

FAQ - RFP - KJ61TVET42026 - Networking for Centre of Excellence

Question no 1:

We request to exclude or amend the requirement:

“Support for ≥ 64 APs, ≥ 24 Switches.” in the NGN Firewall specifications. Such fixed thresholds do not necessarily reflect the actual performance, scalability, or operational requirements of the solution and may lead to the exclusion of technically compliant and efficient alternatives. We strongly recommend that this requirement be replaced with a performance-based criterion, focusing on overall system capacity, scalability, and reliability rather than fixed numerical limits.

Answer No. 1:

Accepted. The requirement for support of ≥ 24 switches has been removed to promote wider OEM participation and competition.

Question No. 2:

Could you please clarify the following specifications?

- a) 3D Printer
 - Bed size & Intended application/purpose of use
- b) Desktop CNC Milling Machine
 - Power rating (Watts) & Working/Surface Area

Answer No. 2:

The 3D Printer and Desktop CNC Milling Machine are intended for educational, training, prototyping, and practical demonstration purposes within the Centre of Excellence environment. Suppliers are requested to propose industry-standard educational/professional-grade equipment suitable for vocational and technical training applications. The proposed equipment should be capable of supporting a wide range of training exercises, prototyping activities, and fabrication tasks.

The Authority will consider solutions that provide an appropriate balance of functionality, safety, reliability, ease of use, local support, and value for money. Suppliers should clearly specify the technical specifications of the proposed equipment, including build/work area, power requirements, materials supported, software compatibility, safety features, and recommended applications.

Question No. 3:

Please confirm bandwidth requirements for each hub and spoke location and consider our proposed Network as a Service (NaaS) solution.

Answer No. 3

The detailed bandwidth requirements for hub and spoke locations are currently being finalized and may be issued through an official clarification/addendum to ensure equal access to information for all suppliers in later stage.

Suppliers are required to submit a proposal that fully complies with the scope, technical specifications, warranty requirements, and pricing structure defined in the RFP. The proposed

solution shall be based on the requirements set out in the RFP and within the available budget framework.

Any alternative proposal or value-added architectural approach, i.e Network as a Service (NaaS), SD-WAN, SD-LAN, SD-WLAN, AI-enabled network management, or managed service models, may be submitted separately as an optional alternative. Such alternatives must be clearly identified, fully documented, and priced separately from the compliant RFP submission. The submission of an alternative solution shall not replace or modify the requirement to provide a fully compliant proposal. The Authority reserves the right to evaluate alternative approaches independently and shall not be obligated to accept any alternative proposal.

Question no 4:

We would like to reiterate that we are a Solution Integrator, primarily participates in projects related to networking, cloud, IT infrastructure, and other SI-based solutions. Therefore, we kindly request British Council to allow us to participate only in the Network Lot. Unfortunately, we do not have the required resources, expertise, or business focus to participate in the Miscellaneous Items Lot. We believe that the Miscellaneous Items Lot falls outside the typical scope of work and domain expertise of most Solution Integrators. As such, participation in this lot may not be practical or beneficial for Solution Integrator companies.

Answer no 4:

Suppliers are required to submit a proposal covering both Network Infrastructure and IT Miscellaneous Items. Partial bids for individual categories within the lot will not be accepted

Question no 5:

We recommend removing switch support from the scope, as the specified requirements appear to be supported by only a single vendor/OEM.

Answer no 5:

Accepted. The requirement for support of ≥ 24 switches has been removed to promote wider OEM participation and competition.

Question no 6:

Please specify the required security licenses.

Answer no 6:

The firewall shall include all licenses and subscriptions required to enable the proposed security features and meet the specified performance requirements for a period of three (3) years.

Question no 7:

Please share the required quantities along with the types of SFP and SFP+ modules, including warranty requirements.

Answer no 7:

SFP/SFP+ module quantities and types (1G/10G, single mode/multi-mode as required) shall be determined by the bidder based on the proposed solution design to meet the performance and connectivity requirements specified in the tender. All active equipment, including SFP/SFP+ modules, shall be covered under a minimum 3-year local warranty as specified in the tender.

Question no 8:

Please confirm the training scope and the number of participants.

Answer no 8:

The training scope includes basic operational and administrative training for relevant end-users/technical staff covering configuration, monitoring, and routine management of the supplied solution. The exact number of participants will be confirmed at implementation

Question no 9:

We are unable to access the mentioned portal; can you please guide us on the same?

Answer no 9: Please do send email to GSD team gsd@britishcouncil.org copying moiz.khalid@britishcouncil.org.pk in case you face any technique issue to access or use MyProcurement portal.

Incase if you are still unable to access the portal (<https://tap.tcsapps.com/tap2/#/login-supplier?tenant=BritishCouncil&langCd=en>). You can submit your detailed proposal and clarification question to moiz.khalid@britishcouncil.org.pk as per the timelines mentioned in the RFP documents.

Also:

- Existing Users can login to the portal using this link : <https://tap.tcsapps.com/tap2/#/login-supplier?tenant=BritishCouncil&langCd=en> and can access the tender documents.
- In case any vendor is not registered. New Supplier Users can login to the portal and participate in the tender by using this link: <https://tap.tcsapps.com/tap2/#/bc-supplier-registration>
- Once you have logged in portal, please search the Event title shared above and submit the response accordingly