

**PART A
INVITATION TO BID**

You are Hereby Invited to Bid for Requirement of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)					
RFI	RFI001/2018	Closing date:	16 November 2018	Closing Time	11H00
Description	Request for Information Vendors/Resellers Providing Hyperconverged Infrastructure Solution				
The successful bidder will be required to fill and sign a written contract form (SBD) 7.-N/A					

Bid Respond Documents may be Deposited in the Bid Box Situated at street

NSFAS Building, 1st Floor House Vincent					
10 Brodie Road					
Wynberg					
7700					
Supplier Information					
Name of Bidder					
Postal Address					
Street Address					
Telephone Number	Code		Number		
Cellphone number					
Facsimile Number	Code		Number		
E-mail Address					
Vat Registration number					
	TCS PIN:		OR	CSD No:	
B-BBEE status level verification [Tick applicate box]	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		B-BBEE Status Level Sworn Affidavit		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, who was the certificated issued by?					
An Accounting Official as Complemented in the Close Corporation ACT (CCA) and Name the ,Applicable in the Tick Box	An Accounting Officer as Contemplated in the Close Corporation Act (CCA)				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Verification Agency Accredited by the South African Accreditation System (SANAS)			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Registered Auditor			

		Name:	
[A B-BBEE STATUS LEVEL VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE/SWORN AFFIDAVIT(FOR EMEs& QSEs) MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR PREFERENCE POINTS FOR B-BBEE]			
Are you the accredited representative in South Africa for the goods and services/works offered?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [IF YES ENCLOSE PROOF]	Are you a foreign based supplier for the goods and services/works offered	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No [IF YES ANSWER PART B:3 BELOW]
Signature of Bidders	DATE	
Capacity under which this bid is signed (Attach proof of authority to sign this bid; e.g. resolution of directors, etc.)			
TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS OFFERED		TOTAL BID PRICE (ALL INCLUSIVE)	
BIDDING PROCEDURE ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO:		TECHNICAL INFORMATION MAY BE DIRECTED TO:	
DEPARTMENT/ PUBLIC ENTITY	NSFAS	CONTACT PERSON	SCM UNIT
CONTACT PERSON	SCM UNIT	TELEPHONE NUMBER	021 763 3200
TELEPHONE NUMBER	021 763 3200	FACSIMILE NUMBER	N/A
FACSIMILE NUMBER	N/A	E-MAIL ADDRESS	scm@nsfas.org.za
E-MAIL ADDRESS	scm@nsfas.org.za		

**PART B
TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR BIDDING**

1. BID SUBMISSION:
1.1. BIDS MUST BE DELIVERED BY THE STIPULATED TIME TO THE CORRECT ADDRESS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION.
1.2. ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE OFFICIAL FORMS PROVIDED–(NOT TO BE RE-TYPED) OR ONLINE
1.3. BIDDERS MUST REGISTER ON THE CENTRAL SUPPLIER DATABASE (CSD) TO UPLOAD MANDATORY INFORMATION NAMELY: (BUSINESS REGISTRATION/ DIRECTORSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP/IDENTITY NUMBERS; TAX COMPLIANCE STATUS; AND BANKING INFORMATION

FOR VERIFICATION PURPOSES). B-BBEE CERTIFICATE OR SWORN AFFIDAVIT FOR B-BBEE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BIDDING INSTITUTION.

1.4. WHERE A BIDDER IS NOT REGISTERED ON THE CSD, MANDATORY INFORMATION NAMELY: (BUSINESS REGISTRATION/ DIRECTORSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP/IDENTITY NUMBERS; TAX COMPLIANCE STATUS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTATION. B-BBEE CERTIFICATE OR SWORN AFFIDAVIT FOR B-BBEE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO BIDDING INSTITUTION.

1.5. THIS BID IS SUBJECT TO THE PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK ACT 2000 AND THE PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, 2017, THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT (GCC) AND, IF APPLICABLE, ANY OTHER LEGISLATION OR SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

2. TAX COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

2.1 BIDDERS MUST ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR TAX OBLIGATIONS.

2.2 BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THEIR UNIQUE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN) ISSUED BY SARS TO ENABLE THE ORGAN OF STATE TO VIEW THE TAXPAYER'S PROFILE AND TAX STATUS.

2.3 APPLICATION FOR TAX COMPLIANCE STATUS (TCS) OR PIN MAY ALSO BE MADE VIA E-FILING. IN ORDER TO USE THIS PROVISION, TAXPAYERS WILL NEED TO REGISTER WITH SARS AS E-FILERS THROUGH THE WEBSITE WWW.SARS.GOV.ZA.

2.4 BIDDERS MAY ALSO SUBMIT A PRINTED TCS TOGETHER WITH THE BID.

2.5 IN BIDS WHERE CONSORTIA / JOINT VENTURES / SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE INVOLVED, EACH PARTY MUST SUBMIT A SEPARATE PROOF OF TCS / PIN / CSD NUMBER.

2.6 WHERE NO TCS IS AVAILABLE BUT THE BIDDER IS REGISTERED ON THE CENTRAL SUPPLIER DATABASE (CSD), A CSD NUMBER MUST BE PROVIDED.

3. QUESTIONNAIRE TO BIDDING FOREIGN SUPPLIER

3.1. IS THE BIDDER A RESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (RSA)? YES NO

3.2. DOES THE BIDDER HAVE A BRANCH IN THE RSA? YES NO

3.3. DOES THE BIDDER HAVE A PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT IN THE RSA? YES NO

3.4. DOES THE BIDDER HAVE ANY SOURCE OF INCOME IN THE RSA? YES NO

IF THE ANSWER IS “NO” TO ALL OF THE ABOVE, THEN, IT IS NOT A REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN A TAX COMPLIANCE STATUS / TAX COMPLIANCE SYSTEM PIN CODE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE (SARS) AND IF NOT REGISTER AS PER 2.3 ABOVE.

NB: FAILURE TO PROVIDE ANY OF THE ABOVE PARTICULARS MAY RENDER THE BID INVALID.

1. Declaration of Interest

This declaration will be used by institutions to ensure that when goods and services are being procured, all reasonable steps are taken to combat the abuse of the supply chain management system.

The bid of any bidder may be disregarded if that bidder, or any of its directors have:

- A. abused the NSFAS's supply chain management system;
- B. committed fraud or any other improper conduct in relation to such system; or
- C. failed to perform on any previous contract.

In order to give effect to the above, the following questionnaire must be completed and submitted with the bid.

The following must be furnished:

2.1	Full Name of bidder or his or her representative:
2.2	Identity Number:
2.3	Position occupied in the Company (director, trustee, shareholder ² , member):
2.4	Registration number of company, enterprise, close corporation, partnership agreement or trust:

2.5	Tax Reference Number:			
2.6	VAT Registration Number:			
2.6.1	The names of all directors / trustees / shareholders / members, their individual identity numbers, tax reference numbers and, if applicable, employee / PESAL numbers must be indicated in paragraph 3 below .			
2.7	Are you or any person connected with the bidder presently employed by the state?			
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">No</td> <td style="width: 70%;"></td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No	
Yes	No			
2.7.2.1	If yes, furnish the following particulars:			
	Name of person / director / trustee / shareholder/ member:			
	Name of state institution at which you or the person connected to the bidder is employed:			
	Position occupied in the state institution:			

“State” means

- (a) Any national or provincial department, national or provincial public entity or constitutional institution within the meaning of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999);
- (b) Any municipality or municipal entity;
- (c) Provincial legislature;
- (d) National Assembly or the National Council of Provinces;
- (e) Parliament.

“Shareholder” means a person who owns shares in the company and is actively involved in the management of the enterprise or business and exercises control over the enterprise

	Any other particulars:	
2.7.2	If you are presently employed by the state, did you obtain the appropriate authority to undertake remunerative work outside employment in the public sector?	
	Yes	No
2.7.2.1	If yes, did you attach proof of such authority to the bid document? Note: Failure to submit proof of such authority, where applicable, may result in the disqualification of the bid.	
	Yes	No
2.7.2.2	If no, furnish reasons for non-submission of such proof:	
2.8	Did you or your spouse, or any of the company's directors / trustees / shareholders / members or their spouses conduct business with the state in the previous twelve months?	
	Yes	No
2.8.1	If so, furnish particulars:	
2.9	Do you, or any person connected with the bidder, have any relationship (family, friend, other) with a person employed by the state and who may be involved with the evaluation and or adjudication of this bid?	
	Yes	No
2.9.1	If so, furnish particulars:	
2.10	Are you, or any person connected with the bidder, aware of any relationship (family, friend, other) between any other bidder and any person employed by the state who may be involved with the evaluation and or adjudication of this bid?	
	Yes	No
2.10.1	If so, furnish particulars:	
2.11	Do you or any of the directors / trustees / shareholders / members of the company have any interest in any other related companies whether or not they are bidding for this contract?	

	Yes	No	
2.11.1	If so, furnish particulars:		

Full details of directors / trustees / members / shareholders.

Full Name	Identity Number	Personal Income Tax Reference Number	State Employee Number / PERSEL Number

Declaration

I, THE UNDERSIGNED (NAME).....

CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED IN PARAGRAPHS 2 and 3 ABOVE IS CORRECT.
I ACCEPT THAT THE STATE MAY REJECT THE BID OR ACT AGAINST ME SHOULD THIS DECLARATION PROVE TO BE FALSE.

Signature

Date

.....

.....

Position

Name of bidder

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.....

Declaration of bidder's past Supply Chain Management practices

SBD 8

This declaration will be used by institutions to ensure that when goods and services are being procured, all reasonable steps are taken to combat the abuse of the supply chain management system.

The bid of any bidder may be disregarded if that bidder, or any of its directors have -

- abused the institution's supply chain management system;
- committed fraud or any other improper conduct in relation to such system; or
- failed to perform on any previous contract.

In order to give effect to the above, **the following questionnaire must be completed and submitted with the bid.**

The following particulars must be furnished:

<p>Is the bidder or any of its directors listed on the National Treasury's Database of Restricted Suppliers as companies or persons prohibited from doing business with the public sector?</p> <p>(Companies or persons who are listed on this Database were informed in writing of this restriction by the Accounting Officer/Authority of the institution that imposed the restriction after the audi alteram partem rule was applied).</p> <p>The Database of Restricted Suppliers now resides on the National Treasury's website (http://www.treasury.gov.za) and can be accessed by clicking on its link at the bottom of the home page.</p>		
Yes	No	
<p>If so, furnish particulars:</p>		
<p>Is the bidder or any of its directors listed on the Register for Tender Defaulters in terms of section 29 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act (No 12 of 2004)?</p> <p>The Register for Tender Defaulters can be accessed on the National Treasury's website (http://www.treasury.gov.za) by clicking on its link at the bottom of the home page.</p>		
Yes	No	
<p>If so, furnish particulars:</p>		

Was the bidder or any of its directors convicted by a court of law (including a court outside of the Republic of South Africa) for fraud or corruption during the past five years?		
Yes	No	
If so, furnish particulars:		
Was any contract between the bidder and any organ of state terminated during the past five years on account of failure to perform on or comply with the contract?		
Yes	No	
If so, furnish particulars:		

Declaration

I, THE UNDERSIGNED (NAME).....

CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED ON THIS DECLARATION FORM IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

I ACCEPT THAT, IN ADDITION TO CANCELLATION OF A CONTRACT, ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST ME SHOULD THIS DECLARATION PROVE TO BE FALSE.

Signature

Date

.....

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Position

Name of bidder

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CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT BID DETERMINATION

I, the undersigned, in submitting the accompanying bid in response to the invitation for the bid made by:

NSFAS

(Name of Institution)

Do hereby make the following statements that I certify to be true and complete in every respect:

I certify, on behalf of: _____ that:

(Name of Bidder)

1. I have read and I understand the contents of this Certificate;
2. I understand that the accompanying bid will be disqualified if this Certificate is found not to be true and complete in every respect;
3. I am authorized by the bidder to sign this Certificate, and to submit the accompanying bid, on behalf of the bidder;
4. Each person whose signature appears on the accompanying bid has been authorized by the bidder to determine the terms of, and to sign the bid, on behalf of the bidder;
5. For the purposes of this Certificate and the accompanying bid, I understand that the word "competitor" shall include any individual or organization, other than the bidder, whether or not affiliated with the bidder, who:
 - (a) has been requested to submit a bid in response to this bid invitation;
 - (b) could potentially submit a bid in response to this bid invitation, based on their qualifications,

- (b) abilities or experience; and
(c) provides the same goods and services as the bidder and/or is in the same line of business as the bidder

6. 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 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.

7. In particular, without limiting the generality of paragraphs 6 above, there has been no consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with any competitor regarding:
- (a) prices
 - (b) geographical area where product or service will be rendered (market allocation)
 - (c) methods, factors or formulas used to calculate prices;
 - (d) the intention or decision to submit or not to submit, a bid;
 - (e) the submission of a bid which does not meet the specifications and conditions of the bid; or
 - (f) bidding with the intention not to win the bid.
8. In addition, there have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements with any competitor regarding the quality, quantity, specifications and conditions or delivery particulars of the products or services to which this bid invitation relates.
9. 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.
10. 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.

Signature

Date

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Position

Name of bidder

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

VENDORS / RESELLERS PROVIDING HYPERCONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is a public entity accountable to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). It provides financial assistance to eligible students at public universities and at Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (“TVET”) colleges throughout South Africa.

The NSFAS hosted data centre infrastructure is nearing end of life and needs to be refreshed by middle of 2019.

NSFAS hereby extends an invitation to potential vendors/ resellers to provide solution proposals for hyperconverged infrastructure. There will be an opportunity to attend a briefing session (date/s will be communicated) whereby more in-depth and technical questions can be posed in order to obtain further inputs into the proposals.

Vendors may submit more than one proposal, either reflecting two different technologies or the same technology but with different configurations or options.

The NSFAS ICT are also able to facilitate the installation of sizing software if the vendor wishes to gather statistics on the workloads of the current environment. This is with regards to, but not limited to memory, compute, storage and network.

The current infrastructure includes:

1. 10 physical IBM servers (8 for inner server farm, 2 for DMZ)
2. 70 production virtual machines (95% Windows, 5% Linux), 85 non-production virtual machines
3. EMC VNX 5300 SAN (60TB usable storage – SSD, SAS & SATA), IBM Flashsystem 840 (10TB usable storage)

4. Brocade SAN switches, Cisco network switches, Fortigate firewalls, F5 Load Balancer, Barracuda Web Application Firewall (virtual)
5. Veeam backup software, EMC Data Domain backup devices
6. Disaster Recovery as a service

The proposals should include the following:

- Software defined HCI solution
- Solution must be in the Gartner magic quadrant for hyper-converged infrastructure;
- Net promoter score for customer service
- SLA's and support channels for outages, performance issues etc.
- Proactive monitoring services (if available)
- No dependency on proprietary software (i.e. use commodity hardware and support for more than 1 server vendor);
- Support for non-identical server models and configurations in one cluster
- Hardware for memory, compute and storage (dependant on sizing exercise) plus 30% for growth
- Redundant components with no single point of failure
- Ability to add and remove nodes without disruption
- Hypervisor licencing
- Software defined networking
- Micro segmentation

- Support ability to push workloads to the public cloud and migrate back to on-premise (multi cloud management)
- Capacity planning / forecasting / predictive analysis (sizing tool & what-if scenarios)
- Cost analysis of migrating work loads to the public cloud
- Disaster Recovery capability (public cloud or other)
- Backup and archiving capability (public cloud and/or data domains)
- Local non-shared direct attached storage
- Storage capabilities (deduplication, compression, replication etc)
- Intelligent data tiering (across SSDs and HDDs)
- Support for hybrid and all flash nodes
- Storage policies
- Support for 10Gbe and 1GbE NICs
- No mandatory requirement for jumbo frames
- Update functionality (hyper-converged system software, host hypervisor, hardware firmware)
- Failure recovery (eg. Disk or node)
- Security and compliance

Any information received will be subject to the conclusion of a non-disclosure agreement.

If you are an interested vendor or reseller the Request for Information form can be found NSFAS website www.nsfas.org.za .For general enquiries kindly e-mail scm@nsfas.org.za. Please note that only emailed enquiries will be responded to. Request for Information form must be in a sealed envelope and a clearly marked RFI PROPOSALS FOR HYPERCONVERGED

INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS be placed in the **NSFAS office Tender Box. NSFAS, 1st Floor, House Vincent, 10 Brodie Road, Wynberg, Cape Town** by no later than **11h00 am**.

Closing date: 16 November 2018 at 11h 00am