should be captured in the EFMS. |
| Contract Timeline Adjustments: | | | |
| 42 | Given the logistical complexities, such as travel time between sites and permissions for drone flights, would it be feasible to extend the contract period from 4 months to 8 months to ensure comprehensive data capture and assessment? | Technical | The stipulated timeframe of 4 months cannot be amended. The aim is to appoint a service provider with the capacity to deliver the required models, at the right quality and timeously. |
| 43 | In section 3.2.1 (h) of the Tender Document, it is mentioned that the condition of the existing infrastructure should be assessed through the models produced from the digital technology, thereby minimizing the need for physical site visits. However, since the conditional assessment is heavily reliant on the technology-based deliverables (e.g., scanning and 3D models) as outlined in the scope of work, and considering the detailed data capture required, would an extension of the project duration from 4 to 8 months be more appropriate to ensure the quality and completeness of the outputs? | Technical | The stipulated timeframe of 4 months cannot be amended. The aim is to appoint a service provider with the capacity to deliver the required models, at the right quality and timeously. |
| 44 | During the clarification meeting, it was mentioned that the 92 schools in the Umlazi District would be removed from the scope. We would like to clarify if this is indeed the case, and if so, will an additional 92 schools be added from other districts? Additionally, if new schools are added, will these areas differ significantly in terms of location from Umlazi? This information is crucial as it may affect the logistical planning and overall costing of the project. | Technical | All bidders should note that Umlazi is included as part of the eThekweni District. The total number of schools for all the prioritised Districts is 250 (not 219 as indicated in Section 2.1. Again, refer to the table on Section 3.1 and the comprehensive list of schools as provided in the Annexures. See Annexure 1 further provides more clarifications in this regard. |
| 45 | The Bid Specifications makes reference to Point clouds and 3D models as well as 3D walkthroughs. There is varying technology which can be used and some of this technology can produce very inaccurate models where measurements would not be reliable. Please confirm that you would require the data to a survey grade data capture for this project? | Technical | The most suitable technology should be used to achieve the desired outcome. See Annexure ?? for further clarifications on the 2D/3D Models. |
| 46 | There is a requirement in the TOR that compulsory EFMS training be attend by the project team? Given the tight deadlines on this project, please clarify the duration of this training? Will this training fall within the 4-month timeframe or be done prior to the project? | Technical | The Department of Basic Education indicates that this training session lasts between 4 to 5 hours. In other words, a single day is sufficient to accommodate it. |
| 47 | request for an extension of the project time frame. We believe that a project of this magnitude (250 schools in 4 months) will not yield accurate conditional assessment data. Therefore, we are proposing that the project duration be extended to 9 months at a minimum. | Technical | The stipulated timeframe of 4 months cannot be amended. The aim is to appoint a service provider with the capacity to deliver the required models, at the right quality and timeously. |
| 48 | Will client provide security for the successful bidder? | General | No it is the bidder's responsibility to make sure that they are safe while conducting the work. |

