



# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CISCO BASED NETWORK SOLUTION (WAN/SDWAN, LAN AND WIFI), INCLUDING SUPPORT, MAINTENANCE AND WARRANTY, FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS**

**Closing Date: Friday, 15 March 2024  
Time: 16h00 SA Time**

## 1 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Eskom Pension and Provident Fund (EPPF, or “the Fund”) invites proposals from interested service providers to submit responses to this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the:

- **Implementation of a Cisco based Network Infrastructure Services and Solution (SDWAN/WAN, LAN and WIFI) at the EPPF Head Office (1 Site)**

The Physical Address is:

EPPF Office Park  
24 Georgian Crescent East  
Bryanston East  
2021

- **Support and Maintenance for a period of 36 months, including 3 Year Warranty**

The Fund has initiated a **Network Refresh Programme** at the **EPPF Head Office** as one of its key initiatives to improve **connectivity, reliability, and security**.

The successful service provider will be required to perform a complete network **WAN, LAN and WIFI refresh**, inclusive of wired and wireless technologies. The purpose of the refresh is to build a highly available, agile, scalable, and secure network architecture, capable of supporting existing and emerging technologies. These include but are not limited to multi-WAN high availability, mobility, voice-data-video convergence.

## 2 PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this RFP document is to provide broad details relevant to the services required and is not intended to provide a detailed overview of every action required.

## 3 OVERVIEW

The EPPF is a self-administered Defined Benefit (DB) pension fund, regulated by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA). The EPPF, as an organisation, is responsible for providing benefit administration and investment management services to the pension fund of Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd and its subsidiaries. The Fund provides retirement, withdrawal, death, and ill-health benefits to members, pensioners, and their dependents.

The EPPF’s core business activities are Pension Administration and Investment Management. The core functions are supported by the Finance, Governance & Assurance, Office of the CE, Human Capital, and Information Technology Departments. The EPPF has assets under

management of **R190** billion and membership composition is **40761** pensioners and beneficiaries, **38718** in service members as of **30 June 2023**.

The EPPF’s vision is to become the most admired pension fund by its peers and members, and its mission is to be a member-centric pension fund. The Fund’s strategic objectives, which would enable it to fulfil its mission, are defined under five (5) pillars, representing critical strategic focus areas as noted below.



#### 4 RFP RESPONSE GUIDELINES

##### 4.1 Point of contact

This RFP is issued on an open tender notice format with a definite closing date and time.

Respondents are required to submit their responses in expansive detail and on time to qualify for consideration of their responses.

During the open response time, the central point for all queries relevant to the provision of background information and points of clarity relevant to this RFP, will be managed through a central mailbox. In the interest of all parties concerned all queries must be submitted **in writing only** and responses to queries or points of clarity will be published in the “Tenders” section of the Fund’s website ([www.eppf.co.za](http://www.eppf.co.za)).

The electronic mail address for queries is [ProcurementOffice@eppf.co.za](mailto:ProcurementOffice@eppf.co.za). No telephonic or verbal queries will be entertained.

After the distribution of this RFP, a **Non-Compulsory** briefing session will be conducted with all potential respondents to provide further information and address questions relevant to the RFP.

The briefing session is scheduled for **12:00 SA Time on Monday, 26 February 2024** via Microsoft Teams. Interested participants to send their email addresses by **Thursday, 22 February 2024 at 16h00 SA Time** to [ProcurementOffice@eppf.co.za](mailto:ProcurementOffice@eppf.co.za). Attendance is limited to two (2) persons per company or Service Provider. Email Subject for all communication relating to this RFP is **Implementation of a Network Solution (WAN, LAN and WIFI)**. A request with the Microsoft Teams meeting information will then be forwarded to the email address provided.

Respondents must not contact any of the Fund's Board members, executives, consultants, or staff members to discuss matters related to this RFP or the RFP process. Discussion of this RFP with any person within or associated with the Fund other than the designated contact email as above will result in the disqualification of that respondent from the process.

#### **4.2 RFP process and submission procedure**

The Fund will review proposals at its discretion against a set of pre-defined criteria and will rate each proposal on its ability to satisfy the requirements stated in this RFP.

In the event that a preferred supplier is selected, such service provider will be formally notified. A formal Agreement will be entered into between the Fund and the successful service provider detailing issues such as the scope of work, remuneration structure and validity of the term of the contract.

Potential service providers are requested to be mindful of the time allowed for responses, the closing date and time, the delivery address for proposals and must note that late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

The RFP must be submitted with the necessary supporting detail and must at least provide the information requested in this RFP.

The Fund reserves the right to consider any proposal in its entirety or partially and may appoint more than one service provider or no service provider at all. The Fund's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

#### **4.3 Submission Date, Time and Address**

The closing date for submission of proposals at the delivery address indicated below is **15 March 2024, 16h00pm.**

RFPs must be submitted electronically to [ProcurementOffice@eppf.co.za](mailto:ProcurementOffice@eppf.co.za).

All proposals must reach the allocated email address on or before the closing time. It remains the responsibility of the respondents to ensure that their proposals reach the Fund before the closing date and time.

Respondents are allowed to send large files via WeTransfer ONLY and must ensure that the hyperlinks provided are fully functional. All documents must be provided in Adobe PDF.

Proposals may not be faxed, or hand delivered, and proposals received by any other means other than the designated email address, will not be considered and will be rendered invalid.

#### **4.4 RFP Timelines**

The timelines for the RFP process are as follows:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Distribute RFP Documentation	16 - 18 February 2024
Non-Compulsory Briefing Session	26 February 2024, 12h00pm
Deadline for clarification questions	01 March 2024, 16h00pm
Final response to clarification questions	05 March 2024
Closing date for submissions	15 March 2024, 16h00pm

Please note that the above timelines are indicative and that the Fund reserves the right to change these timelines. Respondents will be advised of any changes and / or notices via EPPF's website.

#### **4.5 RFP Process Requirements**

The following minimum requirements will be applied to the RFP process:

- i. Responses received after the closing date and time will be considered late and **will not** be accepted. If a response is considered late, it will be returned unread to the sender.
- ii. All responses must be submitted in full on or before the closing date and time. The Fund will not allow additions and/or amendments to any response to be submitted after the closing date and time and will not receive submissions in separate parts.
- iii. Responses may be withdrawn in writing by a respondent prior to the closing date and time.
- iv. All enquiries relevant to the RFP may only be submitted to the indicated point of contact and in writing. Telephonic and/or verbal enquiries will not be entertained.
- v. During the course of this RFP process, respondents may acquire confidential information relating to the Fund's business, projects and/or customers. Respondents are required to keep this information strictly confidential at all times (even after the RFP process has been completed) and may not use or attempt to use or allow such information to be used for personal gain or the gain of any other person or institution.
- vi. Respondents may not disclose such confidential information to any third party, but to the extent that such disclosure may be necessary for the submission of a formal proposal, must approach the Fund for prior approval to share the information with a third party. This does not apply to information which must, by law, be disclosed or becomes available to and known by the public due to no fault on the part of the respondents.
- vii. Respondents must comply with the highest ethical standards in order to promote mutual trust and an environment where business can be conducted with integrity, in a fair and reasonable manner.
- viii. Proposals submitted to the Fund must remain valid for a minimum period of 90 days from the closing date.
- ix. Respondents will be held to their proposals as submitted. The Fund reserves the right to negotiate the modification of a proposal with the successful respondent in whole or in part.
- x. Agreements reached after such modifications with the successful respondent, or parts thereof, and accepted by the Fund will form part of the contract.
- xi. Each proposal will be evaluated for general conformity to specifications and the demonstrated capabilities of respondents to execute the scope of work.

- xii. Respondents must provide curricula vitae of all key personnel they propose for execution of the scope of work, with clearly defined fields of expertise, functions and responsibilities.
- xiii. In general, respondents must indicate the experience and field/s of expertise of their companies and must specifically demonstrate their experience in similar assignments and an understanding of the services required.
- xiv. Respondents are responsible for any and all costs and liabilities incurred in responding to this RFP. The Fund will not be responsible for any costs whatsoever or howsoever arising.
- xv. The Fund reserves the right to withdraw this RFP for any reason and at any time without incurring any cost or liability.
- xvi. The Fund reserves the right to withdraw, at any stage of this process, amend or cancel this RFP, reject or not accept any or all proposals, obtain any information from any lawful source regarding past business history and practices of the respondent, and to take any such information into consideration in the evaluation process.
- xvii. The Fund does not have to explain acceptance or rejection of any specific service provider and the Fund's decision is final and binding, no correspondence will be entered into.

#### **4.6 Compliance requirement: structure of responses**

The structure of proposals is as follows:

- 4.6.1** Proposals must be electronically generated and signed by the individual(s) legally authorised to bind the respondent. The electronic copies of the RFP proposal and/or examples of work must be provided in Adobe Reader Portable Document Format (PDF), free of any viruses or malicious ware.
- 4.6.2** Legibility, clarity and completeness are essential.
- 4.6.3** Responses must be prepared as simply as possible, providing a straightforward, concise description of the interested parties and the capabilities available to satisfy the requirements of the RFP.
- 4.6.4** The RFP response must be presented in the following format:

Section	Title
1	Executive Summary of Proposal
2	Company background and track record
3.	Proposed team members for the project and their credentials
4	Proposed services
5	Key Deliverables
6	Pricing Structure
7	References (three references to be included)
8	B-BBEE
9	Supporting documentation

**4.6.5 Failure to comply with paragraphs 4.6.1 to 4.6.4 will result in the relevant response being disqualified.**

#### **4.7 Evaluation Criteria**

Respondents will be evaluated according to the extent to which they are able to fulfil the requirements of the Fund. Evaluation criteria will place emphasis on the following areas:

##### **Stage 1:**

- BBEE: 20%
- Pricing: 20%
- Functional Ability: 55%
- Data Privacy - POPIA Compliance: 5%

##### **Stage 2(Shortlisted Bidders)**

- Solution Demonstration, Presentation and Due diligence: 100%

Respondents must be well established entities with expertise in providing enterprise **network infrastructure services and solution (SDWAN/WAN, LAN and WIFI)**, including support and maintenance as well as warranty for the network equipment, utilising best practice methodology and approach. Respondents are required to indicate the period they have been in operation in this specific environment and must include supporting documents in respect of such specific expertise.

We will also require respondents to stipulate their experience with providing an enterprise **network infrastructure services and solutions** to an organisation of a similar size to EPPF.

Respondents must also provide supporting documentation relevant to issues such as the ownership of the business, management structure and B-BBEE credentials (Minimum of Level 4 required) in the format indicated in this RFP document.

**Evaluation criteria will place emphasis on the following areas:**

#### **4.7.1 Functional Ability**

Service providers must submit a **capability statement** with:

- A minimum of five (5) years demonstrated experience of successful implementation **enterprise network infrastructure services and solutions (SDWAN/WAN, LAN and WIFI)** (including support and maintenance) for similar organization in size to EPPF.
- The bidder must be a partner to **Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)** for the proposed network infrastructure services and solutions.
- The Service provider(s) must provide **support and maintenance** for network infrastructure services and solutions for a period of three (3) years, as well as **warranty**.
- Ability to support EPPF with other network infrastructure services and solutions **as and when required**.

- The capacity and experience of the proposed team, with CVs of team members which need to include qualifications and relevant experience. The implementation team members must have the credentials and **OEM related certifications** for the proposed network infrastructure services and solutions.
- The proposed **approach and methodology** to the implementation of the network infrastructure services and solutions.
  - ability to plan, design, implement, and support the solution.
  - detailed activities, milestones, timelines, and resources allocation
  - support and maintenance process for a period of 36 months, including 3-year warranty.

Shortlisted respondents will be invited to make presentations scheduled for **28 – 29 March 2024**. The presentations will be part of the technical evaluation and scored accordingly. Shortlisted respondents will be contacted by **23 March 2024**.

#### 4.7.2 Fee Structure (Pricing)

Respondents must provide full details of pricing models and assumptions made in the pricing. All prices are to be quoted in South African Rands (ZAR) and **must include VAT** where applicable.

Proposals must be valid for at least 90 days from the closing date of the RFP. If prices are subject to exchange rate fluctuations, respondents must indicate the assumed rates and conditions pertaining to exchange rate fluctuations.

All prices must be disclosed comprehensively.

Please submit pricing fee/schedule as presented in the table below for **36 months**:

No.	Network Component	Item description	Quantity	Unit Price (Inc VAT)	Total Estimated cost (Inc VAT) Over 36 months
1	Wide Area Network (SDWAN/WAN)	Internet Access - Primary and Secondary Link (Active - Active)	200 MB per link (i.e., 400 MB) at 1 X site	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide

		<b>Cisco Core Router</b>	2	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide
		<b>Managed Firewall and Failover Capability</b>	1	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide
		<b>Virtual Private Network (VPN)</b>	200 Concurrent users	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide
<b>2</b>	<b>Local Area Network (LAN)</b>	<b>Cisco Core Switch</b>	Suppliers to provide based on their proposed network design	Suppliers to provide based on their proposed network design	Suppliers to provide based on their proposed network design
		<b>Cisco Access Layer Switches</b>	Suppliers to provide based on their proposed network design	Suppliers to provide based on their proposed network design	Suppliers to provide based on their proposed network design
<b>3</b>	<b>WIFI (Wireless)</b>	<b>Cisco Access Points</b>	20	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide
		<b>Cisco WIFI Controller and Failover Capability</b>	1	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide
<b>4</b>	<b>Professional Services</b>	<b>Implementation Costs – deployment of resources to the project, including project management</b>	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide
		<b>Training (OEM related)</b>	10 Key Stakeholders	Suppliers to provide	Suppliers to provide
<b>5</b>	<b>Other costs (if applicable)</b>	<b>Other costs (if applicable)</b>			
<b>Total Price Incl. VAT (ZAR)</b>					

To facilitate like-for-like comparison, **bidders must submit pricing strictly in accordance with the pricing table above and not utilise a different format.** Use of a format different to the pricing format provided, may render your submission disqualified.

The Fund requires that all network equipment to be **Cisco**.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON THE PRICING SCHEDULE**

**EPPF current network infrastructure is running on CAT-6 Cabling.** The plan is to **re-use the existing** CAT-6 Cabling, and costs for any new additional cabling required for the implementation of the new network infrastructure services and solution will be **determined after the site assessment by the successful service provider.** Service Providers are therefore expected to provide **estimated costs** for a **CAT-6 Cabling** using the below table to be included under **Pricing Schedule on the RFP response.**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Cable Description</b>	<b>Proposed Length</b>	<b>Proposed Rate (Inc VAT)</b>
1	E.g., CAT 6		

Kindly indicate hourly rates for consultancy per resource level (e.g., Network Specialist, Implementation Engineer, Network Security Engineer, Trainer etc.) – through a rate card **or** by completing the table below.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Level of resources</b>	<b>Proposed Rate (Inc VAT)</b>
1	E.g., Network Specialist	
2		
3.		
4		

#### **4.7.3 B-BBEE**

The Fund is committed to advancing the objectives of B-BBEE and details of the service provider's B-BBEE credentials, supported by a copy of a rating certificate from a South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) accredited rating institution or an affidavit wherever applicable, with details of the relevant company profile must be provided. As a minimum, specific reference must be made to:

- Ownership structure and shareholding;

- Board representation;
- Executive / Operational Management structure;
- Representation of Black people and women in the proposed team,
- Secondary B-BBEE initiatives, such as procurement from B-BBEE suppliers and other initiatives.

These details must be clearly stated in the order requested and with the headings as above.

#### **4.8 References**

The Fund will require references from established companies where the respondents provided similar services. The Fund therefore requires information regarding contactable clients. Respondents must include references from at least three clients in South Africa where they are providing a **Cisco based Network Infrastructure services and solution** in the following format:

- Client name.
- Contact details (telephone and email address).
- Client representative.
- Service description (scope of services delivered and total contract value thereof).
- Contract start and end date.

When providing information regarding references it is accepted that the respondent has cleared with the referee that the client can be contacted directly by the Fund or its consultants.

## 5 RFP SPECIFICATIONS

### 5.1 *Purpose*

The EPPF seeks to contract with a qualified service provider for implementation of a **Cisco based network infrastructure services and solution (SDWAN/WAN, LAN and WIFI)**. Please provide the potential deliverables you would propose that the Fund considers and the KPI's you will be measured against on the below scope of work.

### 5.2 *Scope of work*

- **Implementation of a Cisco based Network Infrastructure Services and Solution (SDWAN/WAN, LAN and WIFI) at the EPPF Head Office (1 Site).**
- **Support and Maintenance for a period of 36 months, including 3 Year Warranty**

The successful service provider will be required to provide the following services:

- The service provider will be involved in the physical deployment/redeployment/replacement of new/existing WAN, LAN and WIFI equipment and software licensing.
- Integration of the WAN, LAN and WIFI infrastructure and solution into the environment
- The service provider is required to have the ability to provide the services throughout South Africa, in a case the Fund branch network expand in future.
- The service provider is required to supply the below services for new installations or repairs/replacement and maintenance:
  - Network cabling incl. data and access points.
  - Testing of cabling and supply of relevant test protocols.
  - Installation of network cabinets incl. patch and brush panels
  - Installation, configurations, and monitoring of agreed on standard switches and routers. This includes the stacking of switches where required.
  - Basic troubleshooting of LAN equipment in the Server Room if required.
- The service provider is required to provide internet connectivity through a primary and secondary link.
- Provision of a Virtual Private Network (VPN) solution that support remote working with concurrent connections and integrated into the environment.
- Provide managed Intelligent Firewall services, with Intrusion Detection and Prevention capabilities.
- The service provider is expected to provide scalable, secure network architecture.

**The solution must at a minimum provide support to the following but not limited to:**

**5.2.1. Switch Features**

- The switch should provide enough ports.
- Excellent network speed throughput
- Static routing (IPv4/IPv6)
- Security with ACL
- QoS with ACL and for VOIP
- CLI through Telnet/SSH
- Dual image
- Time based PoE and port operation
- Guest VLAN
- Stacking Capability as and when required
- GUI Management

**5.2.2. Router Features**

- Advanced analytics, application optimization, automated provisioning, and integrated security
- Advanced security services and management capabilities such as hardware encryption acceleration, IPSec VPN (AES, 3DES, DES), firewall protection, inline intrusion prevention (IPS), Network Admission Control (NAC), and URL filtering support.

**5.2.3. Wireless Features**

- The wireless management devices must be centrally managed.
- Roaming between the Access Points
- Support VOIP technology over wireless network
- High availability wireless controllers
- AP Central Management
- Quality of service to manage traffic of wireless clients.

**5.2.4. Firewall Features**

- Intrusion Detection and Prevention and Integration to Security Operations Centre
- High Availability and Content Filtering
- Advanced analytics and reporting

- Automated firewall management and maintenance capabilities

#### **5.2.5. Internet Access and Connectivity Features**

- High Availability
- Secure, Scalable architecture
- Advanced analytics and reporting
- Support IPSEC tunnel configurations

#### **5.2.6. Virtual Private Network (VPN) Features**

- Secure and Private, Split tunnelling and encryption
- Multiple device support
- Allow concurrent connections and scalable.
- Geo-Restrictions Bypassing
- Advanced analytics and reporting

#### **Training**

- The service provider is expected to provide OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) related training to EPPF internal staff.

### **5.3 Current Environment**

- **EPPF Staff Head Count – 170**  
There are external stakeholders that work with the Fund and therefore the proposed solution and infrastructure should be scalable.
- There is **1 X Site (EPPF Head Office)** and there are **4 buildings** within the Head Office, with the total staff count distributed as follows:
  - **Building 1 – 40 %**
  - **Building 2 – 30%**
  - **Building 3 - 30%**
  - **Building 4 – 20%**
- There is a **Ring Fibre** around the Office Park **connecting all the buildings**, and this will be re-used for the network refresh project.

**ESTIMATED CONTRACT PERIOD – 36 Months**  
**ESTIMATED CONTRACT START DATE – 01 May 2024**

## **6 REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS**

### **6.1 Declaration**

Respondents must, on the official letterhead of the company submitting the response, declare that:

- a. the information provided in all documentation is true and correct;
- b. the signatory of the tender document is duly authorised to do so by means of their role in the company, a special or general resolution of the company responding; and
- c. undertake that all information gained from the EPPF through this RFP document or from any other interaction relevant to this RFP, will remain confidential.

### **6.2 Company details and stability**

Please provide a response to each of the following questions:

- a. How long the company has been in operation within its current specific environment of providing Network infrastructure services and solution.
- b. The nature of the business, paying particular attention to core activities.
- c. The company's summarised value proposition to its clients.
- d. The company's registration number and supporting registration documents.
- e. The company's overall organisational structure and key resources within this structure that will be dedicated to the EPPF.
- f. If the response to the RFP is made as part of a joint venture with another business entity, details of the commercial relationships between the parties making up the consortium / joint venture / partnership. In addition, provide the following information:
  - Copy of the Joint Venture Agreement
  - Entity(ies) that will be guaranteeing contract performance;
  - Date of Joint Venture formation, if applicable;
  - The name of the lead / primary contractor; and
  - Details regarding the nature of the agreement between the Joint Venture Partners including the proposed percentage division of work between the constituent members. Each party to the joint venture, if that party is a subsidiary company, is required to give details of the extent to which the holding company and related subsidiaries and associates are prepared to provide guarantees.
  - The B-BBEE rating will be the average of the companies' individual ratings, weighted according to their proportionate share in the Joint Venture.

### **6.3 Local Presence and Experience**

- i. Provide details of the head office location.
- ii. If the head office location is not in South Africa, also provide details of local company offices, support and visibility.
- iii. Provide the year of establishment of the South African business and the number of employees currently employed.
- iv. Provide instances of the company's experience in providing Network Infrastructure Services and Solutions
- v. Provide evidence of the company's experience in engaging with clients at executive and board level.

### **6.4 Implementation Plan**

Respondents are required to detail their approach to provisioning of a **Network Infrastructure services and solution (SDWAN/WAN , LAN and WIFI)** , and implementation linked to the scope of work.

### **6.5 Approach**

- i. Describe how your organisation would approach this engagement, and methodologies to be adopted. Please detail the phases, activities and milestones involved.
- ii. Describe how and when the required capabilities and resources from your organisation will be deployed.
- iii. Describe the resources required from the Fund.

### **6.6 Supporting Documentation**

Respondents **must** include the following supporting documentation within their proposals:

#### **Mandatory documents;**

- A detailed statement of the company's B-BBEE credentials as required in the above, supported by a rating certificate from a SANAS accredited rating institution or a B-BBEE affidavit.
- Recent audited Financial Statement of the specific entity that will be submitting the proposal, and if successful, contracting with the Fund. Group or any other entity's Annual Financial Statements will not be accepted. Respondents who are not required by law to have audited financial statements must include a letter signed by an

authorised official confirming that the respondent is not required by law to have audited financial statements and accordingly, is unable to provide same. Failure to submit a complete set of financial statements i.e. all pages or redaction/blanking out or omission of any portion of the financial statements will render the submission incomplete and will lead to disqualification at the evaluation stage.

- Respondents must complete the EPPF POPIA Self Compliance Forms (EPPF Operator Privacy Due Diligence Form and Operator Privacy Compliance Self-Assessment Form) provided on the EPPF website.

In the case of a Joint Venture the above-mentioned documentation, with the exception of the B-BBEE credentials, need only be supplied for the primary entity.

**Administrative documentation.**

- Declaration (Formal letter) as per (6.1) under further required submissions.
- Certified copies of CIPC company registration documentation. In the case of respondents who are not companies as envisaged in the Companies Act of 2008, equivalent founding documents must be submitted.
- A valid Tax Clearance Certificate and/or PIN indicating good standing with the South African Revenue Services (SARS);

**Respondents will be disqualified from the RFP process if any of the details and/or mandatory documents listed in 6.6 above are not submitted.**

## **7 Appendix A – Terms of business**

### **1. Background**

The Fund wishes to appoint a suitable service provider to provide a **Cisco based Network Infrastructure services and solution including internet services.**

By submitting a response to the RFP sent out by the Fund, a respondent automatically undertakes to be bound by, and agrees to, the conditions set out in this entire document.

Respondents that do not consider themselves bound by the provisions of this entire document should not respond to the RFP, as submission of a response pre-supposes agreement to the terms of this agreement.

### **2. Terms of Business**

The Fund hereby sets out the Terms of Business and the respondent hereby accepts the conditions that will apply to the work to be done by the service provider appointed in terms of the RFP detailed in this agreement.

Once signed by both parties, these Terms of Business will form part of the basis of a suitable Agreement between the Fund and the successful service provider.

An additional agreement detailing the services to be rendered will be entered into. These Terms of Business will establish the basis of such an agreement to provide the services as outlined in the RFP, and will serve to explain the conditions under which the appointment of the preferred service provider is made, but may also be extended in the Agreement to include other matters not necessarily addressed in this RFP.

### **3. The services to be provided**

#### **3.1. The Services**

The service provider will provide the services described in the RFP, and at the location(s) to be set out in the Agreement. The services described in the RFP are not an exhaustive list of all services to be performed by the successful respondent.

Where the Agreement refers to services to be performed, this means that the service provider will provide the Fund with the Services and will be responsible for the management and control of the services and the quality of any deliverables listed in or referred to in the Agreement.

Where the Agreement refers to Services to assist the successful service provider this means that the Fund will use reasonable skill and care, as specified, to assist the service provider with its work, but the service provider will be responsible for the overall management and control of the Services and for the results to be achieved from using the Services.

### **3.2. The service provider's staff**

Where individual members of the service provider's staff (including partners and directors) are named in the Agreement the service provider will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the named individual(s) are available to support its work for the Fund stated in the Agreement.

Where the service provider considers changes in its named staff necessary or appropriate, for reason of, inter alia, resignation, relocation, training or illness, the service provider may make the changes after giving the Fund reasonable notice and will provide the Fund with details of replacement staff.

### **3.3. Contract Management**

Both parties may designate a contact person that will be responsible for managing all issues relating to the performance of the Agreement.

### **3.4. Deliverables**

#### **3.4.1. Preparation and Delivery**

The Fund will incorporate the deliverables listed or referred to in the RFP into the Agreement to be signed with the preferred service provider.

#### **4. Fees and Payment**

##### **4.1. Payment of services**

The Fund agrees to pay for the Services as set out in the Agreement. All invoices will be payable within thirty days from date of receipt thereof.

#### **5. Term, Suspension and Termination**

##### **5.1. Duration of Contract**

The Agreement will apply from the Commencement Date stated, or where no Commencement Date is specified, from the date of signature of the Agreement by both parties. The Agreement will continue until all the Services and deliverables have been provided unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with the terms set out below.

##### **5.2. Termination of the Contract**

Unless stated otherwise in the Agreement, the Contract may be terminated by either party at any time by giving the other party no less than 30 days written notice. The Fund however reserves the right to terminate the Agreement by giving 24 hours written notice.

Where the Contract is terminated in this way the Fund will pay the service provider for all Services provided and completed up to the date of termination.

##### **5.3. Termination for Breach of Contract**

The Agreement may be terminated by either party by written notice with immediate effect if the other commits a material breach of any term of the Agreement that is not remedied within 10 days of dispatch of a written request to remedy the same, where such breach is capable of being remedied.

##### **5.4. Termination for Insolvency**

The Agreement may be terminated by either party by written notice in the event that the other party is unable to pay its debts or has been placed under administration, judicial manager, liquidator or similar person or officer appointed or compromises generally with its creditors or ceases for any other reason to carry on business or in the reasonable opinion of the other party any of these events appears likely.

## **6. Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interests**

- 6.1. By signing the Agreement, each party is under a professional obligation not to disclose to a third party any information confidential to the other party. Similarly, reports by the service provider are for the use of the Fund alone and may not be disclosed to third parties without the Fund's prior written consent.
- 6.2. Notwithstanding 6.1 above, either party will be entitled to disclose confidential information of the other to a third party to the extent required by law or where the said information is already known to the public due to no fault on the other party, provided that in the former case (and without breaching any legal requirement), where reasonably practicable not less than five business days' notice in writing is first given to the other party.
- 6.3. Respondents are required to declare any relationship (family, friend, other) between themselves and any person employed by the EPPF who may be involved with the evaluation and or adjudication of this RFP. Such declarations may be included as part of the Respondent's proposal. In addition, service providers with such an interest may be required to complete the EPPF's standard declaration of interest form.

## **7. Liability**

- 7.1. The service provider shall use reasonable skills and care expected from an expert in its industry in the provision and delivery of the services and the deliverables in terms of the Agreement.
- 7.2. The service provider shall accept liability to pay compensation for damages and losses suffered by the Fund arising as a direct result of breach of contract, misconduct, dishonesty/fraud or negligence (including gross negligence) on its part or third parties acting on behalf of the service provider in respect of Services provided in connection with, or arising out of the Agreement (or any variation or addition thereto).

## **8. General**

### **8.1. Force Majeure**

Neither of the parties to the Agreement will be liable to the other for any delay or failure to fulfil obligations caused by circumstances beyond its reasonable control.

### **8.2. Assignment**

Neither of the parties to the Agreement may cede, assign, delegate, transfer, encumber, charge nor otherwise seek to deal in any of its rights or obligations under the Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party.

### **8.3. Notices**

Notices must be served either personally, sent by prepaid registered post or faxed to the address of the other party given in the Agreement or to any other address as the parties may have notified during the period of the agreement. Any notice sent by registered post will be deemed to have been delivered 10 days after sending. Any notice sent by fax or served personally will be deemed to have been delivered on the first working day following its dispatch.

### **8.4. Amendment**

Any amendment or consensual variation, cancellation or termination of the Agreement, or any of its terms, will not be effective unless agreed in writing and signed by both parties.

### **8.5. Survival**

The confidentiality clause in the Agreement shall survive the termination or expiry of the agreement and shall continue to bind the parties to the agreement.

### **8.6. Electronic Communications**

During the provision of the Services, the Fund may from time to time communicate electronically. However, as the service provider is aware, the electronic transmission of information cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free and such information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete or otherwise be adversely affected or unsafe to use.

Accordingly, whilst the Fund carries out commercially reasonable procedures to check for the most commonly known viruses and to check the integrity of data, it remains the service provider's responsibility to carry out a virus check on any documents before launching them, whether to be sent or to be received on disk or otherwise. Therefore and notwithstanding any collateral contract, warranty or representation, the Fund will have no liability to the service provider on any basis, whether in contract, delict (including negligence) or otherwise, in respect of any error or omission arising from or in connection with the electronic communication of information to or from the service provider and the service provider's reliance on such information and including (but not limited to) the acts or omissions of the relevant service providers.

If the communication relates to a matter of significance on which the service provider wishes to rely and is concerned about the possible effects of electronic transmission, the service provider should request a hard copy of such transmission from the Fund.

#### **8.7. Validity of contract provisions**

If any provision of the Agreement is held to be invalid, in whole or in part, such provision shall be deemed not to form part of the agreement. In any event the enforceability of the remainder of the agreement will not be affected.

#### **8.8. Conflict**

In the event of any conflict between the Agreement and any other document that forms part of the agreement, the Agreement shall prevail except where amended by specific reference to the relevant Clause of the Terms of Business. In the event and only to the extent of any conflict between the Agreement and any referenced or attached document other than the Terms of Business, the Agreement will take precedence.

#### **8.9. Applicability**

The Agreement shall apply to work undertaken in relation to the service provider, its holding company or any of its subsidiary, associated or related companies, agents or sub-contractors providing services in terms of the agreement.

### **9. Dispute Resolution and Governing Law**

Should any dispute arise between the Fund and the service provider, both parties will attempt to resolve the dispute in good faith through senior-level negotiations. If the dispute is not resolved through negotiation or mediation within a reasonable time both parties agree that it shall be finally resolved in accordance with the rules of the Arbitration Foundation of South Africa by an arbitrator or arbitrators appointed by the Foundation and agreed upon by both parties. The arbitration clause does not prohibit a party from seeking relief in a dispute where urgency can be proved, and where, as a result, application can be made for an urgent interdict, urgent declaratory order or other urgent relief to any court of competent jurisdiction, on condition that such urgent relief is only of an interim nature pending the determination of the dispute by the arbitrator. The parties submit in this regard, to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Gauteng Local Division, Johannesburg.

The Terms of Business and the Agreement shall be subject to South African law.

## **10. Quotation/Proposal Conditions Validity of Quotations**

Quotations must be valid for at least 90 days from the closing date of the tender. Include original valid tax clearance certificates, proof of registration of the business, audited annual financial statements and the latest B-BBEE certification.

### **Disqualifying Criteria**

- Failure to submit before the specified date and time
- Failure to comply with paragraph 4.6.1 to 4.6.4 of the RFP.
- A minimum of five (5) years demonstrated experience of successful provisioning of an Enterprise Network Infrastructure Services and Solutions.
- Failure to submit requested mandatory supporting documentation in 6.6.
- Acceptance of the RFP terms and conditions – contract terms and condition shall be discussed and negotiated with the successful Bidder.

### **VAT**

VAT must be included in all prices and costs quoted, where applicable.

### **Closing Date for Proposal Submission**

The closing date and time for submission of proposals at the delivery address indicated is **15 March 2024 at 16h00 SA Time.**

The Fund reserves the right to withdraw, at any stage of this process, amend or cancel this RFP, reject or not accept any or all proposals, obtain any information from any lawful source regarding past business history and practices of the respondent, and to take any such information into consideration in the evaluation process.

**11. Acceptance**

By signature of this document, the service provider agrees to be bound by the terms of business contained herein.

Signed in acceptance on behalf of .....being  
duly authorised thereto.

Signed at..... on this.....day of.....2024

Name & Surname.....

Designation.....

Signature.....

**Annexure A - Disqualifying checklist**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Document required or requirement(s)</b>	<b>Submitted? Yes/No</b>
1.	Submitted as per the closing date and time.	
2.	Compliance requirement: structure of responses (4.6.1 to 4.6.4)	
3.	A minimum of five (5) years demonstrated experience of successful provisioning of a CISCO based Network Infrastructure Services and Solutions (SDWAN/WAN, LAN and WIFI) , with a focus on pension/retirement funds or financial institutions or an organization of a similar size to EPPF	
4.	Acceptance of the RFP terms and conditions – contract terms and condition shall be discussed and negotiated with the successful Bidder.	
5.	A detailed statement of the company's B-BBEE credentials as required in the above, supported by a rating certificate from a SANAS accredited rating institution or a B-BBEE affidavit.	
6.	Recent Audited Financial Statement of the specific entity that will be submitting the proposal. Group or any other entity's Annual Financial Statements will not be accepted. Respondents who are not required by law to have audited financial statements must include a letter signed by an authorised official confirming that the respondent is not required by law to have audited financial statements and accordingly, is unable to provide the same.	
7.	Respondents must complete the EPPF POPIA Self Compliance Forms (EPPF Operator Privacy Due Diligence Form and Operator Privacy Compliance Self-Assessment Form)	
8.	Declaration (Formal letter) as per (6.1) under Further required submissions	
9.	A valid Tax Clearance Certificate and/or PIN indicating good standing with the South African Revenue Services (SARS).	
10.	Certified copies of CIPC company registration documentation. In the case of respondents who are not companies as envisaged in the Companies Act of 2008, equivalent founding documents must be submitted.	

**NB - Please make use of the above checklist to ensure that all minimum requirements are met and to avoid being disqualified.**