

QUESTION AND ANSWERS

We would appreciate clarification regarding the experience requirement in clause 3.5.4, which states that the bidder must have completed at least three similar assignments or projects successfully within the past five years “with the province”.

The phrase “**with the province**” is an error in the bid document and should read “**within the public sector.**”

Kindly confirm whether “with the province” means that all qualifying assignments must have been undertaken specifically within or for the Free State Province, or whether comparable assignments undertaken for provincial and municipal government institutions elsewhere in South Africa will also be accepted. In particular, will relevant experience in housing research, market and demand studies, strategy development and implementation planning gained in other provinces or municipalities be recognised for this purpose? Similar assignments successfully undertaken for public sector institutions, including national, provincial and local government entities anywhere within South Africa, will be considered.

We also note that the functionality evaluation criteria on pages 28 and 29 award progressively higher scores depending on the number of similar projects completed, ranging from zero or one project to more than five projects. This appears inconsistent with clause 3.5.4, which refers to at least three assignments as a requirement.

Kindly therefore confirm whether:

- three similar assignments completed within the past five years constitute a mandatory minimum requirement, in which case bidders with fewer than three would not qualify; or
- the number of assignments is a functionality scoring criterion, with bidders receiving the applicable score based on the number of qualifying projects submitted.

Bidders are required to demonstrate a **minimum of three (3) years' relevant experience and submit at least three (3) reference letters** (This is correct) for similar assignments successfully completed within the past five years. This constitutes the minimum requirement.

The functionality evaluation criteria will then be applied to assess and score bidders based on the number of qualifying similar projects submitted. Where a bidder has completed more than the minimum required number of similar assignments, and provides the necessary supporting evidence, the bidder will be allocated functionality score as such.