CONSOLIDATED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER TO SUPPLY THE VIRTUAL TAPE LIBRARY AND SECURE DATA SOLUTION INCLUDING INSTALLATION & CONFIGURATION

RFP/IT/2020/14

1. Questions:
SABC Information Technology has posted RFP for the Appointment of a service provider to Supply The Virtual Tape Library and Secure Data Solution Including Installation & Configuration. Could you kindly assist with the following technical questions?

- CA1 Tape management software is being used for backup to the mainframe. Is this software at the correct level to support a VTL? Is the bidder expected to upgrade this software to the required level to support a VTL?
- **Ans:** The CA-1 is at correct level to support VTL. Bidder not expected to upgrade CA-1

- How will the NETAPP disk solution connect to the VTL?
- **Ans:** Direct FICON connection to the Mainframe on site and DR site and Ethernet for replication between the 2 appliances. The Netapp storage devices connect behind appliances.

- The tender mentions an alternate site for the second machine. Where will the alternate site be and how far from production site?
- **Ans:** At SABC DR and approximately 50KM away

- How much data will be kept in the VTL, in TB, taking into account retention, daily changed data and so on. Ie how much useable disk capacity do you require in the VTL. Take on of volumes: would we need to take up any existing if any what volumes?
- **Ans:** 48TB per device minimum. Existing live on tapes and very little will be migrated. Cycles will drop off.

- Is there a mainframe in both sites and will each one back up to a VTL in each site?
- **Ans:** Mainframe on both sites, the primary appliance is supposed to replicate to the secondary. 2nd site is a DR site and recovery will take place to mainframe at 2nd site twice a year.

- Can you please explain what the Netapp device will do – when you talk about Secure Data Solution. Is this for a third copy of the Data? VTL1 will have one copy, which will be replicated to VTL2 which will then have a second copy (and visa versa if there are two mainframes) – so what is the Netapp for?
- **Ans**
  
  Secure data solution is the appliance. Netapp is storage behind each appliance.

- Would you need to keep the old libraries alive for historical data still on tape or will you be migrating/expiring the existing tapes to the VTL?
• Ans Some will be migrated to VTL and most will drop off as new versions is created.
• Would you like a proposal to keep maintaining the old library until all the data has been migrated or expired. If so, what drives and what library hardware is in use?
• Ans This is not part of this tender and there will be an RFP for extended support of 3590 E11 IBM drives
• Can you give us an idea of what speed (in TB/Hour) you require and what the daily volumes are. What backup window needs to be met? On a full backup 3.6 TB per hour or faster.
• Alternatively, could you provide us the existing data throughput to the libraries and indicate if they meet your window requirements.
• Ans They do not meet our requirement and full system backups take around 16 hours.