REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

MerSETA Systems ICT

RFI/ICT/2024/001

CLOSING DATE: 27 February 2024

CLOSING TIME: 12h00 Noon (South African Standard Time)

TABLE OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Description
merSETA	Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority
SCM /SCMU	Supply Chain Management / Supply Chain Management Unit
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSD	Central Supplier Database
GP	Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains
CSD	Central Supplier Database
PPPFA	Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act
B-BBEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
GRV	Goods Received Voucher
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
MIS (Unit)	Management Information Systems
NSDMS	National Skills Development Management System
Integration	The action of combining multiple systems/programs effectively.

1   BACKGROUND

The merSETA is the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Education and Training Authority established to promote the Skills Development Act, (Act No. 97 of 1998). It facilitates skills development in the following sub-sectors: metal and engineering, automotive manufacturing, motor retail and component manufacturing, new tyre manufacturing and plastics industries.

2   Problem

The merSETA currently uses a custom-built system, the National Skills Development System (NSDMS) to perform its legislated functions. The challenges with the system are:

- It's a monolithic system
- It's a dated system based on old technologies
- It does not have modern capabilities including security features
- Does not meet the current user requirements in as far as legal compliance is required.

3   OBJECTIVE

Providers are requested to submit an RFI for information system that will cater to the below capabilities required by the merSETA to enable it to deliver on mandated deliverables.

4   REQUIREMENTS

4.1   Functional Requirements

4.1.1   Grant Management

The merSETA is mandated to disburse mandatory and discretionary grants to beneficiaries. The merSETA requires an information system that will manage grant applications for but not limited to :

- Grant applications, and submissions made from various stakeholders such as public institutions, government entities, public and private companies, and individuals.
- Grant Verifications, the process of verifying submitted grant applications adhere to merSETA stipulated grant standards and guidelines.
- Grant Evaluation, the function of evaluating verified grants to determine the award allocation based on merSETA stipulated grant standards and guidelines.

- Contracting, the process of awarding contracts for successful applicants. This includes the management of contracts, managing and track contract performance against set contract milestones, contract closeout, and reporting.
- Assessment of conflict of interest

4.1.2 Learning Management

The merSETA performs Education and Training Quality management functions including:

- Administration and quality-assuring learning programs
- Accreditation of Skills Development Providers
- Registration of assessors and moderators
- Quality Assurance of learning through external moderation
- Registration of learning agreements
- Closing of learners and issuing of certificates

4.1.3 Performance management

The solution must have the ability to generate reports in line with the merSETA strategy and Annual Performance Plan.

4.2 Fraud and Risk Mitigation Capabilities

The solution must have capabilities of mitigating fraud and reducing risks in awarding Grants and Registration of learners.

4.3 Technology Capabilities

4.3.1 Emerging Technologies

The Respondent's solution must demonstrate the use of leading-edge modern digital solutions including Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation etc. where appropriate.

4.3.2 Integration Capabilities

The solution will be required to have integration capabilities. The merSETA uses Microsoft GP as a financial management system.

4.3.3 Security Capabilities

The solution must possess information security capabilities that to protect the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of information.

4.3.4 Data Analytics

The solution must be capable of providing platforms for data analytics applications and tools, across the capabilities enclosed in this RFI.

5 Respondents Capabilities

5.1 System Integration Experience

The Respondents must demonstrate extensive experience in system integration, custom system development, and off-the-shelf system implementation.

5.2 Skills

The Respondents must demonstrate capacity and capability to deliver on the above requirements

5.3 Vendor Partnerships.

The Respondents must provide letters of partnership where a third-party software forms part of or is the proposed solution.

5.4 Solutions Architecture.

The respondents must have experience in information systems solutions architecture.

5.5 Software Quality Assurance

The respondents must have experience in software quality assurance and testing.

6 Presentations

Respondents may be shortlisted for a demonstration of their capabilities through a Proof of Concept at the respondent's own cost determined and scope by the merSETA.

7 Response to RFI

Respondents can respond to the full RFI capability requirements or some part of the RFI capability requirements.

8 DISCLAIMER

Respondents are hereby advised that the merSETA is not committed to any course of action as a result of its issuance of this RFI and/or its receipt of submissions in response to it. In particular, please note that the merSETA reserves the right and at its sole and full discretion to:

- Utilise any information provided to it in response to this RFI to draft the scope of requirements for inclusion in an RFP, unless it is specifically stated as Intellectual Property;
- Take no further action whatsoever if it so decides
- Withdraw from this process and the provisions of this project at any time;
- Not invite RFI respondents for further participation in the RFP process;
- Not bind itself to accept any or all of the RFIs;
- Increase or decrease the quantities/scope as indicated in the RFI;
- Validate any information submitted by Respondents in response to this RFI. This would include, but is not limited to, requesting the Respondents to provide supporting evidence
- by submitting a RFI, Respondents hereby irrevocably grant the necessary consent to merSETA to do so

Kindly note that merSETA will not reimburse any Respondent for any preparatory costs or other work performed in connection with this submission.

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