



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (“RFQ”)

APPOINTMENT OF A RESEARCH SERVICE PROVIDER TO CONDUCT PROJECT EMPLOYER INTERVIEWS



Bid Number	EWSETA/RFQ/010/2022
Bid Scope	APPOINTMENT OF A RESEARCH SERVICES PROVIDER TO CUNDUCT PROJECT EMPLOYER INTERVIEWS
Issue Date	WEDNESDAY 04 MAY 2022
Closing Date for submission of bids	WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 20222 at 13:00hours
Inquiries (all inquiries should be in writing)	scmadmin@ewseta.org.za

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (“EWSETA”) is a statutory body established through the Skills Development Act of 1998 to enable its stakeholders to advance the national and global position of the Energy and Water sector by facilitating the effective development of skills required to respond to related imperatives as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP).

This is as a result of Government commitment to promote active labour market policies as is demonstrated in the Skills Development Act of 1998 and the Skills Development Levies Act of 1999. As guided by its mandate, the SETA is an agent of transformation by promoting the achievement of desired outcomes as stipulated in the National Skills Development Plan (NSDP) whilst observing and complying with legislative and regulatory frameworks, such as the Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 1999.

2. OBJECTIVE

The SETA seeks to appoint a research service provider to conduct employer interviews research project on its behalf. The purpose of the project is to conduct interviews with **20 employers** and consolidate the findings in a reporting template annexed to these terms of reference (which are subject to change without prior notification).

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The successful service provider is required to conduct interviews with 20 companies of different sizes (small, medium, large) in the energy and water sector each year (i.e., 2022 to 2025)

The interviews to be conducted with relevant stakeholders as determined by the SETA will require the prospective research service provider to collect, analyse and synthesise the required data. The analysis and synthesised reporting documents are to be submitted to the SETA along with required portfolios of evidence (PoEs) in accordance with the submission dates and report format requirements (as stipulated by the SETA) indicated in the table below:

Submission No.	Document Submission to SETA	Day and Month ¹	Year
1.	Consolidated Data Analysis Report on DHET-approved Template and POE	01 June (of each year)	2022 - 2025
2.	Consolidated report on DHET-approved Template and POE	01 June (of each year)	2022 - 2025

¹ Please note the submission dates and format of the reporting documents are subject to change in line with SETA and DHET submission requirements.

3.1 DELIVERABLES

The appointed service provider is expected to deliver the following:

- 3.1 Separate completed DHET-approved reporting templates for each employer interviewed showing responses to each of the questions (i.e., interview guide template, which must be completed in full for each employer organisation interviewed) - on DHET-approved template supported by evidence (i.e., supporting POE).
- 3.2 Consolidated Report on DHET-approved template and supporting POE.
- 3.3 The appointed service provider will be expected to conduct interviews within each of the energy and water sub-sectors (i.e., across the 15 energy and water sub-sectors).
- 3.4 A portfolio of evidence (PoE) must be provided for all the collected data.

The reporting documents, including supporting PoE, will be submitted to the SETA by the stipulated due date as follows:

- a. 1 x electronic copy of each of the report documents in Word format, submitted on a USB memory stick (ensure the electronic copy submission is readable by any computer).
- b. PoE submitted on a separate USB containing, but not limited to, e.g., interview transcripts, interview notes, etc.
- c. Any other required supporting documentation as deemed necessary by the SETA.

NB: The required reporting documents, as well as supporting PoE, are to be submitted by the service provider in accordance with strict SETA timelines to meet the requirements of the SETA and DHET prescripts, guidelines, and/or frameworks. Failure to adhere to the submission of all deliverables in accordance with SETA deadlines and timelines as stipulated by the SETA will result in non-delivery on the part of the service provider.

3.2 METHODOLOGY

The service provider will be expected to provide a technical proposal explaining their comprehension of the Terms of Reference, and how they would approach this assignment, summarising the approaches they plan to use, including a timeline

4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

4.1 Stage 1: Pre-Qualification Criteria

4.1.1 Submission of Compulsory Documents:

Prospective service providers must comply with the requirements and submit all required document(s) indicated hereunder with the bid documents at the closing date and time of bid. This phase is not scored and bidders who fail to comply with all the mandatory criteria will be disqualified.

4.1.1.1 Prospective service providers are required to provide proof of registration with the Central Supplier Database by submitting the CSD report. In case of a Joint Venture, each party must provide proof of registration with CSD.

4.1.1.2 Completed and signed Standard Bidding Documents attached to the bid.

4.1.1.3 In case of a Joint Venture, a written agreement between the parties which must clearly set out the roles and responsibilities of each member and include a resolution of each company of the Joint Venture together with a resolution by its members authorizing a member of the Joint Venture to sign the documents on behalf of the Joint Venture.

4.1.2 Non-compulsory documents

Prospective service providers must comply with the requirements and submit all required document(s) indicated hereunder with the bid documents at the closing date and time of bid. This phase is not scored and bidders who fail to comply with all the mandatory criteria may be disqualified.

4.1.2.1 Tax Clearance Certificate or Tax Pin. A prospective service provider must ensure that their tax matters are in order in line with the Treasury Regulations and reflect accordingly on CSD. It is therefore a condition of this bid that the tax matters of the bidder be in order at the time of award. Failure of the bidder for not complying with their tax matters at the time of award will result in the bidder being disqualified.

4.1.2.2 Certified copy of B-BBEE Certificate. A Joint Venture will qualify for the B-BBEE status level as a legal entity, provided that the legal entity submits their B-BBEE status level certificate. Failure on the part of the bidder to comply with the above will be deemed that preference points for B-BBEE status level of contribution are not claimed and will therefore be allocated a zero (0) points.

4.2 Stage 2: Technical/Functionality Stage

The Bidder must provide a detailed explanation of the methodology and project implementation plan which details how the service will be carried out as outlined in the scope. The project plan must have deliverables and timeframes.

An assessment of Functionality will be based on the evaluation criteria noted in the table below. Each of the evaluation criteria in the table will carry a weighting as indicated, and the bidder will be required to score a minimum of 75 points (out of the 100 points), i.e. 75%, for Functionality in order to qualify and proceed to Stage 3 of the evaluation process

CRITERIA

The service provider is to meet the below criteria which is applicable to the bid to be submitted to the EWSETA.

Criteria	Scoring	Weighted score
<p>Reference letters from different clients as evidence of <u>related</u> services previously conducted</p> <p><i>NB: The Reference Letter(s) must not be older than 3 years must be on the letterhead of the previously serviced client and should reflect at least name of the client, title of the related work conducted, year conducted and completed, contactable reference name and contact details and signed by the appropriate delegate. The Reference Letter must indicate the quality of the service rendered.</i></p>	<p>3 letters attached = 30 points 2 letters attached = 20 points 1 letter attached = 10 points</p> <p>No reference letters attached / unsatisfactory services rendered = 0 points</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>Experience of a Lead Researcher/ Project Leader who will be implementing the research undertaking and executing all related functions of the study. The Lead Researcher MUST have related research experience in conducting formal, qualitative interviews.</p>	<p>Experience Experience includes: 2 or more similar research projects undertaken where qualitative interviews were conducted (e.g., qualitative interviews with relevant stakeholders in the skills development context) = 40 points 1 similar research project undertaken = 20 points</p>	<p>40</p>
<p>Qualifications of the Lead Researcher/ Project Leader who will be implementing the research undertaking and executing all related functions of the work. Qualifications: Master's degree in any of the related fields of Social Sciences, Education, Economics, or related field.</p> <p><i>NB. Bidders must attach certified copies of qualifications (certified copies must not be older than 3 months and a clear date stamp is required). Uncertified</i></p>	<p>Relevant Master's Qualification required. PHD in related field (added advantage) = Additional 5 points <u>Unrelated/less than Master's degree</u> = 0 points</p>	<p>30</p>

<i>qualification certificates will not be accepted and will therefore not score any points.</i>		
TOTAL		100

4.3 Stage 3: Pricing and preference points Stage

4.3.1 Preference Points

For purpose of evaluating preference points, the following preference point systems will be applicable to all bids whereby preference points shall be awarded for Price; and B-BBEE Status Level of Contribution.

- The points scored in respect of B-BBEE contribution will be added to the points scored for price.
- The following formula will be used to calculate the points for Price:

$$P_s = 80 \left(1 - \frac{P_t - P_{\min}}{P_{\min}} \right)$$

Where

P_s = Points scored for comparative price of proposal or quotation

P_t = Comparative price of proposal or offer

P_{\min} = Comparative price of lowest acceptable proposal or offer

The following table must be used to calculate the score out of 20 for BBEE

B-BBEE Status Level of contributor	Number of points 80/20 system)
1	20
2	18
3	14
4	12
5	8
6	6
7	4
8	2
Non-compliant contributor	0

Bidders are required to submit original and valid B-BBEE Status Level Verification Certificates or certified copies thereof together with their bids, to substantiate their B-BBEE rating claims;

A tenderer failing to submit proof of B-BBEE status level of contributor or is a non-compliant contributor to B-BBEE may not be disqualified, but may only score points out of 80 for price; and scores 0 points out of 20 for B-BBEE.

A trust, consortium or joint venture must submit a consolidated B-BBEE Status Level Verification Certificate for every separate bid;

A bidder will not be awarded points for B-BBEE status level if it is indicated in the bid documents that such a bidder intends sub-contracting more than 25% of the value of the contract to any other enterprise that does not qualify for at least the points that such a bidder qualifies for, unless the intended sub-contractor is an EME that has the capability and ability to execute the sub-contract.

4.3.2 Financial Proposal

Financial proposals will be compared on the basis of their total amount inclusive of VAT and all other related costs. Bidders are required to submit financial proposals as per the table below on a company letterhead.

Pricing schedule is compulsory and failure to complete same in prescribed manner as per the Annexure B and without alterations may result in disqualification of the bid during the financial evaluation process.

Description	Cost
CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH A MAXIMUM OF 20 EMPLOYERS AND CONSOLIDATE ON PRE-DEFINED REPORT TEMPLATE	R
Vat	R
Total Amount inclusive of VAT	R

Only firm prices will be accepted. Non-firm prices (including prices subject to rates of exchange variations) will not be considered. Bidders are requested to provide a clear agreement regarding joint venture/consortia. The percentage involvement of each company in the joint venture agreement should be indicated on the agreement.

4.3.3 Payment schedule

Only one payment tranche will be made on delivery of the deliverables as below:

Tranche	Deliverables to SETA	Amount
1	Separate, completed DHET-approved reporting templates for each employer interviewed showing responses to each of the questions. Consolidated Data Analysis Report on DHET-approved Template and POE Consolidated report on DHET-approved Template and POE.	100%

5. NOTES TO BIDDERS

Outlined below are basic requirements that each bid must comply with. Failure of any bid to meet any or all of these requirements may disqualify such a bid from the evaluation process:

- 5.1 A prospective service provider must ensure that their tax matters are in order in line with the Treasury Regulations and reflect accordingly on CSD. It is therefore a condition of this bid that the tax matters of the bidder be in order at the time of award. Failure of the bidder for not complying with their tax matters at the time of award will result in the bidder being disqualified.
- 5.2 The EWSETA will not be liable to reimburse any costs incurred by applicants in preparing their proposals.
- 5.3 EWSETA does not bind itself into making an appointment from proposals and offers received.
- 5.4 EWSETA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel this request for proposals, presentations and price or not to make any appointment at all.
- 5.5 EWSETA will not make upfront payments.
- 5.6 Successful bidder must undertake to abide by the confidentiality undertakings contained in the agreement to be concluded;
- 5.7 The successful bidder will be informed of the outcome. A contract will only be deemed to be concluded when reduced to writing and signed by the designated responsible person of both parties (duly authorised). The designated responsible person of the EWSETA is the Chief Executive Officer or his written authorised delegate.
- 5.8 A probation period of 90 days will apply to the agreement.
- 5.9 The EWSETA undertakes to pay valid invoices in full within 30 (thirty) days if all supporting documents are submitted.
- 5.10 The service level agreement will be reviewed annually upon anniversary date.
- 5.11 Please note that any plagiarism of any sort contained within any bid or any other documents submitted to the EWSETA by any bidder will result in the disqualification of the respective bidder.
- 5.12 EWSETA may request clarification or further information regarding any aspect of the bidder. The bidder must provide the requested information within forty-eight (48) hours after the request has been made; otherwise the bidder may be disqualified.
- 5.13 In the absence of the individual a suitable replacement must be organised a week prior to the absence.
- 5.14 Scheduled outages, after hours or weekends. Must be part of total costs and NOT additional cost.

6.SUB-CONTRACTING

A tenderer will not be awarded points for B-BBEE status level if it is indicated in the tender documents that such a tenderer intends sub-contracting more than 25% of the value of the contract to any other enterprise that does not qualify for at least the points that such a tenderer qualifies for unless the intended sub-contractor is an exempted micro-enterprise that has the capability and ability to execute the sub-contract.

7.SUBMISSION OF BIDS

Bidders are required to submit their bids to scmadmin@ewseta.org.za

8. CLOSING DATE OF PROPOSAL

A comprehensive proposal together with pricing schedule must reach EWSETA by no later than **THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2022 not later than 13H00**. Please note that no late proposals will be considered.

9.TENDER VALIDITY

This RFQ shall be valid for 90 days calculated from bid closing date.

10.FRAUD HOT-LINE

EWSETA subscribes to fair and just administrative processes. EWSETA, therefore, urges its clients, suppliers and the general public to report any fraud or corruption to:

EWSETA TIP-OFFS ANONYMOUS

Free Call: 0800 611 205

Email: ewseta@tip-offs.com

Or visit their website www.tip-offs.com

6. ANNEXURE 1 – SBD4 - BIDDER’S DISCLOSURE

1. PURPOSE OF THE FORM

Any person (natural or juristic) may make an offer or offers in terms of this invitation to bid. In line with the principles of transparency, accountability, impartiality, and ethics as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and further expressed in various pieces of legislation, it is required for the bidder to make this declaration in respect of the details required hereunder.

Where a person/s are listed in the Register for Tender Defaulters and / or the List of Restricted Suppliers, that person will automatically be disqualified from the bid process.

2. Bidder’s declaration

2.1 Is the bidder, or any of its directors / trustees / shareholders / members / partners or any person having a controlling interest² in the enterprise, employed by the state? **YES / NO**

2.1.1 If so, furnish particulars of the names, individual identity numbers, and, if applicable, state employee numbers of sole proprietor/ directors / trustees / shareholders / members/ partners or any person having a controlling interest in the enterprise, in table below.

Full Name	Identity Number	Name of State institution

² the power, by one person or a group of persons holding the majority of the equity of an enterprise, alternatively, the person/s having the deciding vote or power to influence or to direct the course and decisions of the enterprise.



2.2 Do you, or any person connected with the bidder, have a relationship with any person who is employed by the procuring institution? **YES / NO**

2.2.1 If so, furnish particulars:

.....
.....

2.3 Does the bidder or any of its directors / trustees / shareholders / members / partners or any person having a controlling interest in the enterprise have any interest in any other related enterprise whether or not they are bidding for this contract? **YES/ NO**

2.3.1 If so, furnish particulars:

.....
.....

3 DECLARATION

I, _____ the _____ undersigned, (name)..... in submitting the accompanying bid, do hereby make the following statements that I certify to be true and complete in every respect:

- 3.1 I have read and I understand the contents of this disclosure;
- 3.2 I understand that the accompanying bid will be disqualified if this disclosure is found not to be true and complete in every respect;
- 3.3 The bidder has arrived at the accompanying bid independently from, and without consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with any competitor. However, communication between partners in a joint venture or consortium³ will not be construed as collusive bidding.
- 3.4 In addition, there have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements with any competitor regarding the quality, quantity, specifications, prices, including methods, factors or formulas used to calculate prices, market allocation, the intention or decision to submit or not to submit the bid, bidding with the intention not to win the bid and conditions or delivery particulars of the products or services to which this bid invitation relates.

³ Joint venture or Consortium means an association of persons for the purpose of combining their expertise, property, capital, efforts, skill and knowledge in an activity for the execution of a contract.



- 3.4 The terms of the accompanying bid have not been, and will not be, disclosed by the bidder, directly or indirectly, to any competitor, prior to the date and time of the official bid opening or of the awarding of the contract.
- 3.5 There have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements made by the bidder with any official of the procuring institution in relation to this procurement process prior to and during the bidding process except to provide clarification on the bid submitted where so required by the institution; and the bidder was not involved in the drafting of the specifications or terms of reference for this bid.
- 3.6 I am aware that, in addition and without prejudice to any other remedy provided to combat any restrictive practices related to bids and contracts, bids that are suspicious will be reported to the Competition Commission for investigation and possible imposition of administrative penalties in terms of section 59 of the Competition Act No 89 of 1998 and or may be reported to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for criminal investigation and or may be restricted from conducting business with the public sector for a period not exceeding ten (10) years in terms of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act No 12 of 2004 or any other applicable legislation.

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED IN PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 and 3 ABOVE IS CORRECT.

I ACCEPT THAT THE STATE MAY REJECT THE BID OR ACT AGAINST ME IN TERMS OF PARAGRAPH 6 OF PFMA SCM INSTRUCTION 03 OF 2021/22 ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING ABUSE IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SHOULD THIS DECLARATION PROVE TO BE FALSE.

.....
Signature	Date
.....
Position	Name of bidder

7. ANNEXURE 2 - EWSETA GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

General

EWSETA and the Supplier enter into an order/contract on these conditions to supply the items (goods/services/works) as described in the order/contract.

Conditions

These conditions form the basis of the contract between EWSETA and the Supplier. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any document issued or sent by the Supplier, these conditions apply except as expressly agreed in writing by EWSETA. No servant or agent of EWSETA has authority to vary these conditions orally. These general conditions of purchase are subject to such further special conditions as may be prescribed in writing by EWSETA in the order/contract.

Price and payment

The price or rates for the items stated in the order/contract may include an amount for price adjustment, which is calculated in accordance with the formula stated in the order/contract. The Supplier may be paid in one currency other than South African Rand. Only one exchange rate is used to convert from this currency to South African Rand. Payment to the Supplier in this currency other than South African Rand, does not exceed the amounts stated in the order/contract. EWSETA pays for the item within 30 days of receipt of the Suppliers correct tax invoice.

Delivery and documents

The Supplier's obligation is to deliver the items on or before the date stated in the order/contract. Late deliveries or late completion of the items may be subject to a penalty if this is imposed in the order/contract. No payment is made if the Supplier does not provide the item as stated in order/contract.

Where items are to be delivered the Supplier:

Clearly marks the outside of each consignment or package with the Supplier's name and full details of the destination in accordance with the order and includes a packing note stating the contents thereof; On dispatch of each consignment, sends to EWSETA at the address for delivery of the items, an advice note specifying the means of transport, weight, number of volume as appropriate and the point and date of dispatch; Sends to EWSETA a detailed priced invoice as soon as is reasonably practical after dispatch of the items, and states on all communications in respect of the order the order number and code number (if any).

Containers / packing material

Unless otherwise stated in the order/contract, no payment is made for containers or packing materials or return to the Supplier.

Title and risk

Without prejudice to rights of rejection under these conditions, title to and risk in the items passes to EWSETA when accepted by EWSETA.

Rejection

If the Supplier fails to comply with his obligations under the order/contract, EWSETA may reject any part of the items by giving written notice to the Supplier specifying the reason for rejection and whether and within what period replacement of items or re-work are required.

In the case of items delivered, EWSETA may return the rejected items to the Supplier at the Supplier's risk and expense. Any money paid to the Supplier in respect of the items not replaced within the time required, together with the costs of returning rejected items to the Supplier and obtaining replacement items from a third party, are paid by the Supplier to EWSETA.

In the case of service, the Supplier corrects non-conformances as indicated by EWSETA.

Warranty

Without prejudice to any other rights of EWSETA under these conditions, the Supplier warrants that the items are in accordance with EWSETA's requirements, and fit for the purpose for which they are intended, and will remain free from defects for a period of one year (unless another period is stated in the Order) from acceptance of the items by EWSETA.

Indemnity

The Supplier indemnifies EWSETA against all actions, suits, claims, demands, costs, charges and expenses arising in connection therewith arising from the negligence, infringement of intellectual or legal rights or breach of statutory duty of the Supplier, his subcontractors, agents or servants, or from the Supplier's defective design, materials or workmanship.

The Supplier indemnifies EWSETA against claims, proceedings, compensation and costs payable arising out of infringement by the Supplier of the rights of others, except an infringement which arose out of the use by the Supplier of things provided by EWSETA.

Assignment and sub-contracting

The Supplier may not assign or subcontract any part of this order/contract without the written consent of EWSETA.

Termination

EWSETA may terminate the order/contract at any time (without prejudice to any right of action or remedy which has accrued or thereafter accrues to EWSETA):

If the Supplier defaults in due performance of the order/contract, or if the Supplier becomes bankrupt or otherwise is, in the opinion of EWSETA, in such financial circumstances as to prejudice the proper performance of the order/contract, or for any other reason in which case the Supplier will be compensated for all costs incurred.

Governing law

The order/contract is governed by the law of the Republic of South Africa and the parties hereby submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the South African courts.