



TENDER REFERENCE: RFP 30/2023

TENDER NAME: APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER FOR THE PROVISION OF DIGITAL FORENSICS REVIEW PLATFORM SOFTWARE SOLUTION

Questions	Answer
<p>1. Mention is made of 100-150 digital media cases per year. What is the average size and duration of a case (i.e. on average how long is a case active for investigators before it is archived)? What is the anticipated concurrent volume of data within the system in any given month?</p>	<p>Case Dependant, between 10 and 12 terabyte (100 per year).</p>
<p>2. What constitutes the “estimated quantity of data will be 100 to 300 Terabytes within the financial year”? Is this volume based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected source files (e.g. laptop hard drives, servers, external media, cell phones etc.) • Compressed forensic images of imaged source files (i.e. E01, AD1, L01 etc.) • Deduplicated and de-NISTed data processed from forensic images and available for review by investigators 	<p>What constitutes the “estimated quantity of data will be 100 to 300 Terabytes within the financial year”? Is this volume based on:</p> <p>2.1 Collected source files (e.g. laptop hard drives, servers, external media, cell phones etc.)</p> <p>YES</p> <p>2.2 Compressed forensic images of imaged source files (i.e. E01, AD1, L01 etc.)</p> <p>NO</p> <p>2.3 Deduplicated and de-NISTed data processed from forensic images and available for review by investigators.</p> <p>YES</p> <p>NB Bidders should note that the data will be hosted on SARS Infrastructure and not on any external Cloud Platforms. The Digital Forensic Investigations Unit within SARS requires an inhouse Digital Forensic Review Platform.</p>
<p>3. What constitutes the “additional 700 terabytes of historical data”?</p> <p>Is this volume based on the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected source files (e.g. laptop hard drives, servers, external media, cell phones etc.) • Compressed forensic images of imaged source files (i.e. E01, AD1, L01 etc.) • Deduplicated and de-NISTed data processed from forensic images and available for review by investigators • Productions out of legacy eDiscovery systems 	<p>What constitutes the “additional 700 terabytes of historical data”? Is this volume based on the</p> <p>3.1 Collected source files (e.g. laptop hard drives, servers, external media, cell phones etc.)</p> <p>YES</p> <p>3.2 Compressed forensic images of imaged source files (i.e. E01, AD1, L01 etc.)</p> <p>NO</p> <p>3.3 Deduplicated and de-NISTed data processed from forensic images and available for review by investigators.</p> <p>YES</p>



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	3.4 Productions out of legacy eDiscovery systems NO
4. Can the “additional 700 terabytes of historical data” be retained in a near-line state or must it be in an active state for investigators to access on a continuous 24/7 basis?	SARS retains the original evidence files in a near line state.
5. Pricing – The pricing spreadsheet appears to be constructed for licence, support and by implication, an on-premises deployment, with hardware provisioned by SARS. It does not cater for a cloud or volume-based subscriptions and no amendments to the pricing template are permitted. How should cloud solutions (with incorporated infrastructure costs) be quoted?	No Cloud solution required.
6. “Proof that they have been providing Digital Forensics Review Software/s for at least 5 years” – what would constitute sufficient proof? Client references, vendor and software agreement?	Client references.
7. “Bidder must submit proof that a bidder is the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), authorised distributor or reseller of the proposed product intended to supply” – what would constitute sufficient proof? As a supplier of a service, based on third party technology, would a letter from our supplier be sufficient?	Letter from OEM, and or letter from distributor confirming as official reseller
8. Please clarify “support the current tools in use within the DFI environment” (i.e. FTK and Magnet Axiom). Does the eDiscovery solution need to be tightly integrated with FTK and Magnet Axiom or should it just be able to support the output from FTK and Axiom (i.e. forensic images)?	Support any forensic images not limited to FTK/Axiom
9. Centralised Processing – mention is made of processing on workstations. Would a centralised Cloud Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) processing and review platform be considered acceptable in a response to this RFP?	No
10. Facial Recognition – is this a core requirement?	No
11. Geographic Mapping – is this a core requirement? We envisage this aspect being fulfilled within the forensic data analytics component of our response, facilitated by Microsoft Power BI (or similar) and based on available metadata (including such data as phone mast ‘pings’, look-up of extracted entity locations, etc).	Yes
12. Presentation - Is there any requirement for a court presentation capability in the requirements?	Yes
13. It was stated that the solution had to be on premises and no cloud offerings would be accepted. What are SARS objections to cloud solutions? Data sovereignty? Security? Given that we	The DFI requirement as advertised does not require CLOUD Platform.



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<p>understand SARS already use the cloud-based Microsoft 365 for email, Teams, OneDrive, etc, taxpayer data is doubtless in the cloud already. Also, the stated volume of data to be supported (1 Petabyte and growing by 100-300TB per annum) will require a considerable on premises infrastructure to support it. Is a scalable, ISO27001 secure cloud environment not an option?</p>	
<p>14. Could SARS please provide a budget range within which this RFP sits to ensure alignment of expectations for both SARS and bidders?</p>	<p>The DFI requirement as advertised does not require CLOUD Platform.</p>
<p>15. Is the Business Requirements Specification (as specified in the document titled, "RFP 30-2023_3-1 Annexure B- SARS Pricing Response Template") detailed in Annexure A of the Appointment of a Service Provider for the Provision of Digital Forensics Review Platform Software Solution?</p>	<p>The provided pricing template is for bidders to respond to the SARS requirement for the provision of Digital Forensics Review Platform aligned with the specification of the review platform.</p>
<p>16. Is the estimated quantity of data (100 to 300 Terabytes / 700 terabytes) the total estimated size of the devices? Or, is it the size of the structured, processed extracted data? Have any processes been applied to the data prior to estimating the size, for example, deduplication?</p>	<p>Size of the structured, processed extracted data, evidence files Case Dependant, between 10 and 12 terabyte per month. (100 per year) but the structured processed extracted data will be less.</p>
<p>17. What period will the Review Platform be required for under this RFP? What is the data retention and destruction policy?</p>	<p>Annual Licensing renewable. Data remains in SARS control. No cloud storage or hosting or data retention is required. Data will be hosted inhouse in line with criminal matter retention policies.</p>
<p>18. Should we make provision for hours for supporting DFI in the training, transition, and the setup of the various requirements of the platform (for example, for the provision of analytics specialists to assist DFI in applying predictive coding to the data)?</p>	<p>Refer to pricing template – Table 1. SARS requirements require setting up the platform and providing professional services.</p>
<p>19. Based on the current pricing template, if we consider there to be further requirements for consideration, which we will incorporate into the separate letter, would you be amenable to us proposing an alternative pricing solution that is more comprehensive and suitable to the requirements of the RFP?</p>	<p>Bidders are not allowed to amend/change the provided pricing template.</p> <p>Refer to pricing template - Note 8 & 9,</p>