



**INDEPENDENT TRANSMISSION PROJECTS (ITP) PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME
REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION RESPONDENTS CONFERENCE
26 AUGUST 2025
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

No	Query	Response
1.	Can you briefly touch on the significance of starting with these projects for this first phase of the ITP?	<p>The ITP Programme is one of the avenues used to accelerate the TDP Implementation.</p> <p>The specific projects chosen for the ITP Programme Phase 1 enable the unlocking of capacity to integrate renewable generations in the primary the Greater Cape Region but also the North West. Projects were selected on the basis of the status of readiness for implementation to de-risk the programme as much as possible.</p>
2.	There seems to be a perception that South African entities are deliberately being excluded as respondents by virtue of the requirements and criteria. Is this a fair statement?	South African entities are not excluded. The specific requirement in the RFQ is for a minimum SAEP of 49%. Participants are at liberty to structure themselves in whatever structures they deem fit to the meet the requirements of the RFQ.
3.	Is it going to be BOT or BOOT model? What will be the concessionary term?	The procurement model whether BOT or BOOT will set out in the RFP including the concession term which is anticipated to be between 25 – 35 years.
4.	What support will government provide regarding obtaining of rights of way, servitudes, access rights for the ITP projects? Who will be responsible for securing these rights?	As part of the project enablement activities, NTCSA has secured the necessary servitudes, for the Transmission Infrastructure Projects. Support will be provided in securing the remainder of the land rights which are still to be secured. Same will be made available to Pre-Qualified Bidders in the Data Room. More information with regard to the Right of Way will be provided for in the RFP documentation.
5.	To what extent is the first phase of the ITPs dependent on the successful launch of the CGV?	The RFQ contemplates a Letter of Support being provided by the National Treasury for Phase 1. Phase 1 is therefore not dependant on the launch of the CGV. More details will be shared with the pre-qualified bidders as part of the RFP.
6.	Explain the Bankability of the Letter of Support from Treasury	It is anticipated that the CGV will be operational mid-2026. The need for an interim arrangement has been identified. It is anticipated that it will take the form of a Letter of Support from NT. More details will be made available in the RFP.
7.	How will Eskom's grid connection agreements and associated technical studies be coordinated under the ITP framework to avoid duplication of effort for bidders?	The timelines will be stipulated in the RFP. The work that the NTCSA have done will be made available in the data room and kept up to date during the tender period. This will include planning reports, concept and detail designs, Environmental Authorisations, EMPr, landowner special conditions etc. This is provided on a non-reliance basis.

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8.	What insights can be given on the economic development imperatives that drive this ITP programme?	<p>Although Economic Development scoring is not part of the RFQ stage, the ITP Programme is underpinned by the same policy objectives as the IPP Programme: localisation, job creation, black participation, women ownership, and community development. At RFP stage, bidders will be required to propose binding commitments on local content, skills transfer, and community participation in line with South Africa's industrialisation policy. This will extend to meaningful participation of women-owned enterprises and SMMEs across the value chain.</p> <p>Respondents have also been encouraged to ensure the early-stage involvement of their identified Black Equity partners upfront to ensure that they also get the learnings associated with the development and commercial structuring of these projects so that over time based on the knowledge and experience they would have acquired in implementing the projects they can independently undertake such projects.</p>
9.	Clarify how many projects can be awarded to one consortium? How will risk of collusion be managed?	The details in relation to this will be set out in the RFP. The RFQ explicitly prohibits affiliated bids that may distort competition, and strict compliance mechanisms will be applied at RFP to monitor collusion, in line with PPPFA and Competition Act principles.
10.	Will equity financial investors be restricted to participation in only a single consortium?	The RFQ does not preclude participation by equity financial investors; however, where such investors are included, they must be clearly identified in the RFQ submission, and their roles must be consistent with the Respondent's proposed structure and the requirements in line with the RFQ.
11.	What is the intended funding model for the project and how will the transmission tariffs be structured and regulated once the project is operational?	These projects will be project financed through a SPV on a non-recourse basis. The Transmission Service Provider (TSP) will make available the transmission capacity to the off-taker and will be compensated on a monthly basis based on availability with deduction for non-availability.
12.	On the Technical Experience requirement criteria, does the experience have to be strictly on ITP projects for the EPC or will experience on any other projects implemented under different programme structures also be considered?	The ITP Programme is designed to leverage the experience of the developer who has designed and constructed Transmission infrastructure projects within the ITP framework. Any Member within the Respondent (lead developer or key member or any other member) must submit the details of the EPC that was used in the previous ITPs that the Respondent developed.
13.	Please can clarity be given on the qualification of individual bidders and organisations? If an organisation intends on taking up 51% of a consortium (which shall be defined only during RFP stage), can the organisation qualify individually?	Yes, individual organisations may respond and provided they meet the requirements in the RFQ. JVs are also permitted, provided there is a clearly identified Lead Member.

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14.	Considering the limited information available at RFQ stage, could it be possible to delay the structuring of consortium at RFP stage?	The RFQ requires identification of Lead Member(s) and Key Members, but the final consortium structure may evolve at RFP stage. This approach gives flexibility for partnerships to be finalised at the RFP stage.
15.	Can the financial capacity assessment be limited to the lead member or does the assessment apply to all the shareholders on a weighted basis?	The requirement is to be met by any one member of the Respondent through either a credit rating or meeting the NAT.
16.	Will the Department publish a list of pre-qualified bidders and their consortium members?	Yes, once the evaluation process is concluded, a list of pre-qualified bidders will be published in line with the regulatory requirements.
17.	Are EV charging stations considered the same as IPPs?	The question is not relevant to the subject matter of the procurement.
18.	When is the planned date for final completion of the new transmission lines? What is the realistic speed of transmission line build out?	All the projects have different expected completion dates based on the complexity and the size of the project, in line with the Transmission Development Plan. The scope of each of the Projects was indicated in the NTCSA presentation and furthermore, are set out in the RFQ The official CODs for these Projects will be determined in the RFP process.
19.	There are very few HV type Transmission projects undertaken in the Private sector to date. While these may not be fully energised could projects that are in progress be recognised so that SA based companies can be better recognised during this RFQ?	The RFQ requires a Member of the Respondent (Lead Developer, Key Member or any other Member) to prove that they have capability to contract and manage an EPC utilising an ITP procurement model at Transmission level voltage. The key is that the Lead Developer, Key Member or any other Member needs to have experience in design and successful construction of an ITP either itself or by contracting an EPC. The ITP projects provided as evidence in the submission need to have reached COD or be operational before RFQ bid submission.
20.	Confirm whether project experience in adjacent infrastructure sectors such as large scale renewable energy generation or grid integration, will be considered equivalent to transmission-specific experience for eligibility and scoring	The RFQ does not consider large scale renewable energy generation or grid integration, to meet the Technical Qualification criteria, it strictly requires experience in an ITP model. The transmission infrastructure must have been built within the ITP procurement model or framework
21.	Will the IGCAR rules be applicable for ITPs? Once the market operator because effective, NTCSA may also be a network provider - how will the System Operator be seen to be independent of NTCSA?	No, the IGAR rules will not apply for the ITP Programme. The cost payable will be stipulated in the RFP, there will be a cost included for the co-ordinating and oversight from the NTCSA. For now, the System Operator is still part of the NTCSA and the NTCSA cannot participate in the ITP Programme therefore there is no conflict of interest. The NTCSA is the designated off-taker under the Ministerial Determination
22.	Is there a minimum distance from a sub-station where you can connect a Loop-In Loop-Out Connection	For this project there is one substation project which will be integrated into the grid through two different new lines to two different substations. It will not be a Loop-In Loop-Out design. The connection points for all the Transmission Lines are already determined together with the location of the substations.

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23.	How will the substation control and operating responsibility be shared between NTCSA and ITPs	The System Operator is responsible for the operation of the entire grid through the issuance of the operating instructions to the personnel (Engineering Assistants) onsite to do local switching. Both NTCSA and the ITP will operate under the instruction of the System Operator. Further details will be shared at RFP stage.
24.	How will the treatment of risk-sharing mechanisms (such as foreign exchange exposure, demand variability, and cost overruns) ensure that both financial sustainability for the developer and affordability for end-users are addressed?	The RFP will provide the details on these issues, however the structure of the REIPPP and BESS rounds provides a good indication of what can be expected.
25.	Will Technical feasibility studies be provided by government or will this be a requirement for the bidder?	The selected projects are at late stage of development where the projects are defined to a certain level of detail, which will assist the development of designs and construction. These details, which include among others, concept designs, will be shared with bidders at RFP stage. The capacity or the rating of key components of the projects are already defined and the studies that might be required will be for construction purpose.
26.	What happens if a RFQ security guarantee is placed and the pre-qualified bidder at RFP stage elects not to bid. Will a demand on the security be made?	The requirement for the Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee arises only after notification of award of Pre-Qualified Bidder status. In circumstances where the Pre-Qualified Bidder is in breach of any of the conditions set out in the RFQ, the Department reserves the right to exercise its discretion on whether or not to call on the Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee in line with the RFQ, acting reasonably and in good faith having regard to all relevant prevailing circumstances at that point in time.
27.	How can bidders be required to post PQ guarantee without receiving dataroom access to assess and review to allow investment committee approvals within bidding entities	The Pre-Qualification Guarantee is required only after the Bidder is notified as Pre-Qualified Bidder and invited to the RFP stage. All Pre Qualified Bidders will have access to the Data Room once notified of the outcome of the RFQ stage.
28.	Why is the RFQ document so expensive? REIPPP Documents are sold for ZAR 25 000.	Due regard was given to the objectives and complexities of the procurement and on that basis the prescribed fee is considered justifiable.
29.	Do you believe there is enough time for internationals and local companies to form meaningful alliances? Is there any indication that the submission date will be extended?	<p>The market has been aware of the ITP Programme formally since the release of the RFI in December 2024 with several public engagements where the Ministry has made the time-table public and discussed the key milestones.</p> <p>The roll-out of the ITP Programme Phase 1 is key to support further rounds of renewables and to unlock grid capacity.</p>

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30.	How to register for the ITP. For consortiums formed after the tender document, can we still register those although the payment was under one registration (another company)?	Registration is completed upon purchase of the RFQ documentation.
31.	Please can clarity be given on the qualification of individual bidders and organisations? If an organisation intends on taking up 51% of a consortium (which shall be defined only during RFP stage), can the organisation qualify individually?	Yes, individual organisations may respond and provided they meet the requirements in the RFQ .
32.	Are JV's allowed for this RFQ?	JVs are permitted, provided there is a clearly identified Lead Member.
33.	How will affiliated bids be implemented structurally with alternate partners to the main consortium partner in multiple submissions	Affiliated bids are restricted. Entities may not submit multiple bids that compromise competition. Guidance on structuring affiliated bids is provided in the RFQ.
34.	According to ITPPP RFQ Part A, Clause 7.4: Bidders may only be awarded one of the portfolios of Transmission Projects grouped by Substation. Please explain how many of the Transmission Projects will be included per portfolio.	The details on the packing of the Projects and conditions for award per portfolio will be set out in the RFP. Clause 7.4 also refers to portfolio of projects or individual Transmission Projects. This explains that it can be either the portfolio or the individual project which will be defined fully at RFP
35.	If a consortium to be incorporated is the Respondent, the lead member (organization) contact person could be represented by two duly authorized representatives of the consortium but one of them does not belong to the lead member organization?	Only duly authorised representatives of the Lead Member or identified consortium members may represent the Respondent. At least one representative must be from the Lead Member. Any deviation must be supported by valid powers of attorney lodged with the RFQ response.
36.	What is the current Government policy & import duties on importation of Transmission Towers and Monopoles	Respondents are required to undertake their own due diligence on this matter and where necessary seek external legal and tax advice.
37.	Local participation in respect of equity is clearly defined and binding. What is the local BINDING requirement in respect of products (material) and services (contractor build)?	Binding requirements in respect of products, equipment, components, and services will be specified at the RFP stage.
38.	The ITP is a huge ambitious program, understandably fraught with both positive (opportunities) and negative risks (threats, not just for NTCSA, but more importantly for the country. The back-end loading of the schedule to 2030 to 2034 is a particular threat and opportunity. Globally, the track record of mega projects and programs, most of which have a poor track record on meeting schedule and cost targets, despite incorporating rigorous project cost and schedule risk analysis and mitigation. South Africa and Eskom have had more than our fair share of	The conceptualisation of the procurement process phase incorporated extensive best-practice and lesson-learning, most specifically from economies similar to South Africa such as Brazil and India, and these best practices are being incorporated into the design of the Request for Proposals for Phase 1.

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	these projects. How can we ensure we draw on and apply global project risk experience to minimize the risk to the country of the ITP programme?	
39.	Technical Criteria. 2.2.1.1 The Respondent must demonstrate relevant experience by submitting three (3) organograms showing the contracting structure for three (3) previous Transmission Lines Independent Transmission Projects (ITPs) and three (3) organograms showing the contracting for three previous Substation ITPs undertaken within the past fifteen (15) years. Each ITP must have been in the development of new or greenfield Transmission lines or Substations at Extra High Voltage (EHV) level or above. What does undertaken within the past fifteen (15) years mean? What is the start and end date for this 15 year period? Is this date from the start of COD, start of operations, financial close? Please clarify.	The referenced projects need to be in operation at the time of the RFQ bid submission. The 15 years is the period in which the projects should have been constructed and reached COD. The reference date is 2025. The projects that were constructed and reached COD before 2009 would be considered old and not qualify.
40.	Technical Criterion 1.3: Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Contractor Experience 2.2.5.1 The Respondent must demonstrate experience in the operating and maintenance of Extra High Voltage (EHV) Transmission Lines and Substations, by submitting information on at least three (3) Transmission Lines ITPs and three (3) Substations ITPs Generally the Tx assets are handed back to the TSO under ITPs in other countries. Can this O&M track record requirement be reviewed / reconsidered, instead of "The Respondent", could it be the EPC contractor or any proposed sub-contractor, which entity does not necessarily have shareholding in the SPV/ Project company, not necessarily a shareholder?	The O&M contractor does not need to be a shareholder or the member of the project company and the Respondent does not need to be a shareholder in the O&M Contractor. The Respondent (Lead Member, Key Member or any other Member) must submit information of the previous ITPs that were developed by the consortium or a project company that the Respondent was or still is a member of. The O&M contractor would have been appointed by this Consortium or project company that the Respondent was a member of, Or O&M functions would have been performed by the internal resources of the Consortium or Project Company that the Respondent (lead member or key member or any other member) was a member of.
41.	If the Lead member alone has a financial equity record of more than 5 billion Rand, will a financial auditor R2 letter only for the lead member and no other members be accepted to qualify? If other members of the consortium also have raised more than 5 billion rand, do the other members also have to complete the R2 letter?	As per the RFQ clause 2.2.3.1, the financial standing requirement must be demonstrated by at least one qualifying entity, being either: a) a Member of the Respondent; b) the ultimate provider of equity (excluding Financial Institutions); or c) the ultimate provider of corporate finance. Accordingly, where the Lead Member alone meets the threshold, Appendix R2 (Letter of Financial Review by an Independent Financial Advisor or Auditor) for the Lead Member will be sufficient. Other

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		Members are not required to submit an Appendix R2 Letter unless they are the entity being relied upon to demonstrate compliance with the financial standing requirement.
42.	Kindly clarify the timing for submission of Appendix F - Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee, since it is apparently a RFQ Response Returnable Schedule, however in terms of clause 18 of the RFQ Part A the Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee submission will be required only upon receipt of the Departments notification confirming status as a Pre-Qualified Bidder and invitation to participate in the RFP stage.	<p>In terms of clause 18.1, each Pre-Qualified Bidder will be required to submit a single Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee (in Rands), in an amount equal to R10 million, only upon receipt of the Department's notification confirming its status as a Pre-Qualified Bidder. The guarantee must be submitted by the date specified in the Letter of Appointment issued to the Pre-Qualified Bidder.</p> <p>In circumstances where the Pre-Qualified Bidder is in breach of any of the conditions set out in the RFQ, the Department reserves the right to exercise its discretion on whether or not to call on the Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee in line with clause 18.4, acting reasonably and in good faith having regard to all relevant prevailing circumstances at that point in time.</p>
43.	We have noted the procurement approach and the obligations placed on bidders across commercial, legal, and socio-economic dimensions. Presumably, this project is being procured under the Public Procurement Act. While the Act is in force, the regulations for key aspects such as localisation and the designation of sectors are still under development. Given this, under what framework will these aspects be considered and applied in the project?	The Public Procurement Act is not yet in force as it was assented into law but is not yet effective. The effective date of the Public Procurement Act has not been proclaimed in the Gazette. The existing legal framework such as the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, B_BBEE Act, BBBEE Codes of Good Practice, amongst others will be used for the RFP with consideration of the anticipated Public Procurement Act. The RFP will specify the legal framework to be considered and the local content element as part of Economic Development.
44.	On the EPC (Technical Criterion 1) you did not provide for the Respondent (or its Key Member) to demonstrate experience. Is the requirement for the Respondent/Project Company to meet this?	The requirement is for a Member of the Respondent (Lead Member or Key Member or any other Member) in the Project Company whether incorporated or not, can provide the reference ITP that was developed by a consortium that the Member was or still is the member of, which appointed an EPC to develop the previous ITP. The Member would submit the information on this EPC that was appointed by a consortium that he was part of.
45.	The actual interest of bidders in participating to the program will be assessed against the Project Documents, which will clarify scope of work, TSA terms, scheme of remuneration, etc. Why is the department requesting demonstration of 49% SA participation in the shareholding at RFQ stage, rather than requesting this criterion to be satisfied at RFP stage with project offers?	The requirement for South African Entity Participation (SAEP) is a mandatory Legal Pre-Qualification Criterion under Volume 2, of the RFQ. Respondents must therefore demonstrate at the RFQ stage that they are capable of meeting the minimum 49% SAEP threshold in order to be pre-qualified. The Department recognises that the composition of the South African participants may be refined prior to the RFP stage; however, evidence of compliance with the minimum SAEP requirement must be provided at this stage to ensure that only credible and compliant Respondents are shortlisted.
46.	Do the financial and technical requirements - which seem to minimise risk heavily - align with the design of the CGV. Is the idea to be risk averse in order to satisfy requirements of funders?	The financial and technical criteria are intentionally rigorous to ensure that the selected Bidder(s) have the capacity and expertise to successfully deliver on this first of its kind project in South Africa.

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		<p>Given the project's strategic importance, it is essential that Respondents demonstrate both sufficient technical competence and robust financial capacity.</p> <p>The Credit Guarantee Vehicle (CGV) has been structured to support Bidders by facilitating access to funding and alleviating the balance sheet burden on National Treasury. This design not only strengthens lenders' confidence but also enables Bidders to obtain the necessary guarantees to achieve project completion.</p>
47.	Are there any limitations in terms of how many members form the project company, in order to meet the qualifying criteria and will each individual member of the project company be required to procure the tender document in order to qualify to bid.	The RFQ does not prescribe a maximum number of Members that may form part of a Respondent or its Project Company, provided that the Respondent meets the Legal, Technical and Financial Pre-Qualification Criteria set out in Part B of the RFQ.
48.	If a local company is partnering with a foreign company, do we have to pay documentation (RFQ) fee individually OR can we pay ONE fee under the JV?	Payment of the non-refundable Documentation Fee by the Lead Member on behalf of the Respondent is sufficient to obtain access to the RFQ documents and to submit an RFQ Response. Where a local company and a foreign company participate together as a joint venture or consortium, only one Documentation Fee is payable
49.	Why are entities on the NTCSA EPC panel not automatically qualified as local entities that have already been confirmed to have the required experience in the construction of lines and substations?	The RFQ evaluates the track record of the Respondent (Lead member or key member or any other member) and the partners that the Respondent worked with in the development of the previous ITPs to assess the capacity of the Respondent to source and manage contractors.
50.	Form 2 A- can equipment suppliers / OEM be any contractors as long as they meet the international standard? In other words – it does not have to be on the Eskom/ NTC LAP list?	There is no requirement of the suppliers to be on Eskom or NTCSA LAP list. The equipment suppliers are those that the Respondent (Lead member or key member or any other member) has procured the equipment from to use in the construction of the previous ITP through the consortium or Project company that a Member of the Respondent was or still is a member of.
51.	Given the magnitude and "1st of its kind" nature of this ITP process, how will local communities participation and readiness be secured	The RFQ stage does not prescribe detailed socio-economic or community participation requirements. These binding requirements will be detailed at the RFP stage.
52.	Can you clarify if the Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee will just be requested against the proposal of an offer from the Pre-Qualified Bidder at RFP bid submission, or the reason why such a Guarantee would be requested any time before a bid submission?	<p>In terms of clause 18.1, each Pre-Qualified Bidder will be required to submit a single Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee (in Rands), in an amount equal to R10 million, only upon receipt of the Department's notification confirming its status as a Pre-Qualified Bidder. The guarantee must be submitted by the date specified in the Letter of Appointment issued to the Pre-Qualified Bidder.</p> <p>In circumstances where the Pre-Qualified Bidder is in breach of any of the conditions set out in the RFQ, the Department reserves the right to exercise its discretion on whether or not to call on the</p>

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		Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee in line with clause 18.4, acting reasonably and in good faith having regard to all relevant prevailing circumstances at that point in time.
53.	Given that the pre-qualification thresholds apply mainly to developers, how can empowered South African Steel fabricators formally position themselves in the ITP procurement process?	Empowered South African Steel fabricators can partner or collaborate with other industry stakeholders within the ITP Programme. Economic Development scoring is not part of the RFQ stage, the ITP Programme is underpinned by the same policy objectives as the IPP Programme: localisation, job creation, black participation, women ownership, and community development. At RFP stage, bidders will be required to propose binding commitments on local content, skills transfer, and community participation in line with South Africa's industrialisation policy. This will extend to meaningful participation of women-owned enterprises and SMMEs across the value chain.
54.	Can the members of the project company change between RFQ and RFP stage.	In the event that the Respondent wishes to make changes to the RFQ Response, including adjustments to consortium composition, such will be managed in accordance with the provisions of clause 14 of Part A of the RFQ dealing with changes in the RFQ Response post submission. It should be noted any changes required to the RFQ Response must demonstrate continued compliance with the requirements of the RFQ. The Department reserves the discretion, in accordance with the RFQ, to either accept or decline such changes.
55.	Given the limited amount of EHV ITP Substations in South Africa can the IPPO please consider if EPC and Contracting experience can include lines/substations that are currently in construction (but not yet complete) to count as references?	The reference projects must have been completed within the ITP framework. The programme of this kind has not yet been undertaken in South Africa. This ITP programme is the first phase in South Africa
56.	The document says the lead developer must have the overarching experience therefore experience in all the phases of the programme. Can this be explained? Also can the members participate in different bids. The documents talks about affiliated bids and not affiliated. Can more clarity be offered?	This question is similar to no. 9 & 33 (to be deleted)
57.	Will all material used for a particular project follow DTIC requirements and the Eskom approved supplier list.	The RFP will specify the framework and requirements in respect of materials.
58.	Please elaborate on Pre-Qualified Guarantee and item 18.4 Forfeiture clauses in particular 18.4.1.2.1	Similar questions related to guarantee were responded to above

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59.	Need Confirmation: Should EPC be recognized as key member but not consortium party (We provide information from EPC, but not mandatory for submission of consortium agreement with EPC)	<p>Key Member is defined in the RFQ as those Members of the Respondent identified as having a critical role in the design, financing, construction, operation or maintenance of the Transmission Project, and may include, at a minimum, the Lead Developer, the Majority Equity Provider, any South African Equity Participant, and any Black Equity Participant, and any other Member identified by the Respondent as essential to the structure or execution of the Transmission Project.</p> <p>Yes. Where the Respondent relies on the technical experience of an EPC contractor to meet the RFQ criteria, that EPC contractor must be designated as a Key Member in the RFQ submission. However, it is not mandatory for the EPC to hold equity or be a shareholder in the Project Company.</p>
60.	A further question for the ITP Office regarding South African industry participation: The 7 projects tabled in the RFP are shovel ready projects. Concept and detailed designs are complete, EIA approvals have been obtained and servitudes have been secured. The projects are separate elements or discrete pieces that need to each be individually integrated into an existing transmission system. Ownership, construction and maintenance are the remaining items required to execute on these 7 separate shovel ready projects. However, financial and technical pre-qualification criteria are structured as if a single full scheme needs to be executed from scratch on an EPC basis. The only South African participation requirement is on an equity basis. Why has the possibility of South African industry participation in the pre qualification stage been excluded at the outset?	The RFQ evaluates the previous experience of the Members of the Respondent (Lead Member or Key Member or any other Member) in development of Transmission infrastructure projects within the ITP framework.
61.	Will there be an official mechanism for EPC's/developers to engage and pre-qualify local steel fabricators or should we align directly through partnerships/collaborations?	The RFQ does not prescribe a formal mechanism for engaging or pre-qualifying local steel fabricators. The RFP will specify the requirements for local content and designated products.
62.	Noted Elsa's answer and acknowledgement local companies can participate under the 49%, however, the track record requirements and project verification can not be met by a local company as the main sponsor given this was solely undertaken by Eskom/NTCSA to date in South Africa	The RFQ requires demonstration of experience within the ITP framework. The RFQ evaluates the track record of the Respondent demonstrated through the Members of the Respondent (Lead member or key member or any other member) that have a proven track record in development of the previous ITPs. This is the first phase in South Africa.
63.	Are there mandated local content requirements outside of the 49% project requirement, in specific for transmission and substation steelwork	The RFP will specify the local content requirements. The ITP Programme promotes localisation as part of Economic Development.

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	under the ITP program? Will imported steel towers/substation structures be permitted or is there a policy preference for local fabrication?	
64.	Regarding the change in the equity participation structure, will the parties be allowed to implement changes after pre-qualification and at a later stage?	<p>In the event that the Respondent wishes to make changes to the RFQ Response, including adjustments to consortium composition, such will be managed in accordance with the provisions of clause 14 of Part A of the RFQ dealing with changes in the RFQ Responses post pre-qualification.</p> <p>It should be noted any changes required to the RFQ Response must demonstrate continued compliance with the requirements of the RFQ. The Department reserves the discretion, in accordance with the RFQ, to either accept or decline such changes.</p>
65.	Can you confirm how many project portfolios could be awarded to a single bidder?.	Pre-Qualified Bidders may only be awarded one of the portfolios of Transmission Projects or an individual Transmission Projects in line with the Project Packing by the Department based on the outcomes of the bid evaluation and the criteria set out in the subsequent RFP
66.	How many bidding consortia can one member be part of?	In terms of clause 13.6, a Member may only participate in more than one consortium if those consortia are substantially the same group of entities (i.e. Affiliated Bids). A Member cannot participate in multiple, unrelated bidding consortia.
67.	Can the same member participate in more than one bid for the same project?	No. One consortium can only submit one bid per project.
68.	Is there a minimum BBBEE ownership participation percentage requirement	<p>Yes. The RFQ requires a minimum of 49% South African Entity Participation (SAEP). Vehicles for Ownership by local communities which comply with the B-BBEE Codes, will be recognised for South African Entity Participation up to 5% (five percent) equity participation.</p> <p>Detailed B-BBEE scorecard requirements and additional economic development commitments will be specified at the RFP stage,</p>
69.	Qualification Requirements – Track Record in ITP Projects - The requirement for bidders to demonstrate three ITP transmission line projects and three ITP substation projects is very limiting and restrictive. Globally, only a handful of entities have this ITP track record, and even those do not typically meet the requirement of six ITP projects. This would limit competition primarily to a few international players. We therefore suggest that the Department consider allowing equivalent experience, such as self-build or operation of any transmission line or substation projects — for example, 400kV substation projects and transmission lines developed by an IPP/ private entity and transferred to the system	For the first phase of the ITP programme, the requirement is for a Member of the Respondent (Lead developer, key member or any other member) to prove experience in development of Transmission infrastructure within the ITP framework

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	operator as part of a larger generation project — rather than strictly ITP projects. The same adjustment to the Bidder's O&M experience should be made allowing for any transmission line or substation experience. This adjustment would broaden participation, attract more credible bidders, and still ensure experienced transmission line and extra-high voltage substation entities are competing, ultimately providing better value for money for the Department and the country.	
70.	Are any of the projects intended/expected to unlock transmission capacity for cross-border exports/imports (e.g. Namibia/Botswana interfaces)? Or is the focus on removing constraints to generation capacity for supply within SA's national borders only (from Northern Cape/North-West provinces).	The selected projects strengthen the national grid mainly in Northern Cape, North West and Gauteng. The capacity that is unlocked is within these provinces.
71.	The current technical criteria, as structured, will inevitably result in all projects being controlled by foreign companies. We respectfully request that the IPP Office consider adjusting these requirements to ensure that qualified local companies are also able to control project companies. Without such adjustments, the program as written will lead to projects being dominated by foreign-owned entities, and in many cases by parastatals. Local companies, many of which have decades of proven experience in energy and grid infrastructure, must be afforded the opportunity to lead and control project companies in order to build a truly sustainable and inclusive sector.	<p>The 49% South Africa equity participation requirement emphasises the priority being given to the localisation of the ITP programme during this Phase 1. The procurement programme is structured to ensure that participants had some experience in the design, construction, operations and maintenance as well as on-time delivery. The RFQ focuses on pre-qualifying ITP Developers (Project Companies) that have successfully delivered on ITOs and can provide evidence of past experience in relation to the contracting of EPCs to deliver on these ITPs. The ITP RFQ is not seeking to prequalify EPC contractors, only the ITP Developers. At this stage of the procurement, no consideration is given to the EPCs which an ITP developer may seek to contract or procure for the purposes of delivering the transmission project.</p> <p>To further clarify, the EPC contracting will be left to the ITP Developer and local players will have an opportunity to partners as EPCs to deliver the Phase 1 projects. Additionally there is no requirement that an ITP Developer should work with an EPC contractor whom they have worked with before.</p>
72.	Due to the increased demand for transmission infrastructure due to the investment in data centre transmission, have the lead times been factored into equipment, as internationally lead time can be 2-3 years for cables and up to 4 years for large power transformers	The projects will be expected to be delivered within the predetermined CODs. These dates consider the lead times for the different key equipment.
73.	Can a member provide track record of corporate & project financing of its subsidiaries or affiliated companies within the same group, to meet this criteria?	As per Section 2.2.2.1.2 of Part B of Volume 4 (Financial Pre-Qualification Requirements) Part 1 (Financial Pre-Qualification Criteria) of the RFQ, reliance on the track record of third-party entities will not be accepted. Only the experience of Members of the Respondent may be relied upon to

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		satisfy this criterion. Accordingly, the track record of subsidiaries or affiliated companies cannot be used unless those entities are themselves included as Members of the Respondent.
74.	Looking at the safety incidents that are prevalent in these type of projects, can the ITP programme look at setting up a SHERQ office to manage these. It was poorly managed with IPP?	ITPs carry the risk of ensuring that projects comply with all legislation in the country, which would include the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations governing safety for projects.
75.	Since foreign bidder needs to cooperate with a local entity jointly bidding for the projects, are multiple pre-qualified bidder guarantees, one from each entity/partner, in aggregate amount of R10 million acceptable?	No. The requirement is for the Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee to be provided as a single instrument on behalf of the Respondent (consortium).
76.	Please confirm whether the Employer or the Contractor will be responsible for providing compensation towards the Right of Way acquisition.	As part of the project enablement activities, NTCSA has secured the necessary servitudes, for the Transmission Infrastructure Projects. Support will be provided in securing the remainder of the land rights which are still to be secured. Same will be made available to Pre-Qualified Bidders in the Data Room. More information with regard to the Right of Way will be provided for in the RFP documentation.
77.	NTCSA Controls the network at the National level. How will ITP's manage and control ITP within their scope framework?	The ITP will take instruction from the System Operator who is currently responsible for the operation of the national grid as per the Grid code requirements. The ITPs will execute these instruction to do local switching of their apparatus or equipment. Specific provisions on the interface between the System Operator and the ITP including the scope of control the ITP has will be set out in the Transmission Services Agreement
78.	Will the ITP have first right of refusal to connect any new generation assets (Wind or PV) within the section of their managed network?	ITPs will have an obligation as to connect generation assets in line with the provisions of the Transmission Services Agreement and the relevant regulatory requirements.
79.	Whether EPC can be replaced during RFP (with same qualification level)	The RFQ does not require the Respondent to have identified and committed to an EPC. The identification and confirmations in respect of the EPC will be defined in the RFP.
80.	Are there any mechanisms to prevent an international bidder from importing everything they need to execute the projects?	Bidders must undertake their own due diligence in this respect and where necessary should obtain independent legal advice. It is however important to note that economic development objectives which include local content, skills transfer, and supplier development in line with South Africa's industrialisation policy will considered as part of the competitive evaluation under the RFP.
81.	How will the CGV risk-sharing and pricing be calibrated?	Detailed information on the structure, risk-sharing and pricing of the CGV will be provided in the RFP. The overarching objective is to ensure that the CGV is structured in a manner that supports the bankability of the ITP Programme while maintaining affordability and appropriate risk allocation.

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82.	How will the programme ensure that BWO SA companies that offer expertise in the sector can participate in the value chain outside of the 49% shareholding structure?	At RFQ stage, the requirement is limited to the minimum 49% South African Entity Participation, which includes the 5% community/Black ownership requirement. Detailed obligations regarding Economic Development, including participation of Black Women-Owned companies and broader value chain opportunities, will be specified in the RFP documentation.
83.	As per clause 2.4.1 of Legal Qualification - The Respondent must provide an illustrative diagram setting out the structure anticipated to be adopted by it in respect of its Project at RFP stage. Confirm if South African Entity participation with 49% equity is mandatorily required at RFQ stage or RFP stage? Also, does the 49% South African Entity Participation include 5% (members of black people/black enterprise)	Yes. The requirement for a minimum 49% SAEP is a pre-qualification requirement at RFQ stage. Respondents must demonstrate this in their RFQ submissions. The 49% SAEP requirement includes a minimum 5% ownership by Black People or Black Enterprises, which may also be satisfied through community ownership structures such as community trusts.
84.	CGV: Can developers tailor the level and type of guarantee?	The detailed structure and application of the CGV, including the level and type of guarantee available to developers, will be set out in the RFP.
85.	Under the technical criteria, instead of 100kms for 3 different projects, can we share a single project with 300 KMs Transmission line?	The RFQ requires the length of the line to be at least 100km long. A single longer line is still considered as a one line, it does not constitute multiple lines. 300km line is not considered as 3 different lines.
86.	Please confirm if supplementary participants and contractors with a critical role within the project could or should be designated as key member?	“Key Members”: means those Members of the Respondent identified as having a critical role in the design, financing, construction, operation or maintenance of the Transmission Project, and may include, at a minimum, the Lead Developer, the Majority Equity Provider, any South African Equity Participant, and any Black Equity Participant, and any other Member identified by the Respondent as essential to the structure or execution of the Transmission Project. Supplementary Participants and Contractors, including those with critical roles such as EPC or O&M Contractors, are not considered Key Members unless they also hold equity in the Respondent.
87.	Clarification of Legal Criterion 1 (2.2.1.3). Could the role of a Lead Member (organization, and a person who works in this organization) be assumed by a duly authorised representative of the Respondent (Consortium)?	The Lead Member may be represented by a duly authorised individual within that organisation, provided that such authorisation is evidenced by appropriate corporate approvals (such as a board resolution or power of attorney).
88.	Can the references from signed contractors be used by the Respondent?	No. In terms of Volume 3, clause 2.2.3.4, the required reference letters must be issued by the project owners or clients of the referenced ITP projects. Reference letters from contractors, subcontractors,



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		or entities other than the project owner/client will not be accepted for purposes of demonstrating compliance with Technical Criterion 1.2.
89.	Please confirm if Appendix F Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantee needs to be submitted on the 23rd of September.	Pre-Qualified Bidder will be required to submit Pre-Qualified Bidder Guarantees only upon receipt of the Department's notification confirming its status as a Pre-Qualified Bidder. The guarantee must be submitted by the date specified in the Letter of Appointment issued to the Pre-Qualified Bidder.
90.	Please clarify the difference between Key Member and Member	<p>The RFQ define the Key Members and Members as follow:</p> <p>"Key Members": means those Members of the Respondent identified as having a critical role in the design, financing, construction, operation or maintenance of the Transmission Project, and may include, at a minimum, the Lead Developer, the Majority Equity Provider, any South African Equity Participant, and any Black Equity Participant, and any other Member identified by the Respondent as essential to the structure or execution of the Transmission Project.</p> <p>"Member": means, in relation to any Respondent, any legal entity or natural person which will become a Shareholder (either directly or indirectly through an intermediary entity) in the Project Company once incorporated, and if the Project Company has already been incorporated, then any Shareholder thereof.</p>
91.	In the RFQ Part A document it is mentioned to submit a Response Submission Notification Form, will the IPPO provide such a form/template?	Yes. This will be provided to all Registered Respondents.
92.	For the Response submission notification, the Respondent should state its participation in a single or consortium basis? If the latter case, the Respondent should indicate the members of that consortium?	The information required is contained in the Response Submission Notification Form.
93.	What is the exclusivity criterion for members, EPC and construction companies participating in this ITP?	The RFQ does not impose any general exclusivity requirement on Members, EPC Contractors, or O&M Contractors. Member or contractor may participate in more than one Respondent, provided that such participation does not give rise to Affiliated Bids or otherwise compromise the independence and integrity of the procurement process.
94.	What will be the evaluation criteria in the RFQ stage for Price: Socio-Economic Development in percentage?	Economic Development scoring is not part of the RFQ stage, the ITP Programme is underpinned by the same policy objectives as the IPP Programme: localisation, job creation, black participation, women ownership, and community development. At RFP stage, bidders will be required to propose binding commitments on local content, skills transfer, and community participation in line with South

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		Africa's industrialisation policy. This will extend to meaningful participation of women-owned enterprises and SMMEs across the value chain.
95.	<p>Given that the selected projects are shovel ready i.e. several risks usually linked to execution of iTP projects i.e.</p> <p>a) Servitude acquisition - in this case already acquired by NTCSA</p> <p>b) Designs - usually responsibility of the ITP Developer/EPC contractor in This case already finalized designs by NTCSA hence only a review has to be done by the potential developer</p> <p>c) Operations and Maintenance'- Usually responsibility of the ITP Developer/operator In this case for these projects NTCSA will be the Operator and executing maintenance</p> <p>Why then the technical requirements bar have been set up so high/restrictive that it does not allow local industry to qualify on their own, notwithstanding such industry proven ability to build extra high voltage substation and lines of that magnitude.</p>	The Preferred Bidder or Transmission Service Provider will be required to design, construct, test, commission, operate and maintain their own transmission infrastructure for the duration of the concession.
96.	Please clarify if premium rates on the CGV are locked in at Financial Close or subject to repricing during construction/operation?	<p>It is not anticipated that the CGV will be in place and hence a Letter of Support will be provided by National Treasury.</p> <p>The terms and conditions related to the CGV including any premiums will be set out in the specific guarantee instrument.</p>
97.	<p>The Technical Requirements are extremely onerous, when compared to the scope of the current phase of the ITP. The Projects as part of the first phase are shovel ready and therefore do not require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of the Concept Design 2. Acquisition and Ownership of Rights of Way 3. Environmental Impact Assessment 4. Development of Detail Design 5. Commissioning 6. Operating - NTCSA will be responsible for Operating as the Projects are integrated into the Current Grid and not a separate Scheme/Grid. <p>In the ITP's current RFQ form there are no South African Entities that are able to meet the Technical Requirements. South African Entities in the</p>	<p>The Preferred Bidder or Transmission Service provider will be required to design, construct, test, commission, operate and maintain their own transmission infrastructure for the duration of the concession.</p> <p>The RFQ evaluates the track record of the Respondent (lead member or key member or any other member) in developing of the Transmission infrastructure within the ITP framework. There is no technical requirement for the Respondent to form partnerships with the EPC contractors or the O&M contractor at RFQ stage.</p>



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	execution phase of the ITP, in substance, will be the main technical partners but are being excluded, in form, from the ITP as they cannot meet the extensive technical requirements. Could these requirements be re-evaluated understanding the that South entities have the proven track record, ability and technical experience to deliver on the current proposed projects of the ITP?	