



Central Securities Clearing System PLC

Request for Proposal (RFP)

For

Core Infrastructure Server Refresh

REFERENCE NO: CSCS/IT/CISR/13/2024

The return date for responses against this RFP is **16th February 2024** delivered in the requested manner and to the address advised. Late responses will not be considered. Note that proposals submitted that do not meet stipulated criteria shall be disqualified.



CONFIDENTIALITY

The content of this document and all communications relating to it are strictly confidential and must not be disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of CSCS Plc.

Therefore, it is hereby acknowledged that all information contained in this document is provided in confidence for the sole purpose of responding to the Request for Information and shall not be used for any other purpose, shall not be published, or disclosed, wholly or in part, to any other party without the prior written permission of CSCS Plc. This document and all communications relating to it from or on behalf of CSCS Plc are to be held in strictest confidence by vendors.

This duty of confidentiality shall bind the Vendor for a period of five (5) years whether the Vendor is a successful bidder or not.

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Dear Sir/Ma,

TITLE: Core Infrastructure Server Refresh

Ref: CSCS/IT/CISR/13/2024

You are invited to submit your proposal against the requirements detailed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) attached. The information contained within this invitation shall be treated as “Commercial in Confidence” and shall also be subject to the terms of any related Non-Disclosure Agreement signed by the parties.

- Part 1 of the RFP gives you information about Central Securities Clearing System PLC.
- Part 2 is for you to answer and provide details as requested to support your proposal.

Proposers are requested to provide one copy of their proposal in electronic format (either Microsoft Office or PDF). Submissions to this RFP must be returned by the time stated. Late submissions will not be considered by Central Securities Clearing System Plc.

Queries

All queries should only be directed to the undersigned. We look forward to your responses soon.

Yours faithfully,

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eosauwagboe@cscs.ng



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PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Procurement Policy on Bribery and Corruption

Central Securities Clearing System (CSCS) Plc strictly adheres to professional work ethics and emphasizes zero tolerance for bribery and any other forms of corruption. It is our policy that service providers involved in offering bribes will be disqualified and excluded from other potential engagement opportunities.

1.2 Executive Summary of Project

This RFP is an invitation to prospective proponents to submit proposals for Core Infrastructure Server Refresh.

The successful company should be able to manage and meet the requirements for this activity. The purpose of this RFP is to seek information from potential Bidders with an intention to establish an agreement between the Company and the successful Bidder. The Contract that follows this process shall bind the Company and the successful Bidder to perform in a specific way for a duration to be agreed in the Contract in the event of the formation of the same.

2.0 TERMS GOVERNING THIS RFP.

2.1 This RFP is a request for a proposal about the IBM Core Infrastructure Server Refresh. It is not a contract, and no contractual obligations shall arise on behalf of CSCS. CSCS will not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a response to this RFP.

2.2 CSCS will select the successful proposal based on several evaluation factors including features outlined in the RFP; company stability, experience executing similar projects; and price. The selection will be decided based on the proposal submitted by a qualified vendor that best meets the needs of CSCS as determined by the company. CSCS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without recourse to the bidder(s).



2.3 All communications relating to this RFP must be directed to the specified key contact persons listed below. All other communications between a respondent and CSCS staff concerning this RFP are prohibited. In no instance is a respondent to discuss cost information contained in a proposal with the CSCS contact persons or any other staff before proposal evaluation. Failure to comply with this section WILL result in disqualification of the proposal.

2.4 The family members/blood relations of employees and/or full-time consultants (i.e., consultants working exclusively with CSCS on a retainer basis) of CSCS shall not be eligible to participate in the RFP process. Any proposal submitted by them shall be summarily rejected. Where CSCS becomes aware of the relationship between an employee and vendor following award of a contract, the contract shall be cancelled and CSCS shall be entitled to claim damages apart from engaging any other consultant/vendor at the cost and risk of defaulting consultant. It is clarified that the term full-time consultants of CSCS does not refer to agencies/people, which may have been shortlisted for an assignment/project of CSCS through an RFP process.

2.5 Timeline to be observed for this RFP:

Milestones	Due Date
RFP issued by Central Securities Clearing System PLC	5 th February 2024
RFP questions received by Central Securities Clearing System PLC in writing	6 th – 9 th February 2024
RFP questions responded to by Central Securities Clearing System PLC	12 th – 15 th February 2024
RFP response due	16 th February 2024
Presentation of RFP to CSCS Management	TBD 2024

2.6 CSCS shall deduct Withholding Tax from payments to the service provider (successful bidder).



Service provider can request for a credit note to confirm remittance of the taxes by CSCS.

2.7 In addition to submitting a proposal in response to this request, all proposals should be sent with a written confirmation that there are no conflict-of-interest issues that will prevent the firm from taking up this engagement.

2.8 CSCS shall evaluate proposals based on their responsiveness to the requirements of this RFP as outlined above. Each responsive proposal will be given a score. A proposal shall be rejected at this stage if it fails to respond to the requirements. The shortlisted vendors shall be invited for an oral presentation before a Committee of CSCS representatives. The vendor with the highest score after the final presentation will be invited for negotiations.

2.9 Key Contacts:

Following are key contacts for the information you may seek for enquiries:

- i. Esther Osauwagboe (eosauwagboe@cscs.ng)
- ii. Ibukun Odunsi (iodunsi@cscs.ng)

3.0 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Electronic copies of your proposals should be submitted on or before the close of business on 16th February 2024. The electronic copy should be sent to: rfpsubmission@cscs.ng

4.0 ETHICAL STANDARDS

Please note that CSCS requires any prospective firm to observe the highest standard of ethics during the selection process and execution of the assignment. In pursuance of this policy, CSCS:

- i. Define, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:
 - a. "Corrupt practice" means the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of anything of value to influence the action of any official of CSCS in the selection process or in contract execution; and



- b. “Fraudulent practice” means a misrepresentation of facts in order to influence a selection process or the execution of a contract to the detriment of CSCS, and to deprive CSCS of the benefits of free and open competition.
- ii. Will reject a firm’s proposal if it determines that any member of the firm has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the assignment.

5.0 CONFIDENTIALITY

By accepting to take part in this selection process, every vendor shall keep in confidence all information provided in relation to this proposal process and shall not disclose the said information to third parties or use the said information for any other purpose other than in relation to the proposal process. Additionally, in the event that a vendor is not selected, the vendor shall keep in confidence all information provided to it in relation to this proposal and the fact that it has received this proposal.

6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In addition to submitting a proposal in response to this request, all proposals should be sent with a written confirmation that there are no conflicts of interest issues that will prevent the firm from taking up this engagement.

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PART 2: SERVICE RESPONSE TO THIS RFP

A. SERVICE PROVIDERS DECLARATION

To:

The Head, Internal Control,

Central Securities Clearing System Plc

13th Floor, Nigerian Exchange Group House

2/4 Customs Street, Lagos, Nigeria

Dear Sir/Ma,

PROJECT TITLE: CORE INFRASTRUCTURE SERVER REFRESH

We have read and examined this Request for Proposal (RFP) document, Technical Requirements, Specifications, Guidance Notes, and the terms and conditions issued with this Proposal. We offer completion of the works required against this RFP for the total price of:

.....

..... (in Naira).

This price is further broken down into individual components as requested in this RFP.

This declaration confirms that this Proposal is tendered as a bona-fide competitive offer to CSCS, and the information provided in the Service Provider Information Questionnaire and Service Provider Response to CSCS Statement of Requirements are fully correct and complete.

We, the undersigned further agree that if our offer in these documents is accepted by CSCS, the resulting contract, if any, shall be based on the CSCS Standard Terms and Conditions issued with this RFP (subject to any permitted variations attached to this RFP).

Signature



Date

Name

Job Title

For and on behalf of

Address

Email

Telephone

B. SERVICE PROVIDER INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

To be eligible, bidders shall submit the documents below which will be considered under Preliminary Evaluation:

1. Organization Profile

1.1 Registration & Accreditation	Compliance Statement (Y/N)	Page Reference Please refer to the page within your proposal indicating how compliance is met (Mandatory)	Explanations Supporting Compliance
<i>Business Address</i>			
<i>VAT (Value Added Tax) Registration Number</i>			



Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (where applicable)			
<i>Certificate of Incorporation/Registration</i>			
<i>Submit Tax Clearance Certificate</i>			
<i>Attach Two Reference Letters</i>			
<i>Letter Confirming Banking Details</i>			
<i>Letter confirming email address where Purchase Orders and queries will be sent to.</i>			

2. Ownership & Financial Background

2.1 Financial-Related Information	Compliance Statement (Y/N)	Page Reference Please refer to the page within your proposal indicating how compliance is met (Mandatory)	Explanations Supporting Compliance
<i>Audited financial statements for the last two (2) years. (Unless previously provided within the last one year). The Audited Financial statements shall be submitted together with the signed Auditors Opinion.</i>			



3. Track Record and Reference

3.1 Industry Experience	Compliance Statement (Y/N)	Page Reference Please refer to the page within your proposal indicating how compliance is met. (Mandatory)	Explanations Supporting Compliance
<i>How many existing clients you have? Name your key clients</i>			
<i>Similar project undertaken in the past 5 years</i>			
<i>Details of any cancelled projects in the past</i>			

3.2 Relationship with CSCS	Compliance Statement (Y/N)	Page Reference Please refer to the page within your proposal indicating how compliance is met. (Mandatory)	Explanations Supporting Compliance
<i>Product/services which you provide to CSCS (currently or previously)</i>			
<i>Value of your sales to CSCS for the past 3 years and by product/services</i>			

3.3 Client Reference (Please provide at least 3 clients for deals similar in nature to this RFP)			
	Company A	Company B	Company C
<i>Names of companies which can provide reference to CSCS</i>			
<i>Names & job titles of contact person</i>			



<i>Contact details (email address, address, office number)</i>			
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Non-compliance with these requirements will result to disqualification of the bid at Preliminary Evaluation Stage and the Bidder shall not proceed to the Technical Evaluation Criteria.

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C. STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS & SERVICE PROVIDER RESPONSE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Central Securities Clearing System (CSCS) Plc. was incorporated on July 29, 1992, as a Financial Market Infrastructure (FMI) for the Nigerian Capital Market. It was commissioned in April 1997 and commenced operations on April 14, 1997. On the 16th of May 2012, CSCS became a Public Liability Company (PLC) by a special resolution.

The Securities and Exchange Commission issued the license for CSCS to carry on business as Central Depository, Clearing and Settlement entity for transactions in the Nigerian Capital Market. It operates a computerized depository, clearing, settlement and delivery system for transactions in securities in the Nigerian Capital Market.

CSCS facilitates the delivery (transfer of securities from seller to buyer) and settlement (payment of bought shares) of securities transacted on the approved Nigerian Exchanges. It enables securities to be processed in an electronic book entry form thereby substantially reducing the period it takes a transaction to commence and end.

CSCS has made visible strides in the Nigerian Capital Market and will continue to respond to the needs of the securities and commodities market to further enhance transparency and speedy settlement of transactions.

1.2 Purpose of the Request for Proposal (RFP)

CSCS is inviting responses to this RFP to appoint a suitably qualified vendor for the IBM Core Infrastructure Server Refresh. The appointment of a successful agency is subject to the conclusion of agreeable terms for cost, delivery, warranty, and support.

The purpose of this document is to articulate the requirements that will form the basis for the solution development for the project. This document should be used as reference material and as a key input



into developing the Request for Proposal (RFP) as well as the solution/vendor evaluation process. We invite your company into a bidding process in actualization of a robust infrastructure to address the present challenges.

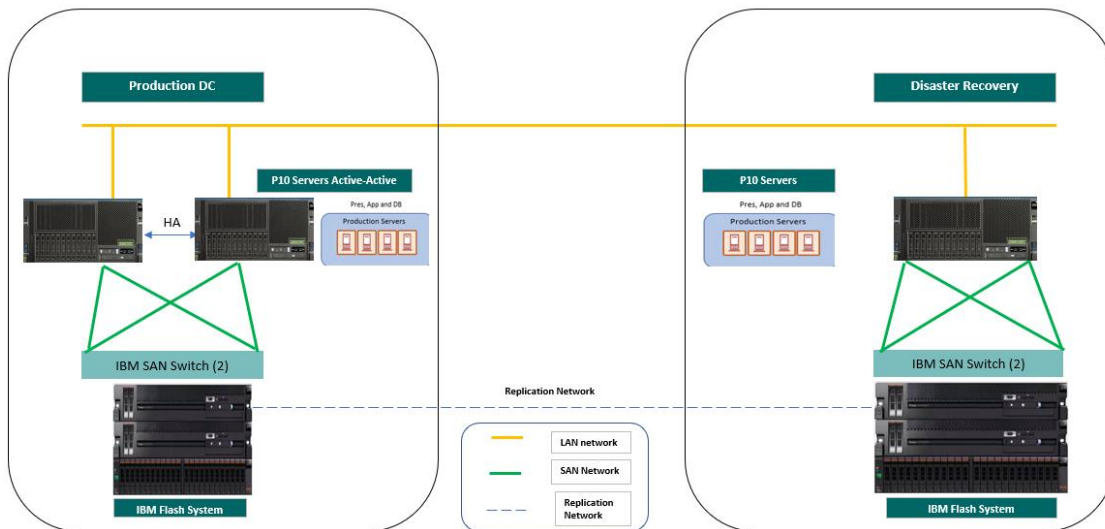
You are invited to submit your best technical and financial offer for the requested services. Your proposal could form the basis for a contract between your company and CSCS.

2.0 PROJECT DELIVERABLES

2.1 Project Scope

Current

The proposed solution design for the robust infrastructure for the core server refresh is given below.



Compute configuration (Production and DR Site):

Production Site	CPU	MEM(GB)
Prod S1022 Server #1	16	128
Prod S1022 Server #2	16	128
Total	32	256



DR Site	CPU	MEM(GB)
DR S1024 Server #1	16	128
Total	16	128

Storage Configuration (Production and DR Site):

Production: Model Desc	Storage	Drives with Compression	Usable raw (TB)	Total (TiB)
?		All Flash with compression	17	17
Total			17	17

DR: Storage Model Desc	Drives with Compression	Usable raw (TB)	Total (TiB)
?	All Flash with compression	17	17
Total		17	17

SAN Switch Config: (Production and DR Site)

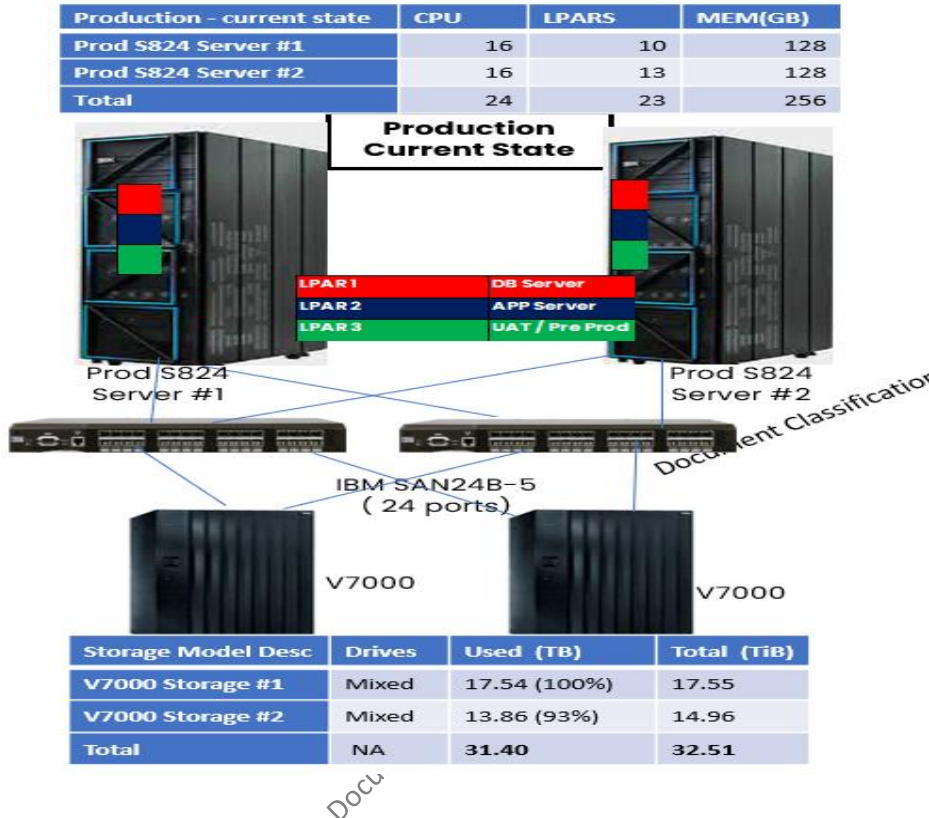
Prod Site SAN Model Description	Speed	No of Ports	Licensed Ports
SAN #1	16GB	24	16
SAN #2	16GB	24	16

DR Site SAN Model Description	Speed	No of Ports	Licensed Ports
DR SAN #1	16GB	24	16
DR SAN #2	16GB	24	16



**Feel free to submit your storage and SAN switch quote from any of the OEM below:
IBM, Dell, HP, and Huawei**

Current Production environment



2.2 Parameterization and Configuration

Below is the specification of the proposed components:

CSCS Core Business applications involved.

- Applications
 - ✓ Bancs as the core application (2 nodes)
 - ✓ DB2 as the database for the core applications (2 nodes)
 - ✓ IBM WAS for web applications (2 nodes)
- Availability
 - ✓ Database HA with 2 Spectrum scale cluster nodes.



- ✓ Application HA with 2 Spectrum scale clustered nodes and PowerHA (active/passive) nodes.
- ✓ WAS with PowerHA active/passive nodes.

3.0 DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

The selected vendor is expected to provide the following documents to CSCS before, during, or after the supply of items:

- Warranty information and terms
- Agreement for the provision of a stop-gap within the warranty period when the need arises.

D. METHODOLOGY/DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE APPROACH

In this section, the Bidder will provide a comprehensive description of how it will provide the required services. Information provided must be sufficient to convey to CSCS that the Bidder has enough understanding of the effort required to provide the requested services and that it has an approach, methodology, and work plan to overcome possible challenges.

Your proposal should include, among others, the following:

1.0 Project Experience

This section will enable the CSCS to understand your organization's experience in delivering the solution. Please provide detailed responses to the questions being asked.

Give a brief business and technical description of similar implementations that have been executed by your company, specifying the client's name, the solution architecture, the resources involved, and the size of the site (users, branches, etc.).

- Implementation date and timeframe
- Hardware platform(s) used.
- Operating system(s) and release number
- Network bandwidth used (WAN, LAN) and network protocol supported.
- Description of the solution and overall System architecture



- Provide reference site(s) with a minimum of 3.6 million records each for Customer and Account, with a transaction volume of not less than 10 million.

1.1 Training and Knowledge Transfer

- Outline a description of training plans proposed for technical users. Include a plan for the involvement of the CSCS Plc team in all project phases.
- Provide a schedule of training courses for technical users using the following guidelines:
 - Core skills addressed and course objectives.
 - Training delivery methods used.
 - Training curriculum
 - Training materials
 - Location of the training site
- Please indicate the prerequisite skills the trainees should possess before they attend your different training courses.
- Specify a timetable and approach for completion of training and handover to the 's staff. It should be noted that the key objective of training is for the to operate and run the Solution independently as soon as practically possible. Vendors should indicate an estimated time when this objective can be achieved. This is a key item in the proposal evaluation.

1.2 Solution Support

- Outline the support structure of your organisation e.g. staff allocated to customer support and product maintenance.
- Do you have a clearly defined classification framework for support issues? Does response vary for each classification?
- What are your standard terms for support and please specify what service level agreement (SLA) is available? Please include a copy of your draft SLA



- Can you guarantee response times for problem resolution? What are these response times?
- It is also expected that at least three (3) senior management staff of your organization and (3) senior management staff of your proposed partners are currently with CSCS.

1.3 System Documentation

- Do you have a plan to provide system documentation to CSCS? If yes, how do you intend to accomplish this?
- Describe in detail, the documentation you will produce as part of the implementation, such as:
 - Operating Procedures
 - Testing Strategy (Functional, System Integration, Performance testing)
 - Data Migration
 - System Cut Over
 - Post go-live support.
 - Maintenance of the new solution
 - State clearly the associated DB2 license required with the solution.

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1.4 Project Implementation Methodology

A high-level representation of CSCS Plc project delivery methodology is as shown below:

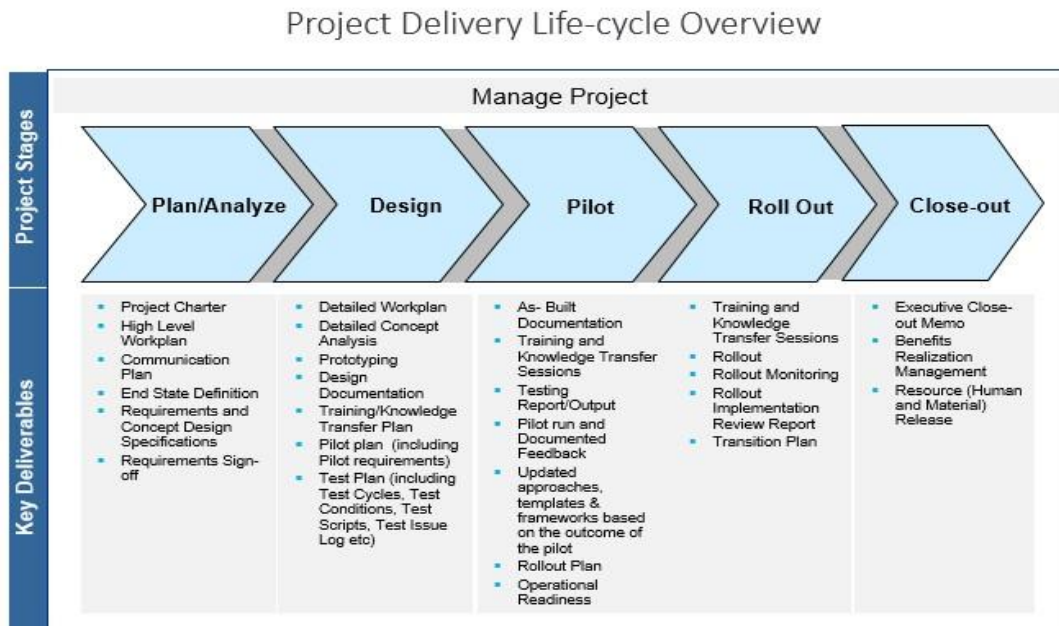


Figure 1 Project Delivery Methodology

- Describe your project delivery methodology (including project implementation and project management). However, please note that CSCS Plc reserves the right on choice of delivery methodology.
- Detail the structure of the overall project team, the number of staff and the profile of those that will be involved in the implementation.
- Describe the project schedule, identifying the main stages and activities, and critical dependencies (e.g. system analysis, design, build, testing, live operation and support etc.)
- Provide details on how quality will be assured during the entire project delivery.
- Outline the dependencies on the CSCS for resources, infrastructure, information etc.
- Explain the procedures for reporting progress to the.



- Please state quick wins you can carry out to deliver value/services early.

E. PRICE SCHEDULE

1.0 Financial Proposal

In preparing the Financial Proposal, agencies are expected to consider the terms and conditions outlined in this RFP document. The Financial Proposal should include:

- Total cost of the project.
- Cost of Compute (server) should be separated from Storage and switches.**
- Break-up of costs for each of the items of work listed in the Scope of Work and Deliverables (if applicable).
- Cost for any other element, which is not specified in the Scope of work and deliverables of this RFP document and is considered relevant for the concept execution by the RFP participant must be highlighted separately.
- VAT and other taxes must be indicated separately.
- All costs must be stated in both Naira and US Dollars and should be final, not budgetary.
- The cost quoted will be firm and fixed for the duration of the performance of the contract. At no point will any deviation from the quoted rate be entertained by CSCS. In addition, the Financial Bid shall not include any conditions attached to it and any such conditional financial proposal shall be rejected.

This section of the RFP provides guidelines on pricing information for your solution. Pricing information should cover for the entire solution. The objective is to enable CSCS to gain an understanding of the total cost of ownership for the application over the next 5 years. To allow for easy comparison, information should be provided in tabular format as shown below:



S/N	Category Description	Service Description	Value (provide breakdown)
1	OEM License and/or Hardware Cost	License Cost	
2	OEM Support Cost	State Number of years of Support included	
3	OEM Installation and Implementation Cost	Product Installation, configuration, training, data Migration, Testing (Unit Testing, Integration Testing, assistance in UAT), Roll out etc	
4	Partner Margin and all applicable fees for final delivery	Partner Margin	
5	Any other cost(s) - applicable fees, VAT and other applicable taxes		

Other applicable non-explicit charges: This should demonstrate all charges or costs that are not obvious/explicit. Any charge/cost not included in the cost breakdown will not be entertained subsequently.

All cost categories should be broken down in sufficient detail such that clarifications are reduced to the barest minimum possible.

Vendors may be invited for further negotiations on their quoted bids. Invitation for further negotiations does not however in any way imply a successful bid or intention by CSCS Plc to award the contract to the Vendor.



However, it must be noted that all payments for the application shall be made in Naira at the official naira exchange rate applicable at the time of payment.

F. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation shall be undertaken in three stages:

- I. **Preliminary Evaluation**, which shall consider responses from bidders in sections A and B
- II. **Technical Evaluation**, which shall mainly consider responses to sections C and D
- III. **Financial Evaluation**, which shall consider items under section E

G. BID SECURING DECLARATION

[insert: title and RFP number]

To: *[insert: name and address of Entity]*

We, the undersigned, declare that:

We understand that, according to your conditions, bids must be supported by a Bid-Securing Declaration.

We accept that in the case of a Joint Venture, all partners to it will automatically be suspended from being eligible for participating in bidding for any contract with you for the period of *[5 YEARS]*, in case of, and starting from the date of, breaching our obligation(s) under the bidding conditions due to:

- (a) Withdrawing our bid, or any part of our bid, during the period of bid validity specified in the Bid Submission Form or any extension of the period of bid validity which we subsequently agreed to; or
- (b) Having been notified of the acceptance of our bid by you during the period of bid validity,
 - (i) failing or refusing to execute the Contract Agreement, or
 - (ii) failing or refusing to furnish the performance security, if required, in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.



We understand this Bid-Securing Declaration shall expire if we are not the successful Bidder, upon the earlier of:

- (i) our receipt of your notification to us of the name of the successful Bidder; or
- (ii) twenty-eight days after the expiration of the period of bid validity.

If the submission of alternative bids was permitted, and in case we did submit one or more alternative bids, this Bid-Securing Declaration applies to these parts of our bid as well.

Signed: *[insert: signature of person whose name and capacity are shown below]*

Name: *[insert: name of person signing the Bid-Securing Declaration]*, in the capacity of *[insert: legal capacity of person signing the Bid-Securing Declaration]*

Duly authorized to sign the bid for and on behalf of: *[insert: name of Bidder]*

Dated on _____ day of _____, 20__

[Add Corporate Seal (where appropriate)]

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