



The Chief Executive Officer
State Information Technology Agency
Pretoria
0105

Cc: The President of BITF

Dear Sir

PBICT INPUTS ON THE SITA RFI AND CONCERNS ON PROCUREMENT PROCESSES

We would like to express our gratitude at the commitment to engage by SITA which proves that our contributions from the last meeting at Erasmuskloof did not fall on deaf ears as two RFI's have been released as per our discussions.

It is within the bounds of the same spirit that we would like to express our areas of concern in the two RFI's (1554/2017 and 1553/2017).

Our first concern is that both RFI's have to be dropped at SITA Head office stationed at 459 Tsitsa Street Erasmuskloof Pretoria or posted 36 hours prior to due date according to clause 10.3 and 10.6 on both RFI's as discussed documents should be dropped at SITA offices in all provinces as the input was to be provided at a national scale.

It also forces participants in other provinces to incur more costs than those in Gauteng.

The condition that RFI's sent by courier should be sent 36 hours before due date invalidates the principle of fairness in the whole process as the RFI's can only be dropped at the head office as participants in Gauteng have 36 hours more to make submissions than the rest of the country.

We would also like to query clause 10.11 which allows international firms to submit RFI's via email, why are they receiving preferential treatment over local firms, we are moving towards the IoT and I believe it is within reasonable sanity that SITA should be advocating for local firms to use this means of communication.

Clause 12.2 on RFI 1553/2017 allows SITA to appoint a company classified as large in tenders reserved for SMME's, we would like to raise an objection to say why are large companies being allowed to bid for work reserved for SMME's, in such an instance we find it within reasonable logic for SITA to address such an issue through facilitating the formation of SMME consortiums after adjudication and requirements have not been met by a single SMME.

In instances where SITA goes ahead to appoint a large company the company should have formed a consortium with SMME's during bidding time and the consortium agreement should be in place as part of the tender bid with a work sharing ratio of 51% for the large company and 49% for the SMME's and an active SITA facilitation process should be part of the conditions for awarding such until tender completion.

If at any stage the large company fails to comply with requirements it will be in breach of contract and SITA should help with dispute resolution and if no resolution can be found tender should be cancelled and be advertised.

Clause 12.1 on RFI 1554/2017 states that the purpose of the RFI is to invite suppliers certified by OEM's to submit bids to be accredited, we feel this condition violates the principle of SMME development as SITA has not done anything to make sure interested SMME's meet the certification criteria in respect of this RFI leading to a bid, bidders should be allowed to go and attain qualifications or demonstrate the ability to hire consultants

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We would also like to add our input on the evaluation criteria since there is nothing mentioned under clause 13.1 on both RFI's

a) The financial status of the bidder should not be used to evaluate their suitability to be awarded such a tender as they are various active ways of getting funding once a bidder has a valid purchase order and if the bidder is an SMME, SITA can also be called upon to assist with finance

b) The number of years a company has operated for cannot be used as an adjudication factor as well as some companies might have been registered 6 years ago and only started real operations a year ago.

We propose a point system to be used in this regard where points are allocated as follows

0-1 years = 2 points

0-2 years = 5 points

0-3 years = 10 points

c) Experience cannot be used as an ability to execute as you can have more than ten years of bad experience and we propose a similar point system to be used

0-1 years = 2 points

0-2 years = 5 points

0-infinity = 10 points

d) OEM/Certifications cannot be used as a qualification criteria bidders should demonstrate how they will get the certifications or have an agreement in place with companies that currently have such certifications

Regards

Leon Rolls
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