Bahrain Development Bank B.S.C (c)

Tender Title	**Cisco Network AMC Renewal**
Tender Number	**RFP.BDB.2026.03**
Month/Year	**Nov 2026**
Publishing Date	**24 Nov 2026**
Closing Date	**15 Dec 2026**

1. Introduction

Bahrain Development Bank B.S.C (c) is a company existing under the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain and licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a conventional retail bank licensee (the "**Bank**"). In line with its operations, the Bank is looking for the Services (as defined below).

To this end, the Bank is requesting proposals from suitable qualified service providers to provide the Services by no later than the Closing Date (as defined below).

Upon award, the successful proposal shall be formulated into a final contract based on the terms and conditions of this RFP Document and particulars of the successful proposal.

1.1. Document Structure

This document and all its attachments and appendices shall be read and considered as one and a whole document, and any attachments and appendices shall be considered an integral part of this document.

1.2. Definitions

1.2.1. "**Bidder(s)**" means the company(ies) that are providing proposals to carry out the Services.
1.2.2. "**Closing Date**" means the final date to submit the proposals, which is 15 Dec 2026
1.2.3. "**Contract**" means the final awarded contract.
1.2.4. "**Contractor**" means the Bidder awarded for carrying out the Services.
1.2.5. "**RFP Document**" means this document and all its attachments and appendices.
1.2.6. "**Services**" means 3-year Cisco license renewal and local AMC technical support.
1.2.7. "**Scope of Work**" means the specific requirements, tasks, deliverables, timelines, and responsibilities associated with the provision of the Services by the Bidder as outlined in Section 2.
1.2.8. "**Proposal(s**)" means the submission of the Bidder, which shall include the Scope of Work, fee schedule and all other requirements detailed in this RFP Document.

1.3. Point of Contact of the Bank and Address of the Bank

The point of contact for all clarifications relating to this RFP Document shall be:

Name: **Mahmood Taqi**

Designation: **Network Administrator**

Department: **IT Department**

Email: **IT_Network@bdb-bh.com**

Tel: **17511403**

and CC Procurements@bdb-bh.com.

Any notice required or permitted to be given under this RFP Document shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if sent by email to the email address outlined above or to the Bank's registered address as follows:

Bahrain Development Bank B.S.C (c),

Building 170

Road 1703

Block 317

Diplomatic Area, Kingdom of Bahrain

1.4. Submission of Proposals

The Bidders shall submit the Proposal no later than 11:30 am on the Closing Date **15 Dec 2026**

Proposals submitted later than the prescribed Closing Date and time may be rejected by the Bank at its sole discretion.

Bidders shall submit their Proposals for this tender electronically, via BDB website and confirmation email to be sent to the email addresses outlined in Section 1.3 of this RFP Document. Any queries shall be submitted to the same email address.

1.5. Non-Disclosure

This RFP Document and all its appendices and attachments shall remain the property of the Bank and is transmitted to the Bidder solely for the purpose of preparing and submitting a Proposal in accordance therewith. Bidders shall maintain confidentiality of this RFP Document and shall not release the same, or any part thereof, to any third party for any purpose other than for obtaining quotations directly relating to their Proposal.

1.6. Notice of Receipt of the RFP Document

Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of this RFP Document within three (3) business days upon its receipt. Notification of receipt shall be by e-mail to the email address outlined in Section 1.3 or by letter delivered by registered mail to the Bank's registered address outlined in Section 1.3.

1.7. Examination of the RFP Document

The Bidder shall be solely responsible for examining, with appropriate care, the RFP Document, including any addenda issued during the bidding period. The Bidder shall familiarize itself with respect to any and all detailed requirements and/or conditions, which may in any way affect the Proposal, or the provision of the required Services.

Failure on behalf of the Bidder to carefully examine and study the RFP Document shall be at the Bidder's sole risk and no relief for resulting errors or omissions will be entertained.

1.8. Interpretation of the RFP Document

The Bidder may reasonably request the Bank in writing, during the bidding period, for clarification and/or interpretation of any aspect of the RFP Document. All queries or clarifications are to be submitted to the email address outlined in Section 1.3.

Any interpretation or clarification by the Bank will be made in writing to each and every Bidder. Where such interpretation and/or clarification requires a change in the RFP Document, the Bank may, at its sole discretion, prepare and issue to all Bidders an addendum to the RFP Document.

The Bank shall not be bound by, nor shall the Bidder rely on, any verbal interpretation and/or clarification of the RFP Document that may be given by any person whomsoever.

1.9. Preparation and Content of Proposals

The Bidder shall initial and stamp all pages of their Proposal, including any attachments provided by the Bank and filled in by the Bidder or submitted by the Bidder in support of their Proposal, in order to signify the Bidder's acceptance of the terms, conditions and provisions contained therein. In addition, all Bidders shall formally stamp and initial any corrections or alterations made on the Proposal. All Proposals shall be prepared by, and at the expense of the Bidder.

All Proposals and other submissions must be in English unless otherwise provided in this RFP Document.

The Proposal shall include the following:

1. The Scope of Work is in line with the requirements stipulated in this RFP Document.
2. The lump sum price which shall be inclusive of the full Scope of Work, which shall account for mobilization, demobilization, remobilization, provision of plant, equipment, tools, labor, supervision, transportation, travel expenses, housing of contractor's personnel, materials, storage of items, removal of waste, construction and installation costs, insurances, maintenance, overheads and profits, taxes, surcharges, levies, safety supplies, hoardings, signage, PPE, special site conditions, and any and all other criteria which may affect the reasonable provision of the Scope of Work, whether specifically mentioned in this RFP Document, or not mentioned. The lump sum price shall encompass all expenses associated with executing the Scope of Work and ensuring the protection of all deliverables (if any) from any damage up to the final handover to the Bank.
3. The fee schedule.
4. A Company Classification Certificate issued to SMEs by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) to small and medium size companies.
5. Valid Commercial Registration Certificate.
6. Bahrainization Certificate (in the case of local Bidders).
7. VAT Certificate.
8. Declaration of any conflicts of interest.

1.10. Amendment of Requirements

The Bank reserves the right, at its sole discretion, during any stage of the submission period to add to, vary, change or modify the requirements, on its own initiative or at the request of one or more Bidder(s). In such event the Bank shall notify the Bidders of such a change via an addendum and of any time adjustment which may be granted for the submission of Proposals. Such an addendum and time adjustment may be notified to the Bidders at any time prior to the Closing Date.

1.11. Withdrawal of Proposals

Bidders may withdraw or modify a Proposal at any time prior to the Closing Date, provided the Bank has received written and signed documentation of withdrawal or modification before such date and time. Written notification shall be by registered mail to the Bank's registered address or via email to the email address stipulated in Clause 1.3.

1.12. Validity of Proposals

Proposals shall remain valid and binding upon the Bidders for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days, with a provision for extension upon mutual agreement, commencing from the Closing Date

("**Validity Period**"). A Proposal may be accepted at any time before the expiration of the Validity Period.

1.13. Ownership of Proposals

Upon submission, the Proposal shall become the sole and absolute property of the Bank and no documentation shall be returned to the Bidder.

1.14. Compliance with Applicable Laws

Bidders shall comply with all local and international laws, ordinances, regulations, and codes that are applicable to the execution of the Services specified in this RFP Document, including but not limited to labor laws, health and safety regulations, and environmental standards.

It is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure that their Proposal and, if awarded, their performance under the Contract will comply with legal and regulatory requirements. Evidence of such compliance may be requested by the Bank at any stage of the procurement process or Contract execution.

1.15. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Bidders must disclose, as part of their Proposal, any potential conflicts of interest that might affect their ability to perform the Contract with impartiality and the best interest of the Bank. This includes any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the procurement process.

Failure to disclose a conflict of interest may result in disqualification from the bidding process or termination of the Contract, should such a conflict be discovered after Contract award.

1.16. Evaluation of Proposals

The Proposal shall be evaluated based on the technical and commercial criteria contained below in this RFP Document. The Bidder may be required to attend meetings at the Bank's offices or at site, during the period of evaluation, to clarify and/or detail any part of their Proposal in order to satisfy the Bank that the Bidder has carefully considered all matters affecting the execution of the Services.

1.17. Rejection and Acceptance of Proposals

The Bank reserves the sole and absolute right to reject any and all Proposals submitted in response to this RFP Document for any reason, including but not limited to non-compliance with submission requirements, failure to meet eligibility criteria, or if it is in the best interest of the Bank not to proceed with a particular Proposal. Bidders acknowledge that no claim is admissible for any expense or cost incurred in preparation of the Proposal(s), or for any other reason.

The Bank reserves the right to accept any Proposal in whole or in part and to negotiate with any Bidder to serve the best interests of the Bank. This may include negotiating terms, conditions, scope of work, or any other aspect of the Proposal.

1.18. Award

The Bank will issue a letter of award and purchase order to the Contractor. Subsequently, the Bank and the Contractor will enter into a contract governing their relationship and the Services that will be performed by the Contractor.

The Awarded Bidder shall submit a Performance Bond to acknowledge its commitment to adhere to its contractual obligations. The value of the Performance Bond shall be 10% of the bid value. The performance

bond can be in the form of a certified cheque (manager's cheque), insurance guarantee or bank guarantee. The form of the performance bond is in Appendix 2.

The performance bond will be returned on completion of the contractual obligations by Successful Bidder. The performance bond shall be valid for the entire duration of contract - the final date of completion of the project. In the event of extension of contract, the tender bonds shall be correspondingly extended by the Bidder at their own expense to meet the validity requirement mentioned earlier. In the event of any default or breach of any of the obligations by the Bidder under the contract, the bank may at its sole discretion draw on the performance bond to satisfy any liquidated damages to the bank under the contract. In such event, if the contract is to continue after the drawdown of performance bond by the bank, contractor shall submit another performance bond for the remaining period of contract. The performance bond will be released after its validity and successful delivery of its obligation.

1.19. Terms and Conditions

These general terms and conditions shall govern the provision of Services outlined in this RFP Document:

1- The Bank reserves the right to withhold payment in the event of unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet deadlines.

2- Payment by the Bank shall be made within thirty (30) days of the Bank's receipt of an undisputed invoice from the Contractor or as otherwise agreed upon in writing by the Bank and the Contractor.

3- Any intellectual property developed or created as a result of the Services shall belong solely to the Bank.

4- The Contractor recognizes and acknowledges that during the course of performing the Services, it may have access to and become acquainted with confidential information of the Bank, including but not limited to proprietary technology, business strategies, financial information, customer data, and any other information deemed confidential by the Bank (hereinafter collectively referred to as "**Confidential Information**").

5- The Contractor agrees to maintain the confidentiality of all Confidential Information received from the Bank, both during the term of the contract and for five (5) years after its termination or expiry.

6- The Contractor shall not use any Confidential Information for any purpose other than the performance of the Services under the Contract, nor shall it disclose or permit access to any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of the Bank, except as required by law or a court order, provided that the Contractor promptly notifies the Bank in writing of such requirement to disclose and cooperates with the Bank in seeking appropriate protective measures.

7- The Contractor shall take all reasonable precautions to safeguard the Confidential Information and prevent its unauthorized use or disclosure, including implementing physical, technical, and administrative security measures.

8- The obligations of confidentiality set forth in this Clause shall survive the termination of the Contract.

9- The Bank may terminate the Contract entered into for the provision of the Services upon serving the Contractor with a thirty (30) day written notice.

10- The Bank reserves the right to terminate the Contract with immediate effect by providing written notice to the Contractor in any of the following circumstances:

a) If the Contractor commits a material breach of any provision of the contract and fails to remedy such breach within five (5) days of receiving written notice from the Bank specifying the nature of the breach;

b) If the Contractor becomes insolvent, bankrupt, or enters into liquidation or receivership proceedings, or if a petition for bankruptcy or winding-up is filed against the Contractor;

c) If the Contractor undergoes a change in control or ownership that, in the reasonable judgment of the Bank, adversely affects the Contractor's ability to fulfill its obligations under the contract;

d) If the Contractor engages in conduct that brings disrepute to the Bank or otherwise damages the Bank's reputation, as determined by the Bank in its sole discretion.

11- Upon termination of the Contract, the Contractor shall promptly return to the Bank any Confidential Information or other property of the Bank in its possession or control, and shall cease all use of the Bank's name, trademarks, logos, and other intellectual property.

12- Upon termination for convenience, the Contractor shall be compensated for all work performed up to the termination date. Upon termination for cause, the Contractor shall not be entitled to further payment until the Services are satisfactorily completed, and any additional costs incurred by the Bank may be deducted from any due payment to the Contractor.

13- The Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Bank, its affiliates, officers, directors, employees, agents, successors, and assigns from and against any and all claims, liabilities, damages, losses, costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of or in connection with the Services provided under the contract, except to the extent such claims arise from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Bank.

14- The Contractor may not assign or transfer its rights or obligations under the contract without seeking the prior written consent of the Bank.

15- The Contractor agrees to perform the Services in accordance with prevailing industry standards and best practices.

16- The deadlines for the provision of Services are of the essence of the contract.

17- The Contractor shall bear any additional costs or expenses incurred by the Bank as a result of delays in the provision of Services, unless such delays are attributable to acts or omissions of the Bank.

18- Any matter, claim or dispute arising out of or in connection with Services, whether contractual or non-contractual, is to be governed by and determined in accordance with the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

19- In carrying out the Services the Contractor will comply with all applicable laws and prevailing regulations and judicial requirements in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Bank will not be liable to the Contractor to the extent that any such legislation, decision, direction, order or determination prohibits or restricts its performance under or compliance with its obligations.

20- In alignment with the regulations of the Central Bank of Bahrain, the Contractor irrevocably and unconditionally agrees to and acknowledges the following:

a) Each Party's obligations under the Contract are conditional upon and subject to the respective compliance with all applicable laws and prevailing regulations and judicial requirements in the jurisdiction over either party to or the subject matter of the Contract. Neither Party will be liable to any other Party to the extent that any such legislation, decision, direction, order, or determination prohibits or restricts its performance under or compliance with the Contract.

b) On the expiry or termination of the Contract for whatsoever reason, or if the Contractor ceases to deliver the Services, the Contractor agrees to cooperate and promptly take all steps required to assist in effecting a complete transition of the Services to the new service provider at no additional cost to the Bank while maintaining the required service levels.

c) The Contractor agrees that during the term of the Contract, it will ensure, the uninterrupted provision of all Services and obligations defined in the Contract, regardless of any crisis situation, recovery, or resolution event (collectively "**Adverse Events**") that may affect the Bank. Furthermore, the Contractor shall not have the right to terminate, suspend, amend or otherwise modify its obligations under the Contract due to any Adverse Events that may affect the Bank. This section shall prevail over any other clause that may be construed to the contrary in the Contract or in any other agreement between the Parties.

d) This section is intended to ensure compliance with the applicable regulations of the Central Bank of Bahrain and shall be interpreted accordingly.

2. Scope of Work

The appointed agency shall provide the following services:

2.1 Cisco License and Subscription Renewal

The bidder shall provide the renewal of all applicable Cisco licenses, subscriptions, software support entitlements, and maintenance contracts for the equipment listed in the attached Bill of Quantities (BDB_Cisco_inventory) for a period of three (3) years.

1. Review and validate the existing Cisco inventory against Cisco's official entitlement, licensing, and service-contract records before renewal.
2. Renew all applicable licenses and subscriptions for the agreed three-year period, ensuring uninterrupted services and avoiding any renewal gaps.
3. Ensure that all eligible licenses and subscriptions are correctly assigned to BDB's Cisco Smart Account.
4. Ensure that hardware support entitlements are correctly associated with the corresponding device serial numbers, product IDs, and Cisco service contracts.
5. Provide a detailed renewal schedule identifying product descriptions, Cisco part numbers (SKUs), serial numbers where applicable, quantities, support levels, coverage start dates, and expiration dates.
6. Identify any devices or licenses approaching End of Sale (EOS), End of Software Maintenance, End of Vulnerability Support, or Last Date of Support (LDOS) during the contract period.
7. Notify BDB of any item that cannot be renewed for the full three-year period, explaining the reason and proposing an appropriate alternative.
8. Ensure access to Cisco software updates, upgrades, security patches, bug fixes, and firmware releases in accordance with the applicable Cisco entitlement and product lifecycle.
9. Provide official Cisco order confirmations, subscription references, service contract numbers, and evidence of successful entitlement activation.
10. Coordinate with Cisco to resolve any discrepancies related to product registration, licensing, or support eligibility.

All renewals and entitlements shall remain under BDB's ownership and control. BDB shall retain the necessary administrative and support access to verify its licenses and service contracts independently.

2.2 Cisco Technical Support Services

The bidder shall provide the following Cisco support coverage, as applicable to the devices listed in the BOQ(BDB_Cisco_inventory):

1. Provide the required Cisco support entitlement for each device, with coverage levels specified individually in the BOQ.
2. Provide 8x5xNBD hardware support for designated standard infrastructure devices.
3. Provide 24x7x2 or the specified enhanced hardware replacement service for designated critical infrastructure devices, subject to official Cisco eligibility and availability.

4. Ensure access to Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC) in accordance with the contracted OEM support service.
5. Provide hardware replacement through Cisco's authorized RMA process, subject to the applicable support entitlement and geographic availability.
6. Confirm whether hardware replacement coverage includes part delivery only or an OEM on-site field engineering option.
7. Provide access to eligible software updates, firmware releases, maintenance releases, and security patches.
8. Coordinate Cisco TAC cases, including technical escalation, replacement authorization, and follow-up until resolution.
9. Provide official Cisco documentation confirming the support SKU, replacement level, support period, and covered serial number for each applicable device.
10. Notify BDB promptly of any changes in OEM support availability, service limitations, or product lifecycle status.

The bidder shall clearly disclose any proposed deviation from the required OEM support levels before contract award.

2.3 Local Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC)

The bidder shall provide comprehensive local AMC services for three (3) years covering all eligible Cisco networking infrastructure listed in the BOQ.

2.3.1 Technical Support and Incident Management

- Remote and on-site technical assistance for hardware, software, and network-related incidents.
- Qualified Cisco-certified engineers with relevant experience in the proposed Cisco technologies.
- 24x7 support coverage for Priority 1 and Priority 2 incidents.
- Troubleshooting, diagnosis, and resolution assistance for network failures, connectivity issues, and device malfunctions.
- Coordination with Cisco TAC and third-party service providers where necessary to resolve incidents involving the covered Cisco infrastructure.
- A dedicated incident escalation path, including technical and managerial escalation contacts.

2.3.2 Hardware Replacement and Recovery

- Coordinate and follow up on Cisco RMA requests.
- Facilitate replacement hardware delivery and on-site installation where required.
- Restore device configuration from available backups.
- Reconnect and verify replacement equipment.

- Perform necessary connectivity and functional testing after replacement.
- Assist BDB in restoring affected network services.

All on-site replacement activities included in the AMC shall be identified in the commercial proposal.

2.3.3 Preventive Maintenance and Health Checks

The bidder shall perform quarterly preventive maintenance and health checks, including:

- Hardware and component health verification.
- Device CPU, memory, interface, and system performance assessment.
- Review of device logs and critical alerts.
- Software and firmware version assessment.
- Review of relevant Cisco security advisories, vulnerabilities, and field notices.
- Configuration and network stability checks.
- Review of license and support entitlement status.
- Identification of devices approaching end-of-support or requiring technology refresh.

A documented health-check report shall be submitted to BDB following each scheduled assessment.

2.3.4 Software Upgrades and Configuration Support

- Assistance with Cisco operating system and firmware upgrades.
- Support for applying approved security updates and patches.
- Configuration changes and troubleshooting.
- Configuration backup and restoration assistance.
- Technical assessment and recommendations before major upgrades.
- Implementation and rollback support during approved maintenance windows.

All production configuration changes shall be subject to BDB's approval and change-management procedures.

2.3.5 Scheduled Maintenance and Reporting

- Support agreed scheduled maintenance activities, including after-hours and weekend work where necessary.
- Submit monthly incident and service-performance reports.
- Conduct quarterly technical and service review meetings with BDB.
- Maintain an updated support and escalation contact matrix.
- Provide incident root cause analysis for major or recurring failures.
- Submit recommendations for service improvements, software upgrades, and infrastructure optimization.

2.4 Additional Technical, Operational and Commercial Requirements

2.4.1 Service Level Agreements

The bidder shall comply with BDB's agreed incident severity classification, response times, escalation procedures, and on-site attendance commitments.

Priority	Incident severity	Initial response	On-site attendance target
P1 - Critical	Core network outage or critical service disruption	15 minutes, 24x7	Within 4 hours if required
P2 - High	Significant degradation or major component failure	30 minutes, 24x7	Within 8 hours if required
P3 - Medium	Limited service impact with workaround	4 business hours	Next business day
P4 - Low	Routine support or minor configuration issue	1 business day	Scheduled

2.4.2 Vendor Qualifications

- Be an authorized Cisco partner or reseller eligible to supply the proposed products and services.
- Maintain a local operational presence in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Employ or provide access to qualified Cisco-certified engineers.
- Demonstrate proven experience supporting enterprise Cisco networking environments.
- Provide relevant customer references and technical certifications upon request.
- Confirm availability of qualified resources for emergency support and scheduled maintenance.

2.4.3 Compliance and Verification

- The bidder shall provide a complete technical compliance matrix for all RFP requirements.
- Any exclusion, deviation, limitation, dependency, or additional charge shall be explicitly disclosed.
- The bidder shall provide official Cisco documentation demonstrating successful renewal and activation of the applicable support entitlements.
- BDB reserves the right to verify the validity of the quoted services directly with Cisco.

2.4.4 Commercial Requirements

- Provide separate and itemized pricing for Cisco OEM support, Cisco licenses and subscriptions, and local AMC.
- Provide a complete three-year commercial breakdown, including taxes, applicable charges, and any proposed exclusions.
- Clearly identify the pricing of different Cisco hardware support levels.
- Confirm that no unapproved additional charges will apply to services explicitly included in the AMC.
- Identify any equipment, subscription, or service that cannot be covered for the required three-year duration.

- Provide a formal support transition and onboarding plan before the AMC commencement date.

2.4.5 Security and Confidentiality

- The bidder shall comply with BDB's information security, confidentiality, remote-access, and change-management requirements.
- Any access to BDB infrastructure shall be authorized, controlled, and subject to applicable security policies.
- Configuration backups, technical documentation, and information collected during maintenance activities shall remain BDB property.

2.4.6 Contract Governance

- The bidder shall participate in periodic service reviews and provide supporting records for SLA achievement, incident management, preventive maintenance, and Cisco entitlement compliance.
- The final contract shall define the process for addressing repeated SLA failures, unresolved service deficiencies, and other material breaches, including applicable remedial actions or service credits as agreed by BDB.

3. Evaluation Criteria

The below criteria shall be utilized to select the Bidder who satisfies and fulfills the required conditions mentioned in this RFP Document, which are listed in a non-sequential manner:

a) Mandatory Criteria

Vendor must be an authorized Cisco partner/reseller eligible to provide the proposed Cisco licenses with a three (3) year Local AMC covering all devices listed in the BOQ (BDB_Cisco_inventory).

b) Technical and Financial Evaluation

Criteria	Value
Financial Evaluation	60%
Technical Evaluation	40%
1. Technical Knowledge & Understanding	6%
2. Licenses and Subscriptions	10%
3. Cisco OEM Support & RMA	6%
4. Local AMC & SLAs	10%
5. Resource allocations and Certification	4%
6. Reference/Experience in Bahrain	4%

Bidders who meet the mandatory requirements shall be evaluated with the technical criteria mentioned. Each bidder must achieve a minimum score of **30 out of 40%** to proceed to the financial evaluation. Bidders that qualify in the technical evaluation only will be evaluated financially. Each Bidder shall be evaluated based on the bid submitted as well as the thoroughness of the financial breakdown and rates. The highest score shall be

awarded to the bidder with the best offer under the condition that there are no arithmetic or numerical issues with the submission.

Note: in recognition of the vital role played by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the economy, and to foster their participation in the Bank's procurement processes, registered SMEs will be accorded a preferential weighting of ten percent (10%) in the financial evaluation. This preference is designed to enhance the competitiveness of SMEs and support their growth within the industry. Bidders seeking to benefit from SME preferences must provide a valid SME certificate at the time of the submission of the Proposal and no certificates will be accepted after tender closing.