

Questions and Responses for RFR/LA/IPPO-002/2026 – Panel of Legal advisors for the IPP Office (IPPO).

Question 1: Electronic Submission Amendments

Question

Can bidders amend, rename, or delete documents after uploading them to the electronic submission link if an incorrect document is uploaded?

Response

Vusi Kunene advised that bidders should thoroughly verify their documentation before uploading. In exceptional cases, bidders may request DBSA to remove incorrectly uploaded folders, provided the request is made well before the closing date. Last-minute requests may not be accommodated.

Question 2: CV Template Requirements

Question

Is the prescribed CV template applicable only to the Team Leader or to all proposed resources?

Response

The template applies to all proposed resources. While the exact format is not mandatory, bidders must provide all information requested in the template so that evaluators can properly assess experience and qualifications.

Question 3: Reference Letter Format

Question

Must existing client reference letters strictly follow the DBSA template, or will reference letters containing substantially similar information be accepted?

Response

DBSA confirmed that strict adherence to the template is not mandatory. Existing reference letters may be accepted provided they substantially contain the information required in the

prescribed template. The bidders are advised to indicate project value range and not the actual project amount in cases where they have disclosure challenges.

Question 4: Missing Contract Values and Dates in Reference Letters

Question

If a reference letter contains all required information except contract value and contract commencement/completion dates, may those details be supplied separately?

Response

DBSA advised bidders to engage clients and update reference letters where possible to align with the tender requirements. At this stage, no alternative arrangement was approved.

Question 5: Confidentiality and NDAs

Question

Many projects are subject to confidentiality agreements that prohibit disclosure of contract values. How should bidders comply with the requirement to provide contract values in reference letters?

Response

DBSA acknowledged the concern; The bidders are advised to indicate project value range and not the actual project amount in cases where they have disclosure challenges.

Question 6: Litigation Matters Without Project Values

Question

Many legal assignments, particularly litigation matters, do not have defined project values. How should firms comply with the requirement to disclose values in reference letters?

Response

DBSA explained that the tender primarily seeks legal transaction advisory experience linked to procurement and infrastructure projects, where project values would generally be available. The bidders are advised to indicate project value range and not the actual project amount in cases where they have disclosure challenges

Question 7: Submission Link Request Timing

Question

Must bidders wait until three days before closing to request a submission link?

Response

No. Bidders may request a submission link immediately after the briefing session and are encouraged to do so early to avoid delays.

Question 8: Application of Objective Criteria

Question

Will objective criteria be applied during the panel appointment stage?

Response

No. Objective criteria will only be applied when work packages are allocated among appointed panel members. The objective is to ensure fair and equitable distribution of work opportunities among panel members over the panel term.

Question 9: Consortiums and Joint Ventures

Question

Are bidders permitted to form consortiums or joint ventures with other firms, including firms not present at the briefing session?

Response

Yes. Consortiums and joint ventures are permitted. Appropriate consortium or JV agreements must be submitted, and all participating entities must comply with tender requirements and declarations. DBSA cautioned bidders against any form of collusive behaviour or bid-rigging.