

Request for Proposals (RFP)

The Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Parallel File System Storage Hardware, Software, Maintenance and Support to the CSIR for a three (3) year period.

RFP No. 3781/07/10/2026

CSIR Response to enquiries/clarifications

#	Bidder's Question	Proposed CSIR Response
1	Regarding the burst write requirement ("1600 processes, each writing output for a total of 12 GB of data at 4-second intervals"): Is the 12 GB the aggregate data size for all 1600 processes combined per 4-second window (giving ~3 GB/s average throughput), or does each individual process output 12 GB (which scales the aggregate burst to ~4.8 TB/s)?	Yes, the burst write requirement is that the parallel file system be able to process 1600 processes that simultaneously write a total aggregate output of 12GB every 4s. The system must be able to sustain this indefinitely without slowing down, stalling, or failing.
2	Hardware Pricing Volatility and Pricing Validity We would also appreciate clarification on how the tender intends to address the current volatility in memory and RAM pricing. As you may be aware, the significant increase in demand for memory capacity, particularly from hyperscale and AI environments, is placing considerable pressure on global supply and pricing. This is affecting all major vendors and is also having an impact on laptop and desktop pricing. For reference, the following article provides some background on the current market conditions: https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20260802-ai-keeps-consumer-prices-high-in-ramaggedon-chip-crunch In this environment, it is extremely challenging to provide fixed pricing for 180 days, particularly where the underlying OEM component pricing is subject to significant market volatility. Could you therefore please clarify how the tender will address such pricing fluctuations? In particular: • Will suppliers be required to maintain pricing for the full 180-day period despite significant changes in OEM component pricing? • Given that these price movements are driven by global market conditions and are outside of the supplier's control, will there be an opportunity to re-validate or re-quote pricing at the time of award?	Bid validity has been reduced to 30 calendar days from the tender closing date to mitigate the impact of hardware price volatility and accommodate potential fluctuations in market pricing.

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	If so, could the tender documentation be amended to clearly define the process for managing material changes in OEM pricing between tender submission and award? We believe clarification on this point will help ensure that all bidders are able to price consistently and that the tender remains commercially viable throughout the evaluation and award process.	
3	Instruction 5 on the pricing schedule requires a detailed priced BOM, while Annexure A, Item 1 requires a BOM without prices. Please clarify whether both priced and unpriced BOMs are required.	Yes, both the priced and unpriced BOMs are required. - The unpriced BOM will be used to evaluate Annexure A, Item 1, which is part of the elimination evaluation criteria. - The priced BOM, together with ANNEXURE E – Pricing Schedule, will be used to evaluate the financial proposal.
4	In the pricing schedule attached, it states:- 2. Bidder must quote for all three (3) options. Bidders who fail to quote on all three options will be disqualified - Option 1: 1.0 PB total physical storage - Option 2: 1.25 PB total physical storage - Option 3: 1.5 PB total physical storage - Option 4: 1.75 PB total physical storage - Option 5: 2.0 PB total physical storage - Option 6: 2.2 PB total physical storage - Option 7: 2.4 PB total physical storage Please can you clarify is it three (3) options, or seven (7)?	2. Bidder must quote for all seven (7) options. Bidders who fail to quote on all seven (7) options will be disqualified - Option 1: 1.0 PB total physical storage - Option 2: 1.25 PB total physical storage - Option 3: 1.5 PB total physical storage - Option 4: 1.75 PB total physical storage - Option 5: 2.0 PB total physical storage - Option 6: 2.2 PB total physical storage - Option 7: 2.4 PB total physical storage