merSETA
MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

RFQ NUMBER:	RFQ/GRA/26/27/241	**INVITATION DATE:**	02 November 2026
CLOSING DATE:	06 November 2026	**CLOSING TIME:**	15H00 PM
RFQ SUBMISSION EMAIL ADDRESS:		quotations@merseta.org.za	

RFQ Description	APPOINTMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER FOR PRIOR-YEAR ACCRUALS EVIDENCE REVIEW AND ASSURANCE TEAM	
SCM Enquiries	**Full Name:**	Thokozani Dlamini
	Email:	TDlamini@Merseta.org.za
Technical Enquiries	**Full Name:**	Vuyokazi Nxangashe
	Email:	VNxangashe@merseta.org.za
Contents of RFQ	1. Bidders Information 2. Terms and Conditions of Request for Quotation (RFQ) 3. Undertaking by Bidder 4. Authority to Sign 5. SBD 4 - Bidder's Disclosure 6. SBD 6.1 Preference Points Claim Form 7. Specifications for Goods Required 8. Pricing Schedule 9. SBD 7.1 Contract Form - Purchase of Goods/Works	

Submission of Quotation

Quotations must be clearly marked: ***RFQ Number & Description of the required goods/services'***

Offers shall be submitted by email to: quotations@merseta.org.za using the **RFQ number** as the email subject.

Quotations received late / after the closing date and time will not be considered

Report unethical conduct on our Fraud Hotline: 0800 333 057

Stop scammers / theft / fraud / dishonesty / bribery /blackmail / intimidation and remain anonymous.

Bidders Information

Company Name	
Company Registration number	
VAT registration number	
Contact Person	
Telephone number	
Cell number	
E-mail address	
Postal address	
Physical address	
CSD Supplier number	

I certify that the information furnished on this form is true and correct. I further accept that, in addition to cancellation of a contract, action may be taken against me should this declaration prove to be false.

_____	_____	_____
Name of Representative (Duly Authorised)	Signature	Date

Terms and Conditions of Request for Quotation (RFQ)

1. Any alteration made by the bidder must be initialled.
2. Submission of quotes received late (after the closing date and time) will not be considered.
3. The price(s) quoted shall be valid for a minimum **period of 60 days** from the closing date and time of this RFQ.
4. Bidders must be registered on the National Treasury's Central Suppliers Database.
5. The price(s) quoted must be firm and inclusive of value-added tax (VAT) where applicable.
6. The price(s) must include all related expenses, i.e., transport, accommodation, etc. (where applicable).
7. This quotation is subject to the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act and the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022; the General Conditions of Contract (GCC) and if applicable any other Special Conditions of Contract.
8. The applicable preference point system for this tender is the 80/20 preference point system, Failure on the part of a tenderer to submit proof or documentation required in terms of this RFQ to claim points for specific goals, will be interpreted to mean that preference points for specific goals are not claimed by the bidder. Kindly refer to SBD 6.1 form for additional information.
9. Suppliers must complete the attached SBD 4 – Bidders disclosure, failure to complete these documents may result in the quotation being disqualified.
10. Quotations must be in accordance and comply with the terms of reference/specifications provided, unless otherwise stipulated.
11. The official merSETA quotation form must be used to quote the offered price. Should the allocated price page be insufficient, the tenderer may supplement the price page with an additional pricing breakdown on the company letterhead.
12. Price Declaration must be completed, and should the total RFQ prices differ, the one indicated on the price declaration shall be considered the correct price.
13. The successful supplier may be required to complete and sign and SLA or a written Contract Form SBD 7.1 or SBD 7.2. (If applicable)
14. This document may contain confidential information that is the property of merSETA.
15. No part of the contents may be used, copied, disclosed or conveyed in whole or in part to any party in any manner whatsoever other than for preparing a proposal in response to this RFQ, without prior written permission from merSETA and the Bidder.
16. All Copyright and Intellectual Property herein vests with merSETA and its Bidder.
17. Responses to this RFQ must be submitted by email quotations@merseta.org.za.
18. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that its response reaches merSETA on or before the closing date and time of the RFQ.
19. No services must be rendered or goods delivered before acceptance of the official merSETA appointment letter or a Purchase Order form has been received.
20. **The merSETA reserves the right to appoint more than one supplier/service provider and or to award the quote as whole or in part.**
21. A full copy of General Conditions of Contract (GCC) are available and may be accessed for reference purposes on the National Treasury website by following the link below; (https://www.treasury.gov.za/divisions/ocpo/sc/generalconditions/general%20conditions%20of%20contract.pdf)

Undertaking by Bidder

1. I/We hereby quote to supply all or any of the supplies and/or to render all or any of the services described in the attached documents to merSETA on the terms and conditions. In accordance with the specifications stipulated in the quotation documents (and which shall be taken as part of and be incorporated into this quote) at the prices and on the terms regarding time for delivery and/or execution inserted therein.

2. I/we agree that:
   (a) the offer herein shall remain binding upon me and open for acceptance by merSETA during the validity period indicated and calculated from the closing time of the quote;

   (b) this quote and its acceptance shall be subject to the Public Finance Management Act, 1999, the merSETA Supply Chain Management Policy and Procedures, the General and Special Conditions of Contract as may be applicable, with which I/we am fully acquainted;

   (c) if I/we withdraw my quote within the period for which I/we have agreed that the quote shall remain open for acceptance, or fail to fulfil the contract when called upon to do so. The merSETA may, without prejudice to its other rights, agree to the withdrawal of my quote or cancel the contract that may have been entered into between merSETA and I/us. I/we will then pay to merSETA any additional expenses incurred for having either to accept any less favourable quote or, if fresh quote have to be invited, the additional expenditure incurred by the invitation of fresh quotes and by the subsequent acceptance of any less favourable quotes.

   (d) the merSETA shall reserve the right to recover such additional expenditure by set-off against monies which may be due to me under this, or any other tender or contract or against any guarantee or deposit that may have been furnished by me or on my behalf for the due fulfilment of this or any other tender or contract. Pending the ascertainment of the amount of such additional merSETA may sustain by reason of my default;

   (e) if my quote is accepted, the acceptance may be communicated to me by electronic mail, to the email address supplied in my quotation document;

   (f) the law of the Republic of South Africa shall govern the contract created by the acceptance of my quote and I choose *domicilium citandi et executandi* in the Republic at (full physical address) :

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. I/we furthermore confirm that I/we have satisfied myself as to the correctness and validity of my quote: that the price(s), rate(s) and preference quoted cover all of the work/item(s) and my obligations under a resulting contract, and I accept that any mistakes regarding the price(s) and calculations will be at my risk.

4. I/we hereby accept full responsibility for the proper execution and fulfilment of all obligations and conditions devolving on me under this agreement, as the Principal(s) liable for the due fulfilment of this contract.

5. I/we agree that any action arising from this contract may in all respects be instituted against me and I/we hereby undertake to satisfy fully any sentence or judgement which may be pronounced against me as a result of such action.

6. I/we confirm that I/we have declared all and any interest that I or any persons related to my business has with regard to this quote or any related quotations by completion of the Bidder's Disclosure Section.

7. I/WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, WHO WARRANT THAT I AM DULY AUTHORISED TO DO SO ON BEHALF OF THE TENDERER, CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN TERMS OF THIS DOCUMENT IS CORRECT AND TRUE, THAT THE SIGNATORY TO THIS DOCUMENT IS DULY AUTHORISED AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT:

(1) The tenderer will furnish documentary proof regarding any tendering issue to the satisfaction of the merSETA, if requested to do so.

(2) If the information supplied is found to be incorrect and/or false then merSETA, in addition to any remedies it may have, may: -

a) Recover from the contractor all costs, losses or damages incurred or sustained by merSETA as a result of the award of the contract, and/or

b) Cancel the contract and claim any damages which merSETA may suffer by having to make less favourable arrangements after such cancellation.

_____	_____	_____
Name of Representative (Duly Authorised)	Signature	Date

AUTHORITY TO SIGN

Tender/RFQ NO: _____ Description: _____

Indicate the business/entity type of the tenderer by ticking the appropriate box hereunder:

Company		Close Corporation		Partnership		Joint Venture		Sole Proprietor	

The tenderer must complete the fields set out below for the relevant category applicable to them, and attach their **Registration Certificates for Companies, Close Corporations and Partnerships**, or **Agreements and Powers of Attorney for Joint Ventures**, or **ID documents** to the support data provided at the end of this form.

I/We, the undersigned, being the Board of Directors / Members /Partners in the business trading as:

Business Name:

Registration No:

Hereby authorise/resolved that Mr/Ms_____, in his/her capacity as _____, is authorised to make applications and or sign on behalf of the Company / Close Corporation / Partnership / Trust /Joint Venture, all documents in connection with the tender, any contract resulting from our bid and any other documents and correspondence in connection with this bid and /or contract. ***Resolution by Board of Directors to be attached for Company***

Signature of Signatory:_____ **Date**: _____

Sole Proprietor: I, _____hereby confirm that I am the sole owner of the business trading as: _____Signature_____

CC Member/s, Partners, JV Partner Signatures:

Name	Signature	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

NB: Failure to complete, sign and date the resolution as outlined above will negatively impact and delay contract signing. Bidders may attach a signed company resolution on a company letterhead

SBD 4 - Bidder's Disclosure

1. PURPOSE OF THE FORM

Any person (natural or juristic) may make an offer or offers in terms of this invitation to bid. In line with the principles of transparency, accountability, impartiality, and ethics as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and further expressed in various pieces of legislation, it is required for the bidder to make this declaration in respect of the details required hereunder.

Where a person/s are listed in the Register for Tender Defaulters and / or the List of Restricted Suppliers, that person will automatically be disqualified from the bid process.

2. Bidder's declaration

2.1 Is the bidder, or any of its directors / trustees / shareholders / members / partners or any person having a controlling interest1 in the enterprise, employed by the state **YES/NO**

2.1.1 If so, furnish particulars of the names, individual identity numbers, and, if applicable, state employee numbers of sole proprietor/ directors / trustees / shareholders / members/ partners or any person having a controlling interest in the enterprise, in table below.

Full Name	Identity Number	Name of State institution

2.2 Do you, or any person connected with the bidder, have a relationship with any person who is employed by the procuring institution? **YES/NO**

2.2.1 If so, furnish particulars:

_____

_____

2.3 Does the bidder or any of its directors / trustees / shareholders / members / partners or any person having a controlling interest in the enterprise have any interest in any other related enterprise whether or not they are bidding for this contract? **YES/NO**

2.3.1 If so, furnish particulars:

_____

_____

1 the power, by one person or a group of persons holding the majority of the equity of an enterprise, alternatively, the person/s having the deciding vote or power to influence or to direct the course and decisions of the enterprise.

3 DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, (name)_____ in submitting the accompanying bid, do hereby make the following statements that I certify to be true and complete in every respect:

3.1 I have read and I understand the contents of this disclosure;

3.2 I understand that the accompanying bid will be disqualified if this disclosure is found not to be true and complete in every respect;

3.3 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 consortium2 will not be construed as collusive bidding.

3.4 In addition, there have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements with any competitor regarding the quality, quantity, specifications, prices, including methods, factors or formulas used to calculate prices, market allocation, the intention or decision to submit or not to submit the bid, bidding with the intention not to win the bid and conditions or delivery particulars of the products or services to which this bid invitation relates.

3.5 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.

3.6 There have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements made by the bidder with any official of the procuring institution in relation to this procurement process prior to and during the bidding process except to provide clarification on the bid submitted where so required by the institution; and the bidder was not involved in the drafting of the specifications or terms of reference for this bid.

3.7 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.

I certify that the information furnished in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above is correct.

I accept that the state may reject the bid or act against me in terms of paragraph 6 of PFMA SCM Instruction 03 of 2021/22 on preventing and combating abuse in the Supply Chain Management System should this declaration prove to be false.

_____ _____

Signature Date

_____ _____

Position Name of bidder

2 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.

SBD 6.1 Preference Points Claim Form
in terms of the Preferential Procurement Regulations 2022

This preference form must form part of all tenders invited. It contains general information and serves as a claim form for preference points for specific goals.

NB: BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM, TENDERERS MUST STUDY THE GENERAL CONDITIONS, DEFINITIONS AND DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE IN RESPECT OF THE TENDER AND PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, 2022

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.1 The following preference point systems are applicable to invitations to tender:

the 80/20 system for requirements with a Rand value of up to R50 000 000 (all applicable taxes included); and
the 90/10 system for requirements with a Rand value above R50 000 000 (all applicable taxes included).

1.2 To be completed by the organ of state

The applicable preference point system for this tender is the 80/20 preference point system.

1.3 Points for this tender (even in the case of a tender for income-generating contracts) shall be awarded for:

(a) Price; and
(b) Specific Goals.

1.4 To be completed by the organ of state:

The maximum points for this tender are allocated as follows:

	POINTS
PRICE	80
SPECIFIC GOALS	20
TOTAL POINTS FOR PRICE AND SPECIFIC GOALS	**100**

1.5 Failure on the part of a tenderer to submit proof or documentation required in terms of this tender to claim points for specific goals with the tender, will be interpreted to mean that preference points for specific goals are not claimed.

1.6 The organ of state reserves the right to require of a tenderer, either before a tender is adjudicated or at any time subsequently, to substantiate any claim in regard to preferences, in any manner required by the organ of state

2. DEFINITIONS

(a) **"tender"** means a written offer in the form determined by an organ of state in response to an invitation to provide goods or services through price quotations, competitive tendering process or any other method envisaged in legislation;

(b) **"price"** means an amount of money tendered for goods or services, and includes all applicable taxes less all unconditional discounts;

(c) **"rand value"** means the total estimated value of a contract in Rand, calculated at the time of bid invitation, and includes all applicable taxes;

(d) **"tender for income-generating contracts"** means a written offer in the form determined by an organ of state in response to an invitation for the origination of income-generating contracts through any method envisaged in legislation that will result in a legal agreement between the organ of state and a third party that produces revenue for the organ of state, and includes, but is not limited to, leasing and disposal of assets and concession contracts, excluding direct sales and disposal of assets through public auctions; and

(e) **"the Act"** means the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 (Act No. 5 of 2000).

3. FORMULAE FOR PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES

3.1. POINTS AWARDED FOR PRICE

3.1.1 THE 80/20 OR 90/10 PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEMS

A maximum of 80 or 90 points is allocated for price on the following basis:

80/20 **or** **90/10**

$$Ps = 80\left(1 - \frac{Pt - P\,min}{P\,min}\right) \quad \text{or} \quad Ps = 90\left(1 - \frac{Pt - P\,min}{P\,min}\right)$$

Where:

Ps = Points scored for price of tender under consideration
Pt = Price of tender under consideration
Pmin = Price of lowest acceptable tender

3.2. FORMULAE FOR DISPOSAL OR LEASING OF STATE ASSETS AND INCOME GENERATING PROCUREMENT

3.2.1. POINTS AWARDED FOR PRICE

A maximum of 80 or 90 points is allocated for price on the following basis:

80/20 **or** **90/10**

$$Ps = 80\left(1 + \frac{Pt - P\,max}{P\,max}\right) \quad \text{or} \quad Ps = 90\left(1 + \frac{Pt - P\,max}{Pmax}\right)$$

Where:

Ps = Points scored for price of tender under consideration
Pt = Price of tender under consideration
Pmax = Price of highest acceptable tender

4. POINTS AWARDED FOR SPECIFIC GOALS

4.1. In terms of Regulation 4(2); 5(2); 6(2) and 7(2) of the Preferential Procurement Regulations, preference points must be awarded for specific goals stated in the tender. For the purposes of this tender the tenderer will be allocated points based on the goals stated in table 1 below as may be supported by proof/ documentation stated in the conditions of this tender:

4.2. In cases where organs of state intend to use Regulation 3(2) of the Regulations, which states that, if it is unclear whether the 80/20 or 90/10 preference point system applies, an organ of state must, in the tender documents, stipulate in the case of—

(a) an invitation for tender for income-generating contracts, that either the 80/20 or 90/10 preference point system will apply and that the highest acceptable tender will be used to determine the applicable preference point system; or

(b) any other invitation for tender, that either the 80/20 or 90/10 preference point system will apply and that the lowest acceptable tender will be used to determine the applicable preference point system, then the organ of state must indicate the points allocated for specific goals for both the 90/10 and 80/20 preference point system.

Table 1: Specific goals for the tender and points claimed are indicated per the table below.
(Note to organs of state: Where either the 90/10 or 80/20 preference point system is applicable, corresponding points must also be indicated as such.

***Note to tenderers: The tenderer must indicate how they claim points for each preference point system.*)**

The specific goals allocated points in terms of this tender	Number of points allocated (80/20 system) (To be completed by the organ of state)	Number of points claimed (80/20 system) (To be completed by the tenderer)
Tenderer who has 51% to 100% black people ownership	6	
Tenderer who has 30% to 100% black women ownership	4	
Tenderer who has 30% to 100% black youth ownership	4	
Tenderer who has 30% to 100% White women ownership	2	
Tenderer who has 20% or more owners with disability	4	
Total Points allocated to Specific Goals	**20**	

DECLARATION WITH REGARD TO COMPANY/FIRM

4.3. Name of company/firm _____

4.4. Company registration number: ……..

TYPE OF COMPANY/ FIRM [TICK APPLICABLE BOX]

- ϒ Partnership/Joint Venture / Consortium
- ϒ One-person business/sole propriety
- ϒ Close corporation
- ϒ Public Company
- ϒ Personal Liability Company
- ϒ (Pty) Limited
- ϒ Non-Profit Company
- ϒ State Owned Company

4.5. I, the undersigned, who is duly authorised to do so on behalf of the company/firm, certify that the points claimed, based on the specific goals as advised in the tender, qualifies the company/ firm for the preference(s) shown and I acknowledge that:

i) The information furnished is true and correct;

ii) The preference points claimed are in accordance with the General Conditions as indicated in paragraph 1 of this form;

iii) In the event of a contract being awarded as a result of points claimed as shown in paragraphs 1.4 and 4.2, the contractor may be required to furnish documentary proof to the satisfaction of the organ of state that the claims are correct;

iv) If the specific goals have been claimed or obtained on a fraudulent basis or any of the conditions of contract have not been fulfilled, the organ of state may, in addition to any other remedy it may have –

(a) disqualify the person from the tendering process;

(b) recover costs, losses or damages it has incurred or suffered as a result of that person's conduct;

(c) cancel the contract and claim any damages which it has suffered as a result of having to make less favourable arrangements due to such cancellation;

(d) recommend that the tenderer or contractor, its shareholders and directors, or only the shareholders and directors who acted on a fraudulent basis, be restricted from obtaining business from any organ of state for a period not exceeding 10 years, after the *audi alteram partem* (hear the other side) rule has been applied; and

(e) forward the matter for criminal prosecution, if deemed necessary.

TENDERER'S SIGNATURE _____

SURNAME AND NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

_____

_____

Specifications/Description of Goods/Services Required

PRIOR-YEAR ACCRUALS EVIDENCE REVIEW AND ASSURANCE TEAM

1.1 INTRODUCTION TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (merSETA) is a Schedule 3A public entity established in terms of the Skills Development Act (Act No. 97 of 1998), Registration Number 17/merSETA/01/04/20, to facilitate skills development for the Metal and Engineering, Motor Retail and Components Manufacturing, Automobile Manufacturing, Plastics Manufacturing and New Tyre Manufacturing Sectors Automotive Components Manufacturing Chamber.

1.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(1) merSETA received a qualified audit opinion for the financial year ended 31 March 2026. Qualification matters relevant to this assignment relate to discretionary grant accruals, prior-year provisions and contingent liabilities, together with the commitment, contract and project evidence required to substantiate the related balances and disclosures.

a) Employer grant and project expenses

b) Grants and transfer payables

c) Receivables from non-exchange transactions

(2) Whilst the Auditors have noted amongst other things, that Management had put in place an action plan and additional controls to address the root causes of the prior year's findings. It was noted that the action plan was not adequately implemented, resulting in repeat audit findings.

(3) After the audit, a significant number of internal controls relating to contracts management and performance information processes have been implemented to enhance compliance and, in an effort, to address and or resolve material audit exceptions that were identified in recent past.

(4) One of the interventions deployed as a control self-assessment (CSA) exercise was a high-level review of internal controls project. This project sought to review inter alia the internal processes, the accrual process, commitment registers, review and update the accounting policies, and review efficacy of the audit action plan relative to the Management Report issued by the AGSA and the development of standard operating procedures to guide the process of strengthening internal controls.

(5) Key findings of the review revealed that to remedy the current gaps and make notable progress towards an improved audit opinion, merSETA must undertake a deep dive into the following activities as part of its turnaround efforts:

a) **Standard operating procedures**: Draft SOPs have been developed. However, there is a need for adaptation support to ensure implementation of the procedures through monitoring activities and change management.

b) **Documentation**: Records management and documentation need to receive urgent attention as it fundamental for information retrieval in response to auditors.

c) **Programme monitoring:** Various activities need to be undertaken to streamline programme data for completeness, accuracy and reliability.

d) **Commitment register:** There's a need to consolidate information on the commitment register to create a single data source.

e) **Financial statements 2026**: Preparation of GRAP104R calculations and disclosure. The merSETA requires support services in reliably identifying transactions that would trigger accruals, provisions and commitments from the commitment register.

(6) The self-review exercise revealed that a lot more work still needs to be done for merSETA to progress towards a position of an unqualified audit opinion. The scope of work outline below seeks to urgently address some of the key activities geared towards achieving better audit outcomes.

1.3 INVITATION AND PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT

(1) The purpose of this RFP is to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced independent professional services firm with demonstrable expertise in public-sector financial reporting, discretionary grant administration, accruals, commitments, evidence management and audit assurance. The firm will supplement internal capacity, perform contract- and project-level assessments, strengthen supporting evidence and controls, and assist management to produce complete, traceable and audit-ready accrual, provision and contingent-liability files. The appointment will not transfer management's statutory responsibilities, accounting judgements, approval authority or accountability to the service provider.

(2) merSETA therefore invites suitably qualified and experienced independent bidders to complete the assignment within the prescribed period and to produce outputs that are complete, traceable, quality assured and suitable for management and audit review.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE APPOINTMENT

(1) The immediate and primary goal for merSETA is to not only to obtain an unqualified audit opinion, but to ensure sustainable compliance and continuous adherence sound internal controls. Considerable efforts have been put towards improving administrative and procedural efficiency, thereby giving effect to entity's mandate. This position informs the objectives of this project which are:

a) Resolve and support the audit qualification matters relating to discretionary grant accruals, prior-year provisions and contingent liabilities through complete population reconciliation, contract-level assessment and audit-ready evidence.

b) Assess relevant expenditure incurred in the current financial year to confirm occurrence, cut-off, correct financial-year classification and whether any amount relates to a prior-year obligation, provision or contingent-liability assessment.

c) Strengthen the governance, ownership, reconciliation, supporting-document and review controls required to maintain complete accrual, provision and contingent-liability records and sustainable audit readiness.

1.5 SCOPE OF WORK

(2) The service provider must conduct a 100% review of all discretionary grant projects in the agreed expenditure, accruals and commitments population, including current-year payments relating to prior-year obligations, and must validate completeness, accuracy, supporting evidence and accounting treatment.

(3) The assignment includes prior-year expenditure and accrual review; current-year expenditure assessment; commitments-register review and enhancement; project-payment evidence compilation; prior-year provisions and contingent liabilities; targeted regional verification and stakeholder engagement; and quality-assured reporting and handover.

PART A – EVIDENCE REVIEW, RECONCILIATION AND ASSESSMENT

a) Reconcile each project to approved allocations, contracts or SLA, milestones, deliverables, invoices, claims, payments, accrual registers, commitments registers and expenditure schedules.

b) Assess whether obligations existed at the reporting date, verify amounts and financial-year classification, and document exceptions, missing evidence, corrective actions and management decisions required.

c) Compile complete, indexed project-level evidence packs that provide traceability from approval and delivery through invoicing, payment and financial reporting.

d) Compile and reconcile prior-year provision and contingent-liability populations and document the obligating event, probability assessment, assumptions, best estimate, uncertainty, subsequent events and management judgement in accordance with GRAP 19.

PART B – COMMITMENTS REGISTER, GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE

a) Assess, reconcile and enhance the commitments register, including controls, ownership and maintenance processes.

b) Maintain central evidence, information-request, issue, exception and decision registers, with prompt escalation of blockers and risks.

c) Conduct targeted regional visits where necessary to obtain and validate project records, stakeholder confirmations and delivery evidence.

d) Subject all material calculations, assessments, evidence packs, proposed journals, disclosures and reports to independent quality review before submission.

1.6 DELIVERABLES / KEY OUTCOMES FOR THE PROJECT

(1) The following deliverables are envisaged at the conclusion of the assignment:

a) Inception report and approved detailed work plan.

b) Confirmed project population and information-request register.

c) Project-level review tracker showing procedures performed, evidence obtained, conclusions and exceptions.

d) Complete indexed electronic evidence packs for every project reviewed.

e) Reconciled prior-year accrual schedule and reconciled, enhanced commitments register.

f) Documented prior-year and current-year expenditure-classification schedule.

g) Exception and corrective-action register identifying responsible merSETA officials and due dates.

h) Weekly progress reports, draft report, presentation of findings, and final report incorporating agreed management responses.

i) Editable schedules and working papers, with all supporting evidence indexed and cross-referenced.

1.7 REQUIRED EXPERTISE AND SKILLS

(1) The bidder must demonstrate relevant organisational experience in public-sector financial reporting, audit remediation, GRAP, PFMA-governed entities, AGSA processes, grants and contract administration, accruals, provisions, contingent liabilities, data reconciliation, high-volume population analysis, audit-evidence management, knowledge transfer and sustainable control implementation.

a) Appropriate accounting, auditing, public-sector financial management and GRAP technical expertise.

b) Practical grants and contract-management, data-analysis, evidence-management, quality-assurance and project-management experience.

c) Demonstrable experience in accruals, GRAP 19 provisions and contingent liabilities, financial-statement disclosures, technical accounting assessments and audit-ready memoranda.

(2) At a minimum, the proposed team should include:

a) **Engagement/Project Lead**—senior professional accountant with public-sector audit-remediation experience;

b) **GRAP Technical/Project management Lead**—demonstrable experience in provisions, financial instruments , SETA grants and project management experience

c) Grants/Contract Management Specialist;

d) appropriately experienced support staff.

(3) Substitution of key personnel should require prior merSETA approval.

1.8 DURATION OF THE PROJECT

(1) The assignment must commence within five working days after the contract or SLA has been signed. Within 10 working days, the service provider must submit the inception report, validated qualification register, confirmed populations, information-request register, governance arrangements and detailed work plan. Within 20 working days, the service provider must submit the diagnostic report and approved remediation plans.

(2) Thereafter, deliverables must be completed through agreed monthly close cycles and aligned to merSETA's approved year-end annual financial statements plan and AGSA timetable.

(3) The assignment will commence on the date stipulated in the appointment letter or signed Service Level Agreement (SLA). The duration of the assignment will conclude on teh 31st July 2027 .. The first phase till 31 March 2027 will comprise mobilisation, implementation, diagnostic and remediation activities required to achieve audit readiness. The remaining phase will comprise ongoing support, AFS preparation and submission support, assistance during the AGSA audit, resolution of audit queries, final close-out and handover. All bidders must base their technical and financial proposals on this four-month implementation period and five-month support and audit-assistance period.

1.9 PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING

(1) To monitor performance, merSETA will designate accountable workstream owners from Finance, Grants Management, Client Services, Legal and relevant regional offices and will establish an Oversight Committee. Operational workstream meetings will be held weekly; formal progress reporting will be provided at least fortnightly during mobilisation and material remediation and monthly thereafter, subject to the risk profile and approved project plan.

(2) Enter into a Contract / Service Level Agreement (SLA) that will govern the relationship between the parties. The SLA will include project phases that will address each of the project deliverable.

(3) Establish a reporting task team to manage, monitor and oversee the project. This Task Team will ensure that:

a) Services are rendered timeously and are aligned to deliverables and outcomes.

b) Information flows between the Service Provider and merSETA, and vice versa.

c) Timeframes as far as possible are not extended.

d) Will render a quality assurance role as the first line contact point ; and

e) Will monitor progress and project costs are not incurred unnecessarily.

(4) The Service Provider will be expected to table progress reports for each deliverable contained in the implementation plan as agreed and in terms of the project plan and SLA.

(5) Monitor the payment schedule that will be attached to the SLA. Payments will therefore only be approved and processed based on the achievement of deliverables as per the implementation plan and/or project plan and related performed project tasks.

(6) merSETA may reject, require correction of, or withhold acceptance of any deliverable that does

not meet the specified acceptance criteria.

1.10 THE PROPOSAL, APPROACH AND PROJECT PLAN

(1) The bidder's proposal shall have sufficient level of detail, in their approach and methodology, whilst portraying practicality in terms of the implementation and the ability to meet the project timelines.

(2) The detailed work-plan/methodology must be linked to a budget reflecting projected costs per the proposed Project implementation Plan that indicates the following.

a) Clearly defined milestones that are aligned to objectives and expected outputs/ deliverables as outlined in the scope of work described in the Terms of Reference, inclusive of a Skills Transfer plan

b) Well defined timelines for each of the activities and deliverables

c) Allocation of Human Resources

d) Project cost-breakdown outlining the financial implications of activities and deliverables.

(3) Provide examples of at least three similar projects executed in the past with contactable references and contract details of the specific clients.

1.11 CONFIDENTIALITY, INDEPENDENCE AND RECORDS

(1) Protect personal, financial, learner, employer and contract information.

(2) Use data only for the assignment.

(3) Comply with merSETA security and records-management requirements.

(4) Disclose actual or potential conflicts.

(5) Not perform management decision-making or external-audit assurance.

(6) Return or securely dispose of data at termination.

(7) Ensure that all schedules, templates, evidence indexes and working outputs produced for the assignment become merSETA records.

(8) Obtain approval before using subcontractors or transferring data.

a) The bidder accepts that all costs incurred in the preparation, presentation, and demonstration of the solution offered by it shall be for the account of the bidder. All supporting documentation and manuals submitted with the bid will become merSETA property unless otherwise stated by the bidder(s) at the time of submission.

b) Should the bidder require to cede a portion of service(s) in relation to the award, the bidder must inform the merSETA in writing and merSETA reserves the right to accept or reject.

c) The bidder may not transfer or subcontract all or any material part of the assignment without prior written approval from merSETA.

1.12 RFP SUBMISSION

(1) Bid documents may be emailed to quotations@merseta.org.za on or before the closing date and closing time.

(2) The merSETA will only consider bid documents received on or before the closing date and time, regardless of the method used to provide them.

1.13 LATE SUBMISSIONS OF THE RFP

Submission of quotation(s) received late (after the closing date and time) will not be considered.

1.14 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) RULES

(1) The following rules will apply for this Request for Proposal:

a) The price(s) quoted shall be valid for a minimum period of 60 days from the closing date and time of this RFP.

b) The price(s) quoted must be firm and inclusive of value-added tax (VAT) where applicable.

c) The price(s) must include all related expenses, i.e., transport, accommodation, etc. (where applicable).

d) A potential supplier or service provider must be validly registered on the Central Supplier Database (CSD), as hosted by the National Treasury.

e) The bidder must ensure that its tax status is compliant on the Central Supplier Database at the time of award.

f) This RFP is subject to the Public Finance Management Act, 1999, applicable Treasury requirements, the merSETA Supply Chain Management Policy and Procedures, the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022, the General Conditions of Contract and any applicable Special Conditions of Contract.

g) The bidder must complete and submit all prescribed RFP and Standard Bidding Documents.

h) A joint venture must submit a signed joint-venture agreement and the required declarations and supporting documents for each participating party.

i) The bidder must disclose all actual or potential conflicts of interest and must promptly update the disclosure if circumstances change during the procurement or assignment.

j) Only an official purchase order or appointment letter issued by the merSETA will bind the merSETA.

1.15 RFP EVALUATION PROCESS

The RFQ will be evaluated in terms of PPPFA 05 of 2000 and Preferential Procurement Regulation 2022 (80/20). Three (3) stages of evaluation process will be undertaken.

(1) **Evaluation Stage 1: Compliance**

All bidders must comply with the administrative requirements outlined in the Standard Bidding Documents and the mandatory requirements listed below. All bidders failing to provide the required information and documentation in this evaluation stage may face disqualification from further evaluation. Failure to comply with the requirements assessed in Stage 1 (compliance) may lead to the disqualification of bids.

Criteria Description	Supporting Documents
Bidding firm must be registered with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA) and registration must be valid on the closing date.	Proof of IRBA Firm Registration
Proposed Engagement Lead must be a registered CA(SA) or AG(SA) in good standing with SAICA.	SAICA Membership Certificate/Letter of Good Standing

(2) **Evaluation Stage 2: Technical Evaluation**

The bids will be evaluated for functionality based on the evaluation criteria and the minimum threshold as shown in the table below. Any bid that fails to meet the overall minimum threshold of 70% or the minimum score for any individual component thresholds will be disqualified will be disqualified for further evaluation on price and specific goals.

No	Evaluation Criteria	Descriptive Indicators	Points
1.	The bidder must demonstrate the capacity to consult and provide technical opinions. This relates to individual proposed by the company, not necessarily company experience. Evidence required: CV and supporting qualifications/ reference letters (individual or firm)	**More than 7 years' public-sector technical accounting, audit-remediation, GRAP advisory or similar experience = 30points**	**30**
		5-7 years relevant experience = 15 points	
		3-4 years relevant experience = 10 points **Less than 3 years = 0 points**	
2.	The bidder must submit a minimum of three (3) signed reference letters where the similar services was conducted within the public sector/entity. The reference letters must clearly state the period of the project undertaken and must be on the client company letterheads or include verifiable contact details. ***Appointment letters will not be regarded as reference letter.***	Three (3) or more relevant reference letters attached within the public sector = **30 points**	**30**
		two (2) relevant reference letters attached within the public sector = **20 points**	
		one (1) relevant reference letter attached within the public sector = **15 points**	
		No or unsatisfactory reference letter(s) attached within the public sector = **0 point**	
3.	I Methodology, Work Plan and Quality Assurance Approach	Demonstrated understanding of the assignment, proposed methodology, innovation, quality assurance processes, project governance and risk management approach.	**20**
4.	Project team	Engagement Lead _- CA(SA) or AG(SA); 7+ years public-sector experience GRAP Technical Lead - Demonstrated GRAP and financial reporting experience Grants/Contract Management Specialist _Relevant Grant -Management Experience	**20**
TOTAL WEIGHTING			**100**
MINIMUM WEIGHTING SCORE			**70**

NB: Failure to achieve a minimum score for any of the individual criteria above will result in immediate disqualification

1.16 COST PROPOSAL

(1) All prices must be VAT inclusive (where applicable) and must be quoted in South African Rand (ZAR).

(2) The benchmark will inform the independent cost estimate and assessment of bids; it does not prescribe the bidder's fixed price or replace competitive evaluation.

1.17 PRICING SCHEDULE

(1) The total price that the bidder will charge to render services in accordance with the TOR must be clearly indicated. The bidder must indicate the total cost of the project indicating the breakdown and all the milestones. Bidders must submit a fixed-price proposal linked to the deliverables listed in Section 1.6. The supplementary hourly-rate schedule is provided for benchmarking and price-analysis purposes only and will not replace the requirement for a comprehensive fixed-price proposal The bidder must provide a fixed, all-inclusive price for each deliverable. Prices must include professional fees, project management, quality assurance, travel, accommodation, subsistence, data processing, administration and all other costs necessary to complete the assignment.

(2) Pricing Assumptions and Conditions

a) The bidder must identify any pricing assumption or exclusion. An unstated assumption or exclusion may not be relied upon after award.

b) The total bid price must be firm for the quotation-validity period.

c) Payment will be made only for deliverables formally accepted by merSETA.

d) merSETA will not pay for duplicated effort, avoidable rework, unproductive time, staff replacement, inefficient resource allocation or correction of defects attributable to the service provider.

e) Proposed changes to key personnel may not result in an increase in the accepted contract price.

f) Any additional work must be authorised in writing by merSETA before it is undertaken.

g) The bidder must provide a supplementary resource schedule showing each professional category, completed qualification, post-qualification experience, proposed role, estimated hours, proposed hourly rate and extended cost.

Key information for Bidders

1. Quotation Response: Returnable Documents

1.1 Prospective bidders must ensure that they submit a quotation/proposal that fully complies with the specifications and requirements outlined above. The quotation must;

a) Total price must include all related expenses, i.e. transport/delivery costs.

b) Price(s) quoted must be firm and must be inclusive of VAT when applicable

c) References where similar work was undertaken (if required);

d) Central Supplier Database registration number

e) A copy of BBBEE Certificate and;

f) Fully completed and signed Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) Forms.

g) Any certification required by the specifications as applicable to the specific procurement.

1.2 Prospective bidders must ensure that that their tax matters are in order in line with the Treasury Regulations and reflect accordingly on CSD. It is therefore a condition of this RFQ that the tax matters of the bidder be in order at the time of award.

2. RFQ Submission

2.1 Bid documents may be emailed to quotations@merseta.org.za on or before the closing date and closing time.

2.2 The merSETA will only consider bid documents received on or before the closing date and time, regardless of the method used to provide them.

3. Late submissions of the RFQ

3.1 Submission of quotation(s) received late (after the closing date and time) will not be considered.

4. Compliance with Specifications

4.1 It is expected that the service provider, upon submission of the quotation, will fully address the technical/functional requirements of the specification.

5. Payment Terms

5.1 The merSETA undertakes to pay valid invoices in full within 30 (thirty) days from statement date for work done to its satisfaction upon presentation of a substantiated claim. The merSETA shall not pay for any unproductive or duplicated time spent by the service provider on any assignment because of staff changes, inefficiencies or rework.

6. Evaluation Process

The RFQ will be evaluated using a three (03) evaluation approach:

Stage 1: Compliance with Administrative and Mandatory Requirements.
Stage 2: Evaluation of Compliance to Specifications
Stage 3: Price and Preference goals

6.1 **First stage:** Compliance with Administrative and Mandatory Requirements

a) Bidder completed all RFQ Forms

b) Bidder registered on National Treasury CSD (Provide a valid CSD Number)
c) Pricing Schedule
d) SBD 4 – Bidders disclosure
e) SBD 6.1. Preference Points Claim form
f) SBD 7.1 Contract forms
g) Any other mandatory required

6.2 **Second Stage:** Compliance to Specifications or Functionality Scoring (if applicable)

The purpose of the technical evaluation criteria (functionality or compliance to specification) is to determine capacity and technical responsiveness of each proposal by assessing the quality thereof. Below is a detailed breakdown of the scoring criteria. Bidders from the second stage who have complied with the specifications or achieved required minimum threshold points will be eligible to progress to the next stage to be evaluated on points for Price and Specific Goals.

6.3 **Third Stage:** Price and Preference goals

a) After the evaluation of mandatory/administrative requirements, functionality and or compliance to specification, the next stage of evaluation of the bids will be in respect of price and preferential points only.
b) In compliance with the Preferential Procurement Regulations 2022, the 80/20 preference point system is applicable: points for this bid shall be awarded for Price (80) and 20) Preference as defined in SBD 6.1
c) Preferential goals and applicable points for this RFQ in terms of Preferential Procurement Regulations 2022, are indicated in the table below:

Specific goal	Points	Example of Submission	Tick if provided	Indicate document that has been submitted
Black People Ownership – 51% or more	6	Valid B-BBEE certificate/Affidavit **or** CIPC B-BBEE Certificate, or CIPC Certificate or ID or CSD		
Black Women Ownership – 30% or More	4	Valid B-BBEE certificate/Affidavit **or** CIPC B-BBEE Certificate, or CIPC Certificate or ID or CSD		
Black Youth Ownership – 30% or More	4	Valid B-BBEE certificate/Affidavit **or** CIPC B-BBEE Certificate, or CIPC Certificate or ID or CSD		
White Women Ownership – 30% or More	2	Valid B-BBEE certificate/Affidavit **or** CIPC B-BBEE Certificate, or CIPC Certificate or ID or CSD		
People with Disability (PwD) Ownership	4	Valid B-BBEE certificate/Affidavit **or** CIPC B-BBEE Certificate, or CIPC Certificate or ID or CSD		
Total Points allocated	**20**			

d) Failure on the part of a bidder to submit proof or documentation required in terms of this RFQ to claim points for specific goals, will be interpreted to mean that preference points for specific goals are not claimed by the bidder.

e) The merSETA reserves the right to require a bidder, either before a bid is adjudicated or at any time subsequently, to substantiate any claim in regard to preferences, in any manner required by merSETA.

f) merSETA reserves the right to conduct negotiations with the qualifying bidder/s regarding any terms and conditions, including price(s), of a proposed contract where applicable merSETA reserves the right not to accept the lowest financial offer or any offer.

7. The merSETA Rights

7.1 The merSETA reserves the right, at any time prior to the closing date, to amend any bid condition, the bid validity period, the RFQ specifications, or to extend the closing date. Where bidder particulars are available, merSETA shall notify affected bidders in writing and publish such amendment on its website. Bidders remain responsible for monitoring the website prior to submission.

7.2 The merSETA shall not be obliged to accept the lowest-priced bid or any bid, whether in whole or in part. Award shall be made to the bidder that, in merSETA's sole discretion, demonstrates the requisite capability and submits a bid that is functionally compliant and financially advantageous to merSETA.

7.3 The merSETA reserves the right to award this bid in whole or in part.

7.4 merSETA reserves the right to conduct site inspections at the bidder's premises or client sites, where deemed necessary.

7.5 merSETA reserves the right to require any information, agreement, or supporting document necessary to verify a bid. By submitting a bid, the bidder consents to such verification, including FICA and related background checks on the bidding entity and its directors, trustees, shareholders, or members.

7.6 In addition to the references submitted, merSETA reserves the right to consider its own past experience with any bidder that has supplied similar goods/ rendered similar services to merSETA within the preceding five (5) years.

Pricing Schedule– Firm Prices

NOTE:

a. **Only firm prices will be accepted. Non-Firm prices (including prices subject to rates of exchange variations) will not be considered**

b. **In cases where different delivery points influence the pricing, a separate pricing schedule must be submitted for each delivery point**

Company Name:			
RFQ number:	RFQ/GRA/26/27/241	**Closing Date & Time**	06 November 2026 15H00PM

OFFER TO BE VALID FOR 60 CALENDER DAYS FROM THE CLOSING DATE OF QUOTE.

Item No.	Description of item	Completed Qualification	Estimated Hours	Proposes Rate per Hour	Total	Circular Category / Variance Motivation
1.	Engagement / Project Lead					
2.	GRAP & Grant disbursements Technical Lead					
3.	Grants and Contract Management Specialist(s)					
4.	Professional / Support Staff					
				PROFESSIONAL FEES SUB TOTAL		
				VAT (15%)		
				GRAND TOTAL *(Price in SA Rands with all applicable taxes included)*		

Does the offer comply with the specification(s)	**YES**			**NO**	
If the offer is not to specification, indicate deviation(s) or remarks					

I (full name)_____, in my capacity as _____, the duly authorized representative of _____(business name) hereby declares that the offer is in accordance with the specification, and the offer complies with the conditions/clauses contained in this RFQ document.

SBD 7.1 Contract Form - Purchase of Goods/Works

PART 1 (TO BE FILLED IN BY THE BIDDER)

This form must be filled in duplicate by both the successful bidder (part 1) & the purchaser (part 2). Both forms must be signed in the original so that the successful bidder and the purchaser would be in possession of originally signed contracts for their respective records.

1. I hereby undertake to supply all or any of the goods and/or works described in the attached bidding documents to merSETA in accordance with the requirements and specifications stipulated in the above mentioned RFQ number at the price/s quoted. My offer/s remain binding upon me and open for acceptance by the purchaser during the validity period indicated and calculated from the closing time of bid.
2. The following documents shall be deemed to form and be read and construed as part of this agreement:
   (i) Bidding documents, *viz*
   - Invitation to bid;
   - Proof of tax compliance status;
   - Pricing schedule(s);
   - Specification(s) or Terms of Reference;
   - Preference claim form for Preferential Procurement in terms of the Preferential Procurement Regulations;
   - Bidder's Disclosure form;
   - Special Conditions of Contract;

   (ii) General Conditions of Contract; and
   (iii) Other (specify)

3. I confirm that I have satisfied myself as to the correctness and validity of my bid; that the price(s) and rate(s) quoted cover all the goods and/or works specified in the bidding documents; that the price(s) and rate(s) cover all my obligations and I accept that any mistakes regarding price(s) and rate(s) and calculations will be at my own risk.

4. I accept full responsibility for the proper execution and fulfilment of all obligations and conditions devolving on me under this agreement as the principal liable for the due fulfilment of this contract.

5. I declare that I have no participation in any collusive practices with any bidder or any other person regarding this or any other bid.

6. I confirm that I am duly authorised to sign this contract.

NAME (PRINT) _____

CAPACITY _____

SIGNATURE _____

NAME OF TENDERER _____

DATE _____

WITNESSES

1 _____

2. _____

DATE: _____

SBD 7.1 Contract Form - Purchase of Goods/Works

PART 2 (TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PURCHASER)

1. I_____ in my capacity as _____ accept your quotation under reference number _____dated _____ for the supply of goods/works indicated hereunder and/or further specified in the annexure(s).

2. An official order indicating delivery instructions is forthcoming.

3. I undertake to make payment for the goods/works delivered in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract, within 30 (thirty) days after receipt of an invoice accompanied by the delivery note.

GOODS/SERVICE DESCRIPTION	
PRICE (ALL APPLICABLE TAXES INCLUDED)	
DELIVERY PERIOD	
TOTAL PREFERENCE POINTS CLAIMED	
POINTS CLAIMED FOR SPECIFIC GOAL 1	
POINTS CLAIMED FOR SPECIFIC GOAL 2	
POINTS CLAIMED FOR SPECIFIC GOAL 3	
POINTS CLAIMED FOR SPECIFIC GOAL 4	
POINTS CLAIMED FOR SPECIFIC GOAL 5	

4. I confirm that I am duly authorised to sign this contract.

SIGNED AT _____ DATE: _____

NAME (PRINT):_____ SIGNATURE: _____

OFFICIAL COMPANY STAMP	WITNESSES 1. _____ 2. _____ DATE: _____