

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## TVET Colleges Connection Project (TCCP)

**RFP number: SABEN 0019/2021**

**Request for Proposals (RFP):**

for

**Dube Tradeport link**

Date of Issue	1 July 2021
Closing Date and Time	22 July 2021, 17h00 South African time
Place	Refer to electronic submission details
Contact Details	Submission of proposals or any other enquiries: Email to <a href="mailto:rfp@saben.ac.za">rfp@saben.ac.za</a> <b>(please always quote the RFP number with your submissions and enquiries)</b>

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Glossary .....	3
1 Background and Purpose of this RFP .....	4
2 Contents of this RFP .....	4
3 Interpretation of the Requirements in this RFP.....	5
4 Connectivity Requirements .....	5
4.1 Minimum general connectivity requirements .....	5
4.2 Link Requirements – for a Dark Fibre solution .....	5
4.3 Link Requirements – for a Managed Fibre solution .....	5
5 Sites to be connected under this RFP .....	6
6 Testing and Acceptance .....	6
7 Duration of Service.....	6
8 Service Level Agreement and Maintenance .....	6
9 Pricing and Validity .....	7
10 Proposal Design and Costing Instructions.....	8
11 Special Conditions of Contract .....	10
12 Proposal Contents, Format and Submission .....	10
13 Evaluation Process and Criteria.....	12
13.1 Stage 1 .....	12
13.2 Stage 2 .....	12
14 Appointment of Service Providers and Awarding of Contracts .....	12
15 Clarifications.....	12
16 SABEN Rights.....	13

## Tables

Table 1: Contents of this RFP .....	4
Table 2: Price Proposal Template Example .....	9
Table 3: Proposal Contents and Format.....	11

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## Glossary

ATP	Acceptance Testing Procedure
B-BBEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
CPE	Customer Premises Equipment
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
Dark Fibre	A fibre circuit provided as an unlit physical layer or layer 1 circuit.
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENNI	External Network-to-Network Interface
Gbps	Giga bits per second
ICT	Information and communication technology
LAN	Local Area Network
LC/APC	Lucent/Little/Local Connector / Angled Physical Contact
Managed Fibre	A data-link service managed over a fibre circuit by the provider but delivered and priced as if an unlit layer 1 circuit (scalable to the full capacity of the CPE/interface).
MTTR	Mean Time to Resolve
MTU	Maximum Transmission Unit
NSF	National Skills Fund
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
RFP	Request for Proposal
SABEN	South African Broadband Education Networks
SANReN	South African National Research Network
SCA	SANReN Competency Area
SLA	Service Level Agreement
TCCP	TVET Colleges Connection Project
TENET	Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
VAT	Value Added Tax
VLAN	Virtual Local Area Network
ZAR	South African Rands
802.1Q	IEEE 802.1Q, (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) often referred to as Dot1q, is the networking standard that supports virtual LANs (VLANs) on an IEEE 802.3 Ethernet network. The standard defines a system of VLAN tagging for Ethernet frames and the accompanying procedures to be used by bridges and switches in handling such frames.

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## 1 Background and Purpose of this RFP

- 1.1 Interested companies with relevant proven capabilities are invited to submit proposals in response to this Request for Proposal, for the provision of a connection between Teraco Durban Datacentre and Dube Tradeport Datacentre, as part of the TVET Colleges Connection project.
- 1.2 The “TVET Colleges Connection Project (TCCP)” is an ICT infrastructure initiative by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) funded through a National Skills Fund (NSF) grant to connect Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College campuses to the South African National Research Network (SANReN). The purpose of this project is to solve bandwidth poverty at South Africa’s TVET Colleges by connecting them to the SANReN, thereby enabling them to contribute to meeting the goals of the developmental state.
- 1.3 The DHET has appointed the South African Broadband Education Network (SABEN) to implement the project.
- 1.4 SABEN is a non-profit company that was formed as a collaboration between the Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa (TENET) and the SANReN Competency Area (SCA), a division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), specifically to connect TVET colleges to SANReN. Initially, SABEN assisted colleges to self-fund their connections to the SANReN.
- 1.5 This SABEN RFP process intends to identify a provider to be contracted to **(a) connect the identified sites and (b) provide three years of connection service.**

## 2 Contents of this RFP

Doc.	Title	Type	Purpose
1	Main RFP document – this document	PDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Requirements specification</li><li>Administrative compliance requirements</li><li>Terms and Conditions</li><li>Evaluation criteria</li><li>Instructions for submission of a proposal</li></ul>
Annex 1	RFP Compliance Table	MS Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To be completed, signed and submitted</li></ul>
Annex 2	Price Proposal Template	MS Excel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To be filled in and submitted with the proposed pricing</li></ul>
Annex 3	Declaration by the Proposer	PDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To be signed and submitted</li></ul>
Annex 4	SABEN’s Standard Conditions of Contract	PDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Standard conditions applicable to any possible contract</li></ul>
Annex 5	Company profile	PDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To be used to provide required company data for the proposal.</li></ul>

**Table 1: Contents of this RFP**

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## 3 Interpretation of the Requirements in this RFP

- 3.1 To eliminate ambiguity the use of the following words in this RFP have the following meaning:
- 3.1.1 Shall = the specification is an absolute requirement and proposals that do not meet the requirement will not be compliant.

## 4 Connectivity Requirements

### 4.1 Minimum general connectivity requirements

- 4.1.1 The minimum required technical specification for each connection shall be as follows:
- 4.1.1.1 Point to point circuit connecting Durban Teraco Datacentre to Dube Tradeport Datacentre.
- 4.1.1.2 9000 byte L3 MTU.
- 4.1.1.3 The routing of the service will be dependent on the responder's available infrastructure, and the responder should ensure that it is optimised for minimum total distance.
- 4.1.1.4 Latency of the link between the sites shall be less than or equal to 20ms when tested.
- 4.1.1.5 The connectivity shall be full duplex.
- 4.1.1.6 Ethernet on LC/APC connectors.
- 4.1.1.7 Single mode fibre shall be utilised.

### 4.2 Link Requirements – for a Dark Fibre solution

- 4.2.1 In addition to the minimum required technical specifications the following shall be provided for any proposed Dark Fibre link:
- 4.2.1.1 A minimum of 1 pair of fibre strands.
- 4.2.1.2 Ethernet on LC/APC connectors.

### 4.3 Link Requirements – for a Managed Fibre solution

- 4.3.1 In addition to the minimum required technical specifications the following shall be provided for any proposed Managed Fibre link:
- 4.3.1.1 Minimum of 10 Gbps, **uncontended bandwidth** shall be provided.
- 4.3.1.2 The solution shall support 802.1Q allowing transport of multiple VLANs.

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## **5 Sites to be connected under this RFP**

5.1 This RFP is for the connection of the sites as listed below:

5.1.1 Side A:

Teraco Durban  
Riverhorse Close, Riverhorse Valley, Newlands, Durban.  
GPS Co-ordinates: -29.779300, 30.992610

5.1.2 Side B

Dube Tradeport SupportZone Communications Building,  
9 Isiduli Lane, Dube City, Dube TradePort, La Mercy, 4399  
GPS Co-ordinates: 29°37'31.95"S 31° 5'52.81"E

or

Dube Tradeport TradeZone Communications Building, Thukela Drive, Dube  
TradeZone, Dube TradePort, La Mercy, 4399  
GPD Co-ordinates: 29°36'23.07"S 31° 6'47.58"E

## **6 Testing and Acceptance**

6.1 The successful service provider shall be required to provide the following documentation for each site once connected:

6.1.1 Test results (ATPs) for each link.

6.1.2 As-built documentation.

6.2 The responders shall provide a sample of similar documents that they have provided to other clients.

## **7 Duration of Service**

7.1 The service shall be provided for a period of three (3) years from date of acceptance of the connection, by SABEN.

7.2 Date of acceptance shall be the date of acceptance, by SABEN, of the ATP.

7.3 SABEN reserves the right to negotiate an extension of the service on completion of the contracted service period. If necessary, the service will be run on a month-to-month basis during negotiation stage.

## **8 Service Level Agreement and Maintenance**

8.1 The services for the connection shall be provided as follows:

8.1.1 Availability 99%.

8.1.2 Four (4) hour incident response time.

8.1.3 Eight (8) hours Mean Time to Resolve (MTTR).

8.1.4 24x7x365 service desk.

8.1.5 Active monitoring, alerting, graphing, and reporting on the connection shall be provided.

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



- 8.1.6 Where aggregation nodes are used, these need to be fault tolerant and resilient in terms of power loss for a minimum of eighteen (18) hours autonomous power. Mobile power generators shall be available for deployment in the event of an extended outage beyond the eighteen (18) hour autonomous power back up.
- 8.1.7 Fault logging procedures.
- 8.1.8 Maintenance down time procedures and advance warning procedures.
- 8.1.9 Scheduled reporting of incidents and performance measurements.
- 8.1.10 The responder shall carry their own spares necessary to meet the Service Level Agreement (SLA), at their cost.
- 8.1.11 The responder shall be responsible for their own equipment insurance and security, where applicable.
- 8.1.12 If the responder is using off-net partners to provide the proposed solution this must be declared (yes or no). Confirmation shall be provided that all commitments in this proposal are covered by existing back-to-back agreements with such off-net partners.

## 9 Pricing and Validity

- 9.1 Pricing shall be provided as per the prescribed Price Proposal Template (Annexure 2).
- 9.2 Pricing shall only be provided for feasible connections. Technical feasibility shall be confirmed by interested parties before inclusion in the proposal.**
- 9.3 Prices shall be fixed.
- 9.4 Pricing shall be provided for each site as follows:
  - 9.4.1 Non-recurring cost which shall include all equipment, installation, and commissioning costs. **This shall include the ENNI costs.**
  - 9.4.2 Recurring monthly cost for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) which shall include all service charges for the contract period including licensing, backhaul costs, service level agreement, spares provisioning and maintenance costs. **This shall include ENNI costs.**
  - 9.4.3 TCCP will provide the cross-connects on both sides, i.e. Durban Teraco Datacentre and Dube Tradeport Datacentre.
- 9.5 Pricing shall be shown exclusive of VAT.
- 9.6 Pricing shall be specified in South African Rands / ZAR currency.
- 9.7 Invoicing and associated payments shall be on the following basis:
  - 9.7.1 The non-recurring cost payment shall be made on acceptance of the connection against a Tax Invoice reflecting the SABEN Purchase Order number and accompanied by the signed ATP.
  - 9.7.2 The recurring monthly cost payments will be made against Tax Invoices for monthly fees. Tax invoices shall reflect the SABEN Purchase Order number.
  - 9.7.3 Monthly statements shall be provided to SABEN.
- 9.8 The proposal shall be valid for a period of six (6) months calculated from the closing date of this RFP.

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## **10 Proposal Design and Costing Instructions**

- 10.1 The proposal design and costing shall be provided as per the Price Proposal Template in Annexure 2.
- 10.2 Service providers undertake that feasibility of the proposed connections has been confirmed prior to making any proposal.
- 10.3 Pricing proposal for more than one Technology (i.e. Dark Fibre and / or Managed Fibre) may be submitted.
- 10.4 The responders are to provide SABEN with the best lead time to the commissioning of the connection. **This data to be included in the pricing spreadsheets (Lead Time to Commission best estimate)**.
- 10.5 Use of the Price Proposal Template – Annexure 2:
  - 10.5.1 Responders shall not alter any information in columns A to F and K (shaded yellow) in the Price Proposal Template.
  - 10.5.2 New rows may be added and the data from the yellow columns copied into the new row.



# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



10.6 Below is an example of a completed pricing schedule using Annexure 2.

Side A	Side A Latitude	Side A Longitude	Side B	Side B Latitude	Side B Longitude	Technology	Bandwidth	Non-recurring Cost (ex VAT)	Monthly Recurring (O&M including ENNI) (ex VAT)	Months of Service	Monthly Recurring (O&M) Total (ex VAT)	Contract Total (ex VAT)	Lead Time to Commission (best estimate weeks)
Durban Teraco	-29.077930	30.992610	Dube Tradeport SupportZone Communications Building	29°37'31.95"S	31° 5'52.81"E	Dark Fibre	Dark Fibre	1000	2000	36	72000	73000	8
Durban Teraco	-29.077930	30.992610	Dube Tradeport SupportZone Communications Building	29°37'31.95"S	31° 5'52.81"E	Managed Fibre	10Gbps			36			
Durban Teraco	-29.077930	30.992610	Dube Tradeport TradeZone Communications Building	29°36'23.07"S	31° 6'47.58"E	Dark Fibre	Dark Fibre			36			
Durban Teraco	-29.077930	30.992610	Dube Tradeport TradeZone Communications Building	29°36'23.07"S	31° 6'47.58"E	Managed Fibre	10Gbps			36			

**Table 2: Price Proposal Template Example**



# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## 11 Special Conditions of Contract

- 11.1 Orders placed on service providers following this RFP process will be subject to the SABEN Standard Conditions of Contract (Annexure 4).
- 11.2 The contracted service provider shall:
- 11.2.1 Be accountable and responsible for their sub-contractors' quality of work and service delivery.
- 11.2.2 Assume all responsibilities and liabilities with regards to Occupational Health and Safety Act of the Republic of South Africa and COVID-19 regulations.
- 11.2.3 Be required to provide an implementation plan for establishing the connection with timelines within 4 weeks of the purchase order award.
- 11.3 SABEN reserves the right to withdraw awarded purchase orders for connections where:
- 11.3.1 Agreed timeframes are not met.
- 11.3.2 The proposed connection technology proves unfeasible.
- 11.4 **In the case of a purchase order withdrawal, service providers will have no claim for costs incurred.**

## 12 Proposal Contents, Format and Submission

- 12.1 Proposals must be emailed to SABEN.
- 12.2 The proposal pack shall be used for evaluation and the non-provision of mandatory items shall result in disqualification from further evaluation. The evaluation is detailed in the Compliance Table.
- 12.3 All documentation submitted in response to this RFP must be in English.
- 12.4 The proposal package shall include the items as per the Table 3 below.

#	Item	Mandatory	Format	Filename
1	Company registration certificate	Yes	PDF	1 [name] company registration
2	Tax clearance certificate or PIN or evidence of application for tax clearance. <u>No contracts will be awarded to a service provider who cannot provide a valid Tax Clearance Certificate at the time of contracting.</u>	Yes	PDF	2 [name] TCC
3	VAT registration certificate	Yes	PDF	3 [name] VAT
4	B-BBEE certificate (if available and to qualify for price preference points)	No	PDF	4 [name] B-BBEE
5	Fully completed and signed Company profile (Annexure 5)	Yes	PDF	5 [name] Company Profile

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



#	Item	Mandatory	Format	Filename
6	RFP Compliance Table (the Compliance table must be fully completed, signed, and witnessed)	Yes	PDF	6 [name] RFP Compliance Table
7	Pricing Proposal Schedule (Annexure 2)	Yes	PDF	7 [name] Pricing Schedule pdf
8	Pricing Proposal Schedule (Annexure 2)	Yes	MS EXCEL	8 [name] Pricing Schedule Excel
9	Service Level Agreement (the service providers standard SLA <b>OR</b> existing SLA with SABEN)	Yes	PDF	12 [name] SLA
10	Fully completed and signed Declaration by proposer (Annexure 3)	Yes	PDF	13 [name] Declaration

**Table 3: Proposal Contents and Format**

12.5 The electronic email pack shall:

12.5.1 Be attached to an Email sent to: [rfp@saben.ac.za](mailto:rfp@saben.ac.za)

12.5.2 Have the following header in the subject line [RFP No: **SABEN 0019/2021 – TCCP Dube Tradeport Link / Company Name**].

12.5.3 Be sent over Transport Layer Security (TLS) encryption.

12.6 The Email body shall contain the below table:

RFQ No: SABEN 0019/2021 – TCCP Dube Tradeport Link	
<b>Submitting company name</b>	
<b>Authorised company representative</b>	Name:
	Telephone number:
	Email address:

12.7 Automatic confirmation receipt of received Emails will be issued.

12.8 SABEN has an email receipt size limitation of 35 Mb. If the email is larger than this limit the email shall be divided into separate parts before submission.

12.9 Closing time and date for submissions is 17:00 on 21 July 2021 2021.

12.10 If there is a discrepancy between the pricing schedule PDF and Excel versions submitted, the PDF version will take precedence.

12.11 SABEN holds the right at its discretion to request documents or elements thereof from proposers that may have been omitted from the electronic proposal package after the closing time and date. Proposers are required to provide those documents within the timeframe as per the request from SABEN.

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



## **13 Evaluation Process and Criteria**

### **13.1 Stage 1**

- 13.1.1 Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered.
- 13.1.2 Proposals submitted to the incorrect email address shall not be considered.
- 13.1.3 Proposals will be evaluated for completeness as per table 3 above and as detailed in the guidelines in the RFP Compliance Table (Annexure 1).

### **13.2 Stage 2**

- 13.2.1 Proposals that succeed in Stage 1 will be evaluated as per the guidelines in the RFP Compliance Table (Annexure 1) and considers:
  - 13.2.1.1 Elimination criteria – company profile.
  - 13.2.1.2 Technical compliance scoring
  - 13.2.1.3 Support compliance scoring
  - 13.2.1.4 Evaluation of connections (technical and pricing)
- 13.2.2 The technology rating method gives preference to Dark Fibre and to on-net services.
- 13.2.3 Non-submission of the B-BBEE certificate shall not lead to a disqualification, but only to forfeiting of points awarded for B-BBEE.
- 13.2.4 Award decisions - The price (adjusted for BBEE) and the technology rating will be used to determine the most suitable value for money options, based on price performance and affordability.

## **14 Appointment of Service Providers and Awarding of Contracts**

- 14.1 Appointment as a successful service provider shall be subject to:
  - 14.1.1 **SABEN Standard Terms and Conditions.**
  - 14.1.2 Special conditions in this RFP.
  - 14.1.3 Service Level Agreement incorporating the terms set out in this RFP.
- 14.2 Contract awards will be published on the SABEN website.
- 14.3 No regret letters will be sent out.

## **15 Clarifications**

- 15.1 Requests for clarification shall:
  - 15.1.1 Be made in writing by e-mail to [rfp@saben.ac.za](mailto:rfp@saben.ac.za)
  - 15.1.2 Include a reference to the SABEN RFP number in the footer of this document.
  - 15.1.3 Be accepted by SABEN up until 15:00 on 7 July 2021.
  - 15.1.4 Not be accepted telephonically.
- 15.2 SABEN shall respond to the requests within three (3) business days. The clarifications will be made available to all interested parties by a notification on the following website: <http://SABEN.ac.za>

# TVET CAMPUS CONNECTION PROJECT



- 15.3 Any other contact with SABEN personnel involved in this RFP is not permitted during the RFP process other than as required through existing service arrangements or as requested by SABEN as part of the RFP process.

## **16 SABEN Rights**

- 16.1 This RFP is not and cannot in any way be interpreted as an offer to purchase, order, or contract by SABEN with any party responding to this RFP. By issuing this RFP, SABEN is not making any undertaking to award a contract to any party and / or supplier submitting a response. In responding to this RFP however, the party / supplier, makes an offer to supply products / services to SABEN and is bound by the terms of its offer contained in the RFP.
- 16.2 SABEN may, at its own discretion:
- 16.2.1 Extend the closing date.
  - 16.2.2 Verify any information contained in a proposal.
  - 16.2.3 Request documentary proof regarding any proposal issue.
  - 16.2.4 Cancel or withdraw this RFP as a whole or in part.
  - 16.2.5 Appoint one or more service providers.
  - 16.2.6 Award this RFP as a whole or in part thereof.
- 16.3 Responders shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of proposals in response to this RFP.
- 16.4 SABEN reserves the right to negotiate terms of payment schedule.
- 16.5 By submission of its proposal, responders shall be deemed to have satisfied themselves with and to have accepted all Terms and Conditions of this RFP.
- 16.6 SABEN makes no representation, warranty, assurance, guarantee or endorsements to responder concerning the RFP, whether with regard to its accuracy, completeness or otherwise and SABEN shall have no liability towards the Responder or any other party in connection therewith.
- 16.7 SABEN accepts that all proposals are submitted in good faith and that all information provided by the responder(s) is accurate and true for the purpose of selecting the most technical and financially feasible solutions applicable to our requirements.
- 16.8 Proposals will not be returned to the submitting companies.

-end-