

AGSA/04/2025 : Request for Proposal (RFP) to supplement the current panel of auditors to conduct Integrated Contract Work Creditors (CWC) for Information Systems Audits, for the period ending 31 March 2030 on behalf of the Auditor-General South Africa

Version 1

No.	Question	Type	Answer
1	Request for clarity on the requirement: Section 1.1 (Quality Management) bidders are required to provide evidence of a comprehensive methodology or process in assessing adequacy for allocation of audit resources, specialist and any technology tools as per listed criteria with details of training plan for all audit staff with at least three relevant reference letters. (By this statement, please confirm that the required Reference letter is to be from clients where audit work had been performed?)	Technical	The reference letters mentioned in this section are expected to be: From clients where audit work has been performed. Demonstrating the bidder's experience and quality of service delivery in audit engagements. It is emphasized that the reference letters should ideally: -Be from external clients. -Indicate the scope of work and duration. -Mention the individual (if possible) who led the engagement, or be supplemented with a CV that links the individual to the referenced work where the reference is in the name of the bidder. In addition, any relevant contact details of the reference to enable validation of proposed resources by the AGSA, at the AGSA's discretion.
2	Clarity was sought on the following scenario: -The standard CEH is a multiple-choice exam, which does not meet AGSA's requirement for demonstrable practical penetration testing. -The CEH Master, however, includes a 6-hour hands-on practical exam in a live lab environment, which does meet the requirement for practical, real-world penetration testing experience.	Technical	It is confirmed that AGSA is open to equivalent certifications to OSCP, provided they: -Are industry-recognized -Include practical, hands-on testing -Demonstrate penetration testing capabilities It was confirmed that CEH Master will be considered a valid equivalent to OSCP for the purposes of this tender.
3	Which email address should we use to request our CWC reference letters?	Commercial	In terms of requests for AGSA reference letters, bidders should email requests to the email address specified in the bid document which is : cwtender@agsa.co.za, and copy ra.tender@agsa.co.za.
4	Do bidders need to submit the CVs and certifications of all team members involved in penetration testing, or is it sufficient to submit only the CV and certification of the lead penetration tester?	Technical	You are not required to submit CVs and certifications for all team members. You must submit the CV and certification of the nominated lead penetration tester. However, if you submit only one individual, AGSA expects that person to be actively involved in the actual audit work allocated. If you have multiple qualified resources, you are encouraged to submit their details to demonstrate broader capacity and flexibility.
5	In terms of paragraph 7.1.5 Specific public sector audit experience on the TOR, do we need to include a listing of all public sector work the firm has done as well as the section 4(3) audits performed? and if yes, what period should this cover?	Technical	Yes, this information is required to provide AGSA with insights on the bidder's specific industry experience within the public sector. No period is mentioned but it will be good to share as far back as 5 years ago. Yes, both public sector and section 4(3) work that was done over the last 5 years.
6	How many bidders are you looking to appoint for this panel?	Commercial	There is no fixed number. AGSA seeks to expand the panel to meet demand. The work will be allocated on an as and when required basis for the duration of the contract.
7	SAQA changed levels so some Bachelor's degree were rated as level 6 in the past but now rated as level 7. See link - https://www.saqa.org.za/students-have-6-268-new-realigned-qualifications-to-choose-from/ So if someone has a Bachelor's Degree rated NQF 6 before the change in the rating, Will this be considered?	Technical	Yes, foreign qualifications must be evaluated by SAQA to confirm NQF Level 7 equivalence.
8	Request for clarity on the NQF level 7, whether this essentially means only degree holders (with CISA or equivalent) at a minimum are eligible. What about Diploma in IT with CISA) and practical experience? A diploma is at a level lower than NQF level 7. Does it mean Diploma + CISA and experience is not good enough?	Technical	No, qualifications below NQF7 is not meeting our requirements. NQF Level 7 (Bachelor's or Advanced Diploma) is required. Diploma alone is NQF Level 6.
9	Request for availability of tender documents.	Commercial	The tender document is published on the AGSA website under Request for Proposal tab, and can be accessed through the following link: https://www.agsa.co.za/Tenders/RequestforProposal(RFP).aspx
10	Request for clarity on whether AGSA has a list of acceptable certifications equivalent to the Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP) for bidders applying under the advanced cybersecurity subcategory, specifically for penetration testing.	Technical	AGSA clarified that while OSCP is a benchmark, they do not provide a fixed list of equivalent certifications to avoid being restrictive. However, they emphasized that: Certifications must demonstrate practical, hands-on penetration testing capabilities. Examples of acceptable equivalents include: -PNPT (Practical Network Penetration Tester) -CRTP (Certified Red Team Professional) -CRTE (Certified Red Team Expert) -CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker) – only if accompanied by demonstrable lab-based training or practical exercises. AGSA is open to other certifications as long as they show real-world penetration testing experience and are industry-recognized.
11	In terms of functional criteria for 1.2. So for the resources that we submit, there are four requirements pertaining to experience; qualifications; criminal checks; availability and applicable training. The clarity sought is that there is a need for demonstration of comprehensive appropriateness of this, does this mean we need to substantiate by attaching various certifications as well as criminal checks, etc. to address all four bullet points?	Technical	Yes, bidders must submit detailed CVs, qualifications, criminal checks, and training details for proposed resources. Bidders may also include, <u>in addition</u> , a clear summary motivating the appropriateness of the skills, experience of the proposed resources.

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12	<p>There was request for clarity on the following:</p> <p>a) The requirement to submit documentary proof of an IT audit learnership program recognized by ISACA. We noted uncertainty about the existence of such recognized programs and sought clarity on what would be acceptable under this criterion.</p> <p>b) Whether reference letters should specifically name the nominated senior individual (e.g., partner or director) or if letters addressed to the firm would suffice.</p>	Technical	<p>a) The requirement is outlined as follows in the scoring matrix section: "Documentary proof of CISA learnership programme or any other related programme in place to enhance the profession". The objective of the requirement in the tender document is for the firm to provide any form of evidence that they have a programme in place that support capacity building within the profession, even if it is not ISACA endorsed.</p> <p>b) AGSA clarified that ideally, reference letters should mention both the firm and the individual. If the letter only names the firm, the bidder must ensure the CV of the nominated individual clearly links them to the referenced work. In addition, any relevant contact details of the reference to enable validation of proposed resources by the AGSA, at the AGSA's discretion.</p>
13	On reference letters - there is requirement for three letters on prequalification and three letters again on other functional criteria - does it mean we must submit total of six letters on that part?	Technical	Yes, reference letters are required for both pre-qualification and functional criteria. Cross-reference if using the same letters for same individuals can be applied, in which case only three reference letters will be submitted. However where different resources are proposed, the requisite number of reference letters must be provided aligned to the different resources.
14	Please provide clarity regarding the reference letters, if a person has just worked in a company, could that be used as a reference letter and then we just, we just say that that person was working on this company and doing that specific work.	Technical	Ideally both. If the letter names the firm, the CV must clearly link the individual to the work referenced and in addition, any relevant contact details of the reference to enable validation of proposed resources by the AGSA, at the AGSA's discretion.
15	<p>Request for clarity on the following:</p> <p>a) Firstly, in terms of service locations and as an example, should we have an office in the Free State province, must the office performing ISA work also be performing RA work and any other work?</p> <p>b) Secondly, In one of the requirements around the quality person, I would like to verify if the outcome of the other database for the pre issuance reviewers have a bearing to ISA, if the individual was already not selected for pre issuance database, would they then be rendered disqualified here to act as the quality pre issuance particularly to this panel? Just to get clarity on that.</p>	Commercial	<p>a) No, offices can perform other work without limitations on service categories. ISA panel is national, office presence in the provinces helps reduce travel costs and should be provided however, this does not limit the opportunity to be considered for work allocations in such provinces for ISA work.</p> <p>b) No impact. This tender has its own criteria. Firms should apply if they meet current requirements.</p>
16	Will the recording of the non-compulsory briefing session be available post the session.	Commercial	The recording shall not be availed as it is intended for internal consideration of the AGSA, however the questions posed and responded to during the briefing session, as well as those that will follow, up until the deadline for consideration of written queries, shall be published in various versions and will be released as they become available to enable bidders to have access to the answers.
17	Request for clarity on what will happen if a proposed resources happen to leave the firm, will there be consideration for replacement of the resource with another one who possess the same qualifications, experience and expertise	Commercial	AGSA understands the reality of staff turnover. Firms must submit current resources as at the time of tender closure. Any changes or replacements will be managed and considered post-award, as part of contract management.