

RFP Number: T04/02/25

Description: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO APPOINT AN OWNERS ENGINEER TO SERVE AS A TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO THE IDC

Question and Answers Version 1

No.	Question	Type	Answer
1	I am connecting with you in relation to the Subject , we are currently putting together the T04-02-25 , and we realised that we might need to align with BGRIMM Group's project schedule to execute this project properly, is there by any chance that the IDC can share with us the BGRIMM's project schedule, so that we can provide a formidable bid.	Technical	See response 48.
2	Will IDC appoint other service providers i.e EIA and Financial modeler "Liaise, collaborate and coordinate with the appointed service providers who will undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA") study and the financial model building and financial advisory service."	Technical	Yes, IDC will appoint these service providers and OE must integrate schedules and deliverables.
3	Project timeline of 12 months seems to be long for PFS phase, does it include BFS phase as well?	Technical	This is aimed primarily to allow for any unforeseen delays and in no means that the PFS need to necessarily take that long. Companies should be able to provide the scope of work and budget irrespective of the envisaged duration. The quotation scope and budget are more milestones and deliverables driven. The 12 months period afford the IDC to raise any additional funds in the process of the PFS that may arise and need to be covered.
4	Does the client require a fixed-cost or reimbursable pricing model for the PFS proposal? If reimbursement, what is the min/max limits.	Technical	Fixed cost
5	What specific deliverables are expected under "managing the project scope and deliverables, project budget, and project schedule"? Are there predefined templates or tools the IDC prefers for tracking and reporting these elements?	Technical	No, at service provider discretion, and in line with industry standards.
6	Does the IDC expect the Owners Engineer to have full authority over budget allocation decisions, or is this limited to recommendations and oversight?	Technical	Recommendations and oversight.
7	Can the IDC provide more detail on the expected frequency and format of technical advice (e.g., written reports, presentations, or ad-hoc consultations)?	Technical	Quarterly written reports, Monthly presentations and ad-hoc as required.
8	Are there specific technological or engineering challenges unique to the NMC Lithium Precursor Project that the bidder should prioritize in their advisory role?	Technical	Not that we are aware of at the moment.
9	What level of autonomy is the Owners Engineer granted for day-to-day technical decisions during the Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS)? Are there decisions that require IDC approval before implementation?	Technical	Any decisions having major scope and budget decisions to be referred to IDC.
10	Are the weekly reports to the IDC Project Steering Committee expected to follow a specific structure or include particular metrics (e.g., progress against milestones, risk assessments)?	Technical	At service provider discretion and in line with industry standard.

11	What is the current status of the Inside Boundary Limits (IBL) engineering work by BGRIMM/Easpring, and what specific deliverables or milestones should the Owners Engineer align with?	Technical	Currently also in PFS concept design. Alignment with their project plan (as far as possible) or the formulation of an overall integrated project plan.
12	Are there existing communication protocols or points of contact established with BGRIMM/Easpring that the Owners Engineer should adhere to?	Technical	OE will be introduced to BGRIMM/Easpring team and protocols will be agreed.
13	Can the IDC specify which South African engineering standards (e.g., SANS codes) must be adhered to for the IBL scope? Are there additional international standards (e.g., ISO, ASME) that should be considered?	Technical	Most stringent standards as per approved South African regulatory guidelines. Other standards on recommendation of BGRIMM/Easpring for product and process certification.
14	How should discrepancies between South African standards and BGRIMM/Easpring's practices be resolved?	Technical	SA standards to be prioritised.
15	Who are the appointed service providers for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and financial modeling? Will the Owners Engineer have direct access to their work plans and deliverables?	Technical	Still in process of being appointed. Yes, OE will have direct access to their work plans and deliverables.
16	What is the expected level of involvement in coordinating these workstreams—e.g., is the Owners Engineer responsible for integrating their outputs into the PFS report?	Technical	Yes.
17	Does "manage, coordinate, and integrate the project deliverables from all project workstreams" include reconciling conflicting inputs from different parties (e.g., BGRIMM/Easpring vs. EIA consultants)? If so, how should conflicts be escalated?	Technical	Yes. Conflicts should be managed as IDC's "representative" for integrating all work packages. OE can involve IDC development team in conflict situations for decision making.
18	Are there specific integration points (e.g., data formats, software platforms) that the Owners Engineer should prioritize?	Technical	Not that we are aware of at the moment.
19	Can the IDC provide a detailed definition or boundary of the OBL scope (e.g., specific infrastructure components, geographical limits) to distinguish it from the IBL scope?	Technical	All services and utilities such as power supply, water supply, steam, instrument air and other gases will fall into this category. Storage infrastructure and civils will form part of the OBL. The finer elements of the OBL and IBL will be finalized with the winning bidder, IDC and the BGRIMM/Easpring team
20	Are there existing site-specific studies or data (beyond the site selection study) that the Owners Engineer can use as a baseline for OBL design?	Technical	Not at the moment.

21	What specific infrastructure and services (e.g., power, water, transport) need to be assessed for adequacy? Are there minimum performance criteria or benchmarks the IDC expects?	Technical	All. Performance criteria based on IBL requirement specified by BGRIMM.
22	Does the logistics assessment include supply chain analysis for raw materials, or is it limited to transportation logistics for the plant?	Technical	Includes supply chain element but excludes HPMSM, Nickel sulphate and Cobalt sulphate.
23	Is the preference for AACE Class 4 estimates a strict requirement, or can alternatives (e.g., Class 3) be proposed if justified?	Technical	Class 3 can be proposed.
24	What level of detail is expected in the CAPEX and OPEX inputs (e.g., line-item breakdown, contingency allowances)? Are there templates or historical data from IDC projects to reference?	Technical	See 23 above. Further, there are no templates or historical data to reference for this project.
25	Can the IDC share the original site selection study by AR Process Projects (Pty) Ltd to clarify the scope of the "abridged work to refresh" it?	Technical	No. Site to be potentially be in Richards Bay IDZ or Coega.
26	What specific aspects of the study (e.g., cost estimates, environmental factors) does the IDC expect to be updated or validated?	Technical	Specific location.
27	Which key stakeholders (e.g., Transnet Port Authorities, government bodies) should the Owners Engineer prioritize, and are there existing relationships or protocols to leverage?	Technical	All that is required to operate plant, import feedstocks and export final product. No existing, project related relationships exist.
28	Are there specific technical topics or deliverables that stakeholders expect from these engagements?	Technical	As is required to advise the feasibility of the project.
29	What is the expected structure and level of detail for the integrated PFS report? Does the IDC have a preferred template or example from past projects?	Technical	IDC does not have a preferred template or example and will rely largely on the advise of the bidder. Further, the IDC is of the opinion that a winning bidder who has expertise and track record in undertaking an OE role will be the one who demonstrate knowledge , experience and knowhow to even advise the IDC better on how to undertake this.
30	Should the report consolidate all workstreams (e.g., EIA, financial model) into a single narrative, or is it sufficient to reference separate documents?	Technical	A summative, single narrative document is required that refers to more detailed annexures.

31	Beyond weekly reports, are there additional reporting requirements (e.g., monthly summaries, risk logs) to the IDC Project Steering Committee?	Technical	Only Monthly summaries will be desirable over and above the weekly reports. The weekly reports will be used mostly by the IDC project manager to manage and gauge progress on short-term tasks and the Monthly report will be presented to the IDC PSC for appraisal and records.
32	How will the Owners Engineer's performance be evaluated by the Committee, and what are the key success criteria?	Technical	This remains a professional consultancy and advisory assignment. We are primarily looking for a technical advisor to keep the IDC apprised on the progress, developments, challenges, proposed solutions etc., on how to navigate forward. As a result it will be difficult to enumerate a set criteria for this. As for the OBL assignment, there should be milestones and deliverables to be agreed upon prior the design work been undertaken.
33	The SOW mentions a Block Flow Diagram, Process Flow Diagram (PFD), and General Layout as reference documents. Are these available now, or will they be provided after contract award? If available, can they be shared during the bidding phase?	Technical	They are available and was provided as part of the RFP.
34	Are there additional reference documents (e.g., technology specifications from BGRIMM) that the bidder should consider?	Technical	No
35	The RFP states a 12-month completion timeline. Does this include potential delays from external parties (e.g., BGRIMM/Easpring, EIA consultants), or is the Owners Engineer expected to enforce strict adherence to this schedule?	Technical	It is indicative and the OE will be required to finalise an optimised, integrated schedule as close as possible to this time line.
36	Are there interim milestones or deadlines within the 12 months that the IDC has already set?	Technical	The plan has to align with the technology provider's plan.
37	Is there a minimum or preferred number of personnel the IDC expects for this project, particularly for the engineering and costing teams?	Technical	No, it is up to the bidder to ensure that sufficient and suitably qualified people are part of the team.
38	Are there restrictions on subcontracting parts of the OBL design or other tasks?	Technical	No, as long as the OE takes the ultimate responsibility.
39	Does the IDC expect the Owners Engineer to develop a formal risk management plan? If so, what risks (e.g., technical, schedule, stakeholder-related) should be prioritized?	Technical	All key risks identified during the development phase and in consultation with IDC.

40	Is there an indicative budget ceiling for the Owners Engineer's services that bidders should be aware of when preparing their cost proposals?	Technical	The bidders should provide a comprehensive scope work to undertake the task of being an OE for a project of this nature in this stage of development as well as the reasonable budget (to the best of the bidder's knowledge) that goes with the scope. It will then be for the IDC to adjudicate for the best scope and its corresponding budget and avail a required budget accordingly. It is immaterial to provide an indicative ceiling budget. Further, the IDC is of the opinion that a winning bidder will be the one who demonstrate knowledge , experience and knowhow to even advise the IDC better on how to undertake this.
41	Does the IDC foresee any role for the Owners Engineer beyond the PFS (e.g., during the Bankable Feasibility Study or construction phase), or is this strictly limited to the PFS?	Technical	Up to and including the BFS (stage gated release of work)
42	Please advise that the IP holder will provide all relevant test-work data and information to Rina on project kick-off.	Technical	All required and necessary information will be supplied by the technology provider after appointment and under necessary NDA.
43	What is the feed source?	Technical	NiSo4-6H2O - 14633 tons; CoSO4-7H2O - 6 307 tons, MnSO4-H2O - 5 686 tons, 32% NaOH (Liq) - 30 000 tons; 25% NH3-H2O - 5 000 tons; Water - 165 299 tons. This has been provided in the flowchart.
44	Is the 10ktpa relating to feed or product?	Technical	Final product
45	Product specifications will be provided by the client on project kick-off, please confirm.	Technical	Confirmed. YES, the IDC and its technology provider will provide all that.
46	Requirements for additional test-work and test-work oversight have been excluded, please confirm.	Technical	It is excluded.
47	What availability for on-sight PM work is expected.	Technical	None. Appointment is only up to the finalisation of the bankable feasibility study.
48	Could you please send to us the Framework schedule for the IBL Scope, we need this information to estimate the OBL Scope and schedule.	Technical	Indicative Deliverables and Scope is shown in Sheet 2. Indicative time line provided by BGRIMM is PFS = 5 months and BFS = 8 months. There may be an approximately 2 month delay between the phases to allow for IDC internal decision making processes.