



The Kingdom of Eswatini
Eswatini Water Services Corporation

Request for Proposal (RFP) Document
for
Procurement for Digitization of Physical
Records Services

Procurement Method:	Open Tender
Subject of Procurement:	Digitization of Physical Records
Procurement Reference Number:	EWSC 17 of 2025/26
Date of Issue:	19th May 2025
Participation	International

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PREFACE

This Tender Document has been prepared by the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency to be used for the procurement of Consultancy Services.

The document is customized to be consistent with the Public Procurement Act No. 07 of 2011, the Public Procurement Regulations, 2020, other of the Laws of Eswatini, and international best practices”.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) shall be used to procure Consultancy Services above E500,000.

The sale of this tender document to potential consultant(s) is discouraged.

Those wishing to submit comments or questions on this Tender Document or to obtain additional information are encouraged to contact:

The Chief Executive Officer
Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency
RHUS Office Park, P.O. Box 9665
Karl Grant Street, Mbabane
ESWATINI
<https://esppra.co.sz>
info@esppra.co.sz

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Standard Request for Proposals Document

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REP for Consultancy Services following publication of a Notice of Expression of Interest



Standard Invitation to Consultants

Standard Invitation to Consultants

(Without Expression of Interest)

Invitation to tender for Digitization of Physical Records -EWSC 17 of 2025/26

1. The Eswatini Water Services Corporation has allocated funds to be used for the acquisition of **Digitization of Physical Records** services.
2. The Entity invites your sealed proposals for the provision of the above services.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the Government of Eswatini's Public Procurement Act and Regulations 2020 and the procedures described in Part 1: Proposal Procedures.
4. You may obtain further information at the address given below at 7(a) from **EWSC Headquarters** between 08.00am and 4.30pm on weekdays.
5. Proposals must be delivered to the address below at 7(c) at or before **12.00 noon, 4th July 2025**. Late proposals shall be rejected. Proposals will be opened in the presence of the consultants' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 7(d) at **12.00 noon, 4th July 2025**.
6. There shall be no a pre – proposal meeting.
7. Address and contact details:

(a)	Information about proposal can be accessed from:	www.swsc.co.sz or www.esppra.co.sz
(b)	Documents will be issued from:	14th May 2025
(c)	Bids must be delivered to:	4th July 2025
(d)	Address of proposal opening:	EWSC Headquarters Emtfontjeni building Cnr MR103 and Cultural Village Drive Ezulwini Eswatini

8. The planned procurement schedule (subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
(a) Issue of invitation to tender letter	14 th May 2025
(b) Pre-proposal meeting/ Site visit	N/A
(c) Proposal closing date	4th July 2025
(d) Evaluation process	17 th July 2025

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Standard Invitation to Consultants

(e) Notification and publication of notice of intention to award	21 st July 2025
(f) Contract Award	25 th July 2025

Signature:

Name: Jabulile Mashwama

Position of Authorised Official: Managing Director

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PART 1 – Proposal Procedures

Section 1: Instructions to Consultants

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Part 1: Section 1 Instructions to Consultants

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Part 1: Section 1 Instructions to Consultants

Section 1. Instructions to Consultants

A. General

1. Scope of Proposal

- 1.1 The Procuring Entity indicated in the Proposal Data Sheet (PDS), invites proposals for the provision of the Services specified in Section 6, Statement of Requirements (SOR) or Terms of Reference (TOR) to commence on the date indicated in the SOR/TOR.
- 1.2 Procurement will be undertaken in compliance with the Public Procurement Act, and its Regulations of 2020.
- 1.3 The Instructions to Consultants (ITC) should be read in conjunction with the PDS. The subject and procurement reference number are provided in the PDS.
- 1.4 Throughout this Request for Proposals Document:
 - (a) the term “in writing” means communicated in written form with proof of receipt;
 - (b) if the context so requires, singular means plural and vice versa;
 - (c) “day” means calendar day unless specified as working day.

2. Source of Funds

- 2.1 The Procuring Entity has an approved budget from [*Government funds, grants, donor funds, etc*] towards the cost of the procurement described in the PDS. The Procuring Entity intends to use these funds to place a contract for which this Request for Proposals Document is issued.
- 2.2 Payments will be made directly by the Procuring Entity and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the resulting contract placed by the Procuring Entity.

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3. Corrupt Practices

- 3.1 It is the policy of the Government of The Kingdom of Eswatini through ESPPRA to require that Procuring Entities, as well as Consultants, observe the highest standards of ethics during procurement and the execution of contracts.
- (a) In pursuit of this policy, the Government of Eswatini; defines, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:
- (i) “corrupt practice” means the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value, to influence the action of a public official in the procurement process or in contract execution;
 - (ii) “fraudulent practice” is any act or omission, including a misrepresentation, that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;
 - (iii) “collusive practice” is an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party;
 - (iv) “coercive practice” is impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party;
- (b) The procuring entity will reject a recommendation for award if it determines that the Consultant recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the Contract;
- (c) The Agency will suspend a Consultant from engaging in any public procurement proceeding for a stated period of time, if it at any time determines that the Consultant has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, a Government contract.
- 3.2 Furthermore, Consultants shall be aware of the provision stated in Sub Clause 15.1(g)-(h) and Sub Clause 2.2 of the General Conditions of Contract.
- 3.3 In pursuit of the policy defined in Sub-Clause 3.1, the Procuring Entity may terminate a contract if it at any time determines that corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices were engaged in by representatives of the Procuring Entity or of a Consultant during the procurement or the execution of that contract.
- 3.4 In pursuit of the policy defined in Sub-clause 3.1, the Code of Ethical Conduct for Consultants and Providers as provided in the bidding forms shall be signed by the Consultant and submitted together with the other bidding forms. The Government of Eswatini may suspend a Consultant from engaging in any public procurement or process for a period determined by the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (herein referred to as the Agency), where the Consultant is suspended from the procurement processes of an international agency of which Eswatini is a member.
- 3.5 Any communications between a Consultant and the Procuring Entity related to matters of alleged fraud or corruption must be made in writing and addressed to the Controlling Officer of the Procuring Entity.

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4. Eligible Consultants

- 4.1 A Consultant, and all parties constituting the Consultant, shall meet the following criteria to be eligible to participate in public procurement:
- (a) the Consultant has the legal capacity to enter into a contract;
 - (b) the Consultant is not:
 - (i) insolvent;
 - (ii) in receivership;
 - (iii) bankrupt; or
 - (iv) being wound up
 - (c) the Consultant's business activities have not been suspended
 - (d) the Consultant is not the subject of legal proceedings for any of the circumstances in (b); and
 - (e) the Consultant has fulfilled his or her obligations to pay taxes and social security contributions.
- 4.2 A Consultant may be a natural person, private entity, government-owned entity, subject to ITC Sub-Clause 4.6 or any combination of them with a formal intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement in the form of a joint venture, consortium, or association. In the case of a joint venture, consortium, or association, unless otherwise specified in the PDS, all parties shall be jointly and severally liable. In the case of a consortium or association, the formal intent shall be by way of Memorandum of Understanding which shall be registered with the Registrar of documents if signed in Eswatini or if signed outside Eswatini, shall be notarized.
- 4.3 A Consultant, and all parties constituting the Consultant including sub-contractors and key professional staff, shall have the nationality of an eligible country, in accordance with Section 5, Eligible Countries. A Consultant shall be deemed to have the nationality of a country if the Consultant is a citizen or is constituted, or incorporated, and operates in conformity with the provisions of the laws of that country. This criterion shall also apply to the determination of the nationality of proposed subcontractors for any part of the Contract including related works or supplies.
- 4.4 A Consultant shall not have a conflict of interest, as defined in ITC Clause 5. All Consultants found to be in conflict of interest shall be disqualified.
- 4.5 A firm that is under a suspension by the Agency in accordance with ITC Clause 3.1 (c) or 3.4, at the date of the deadline for proposal submission or thereafter before contract signature, shall be disqualified.
- 4.6 Government-owned enterprises shall be eligible only if they can establish that they are legally and financially autonomous and operate under commercial law.
- 4.7 Consultants shall provide such evidence of their continued eligibility satisfactory to the Procuring Entity, as the Procuring Entity shall reasonably request.

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5. Conflict of Interest

- 5.1 The Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Framework requires that Consultants provide professional, objective, and impartial advice and at all times hold the Procuring Entity's interests paramount, without any consideration for future work, and strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own corporate interests. Consultants shall not be hired for any assignment that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other Procuring Entities, or that may place them in a position of not being able to carry out the assignment in the best interests of the Procuring Entity.
- 5.2 A Consultant may be considered to have a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this procurement process, if they:
- (a) have controlling shareholders in common; or
 - (b) receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from any of them; or
 - (c) have the same legal representative for purposes of this proposal; or
 - (d) have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about or influence on the proposal of another Consultant, or influence the decisions of the Procuring Entity regarding this procurement process; or
 - (e) submit more than one proposal in this procurement process. However, this does not limit the participation of subcontractors in more than one proposal, or as Consultants and subcontractors simultaneously; or
 - (f) have been engaged, or any of their affiliates have been engaged, by the Procuring Entity to provide supplies or works for the same project; or
 - (g) may be in conflict with another of their, or their affiliates' assignments by performing this assignment.
- 5.3 Consultants hired to provide consultancy services for the preparation or implementation of a project, and any of their affiliates, shall be disqualified from subsequently providing supplies, works or services related to the initial assignment (other than a continuation of the Consultant's earlier consulting services) for the same project.
- 5.4 Consultants may be hired for downstream work, when continuity is essential, in which case this possibility shall be indicated in the PDS and the factors used for the selection of the consultant will take the likelihood of continuation into account. It will be the exclusive decision of the Procuring Entity whether or not to have the downstream assignment carried out, and if it is carried out, which consultant will be hired for the purpose.
- 5.5 Any previous or ongoing participation in relation to the assignment by the Consultant, its professional staff, or its affiliates or associates under a contract with the Procuring Entity or the Government of Eswatini may result in rejection of the proposal. Consultants should clarify their situation in that respect with the Procuring Entity before preparing the proposal.

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B. Request for Proposals Document

6. Contents of Request for Proposals Document

- 6.1 This Request for Proposals Document consists of Parts 1, 2, and 3, which include all the Sections indicated below, and should be read in conjunction with any addenda issued in accordance with ITC Clause 8.

PART 1 Procurement Procedures

- Section 1. Instructions to Consultants (ITC)
- Section 2. Proposal Data Sheet (PDS)
- Section 3. Evaluation Methodology and Criteria
- Section 4. Proposal Forms
- Section 5. Eligible Countries

PART 2 Statement of Requirements

- Section 6. Statement of Requirements

PART 3 Contract

- Section 7. General Conditions of Contract (GCC) for the Procurement of Consultancy Services
- Section 8. Special Conditions of Contract (SCC)
- Section 9. Contract Forms

- 6.2 Proposals from Consultants who did not obtain the Request for Proposals Document directly from the Procuring Entity will be rejected during evaluation [Where pre-qualification has been done and RFP sent directly to pre-qualified consultants].
- 6.3 The Consultant is expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms, and requirements in the Request for Proposals Document. Failure to furnish all information or documentation required by the Request for Proposals Document may result in the rejection of the proposal.

7. Clarification of Request for Proposals Document

A prospective Consultant requiring any clarification of the Request for Proposals Document shall contact the Procuring Entity in writing at the Procuring Entity's address indicated in the PDS. The Procuring Entity will respond in writing to any request for clarification, provided that such request is received no later than the date indicated in the PDS. The Procuring Entity shall forward copies of its response to all Consultants who have acquired the Request for Proposals Document directly from it, including a description of the inquiry but without identifying its source. Should the Procuring Entity deem it necessary to amend the Request for Proposals Document as a result of a clarification, it shall do so following the procedure under ITC Clause 8 and Sub-Clause 24.2.

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8. Amendment of Request for Proposals Document

- 8.1 Prior to the deadline for submission of proposals, the Procuring Entity may amend the Request for Proposals Document by issuing addenda.
- 8.2 Any addendum issued shall be part of the Request for Proposals Document and shall be communicated in writing to all who have obtained the Request for Proposals Document directly from the Procuring Entity.
- 8.3 To give prospective Consultants reasonable time in which to take an addendum into account in preparing their proposals, the Procuring Entity may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of proposals, pursuant to ITC Sub-Clause 24.2.

C. Preparation of Proposals

9. Cost of Proposals

The Consultant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its proposal, including any negotiations with or visits to the Procuring Entity, and the Procuring Entity shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the procurement process.

10. Language of Proposal and Communications

- 10.1 The medium of communication shall be in writing.
- 10.2 The proposal, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the proposal exchanged by the Consultant and the Procuring Entity, shall be written in English unless otherwise specified in the PDS.
- 10.3 Supporting documents and printed literature that are part of the proposal may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in the language specified in ITC Sub-Clause 10.2, in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the proposal, such translation shall govern.

11. Preparation of Proposals

- 11.1 Consultants are required to prepare and submit separate technical and financial proposals. The proposal submission method shall be a one stage two-envelope method, unless otherwise specified in the PDS. The one stage two-envelope submission method requires a consultant to submit a single envelope containing two separately sealed envelopes, labelled technical and financial proposals which are opened on different dates at separate proposal openings.
- 11.2 A pre-proposal meeting will be held where necessary and shall be indicated in the PDS. Attendance at the pre-proposal meeting is optional.

12. Joint Ventures, Associations and Sub-contracting

- 12.1 If a Consultant considers that it does not have all the expertise for the assignment, it may obtain a full range of expertise by associating with individual consultant(s) or other Consultants or entities in a joint venture or by sub-contracting as appropriate, unless otherwise specified in the PDS.

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Part 1: Section 1 Instructions to Consultants

12.2 Consultants must obtain the approval of the Procuring Entity to enter into a joint venture with Consultants not invited for this assignment or other short-listed Consultants.

12.3 International Consultants for large contracts are encouraged to seek the participation of national Consultants by entering into a joint venture with, or subcontracting part of the assignment to national Consultants.

13. Professional Staff

13.1 For assignments on a staff-time basis, the estimated number of professional staff-months or budget is given in the PDS. The proposal shall, however, be based on the number of professional staff-months estimated by the Consultant.

13.2 It is desirable that the majority of the key professional staff proposed are permanent employees of the Consultant or have an extended and stable working relationship with the Consultant.

13.3 Proposed professional staff must, as a minimum, have the experience indicated in the Statement of Requirements/Terms of Reference, preferably working under conditions similar to those prevailing in Eswatini.

13.4 The consultant and the professional staff shall confirm their availability for the assignment using the Forms included in section 4.

13.5 Alternative professional staff shall not be proposed, and only one curriculum vitae (CV) may be submitted for each position.

13.6 As the determination of the Best Evaluated Proposal will be based, among other factors, on an evaluation of proposed key professional staff, the Procuring Entity expects to award a contract on the basis of the experts and specialists named in the proposal.

13.7 The Procuring Entity will not consider substitutions unless both parties agree that undue delay in the procurement process makes such substitution unavoidable or that such changes are critical to meet the objectives of the assignment. If this is not the case and if it is established that key staff were offered in the proposal without confirming their availability, the proposal may be rejected.

14. Technical Proposal

14.1 The technical proposal shall provide the following information using the standard forms contained in Section 4, Proposal Forms:

- (a) The declarations included in the Technical Proposal Submission Sheet (Section 4.1.1);
- (b) An outline of recent experience on assignments of a similar nature (Section 4.1.3). For each assignment, the outline should indicate, inter alia, the profiles of the staff proposed, the duration of the assignment, the contract amount and the Consultant's involvement;
- (c) Any comments or suggestions on the Terms of Reference (Section 4.1.4);
- (d) A description of the methodology for performing the assignment (Section 4.1.5);
- (e) The list of the proposed staff team by specialism, the proposed assignment of tasks for each staff team member and their timing (Section 4.1.6);

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Part 1: Section 1 Instructions to Consultants

- (f) CVs of the proposed professional staff, signed by both the staff member and the authorised representative submitting the proposal (Section 4.1.7). Key information should include the number of years working for the Consultant and the degree of responsibility held in various assignments; Confirmation of availability of staff (Section 4.1.8)
- (g) Estimates of the total staff input (professional and support staff time) needed to carry out the assignment, supported by bar chart diagrams showing the time proposed for each professional staff team member (Section 4.1.9);
- (h) A description of the Work or Activity Schedule for performing the assignment (Section 4.1.10)
- (i) A Tender Security or Tender Securing Declaration, as required by the ITC Clause 21 (Section 4.1.11 and 4.1.12);
- (j) Written confirmation authorising the signatory of the proposal to commit the Consultant, in accordance with ITC Sub-Clause 22.2;
- (k) Documentary evidence in accordance with ITC Clause 18 establishing the Consultant's eligibility;
- (l) Documentary evidence in accordance with ITC Clause 19 establishing the Consultant's qualifications to perform the contract if its proposal is accepted;
- (m) Any additional information requested in the PDS.

14.2 The technical proposal shall not include any financial information.

15. Financial Proposal

15.1 The financial proposal shall list all costs associated with the assignment, using the following standard forms contained in Section 4, Proposal Forms:

- (a) Financial Proposal Submission Sheet (Section 4.2.1);
- (b) Summary of Proposal Price Breakdown of Lump Sum (Section 4.2.2);
- (c) Breakdown of Fees (Section 4.2.3);
- (d) Breakdown of Reimbursables (Section 4.2.4) for staff (foreign and national in the field and at headquarters); such as subsistence (per diem, housing), transportation (international and local for mobilisation and demobilisation);
- (e) Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses (Section 4.2.5), printing of documents, etc.;
- (f) Any additional information requested in the PDS.

15.2 The total proposal price shall be broken down into the following cost components using the appropriate forms:

- (a) Fees
- (b) Reimbursable expenditure
- (c) Miscellaneous expenses

15.3 Where indicated in the PDS, the total proposal price shall be broken down into the separate activities indicated in Section 6, Statement of Requirements with the cost elements in ITC Sub Clause 15.2 expressed for each activity.

15.4 The financial proposal should clearly estimate, as a separate amount, the local taxes (including social security), duties, fees, levies, and other charges imposed under the applicable law, on the Consultant and their personnel (other than nationals of or permanent residents in Eswatini), unless the PDS specifies otherwise.

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Part 1: Section 1 Instructions to Consultants

15.5 The completed financial proposal forms will be used to compile the Breakdown of Contract Price in any resulting Agreement as adjusted if necessary, during evaluation or negotiation. The Breakdown of Contract Price will determine prices for any additional Services or costs.

15.6 Where commissions and gratuities have or shall be paid by the Consultant in relation to the assignment these shall be listed in the Financial Proposal Submission Sheet.

16. Proposal Prices

16.1 Prices quoted by the Consultant shall be fixed during the Consultant's performance of the Contract and not subject to variation on any account, unless otherwise specified in the PDS. A proposal submitted with an adjustable price quotation shall be treated as non-responsive and shall be rejected, pursuant to ITC Clause 30. However, if in accordance with the PDS, prices quoted by the Consultant shall be subject to adjustment during the performance of the Contract, a proposal submitted with a fixed price quotation shall not be rejected, but the price adjustment shall be treated as zero.

17. Currencies of Proposal

17.1 Unless otherwise specified in the PDS, proposal prices shall be quoted in the following currencies:

- (a) for Services originating in Eswatini, the proposal prices shall be quoted in Eswatini currency (Lilangeni), unless otherwise specified in the PDS; and
- (b) for Services originating from outside Eswatini, the proposal prices shall be quoted in the currency of the expense or in the currency of the Consultant's country.

17.2 If a Consultant wishes to be paid in a currency or a combination of currencies different from the one in which it was requested to express its quotation, it shall as part of its offer:

- (a) indicate its requirement to be paid in other currencies, including the amount in each currency or the percentage of the quoted price corresponding to each currency;
- (b) justify, to the Procuring Entity's satisfaction, the requirement to be paid in the currencies requested; and
- (c) utilise the rate of exchange specified by the Procuring Entity to express its offer in the currency required by the Procuring Entity. The source, date, and type of exchange rate to be used is indicated in ITC Clause 35.

18. Documents Establishing the Eligibility of the Consultant

18.1 To establish their eligibility in accordance with ITC Clause 4, Consultants shall complete the eligibility declarations in the Technical Proposal Submission Sheet, included in Section 4, Proposal Forms and submit the documents required in Section 3, Evaluation Methodology and Criteria.

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19. Documents Establishing the Qualifications of the Consultant

- 19.1 To establish its qualifications to perform the Contract, the Consultant shall submit any evidence specified in Section 3, Evaluation Methodology and Criteria.

20. Period of Validity of Proposals

- 20.1 Proposals shall remain valid until the date specified in the PDS. A proposal valid for a shorter period shall be rejected by the Procuring Entity as non-compliant.
- 20.2 During this period, the Consultant is expected to keep available the professional staff proposed for the assignment. The Procuring Entity will make its best effort to complete the procurement process within this period.
- 20.3 In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the proposal validity period, the Procuring Entity may request Consultants to extend the period of validity of their proposals. The request and the responses shall be made in writing. If a Tender Security or Tender Securing Declaration is requested in accordance with ITC Clause 21, it shall also be extended for a corresponding period. A Consultant may refuse the request without being liable for forfeiture of its Tender Security or execution of its Tender Securing Declaration. A Consultant granting the request shall not be required or permitted to modify its proposal.

21. Tender Security

- 21.1 The Consultant shall furnish as part of its proposal a Tender Security or Tender Securing Declaration, in original form and in the case of a Tender Security, in the amount and currency specified in the PDS.
- 21.2 The Tender Security or Tender Securing Declaration shall be submitted using the Form included in Section 4, Proposal Forms. The Tender Securing Declaration shall be valid until the date specified in the PDS.
- 21.3 Any proposal not accompanied by a Tender Security or substantially responsive Tender Securing Declaration, if one is required in accordance with ITC Clause 21, shall be rejected by the Procuring Entity as non-compliant.
- 21.4 The Tender Security of all consultants shall be returned within the period stipulated in Regulation 52(17) of the Public Procurement Regulations of 2020.
- 21.5 If a Consultant withdraws its proposal during the period of proposal validity specified by the Consultant on the Proposal Submission Sheet, except as provided in ITC Sub-Clause 20.3; or
- (a) The Tender Security may be forfeited, or Tender Securing Declaration executed if the successful Consultant fails to:
- (i) sign the Contract in accordance with ITC Clause 43;
 - (ii) furnish any Performance Security required in accordance with ITC Clause 45; or
 - (iii) accept the correction of its proposal price pursuant to ITC Sub-Clause 31.5

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22. Format and Signing of Proposal

- 22.1 The Consultant shall prepare one original of each of the documents comprising the technical and the financial proposal as described in ITC Clauses 14 and 15 and clearly mark both “ORIGINAL”. In addition, the Consultant shall submit copies of both the technical and financial proposals, in the number specified in the PDS and clearly mark each of them “COPY”. In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.
- 22.2 The original and all copies of the proposal shall be typed or written in indelible ink and shall be signed by a person duly authorised to sign on behalf of the Consultant
The name and position held by each person signing the authorisation must be typed or printed below the signature. All pages of the proposal, except for unamended printed literature, shall be signed or initialled by the person signing the proposal.
- 22.3 Any interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialled by the person signing the proposal.

D. Submission and Opening of Proposals

23. Sealing and Marking of Proposals

- 23.1 The original and all copies of the technical proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked “Technical Proposal,” and the original and all copies of the financial proposal in a separate sealed envelope clearly marked “Financial Proposal”. The envelopes shall be securely sealed in such a manner that opening and resealing cannot be achieved undetected.
- 23.2 The envelopes containing the technical and financial proposals shall:
- (a) bear the name and address of the Consultant;
 - (b) be addressed to the Procuring Entity in accordance with ITC Clause 24.1; and
 - (c) bear the Procurement Reference Number of this procurement process.
- 23.3 The financial proposal shall also bear a warning “Do Not Open with the technical proposal”.
- 23.4 The two envelopes shall be placed in an outer envelope which shall be securely sealed in such a manner that opening and resealing cannot be achieved undetected.
- 23.5 The outer envelope shall:
- (a) bear the name and address of the Consultant;
 - (b) be addressed to the Procuring Entity in accordance with ITC Sub-Clause 24.1;
 - (c) bear the Procurement Reference number of this procurement process; and
 - (d) bear a warning not to open before the time and date for proposal opening, in accordance with ITC Sub-Clause 24.1.
- 23.6 If all envelopes are not sealed and marked as required, the Procuring Entity will assume no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the proposal.

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24. Deadline for Submission of Proposals

- 24.1 Proposals must be received by the Procuring Entity at the address and no later than the date and time indicated in the PDS.
- 24.2 The Procuring Entity may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of proposals by amending the Request for Proposals Document in accordance with ITC Clause 8, in which case all rights and obligations of the Procuring Entity and Consultants previously subject to the deadline shall thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.

25. Late Proposals

- 25.1 The Procuring Entity shall not consider any proposal that arrives after the deadline for submission of proposals, in accordance with ITC Clause 24. Any proposal received by the Procuring Entity after the deadline for submission of proposals shall be declared late, rejected, and returned unopened to the Consultant.

26. Withdrawal and Replacement of Proposals

- 26.1 A Consultant may withdraw or replace its proposal after it has been submitted at any time before the deadline for submission of proposals by sending a written notice, duly signed by an authorised representative, which shall include a copy of the authorisation in accordance with ITC Sub-Clause 22.2. Any corresponding replacement of the proposal must accompany the respective written notice. All notices must be:
- (a) submitted in accordance with ITC Clauses 22 and 23 (except that withdrawals notices do not require copies), and in addition, the respective envelopes shall be clearly marked “WITHDRAWAL” or “REPLACEMENT”; and
 - (b) received by the Procuring Entity prior to the deadline prescribed for submission of proposals, in accordance with ITC Clause 24.
- 26.2 Proposals requested to be withdrawn in accordance with ITC Sub-Clause 26.1 shall be returned unopened to the Consultant.
- 26.3 No proposal may be withdrawn or replaced in the interval between the deadline for submission of proposals and the expiration of the period of proposal validity specified by the Consultant on the Proposal Submission Sheet or any extension thereof.
- 26.4 Proposals may only be modified by withdrawal of the original proposal and submission of a replacement proposal in accordance with ITC Sub-Clause 26.1. Modifications submitted in any other way shall not be taken into account in the evaluation of proposals.

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27. Proposal Opening

- 27.1 The Procuring Entity shall conduct the proposal opening in the presence of Consultants` designated representatives who choose to attend, at the address, date and time specified in the PDS.
- 27.2 First, envelopes marked “WITHDRAWAL” shall be opened and read out and the envelope with the corresponding proposal shall not be opened but returned to the Consultant. No proposal withdrawal shall be permitted unless the corresponding withdrawal notice contains a valid authorisation to request the withdrawal and is read out at the proposal opening.
- 27.3 All other outer envelopes including those marked “REPLACEMENT” shall be opened and the technical proposals within them opened. Replacement proposals shall be recorded as such on the record of the proposal opening. The corresponding proposal that is being replaced shall be returned unopened to the consultant.
- 27.4 All technical proposals shall be opened one at a time, reading out: the name of the Consultant; the presence of a Tender Security or Tender Securing Declaration, if required; and any other details as the Procuring Entity may consider appropriate. No proposal shall be rejected at the proposal opening.
- 27.5 Only envelopes that are opened and read out at the proposal opening shall be considered further.
- 27.6 The financial proposals shall remain sealed until the time and date notified for the opening of the financial proposals. Evaluators of technical proposals shall have no access to the financial proposals until the detailed evaluation is concluded and the result established.
- 27.7 The Procuring Entity shall prepare a record of the proposal opening that shall include, as a minimum: the name of the Consultant, the presence or absence of a Proposal Securing Declaration where required and any other information that is required to be stated at the public opening as indicated in the request for proposals. The Consultants’ representatives who are present shall be requested to sign the record. The omission of a Consultant’s signature on the record shall not invalidate the contents and effect of the record.

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E. Evaluation of Proposals

28. Confidentiality

- 28.1 Information relating to the examination, evaluation, comparison, and post-qualification of proposals, and recommendation of contract award, shall not be disclosed to Consultants or any other persons not officially concerned with such process until information detailing the Best Evaluated Consultant is communicated to all Consultants.
- 28.2 Any effort by a Consultant to influence the Procuring Entity in the examination, evaluation, comparison, and post-qualification of the proposals or contract award decisions may result in the rejection of its proposal.
- 28.3 Notwithstanding ITC Clause 28.2, from the time of proposal opening to the time of Contract award, if any Consultant wishes to contact the Procuring Entity on any matter related to the procurement process, it should do so in writing.

29. Clarification of Proposals

- 29.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation, comparison and post-qualification of the proposals, the Procuring Entity may, at its discretion, ask any Consultant for a clarification of its proposal. Any clarification submitted by a Consultant that is not in response to a request by the Procuring Entity shall not be considered. The Procuring Entity's request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. No change in the price or substance of the proposal shall be sought, offered, or permitted, except to confirm the correction of arithmetic errors discovered by the Procuring Entity in the evaluation of the financial proposals, in accordance with ITC Clause 31.4.
- 29.2 If a Consultant does not provide clarifications of its Proposal by the date and time set in the PE's request for clarification, its Proposal may be rejected.

30. Compliance and Responsiveness of Proposals

- 30.1 The Procuring Entity's determination of a proposal's compliance and responsiveness shall be based on the contents of the proposal itself.
- 30.2 A substantially compliant and responsive proposal is one that conforms to all the terms, conditions, and requirements of the Request for Proposals Document without material deviation, reservation, or omission. A material deviation, reservation, or omission is one that:
- (a) is inconsistent with the request for proposal and which may limit in any substantial way, the rights of the procuring entity or the obligations of the consultant under the contract;
 - (b) if corrected would unfairly affect the competitive position of the other consultants whose proposals are administratively compliant; or
 - (c) impacts the key factors of a procurement including cost, risk, time and quality and causes unacceptable -
 - (i) time schedules, where it is stated in the request for proposals that time is of the essence;

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- (ii) alternative technical details, such as design, materials, workmanship, specifications, standards or methodologies; or
 - (iii) counter proposals with respect to key contract terms and conditions, such as payment terms, price adjustment, liquidated damages, sub-contracting or warranty.
- 30.3 If a proposal is not substantially compliant and responsive to the Request for Proposals Document, it shall be rejected by the Procuring Entity and may not subsequently be made compliant and responsive by the Consultant by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.

31. Nonconformities, Errors, and Omissions

- 31.1 Provided that a proposal is substantially compliant and responsive, the Procuring Entity may waive any non-conformity or omission in the proposal that does not constitute a material deviation.
- 31.2 Provided that a proposal is substantially compliant and responsive, the Procuring Entity may request that the Consultant submit the necessary information or documentation, within a reasonable period of time, to rectify nonmaterial nonconformities or omissions in the proposal related to documentation requirements. Such omission shall not be related to any aspect of the price of the proposal. Failure of the Consultant to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its proposal.
- 31.3 Provided that a proposal is substantially compliant and responsive, the Procuring Entity shall rectify nonmaterial nonconformities or omissions. To this effect, the proposal price may be adjusted, for comparison purposes only, to reflect the price of the missing or non-conforming item or component. The cost of any missing items will be added to the proposal price using the highest price from other consultants.
- 31.4 Provided that the proposal is substantially compliant and responsive, the Procuring Entity shall correct arithmetic errors on the following basis:
- (a) if there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total price that is obtained by multiplying the unit price and quantity, the unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected, unless in the opinion of the Procuring Entity there is an obvious misplacement of the decimal point in the unit price, in which case the total price as quoted shall govern and the unit price shall be corrected;
 - (b) if there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of subtotals, the subtotals shall prevail, and the total shall be corrected; and
 - (c) if there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words shall prevail, unless the amount expressed in words is related to an arithmetic error, in which case the amount in figures shall prevail subject to (a) and (b) above.
- 31.5 If the Consultant that submitted the best evaluated bid does not accept the correction of errors, its proposal shall be rejected.

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32. Preliminary Examination of Proposals – Eligibility and Administrative Compliance

- 32.1 The Procuring Entity shall examine the legal documentation and other information submitted by Consultants to verify the eligibility of Consultants in accordance with ITC Clause 4.
- 32.2 If after the examination of eligibility, the Procuring Entity determines that the Consultant is not eligible, it shall reject the proposal.
- 32.3 The Procuring Entity shall examine the technical proposals to confirm that all documents and technical documentation requested in ITC Clause 14 has been provided, and to determine the completeness of each document submitted.
- 32.4 The Procuring Entity shall confirm that the following documents and information have been provided in the technical proposal. If any of these documents or information is missing, the offer shall be rejected.
- (a) Technical Proposal Submission Sheet, including:
 - (i) a brief description of the services offered; and
 - (ii) the correct validity date of the proposal
 - (b) separately sealed financial proposal;
 - (c) written confirmation of authorisation to commit the Consultant; and
 - (d) a Tender Security or Tender Securing Declaration, if required.
- 32.5 Eligibility and administrative compliance shall be determined on a pass or fail basis and a proposal which is not eligible or administratively compliant shall be rejected at the preliminary stage of evaluation.

33. Detailed Evaluation

- 33.1 The Procuring Entity shall technically evaluate the proposals on the basis of the Consultant's responsiveness to the Terms of Reference, applying the evaluation criteria, sub-criteria, and methodology specified in Section 3. A proposal shall be rejected at this stage if it does not respond to important aspects of the Terms of Reference or if it fails to achieve any minimum technical score indicated in Section 3.
- 33.2 The Procuring Entity may, where so indicated in the PDS, conduct interviews with the key staff stated in the PDS. The expected method and date of interview shall be as indicated in the PDS. All costs associated with any interviews shall be for the account of the consultant(s) concerned. Consultants shall be provided with adequate notice of any interviews planned.
- 33.3 The proposals proceeding to the financial evaluation shall be determined in accordance with the methodology and criteria specified in Section 3.

34. Opening of Financial Proposals

- 34.1 After the detailed evaluation is completed, the Procuring Entity shall notify those Consultants whose proposals did not qualify for the financial opening, indicating reasons why their proposal was disqualified and that their financial proposals will be returned unopened after of at least 10 working days from display of the best evaluated consultant notice.

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- 34.2 The Procuring Entity shall simultaneously notify the Consultant(s) whose proposals passed the technical evaluation stage, indicating the date and time set for the opening of financial proposal(s). The opening date shall not be sooner than fourteen (14) days after the notification date where foreign tenderers are included, or seven (7) days where all tenderers are national. The notification will be sent in writing.
- 34.3 The financial proposal(s) shall be opened in the presence of the Consultants' representatives who choose to attend. The name of the Consultant, the technical score, and the proposal price(s) shall be read out and recorded when the financial proposal(s) are opened. The Procuring Entity shall prepare minutes of the public opening.

35. Conversion to Single Currency

- 35.1 For evaluation and comparison purposes, the Procuring Entity shall convert all proposal prices expressed in the amounts in various currencies into a single currency. The exchange rate shall be the prevailing Central Bank of Eswatini exchange rate and shall not precede the tender submission deadline by less than twenty one (21) days. Should this date be a non-working day, the selling exchange rate on the date prior to this non-working day shall be used for currency conversion or as otherwise specified in the PDS.

36. Margin of Preference

- 36.1 Unless otherwise specified in the PDS, a margin of preference shall apply. Where a Margin of Preference applies, its application and detail shall be specified in Section 3, Evaluation Methodology and Criteria.

37. Financial Comparison of Proposals

- 37.1 The Procuring Entity shall financially compare each financial proposal that has been opened.
- 37.2 To financially evaluate a proposal, the Procuring Entity shall only use the criteria and methodologies defined in this Clause and in Section 3, Evaluation Methodology and Criteria. No other criteria or methodology shall be permitted.
- 37.3 In the calculation of the evaluated price of each proposal, the Procuring Entity shall include the costs stated in Section 3, Evaluation Methodology and Criteria.
- 37.4 To determine the evaluated price, the Procuring Entity shall consider the following:
- (a) the proposal price;
 - (b) price adjustment for correction of arithmetic errors in accordance with ITC Sub-Clause 31.4;
 - (c) adjustment for nonconformities and omissions in accordance with ITC Sub-Clause 31.3; and
 - (d) adjustments due to the application of a margin of preference, in accordance with ITC Clause 36.

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38. Determination of Best Evaluated Proposal

38.1 The Procuring Entity shall compare all substantially compliant and responsive proposals to determine the best evaluated bid/proposal, in accordance with Section 3, Evaluation Methodology and Criteria.

39. Post-qualification of the Consultant

39.1 If so stated in Section 3, the Procuring Entity shall determine to its satisfaction whether the Consultant that is selected as having submitted the best evaluated proposal is qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.

39.2 The determination shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Consultant's qualifications submitted by the Consultant, pursuant to ITC Clause 19, to clarifications in accordance with ITC Clause 29 and the qualification criteria indicated in Section 3, Evaluation Methodology and Criteria. Factors not included in Section 3 shall not be used in the evaluation of the Consultant's qualifications.

39.3 An affirmative determination shall be a prerequisite for award of the Contract to the Consultant. A negative determination shall result in disqualification of the proposal, in which event the Procuring Entity shall proceed to the next best evaluated proposal to make a similar determination of that Consultant's capabilities to perform satisfactorily.

39.4 If pre-qualification has been conducted, no post-qualification will be conducted but pre-qualification information shall be verified.

40. Negotiations

40.1 Negotiations may be held with the best evaluated Consultant following the evaluation of proposals.

40.2 The cost of any negotiations or technical discussions shall be borne by the respective parties themselves.

F. Award of Contract

41. Award Procedure

41.1 The Procuring Entity shall issue a Notice of Intention to Award within ten (10) working days after a decision of the relevant approvals authority to award a contract, to all Consultants who participated and the Agency for publication on its website.

41.2 A Procuring Entity shall not award a contract to the best evaluated consultant until the lapse of ten (10) working days after the date of issuance of the notice of intention to award.

41.3 The Procuring Entity shall award the Contract to the Consultant whose offer has been determined to be the best evaluated proposal, provided that the Consultant is determined to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily and subject to satisfactory negotiations.

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42. Procuring Entity's Right to Accept or Reject Any or All Proposals

42.1 The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the procurement process and reject all proposals at any time prior to contract signature and issue by the Procuring Entity, without thereby incurring any liability to Consultants, subject to adherence to Regulation 26 and 27 of the Public Procurement Regulations of 2020.

43. Signing and effectiveness of the Contract

43.1 On expiry of the ten (10) working days after the date of issuance of the Letter of Appointment/ Letter of award, the Procuring Entity shall sign a contract with the successful Consultant.

43.2 Failure by the successful Consultant to sign the contract shall constitute sufficient ground for annulment of the contract award.

43.3 Effectiveness of the Contract shall be subject to any conditions specified in the Contract.

44. Debriefing

44.1 Where a Consultant requests information on the reasons for their success or failure of their proposal, after a Notice of Intention to Award has been issued, the Procuring Entity shall give the Consultant a written debrief.

45. Procurement Related Complaints and Administrative Review

45.1 The procedures for making a Procurement-related Complaint are as **specified in the PDS**.

46. Abnormal Low and Abnormally High Prices

46.1 Abnormally Low Prices

46.1.1 An Abnormally Low Price is one where the financial price, in combination with other constituent elements of the proposal, appears unreasonably low to the extent that the price raises material concerns with the Procuring Entity as to the capability of the Consulting firm to perform the Contract for the offered price.

46.1.2 In the event of identification of a potentially Abnormally Low Price by the evaluation committee, the Procuring Entity shall seek written clarification from the firm, including a detailed price analyses of its price in relation to the subject matter of the contract, scope, delivery schedule, allocation of risks and responsibilities and any other requirements of the RFP document.

46.1.2 After evaluation of the price analyses, if the Procuring Entity determines that the firm has failed to demonstrate its capability to perform the contract for the offered price, the Procuring Entity shall reject the firm's proposal.

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46.2 Abnormally High Prices

- 46.2.1 An abnormally high price is one where the proposal price, in combination with other constituent elements of the proposal, appears unreasonably too high to the extent that the Procuring Entity is concerned that it (the Procuring Entity) may not be getting value for money or it may be paying too high a price for the contract compared with market prices or that genuine competition between Consultants is compromised.
- 46.2.2 In case of an abnormally high tender price, the Procuring Entity shall make a survey of the market prices, check if the estimated cost of the contract is correct, and review the RFP to check if the Terms of Reference, scope of work and conditions of contract are contributory to the abnormally high proposals. The Procuring Entity may also seek written clarification from the Consultants on the reason or the high proposal price. The Procuring Entity shall proceed as follows:
- i) If the proposal price is abnormally high based on wrong estimated cost of the contract, the Procuring Entity may accept or not accept the proposal depending on the Procuring Entity's budget considerations.
 - ii) If Terms of Reference, scope of work and/or conditions of contract are contributory to the abnormally high proposal prices, the Procuring Entity shall reject all proposals and may re-invite for proposals for the contract based on revised estimates, Terms of Reference, scope of work and conditions of contract.
- 46.2.3 If the Procuring Entity determines that the Proposal Price is abnormally too high because genuine competition between Consultants is compromised (often due to collusion, corruption or other manipulations), the Procuring Entity shall reject all Proposals and shall institute or cause competent Government Agencies to institute an investigation on the cause of the compromise and inform the Agency, before re-inviting for proposals.

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Section 2: Proposal Data Sheet

Instructions to Consultants Reference	Data relevant to the ITC
A. General	
ITC 1.1	The Procuring Entity is: Eswatini Water Services Corporation
ITC 1.3	Subject: The subject of the procurement is: Digitization of Physical Records
ITC 1.3	Reference: The Procurement Reference Number is: EWSC 17 of 2025/26
ITC 4.2	Joint Ventures: The individuals or firms in a joint venture, consortium or association <i>shall</i> be jointly and severally liable.
ITC 5.4	Downstream work: The Procuring Entity Eswatini Water Services Corporation envisage the need for continuity for downstream work.
B. Request for Proposals Document	
ITC 7	<p>Clarification: For clarification purposes only the Procuring Entity's address is:</p> <p>Attention: Senior Manager; Supply Chain Management</p> <p>Physical Address: EWSC Headquarter Emtfonjeni Building Cnr MR103 & Mantenga Cultural drive Ezulwini Eswatini</p> <p>Email: procurement@ewsc.co.sz</p> <p>The Procuring Entity will respond to any request for clarification provided that such request is received no later than 28th June 2025</p>
C. Preparation of Proposals	
ITC 11.1	Submission Method: The proposal submission method shall be: Hand Delivery
ITC 11.2	<p>Pre-Proposal meeting: is not required.</p> <p>The contact details of the Procuring Entity's official(s) are:</p> <p>Name and position: Managing Director</p> <p>Physical Address: EWSC Headquarter Emtfonjeni Building Cnr MR103 & Mantenga Cultural drive Ezulwini Eswatini</p>

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Part 2: Section 2. Proposal Data Sheet

Instructions to Consultants Reference	Data relevant to the ITC
	<p>Telephone: (+268) 2416 9000</p> <p>E mail: procurement@ewsc.co.sz</p>
ITC 12.1	Joint ventures: Short-listed Consultants shall not be permitted to associate with individual Consultants or other Consultants or entities in a joint venture.
ITC 12.2	Prior to granting approval to enter into a joint venture, the Procuring Entity shall not conduct an assessment of Consultants not invited for this assignment.
ITC 13.1	<p>Estimated Man Months: The estimated number of professional staff-months required for the assignment is: 3 man months.</p> <p>or</p> <p>Budget for the Assignment: The allocated budget for the Assignment is Not Applicable</p>
ITC 14.1(m)	Additional information in Technical Proposal: Additional information required in the Technical Proposal includes:
ITC 15.1 (f)	Additional information in Financial Proposal: Additional information required in the Financial Proposal includes:
ITC 15.3	Price Breakdown: The Financial Proposal shall be broken down into the price for each Activity.
ITC 15.4	Taxes: The Financial Proposal shall indicate taxes etc as a separate amount.
ITC 16.1	Prices: The prices quoted by the Consultant shall be: Emalangen
ITC 17.1 (a)	Currency: For Services originating in Eswatini the currency of the proposal shall be: Emalangen
ITC 17.1 (b)	Currency: For Services originating from outside of Eswatini the currency of the proposal shall be: Emalangen
ITC 20.1	Validity: Proposals must remain valid until 31st October 2025
ITC 21.1	Tender Security or Tender Securing Declaration: A Tender Security declaration shall be required.
ITC 21.2	Validity of Tender Security: N/A
ITC 22.1	Number of Copies: In addition to the original of the technical and financial proposal, the number of copies of each required is: 1 Copy
ITC 22.2	Form of Authorisation: Power of Attorney or a Notarised Power of Attorney if signed outside Eswatini. is Required
D. Submission and Opening of Proposals	
ITC 24.1	<p>Proposal Submission: For proposal submission purposes only, the Procuring Entity's address is : Eswatini Water Services Corporation</p> <p>Physical Address: EWSC Headquarter Emtfonjeni Building Cnr MR103 & Mantenga Cultural drive</p>

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Part 2: Section 2. Proposal Data Sheet

Instructions to Consultants Reference	Data relevant to the ITC
	<p>Ezulwini Eswatini</p> <p>The deadline for proposal submission is: Date: 4th July 2025 Time (local time): 12.00 noon</p>
ITC 27.1	<p>Proposal Opening: The proposal opening for the technical proposal shall take place at:</p> <p>Physical Address: EWSC Headquarter Emtfonjeni Building Cnr MR103 & Mantenga Cultural drive Ezulwini Eswatini</p> <p>Date: 4th July 2025 Time (local time) 12.00 noon</p>
ITC 33.2	Interviews: Interviews <i>shall</i> not be held.
E. Evaluation of Proposals	
ITC 35	<p>Exchange Rate: The currency that shall be used for financial comparison purposes to convert all proposal prices expressed in various currencies into a single currency is: Emalangeni</p> <p>The source of exchange rate shall be: Central Bank of Eswatini.</p> <p>The date for the exchange rate shall be: Evaluation date</p>
ITC 36.1	<p>Margin of Preference: A margin of preference <i>shall not</i> apply.</p> <p>If a margin of preference applies, the application methodology and the level of margin shall be as stated in Section 3, Evaluation Methodology and Criteria.</p>
ITC 45.1	<p>The procedures for making a Procurement-related Complaint are detailed in the ESPPRA website https://esppra.co.sz</p> <p>If a Consultant wishes to make a Procurement-related Complaint, the Consultant shall submit its complaint following these procedures, in writing (by the quickest means available, that is by email), to:</p> <p>Title/position: Managing Director</p> <p>Procuring Entity: Eswatini Water Services Corporation</p> <p>Email address: procurement@ewsc.co.sz</p> <p>In summary, a Procurement-related Complaint may challenge any of the following:</p> <p>1. the terms of the Bidding Documents; and</p>

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Part 2: Section 2. Proposal Data Sheet

Instructions to Consultants Reference	Data relevant to the ITC
	2. the Procuring Entity's decision to award the contract.

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Section 3. Evaluation Methodology and Criteria

A Evaluation Methodology

1. Methodology Used

The evaluation methodology to be used for the evaluation of proposals received shall be

Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS): *The procuring entity shall select the quality and cost-based selection method as the preferred method to be used in evaluating proposals. This implies that the proposal is judged on its quality and pricing (quality-price oriented)*

2. Summary of Methodology

The evaluation shall be conducted in three sequential stages –

- (a) a preliminary examination to determine the eligibility of consultants and the administrative compliance of bids received;
- (b) a detailed evaluation to determine the commercial and technical responsiveness of the eligible and compliant proposals; and
- (c) a financial comparison to compare costs of the eligible, compliant, responsive proposals received and determine the best evaluated bid.

Failure of a proposal at any stage of the evaluation shall prevent further consideration at the next stage of evaluation.

B Preliminary Examination Criteria

3. Eligibility Criteria

3.1 The eligibility requirements shall be determined for: -

- (a) Eligible Consultants in accordance with ITC Clause 4 and Section 40 of the Public Procurement Act, 2011; and

3.2 The documentation required to provide evidence of eligibility shall be: -

	Eligibility Requirement	Documentary Evidence to be Provided by the Consultant
(a)	The Consultant has legal capacity to enter into the contract	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) Certificate of Incorporation or Registration or equivalent(ii) Trading License for the current year or equivalent(iii) Declaration of Eligibility Any other sufficient evidence

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

(b)	The Consultant is not insolvent, in receivership, bankrupt or being wound up, its affairs are not being administered by a court or a judicial officer, its business activities have not been suspended, and it is not the subject of legal proceedings for any of the foregoing	A written declaration signed by the authorised representative of the consultant Or Any other sufficient evidence.
(c)	The Consultant has fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes	Tax Compliance Certificate issued by Tax Regulator
(d)	The Consultant has fulfilled its obligations to social security contributions	Eswatini National Provident Fund Compliance Certificate <i>[for Swati firms]</i> Social Security Compliance Certificate or equivalent <i>[for foreign firms]</i>
(e)	The Consultant adheres to basic labour legislation	Labour Compliance Certificate <i>[for Swati firms only]</i> or equivalent for international companies.
(f)	The Consultant does not have a conflict of interest in relation to the procurement requirement	A written declaration signed by the authorised representative of the consultant
(g)	The Consultant, or any of its directors or officers, have not been convicted of any criminal offence relating to professional conduct or the making of false statements or misrepresentations as to its qualifications to enter into a procurement contract within a period of five years preceding the commencement of procurement proceedings	A written declaration signed by the authorised representative of the consultant Police Clearances for directors or officers or a certified affidavit. Both documents should not be 3 months old. A Certificate or Letter of Good Conduct Issued by a Competent Authority in the Consultant's Country <i>[for foreign firms]</i>
(f)	The Consultant is not subject to suspension in accordance with section 55 [of the Public Procurement Act, 2011] ¹ , and none of its directors or officers have been involved in a tenderer or supplier currently subject to suspension	A written declaration signed by the authorised representative of the consultant

¹ Refers to suspension by the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

Procuring Entity shall include “or equivalent document” in respect of international tenders and shall indicate the information provided by the corresponding document obtainable from the Eswatini jurisdiction appreciation of foreign bidders to submit corresponding documents.

3.3 A Power of Attorney signed outside Eswatini shall be notarized authorising signature of the bid on behalf of the Consultant.

3.4 For a Joint Venture, the documentation in Section 3.2 shall be required for each member of the Joint Venture and the following additional documentation shall be required:

- (a) a certified copy of the Joint Venture Agreement or letter of intent to enter into such an agreement, which is legally binding on all partners, showing that:
 - (i) all partners shall be jointly and severally liable for the execution of the Contract in accordance with the Contract terms;
 - (ii) one of the partners will be nominated as being in charge, and receive instructions for and on behalf of any and all partners of the joint venture; and
 - (iii) the execution of the entire Contract, including payment, shall be done exclusively with the partner in charge.
- (b) a Power of Attorney from each member of the JV nominating a Representative in the JV and a Power of Attorney from the JV nominating a representative who shall have the authority to conduct all business for and on behalf of any and all the parties of the JV during the bidding process and, in the event the JV is awarded the Contract, during contract execution.

4. Administrative Compliance Criteria

The evaluation of Administrative Compliance shall be conducted in accordance with ITB Sub-Clauses 32.3 and 32.4.

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

C Detailed Evaluation Criteria

5. Technical Criteria

- 5.1 Technical responsiveness shall be evaluated in accordance with ITB Clause 33.
- 5.2 The Terms of Reference in the Statement of Requirements details the minimum technical requirements expected from the consultant. The Criteria, sub-criteria, and point system for the evaluation of the Technical Proposals shall be as follows:

Criteria	Maximum Points
Specific Experience of the firm relevant to the assignment 10> years (10 marks) 5-9 years (6 marks) 0-5 years (3 marks)	10
Adequacy of the Proposed Approach and Methodology in responding to the Terms of Reference	25
Similar Assignments undertaken by the firm. Provide 3 reference letters with details of client work performed for.	30
Appropriateness of the Proposed Work Plan	20
Key staff or lead consultant should have a degree in records management	15
Total:	100 points

The minimum technical score required to pass the technical evaluation is **70** points.

D Financial Comparison Criteria

6. Financial Proposals for QBS, and SSS

Following the ranking of the Technical Proposals, when the selection is based on QBS the top-ranked Consultant is invited to negotiate the Contract. Only the Financial Proposal of the technically top-ranked Consultant is opened by the opening committee. All other Financial Proposals shall be returned unopened after the Contract negotiations are successfully concluded and the Contract is signed with the successful Consultant.

When the selection is based on the SSS method and if the invited Consultant meets the minimum technical score required passing, the financial proposal shall be opened and the Consultant invited to negotiate the contract.

7. Financial Proposals for QCBS

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

Following the ranking of the Technical Proposals, and after internal approvals, the Procuring Entity shall simultaneously notify in writing those Consultants whose Proposals were considered responsive to the RFP and TOR, and that have achieved the minimum qualifying technical score, advising them the following: (i) their Proposal was responsive to the RFP and TOR and met the minimum qualifying technical score; (ii) provide information relating to the Consultant's overall technical score, as well as scores obtained for each criterion and sub-criterion; (iii) their Financial Proposal will be opened at the public opening of Financial Proposals; and (iv) notify them of the date, time and location of the public opening and invite them for the opening of the Financial Proposals.

8. Combined Quality and Cost Evaluation

a. Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method

8.1 In the case of Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS), the total score is calculated by weighting the technical and financial scores and adding them as per the formula and instructions below. The Consultant that achieves the highest combined technical and financial score will be notified and invited for negotiations.

The lowest evaluated Financial Proposal (Fm) is given the maximum financial score (Sf) of 100.

The formula for determining the financial scores (Sf) of all other Proposals is calculated as following:

$Sf = 100 \times Fm / F$, in which “Sf” is the financial score, “Fm” is the lowest price, and “F” the price of the proposal under consideration.

The weights given to the Technical (T) and Financial (P) Proposals are:

T = 80, and

P = 20

Proposals are ranked according to their combined technical (St) and financial (Sf) scores using the weights (T = the weight given to the Technical Proposal; P = the weight given to the Financial Proposal; T + P = 1) as following:

$S = St \times T\% + Sf \times P\%$.

THE CORPORATION SHALL USE THE QUALITY COST BASE SELECTION CRITERIA TO DETERMINE THE MOST RESPONSIVE BIDDER.

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Section 4. Proposal Forms

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[This Proposal Submission Sheet should be on the letterhead of the Consultant and should be signed by a person with the proper authority to sign documents that are binding on the Consultant. It should be included by the Consultant in its technical proposal]

4.1.1 Technical Proposal Submission Sheet

Date: *[insert date (as day, month and year) of proposal submission]*

Procurement Reference No: *[insert Procurement Reference number]*

To: *[insert complete name of Procuring Entity]*

We, the undersigned, declare that:

- (a) We have examined and have no reservations to the Request for Proposals Document, including Addenda No.: *[insert the number and issuing date of each Addenda]*;
- (b) We offer to provide the services in conformity with the Request for Proposals Document for the *[insert a brief description of the Services]*;
- (c) We hereby submit our proposal which includes this technical proposal, and a financial proposal sealed under a separate envelope;
- (d) Our proposal shall be valid until the date specified in ITC Clause 20.1 and it shall remain binding upon us and may be accepted at any time before and including that date;
- (e) We, including any subcontractors or consultants for any part of the contract resulting from this procurement process, are eligible to participate in public procurement in accordance with ITC Clause 4.1;
- (f) We, including any associates, Joint Venture partners or Sub-contractors for any part of the contract, have nationals from eligible countries *[insert the nationality of the Consultant, including that of all parties that comprise the Consultant, if the Consultant is a Joint Venture, consortium or association, and the nationality of each subcontractor]*;
- (g) We have signed and undertake to abide by the Code of Ethical Conduct for Consultants attached during the procurement process and the execution of any resulting contract;
- (h) We are not participating, as Consultants, in more than one proposal in this procurement process;
- (i) We, including any subcontractors or consultants, do not have any conflict of interest and have not participated in the preparation of the original project for the Procuring Entity;
- (j) We, our affiliates or subsidiaries—including any subcontractors for any part of the contract—have not been suspended by ESPPRA from participating in public procurement;
- (k) Our Proposal is binding upon us, subject to modifications agreed during any contract negotiations, and we undertake to negotiate on the basis of the staff proposed in our Proposal;
- (l) We understand that this Proposal, shall not be binding on the Entity until a formal contract is prepared and executed;
- (m) We understand that you are not bound to accept the lowest proposal or any other proposal that you may receive;

Signed: *[signature of person whose name and capacity are shown below]*

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Name: *[insert complete name of person signing the Proposal]*

In the capacity of *[insert legal capacity of person signing the proposal]*

Duly authorised to sign the proposal for and on behalf of: *[insert complete name of Consultant]*

Dated on _____ day of _____, _____ *[insert date of signing]*

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4.1.2 CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT IN BUSINESS FOR CONSULTANTS

1. Ethical Principles

Consultants and providers shall at all times-

- (a) maintain integrity and independence in their professional judgement and conduct;
- (b) comply with both the letter and the spirit of-
 - i. the laws of Eswatini; and
 - ii. any contract awarded.
- (c) avoid associations with businesses and organisations which are in conflict with this code.

2. Standards

Consultants and providers shall-

- (a) strive to provide works, services and supplies of high quality and accept full responsibility for all works, services or supplies provided;
- (b) comply with the professional standards of their industry or of any professional body of which they are members.

3. Conflict of Interest

Consultants and providers shall not accept contracts which would constitute a conflict of interest with, any prior or current contract with any Procuring Entity. Consultants and providers shall disclose to all concerned parties those conflicts of interest that cannot reasonably be avoided or escaped.

4. Confidentiality and Accuracy of Information

- (1) Information given by consultants and providers in the course of procurement processes or the performance of contracts shall be true, fair and not designed to mislead.
- (2) Providers shall respect the confidentiality of information received in the course of performance of a contract and shall not use such information for personal gain.

5. Gifts and Hospitality

Consultants and providers shall not offer gifts or hospitality directly or indirectly, to staff of a Procuring Entity that might be viewed by others as having an influence on a government procurement decision.

6. Inducements

- (1) Consultants and providers shall not offer or give anything of value to influence the action of a public official in the procurement process or in contract execution.
- (2) Consultants and providers shall not ask a public official to do anything which is inconsistent with the Act, Regulations, Guidelines or the Code of Ethical Conduct in Business.

7. Fraudulent Practices

Consultants and providers shall not-

- (a) collude with other businesses and organisations with the intention of depriving a Procuring Entity of the benefits of free and open competition;
- (b) enter into business arrangements that might prevent the effective operation of fair competition;
- (c) engage in deceptive financial practices, such as bribery, double billing or other improper financial practices;
- (d) misrepresent facts in order to influence a procurement process or the execution of a contract to the detriment of the Procuring Entity; or utter false documents;

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- (e) unlawfully obtain information relating to a procurement process in order to influence the process or execution of a contract to the detriment of the PE;
- (f) withholding information from the PE during contract execution to the detriment of the PE.

I agree to comply with the above code of ethical conduct in business.

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

NAME OF CONSULTANT

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[The information requested is required in the format provided below and should be included by the Consultant in its proposal]

4.1.3 Consultant's References

Relevant services carried out in the last years (*Insert number of years required*) that best illustrate experience.

Using the format below, provide information on each assignment for which the Consultant, either individually as a corporate entity or as one of the major companies within an association, was legally contracted.

Consultant's Name: _____

Assignment name:		Country:
Location within country:		Professional Staff provided by consultant (profiles):
Name of client:		Nº of staff:
Address:		Nº of Staff-Months; Duration of assignment:
Start date (Month/Year):	Completion date (Month/Year):	Approx. Value of services (in Currency SZL):
Name of Associated Consultants, if any:		Nº of Months of Professional Staff provided by Associated Consultants:
Name of senior staff (Project Director/Coordinator, Team Leader) involved, and functions performed:		
Narrative description of Project:		
Description of actual services provided by your Staff:		

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[The information requested is required in the format provided below and should be included by the Consultant in its proposal. If none, include form and state "None"]

4.1.4 Comments and Suggestions on the Terms of Reference

[Comments and suggestions on the Terms of Reference that could improve the quality/effectiveness of the assignment; and on requirements for counterpart staff and facilities, which are provided by the Client, including: administrative support, office space, local transportation, equipment, data, etc.]

A - On the Terms of Reference

{Improvements to the Terms of Reference, if any}

B - On Counterpart Staff and Facilities

{Comments on counterpart staff and facilities to be provided by the Client. For example, administrative support, office space, local transportation, equipment, data, background reports, etc., if any}

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[The information requested is required in the format provided below and should be included by the Consultant in its proposal]

4.1.5 Description of the Methodology for performing the Assignment

A description of the approach, methodology and work plan for performing the assignment, including a detailed description of the proposed methodology and staffing for training, if the Terms of Reference specify training as a specific component of the assignment.

- a) Technical Approach and Methodology
- b) Work Plan
- c) Organization and Staffing }

- a) **Technical Approach and Methodology.** {Please explain your understanding of the objectives of the assignment as outlined in the Terms of Reference (TORs), the technical approach, and the methodology you would adopt for implementing the tasks to deliver the expected output(s), and the degree of detail of such output. Please do not repeat/copy the TORs in here. }
- b) **Work Plan.** {Please outline the plan for the implementation of the main activities/tasks of the assignment, their content and duration, phasing and interrelations, milestones (including interim approvals by the Client), and tentative delivery dates of the reports. The proposed work plan should be consistent with the technical approach and methodology, showing your understanding of the TOR and ability to translate them into a feasible working plan. A list of the final documents (including reports) to be delivered as final output(s) should be included here. The work plan should be consistent with the Work Schedule Form. }
- c) **Organization and Staffing.** {Please describe the structure and composition of your team, including the list of the Key Experts, Non-Key Experts and relevant technical and administrative support staff. }

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[The information requested is required in the format provided below and should be included by the Consultant in its proposal]

4.1.6 Team Composition and Task Assignments

1. Technical/Managerial Staff		
Name	Position	Task(s)

2. Support Staff		
Name	Position	Task(s)

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[The information requested is required in the format provided below and should be included by the Consultant in its proposal]

4.1.7 Format of Curriculum Vitae for Proposed Professional Staff

CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Position Title and No.	{e.g., A-1, TEAM LEADER}
Name of Expert:	{Insert full name}
Date of Birth:	{day/month/year}
Country of Citizenship/Residence	

Education: {List college/university or other specialized education, giving names of educational institutions, dates attended, degree(s)/diploma(s) obtained}

Employment record relevant to the assignment: {Starting with present position, list in reverse order. Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment, and contact information of previous clients and employing organization(s) who can be contacted for references. Past employment that is not relevant to the assignment does not need to be included.}

Period	Employing organization and your title/position. Contact information for references	Country	Summary of activities performed relevant to the Assignment
[e.g., May 2000-present]	[e.g., Ministry of, advisor/consultant to... For references: Tel...../e-mail.....; Mr. A2 , Project manager]		

Membership in Professional Associations and Publications:

Language Skills (indicate only languages in which you can work): _____

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Adequacy for the Assignment:

Detailed Tasks Assigned on Consultant’s Team of Experts:	Reference to Prior Work/Assignments that Best Illustrates Capability to Handle the Assigned Tasks
{List all deliverables/tasks as in TECH-5 in which the Expert will be involved}	

Expert’s contact information : (e-mail....., phone.....)

Certification:
I, the undersigned, certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this CV correctly describes myself, my qualifications, and my experience, and I am available to undertake the assignment in case of an award. I understand that any misstatement or misrepresentation described herein may lead to my disqualification or dismissal by the Client, and/or sanctions by the Bank.

{ day/month/year }

Name of Expert
Date

Signature

{ day/month/year }

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Name of authorized
Date
Representative of the Consultant
(the same who signs the Proposal)

Signature

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4.1.8 Format for confirmation of availability of Key Professional Staff

Subject of procurement:		Procurement reference number	
-------------------------	--	------------------------------	--

Consultant	
------------	--

List of key professional staff	Competencies of key professional staff	Percentage of time for which key staff shall be available

Confirmation

I(insert name of consultant) hereby certify that the staff described above shall be available as indicated

Signature: _____ Name: _____

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[The information requested is required in the format provided below and should be included by the Consultant in its proposal. Consultants may reproduce this format in landscape format if more practical but are responsible for its accurate reproduction.]

4.1.9 Estimated Time Schedule for Professional Staff

Name	Position	Reports Due/Activities	Months (in the Form of a Bar Chart)												Number of Months
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
															Subtotal (1)
															Subtotal (2)
															Subtotal (3)
															Subtotal (4)

Full-time: _____ Part-time: _____

Signature: _____

(Authorised Representative)

Full Name: _____ Title: _____

Consultant: _____

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4.1.10 Activity (Work) Schedule

A. Technical Input

	<i>[1st, 2nd, etc. are months from the start of assignment.]</i>											
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Activity (Work)												

B. Completion and Submission of Reports and other Deliverables

Reports	Date
1. Inception Report	
2. Interim Progress Reports	
(a) First Status Report	
(b) Second Status Report	
3. Draft Final Report	
4. Final Report	
5. Other Deliverables	

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4.1.11 Tender Securing Declaration

[The Consultant shall fill in this Form in accordance with the instructions indicated. If the Consultant is a Joint Venture, Consortium or Association the Proposal Securing Declaration must be in the name of the Joint Venture, Consortium or Association that submits the proposal. If the Joint Venture has not been legally constituted at the time of bidding, the Proposal Securing Declaration shall be in the names of all future partners as named in the letter of intent]

Date: *[insert date (as day, month and year) of Proposal Submission]*
Procurement Reference No.: *[insert reference number of selection process]*

To: *[insert complete name of Procuring Entity]*

I/We, the undersigned, declare that:

1. I/We understand that, according to your conditions, proposals must be supported by a Proposal Securing Declaration.
2. I/We accept that I/we may be debarred for three years by the Agency from being eligible for bidding in any contract with the Government of Eswatini, if we are in breach of our obligation(s) under the Request for Proposals conditions, because we:
 - a. have withdrawn our proposal during the period of proposal validity specified by us in the Technical Proposal Submission Sheet, except as provided in ITC Sub-Clause 20.3; or
 - b. having been notified of the acceptance of our proposal by the Procuring Entity, during the period of proposal validity, fail or refuse to:
 - (i) sign the Contract in accordance with ITC Clause 43;
 - (ii) furnish the Performance Security, in accordance with the ITC Clause 45; or
 - (iii) accept the correction of our bid by the Procuring Entity, pursuant to ITC sub-Clause 31.4.
3. I/We understand this Proposal Securing Declaration shall expire on *[Insert date as per ITC Clause 21]*.

Signed: *[insert signature of person whose name and capacity are shown]* In the capacity of *[insert legal capacity of person signing the Proposal Securing Declaration]*

Name: *[insert complete name of person signing the Proposal Securing Declaration]*

Duly authorized to sign the proposal for and on behalf of: *[insert complete name of Consultant]*

Dated on _____ day of _____, _____ *[insert date of signing]*

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[This Proposal Submission Sheet should be on the letterhead of the Consultant and should be signed by a person with the proper authority to sign documents that are binding on the Consultant. It should be included by the Consultant in its financial proposal]

4.1.12 Tender Security

Tender Security (Bank Guarantee)

[The Bank shall fill in this Bank Guarantee Form in accordance with the instructions indicated.]

Beneficiary: _____

Date: _____

TENDER GUARANTEE No.: _____

We have been informed that _____ (hereinafter called "the Tenderer") has submitted to you its Tender dated (hereinafter called "the Tender") for the execution of _____ under Invitation for Tenders No. _____ ("the IFB").

Furthermore, we understand that, according to your conditions, Tenders must be supported by a Tender guarantee.

At the request of the Tenderer, we _____ hereby irrevocably undertake to pay you any sum or sums not exceeding in total an amount of _____ (_____) upon receipt by us of your first demand in writing accompanied by a written statement stating that the Tenderer is in breach of its obligation(s) under the Tender conditions, because the Tenderer:

- (a) has withdrawn its Tender during the period of Tender validity specified by the Tenderer in the Form of Tender; or
- (b) having been notified of the acceptance of its Tender by the Procuring Entity during the period of Tender validity, (i) fails or refuses to execute the Contract Form; or (ii) fails or refuses to furnish the performance security, if required, in accordance with the Instructions to Tenderers.

This guarantee will expire: (a) if the Tenderer is the successful Tenderer, upon our receipt of copies of the contract signed by the Tenderer and the performance security issued to you upon the instruction of the Tenderer; or (b) if the Tenderer is not the successful Tenderer, upon the earlier of (i) our receipt of a copy of your notification to the Tenderer of the name of the successful Tenderer; or (ii) twenty-eight days after the expiration of the Tenderer's Tender.

Consequently, any demand for payment under this guarantee must be received by us at the office on or before that date.

This guarantee is subject to the Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees, ICC Publication No. 458.

[signature(s)]

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

Tender Security (Tender Bond)

[The Surety shall fill in this Tender Bond Form in accordance with the instructions indicated.]

BOND NO. _____

BY THIS BOND _____ as Principal (hereinafter called “the Principal”), and _____, **authorized to transact business in** _____, as Surety (hereinafter called “the Surety”), are held and firmly bound unto _____ as Obligee (hereinafter called “the Procuring Entity”) in the sum of _____² _____, for the payment of which sum, well and truly to be made, we, the said Principal and Surety, bind ourselves, our successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

WHEREAS the Principal has submitted a written Tender to the Procuring Entity dated the _____ day of _____, 20____, for the construction of _____ (hereinafter called the “Tender”).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION is such that if the Principal:

- (a) withdraws its Tender during the period of Tender validity specified in the Form of Tender; or
- (b) having been notified of the acceptance of its Tender by the Procuring Entity during the period of Tender validity; (i) fails or refuses to execute the Contract Form; or (ii) fails or refuses to furnish the Performance Security, if required, in accordance with the Instructions to Tenderers.

then the Surety undertakes to immediately pay to the Procuring Entity up to the above amount upon receipt of the Procuring Entity’s first written demand, without the Procuring Entity having to substantiate its demand, provided that in its demand the Procuring Entity shall state that the demand arises from the occurrence of any of the above events, specifying which event(s) has occurred.

The Surety hereby agrees that its obligation will remain in full force and effect up to and including the date 28 days after the date of expiration of the Tender validity as stated in the Invitation to Tender or extended by the Procuring Entity at any time prior to this date, notice of which extension(s) to the Surety being hereby waived.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Principal and the Surety have caused these presents to be executed in their respective names this _____ day of _____ 20____.

Principal: _____ Surety: _____
Corporate Seal (where appropriate)

² The amount of the Bond shall be denominated in the currency of the Procuring Entity’s country or the equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

(Signature)
(Printed name and title)

(Signature)
(Printed name and title)

Digitization of Physical Records EWSC 17 of 2025/26

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

4.1.13

Declaration of Eligibility

[The Tenderer must provide a signed declaration on its company letterhead in the following format. If the Proposal is being presented by a joint venture or consortium all members must each sign their declaration.]

[>>>Name of Tenderer, Address, and Date>>>]

Re Tender Reference

In accordance with the eligibility requirements of the Invitation to Tender documents we hereby declare that: -

- (a) We, including any joint venture partners or consortium partners, are a legal entity and have the legal capacity to enter into the contract.
- (b) We are not insolvent, in receivership, bankrupt or being wound up, our affairs are not being administered by a court or a judicial officer, our business activities have not been suspended and we are not the subject of legal proceedings for any of the foregoing.
- (c) We have fulfilled our obligations to pay taxes and social security contributions.
- (d) We declare that we adhere to basic labour legislation.
- (e) We have not, and our directors or officers have not, been convicted of any criminal offence related to our/their professional conduct or the making of false statements or misrepresentations as to their qualifications to enter into a contract within a period of five years preceding the commencement of the procurement proceedings; and
- (f) I/We declare that we are eligible to participate in the above-mentioned public procurement tender as per paragraphs (a) – (e) above.
- (g) We further declare that we are not Politicians and or Public Officers.
- (h) That we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the procurement requirement as defined in the Instructions to Tenderers.
- (i) I/We are aware that, where it shall be found that any or all of the below mentioned directors of our Company have provided misleading information in preparing this tender document, the tender will be cancelled, and contracts awarded shall be terminated immediately.

Name_____ (In the capacity of) _____

Authorised Representative Signature_____ Date_____

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

4.2.1 Financial Proposal Submission Sheet

Date: *[insert date (as day, month and year) of proposal submission]*

Procurement Reference No: *[insert Procurement Reference number]*

To: *[insert complete name of Procuring Entity]*

We, the undersigned, declare that:

- (a) The total price of our Proposal is: *[insert the total proposal price in words and figures, indicating the various amounts and the respective currencies]*, inclusive of local taxes;
- (b) The following commissions, gratuities, or fees have been paid or are to be paid with respect to this procurement process or execution of the Contract: *[insert complete name of each Recipient, its full address, the reason for which each commission or gratuity was paid and the amount and currency of each such commission or gratuity. If none has been paid or is to be paid, indicate "none"]*;

Name and address of Recipient	Purpose/ Reason	Currency and Amount

Name: _____ *[insert complete name of person signing the proposal]*

In the capacity of _____ *[insert legal capacity of person signing the proposal]*

Signed: _____ *[signature of person whose name and capacity are shown above]*

Duly authorised to sign the proposal for and on behalf of: _____ *[insert complete name of Consultant]*

Dated on _____ day of _____, _____ *[insert date of signing]*

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

[Consultants may reproduce this sheet in landscape format if more practical but are responsible for its accurate reproduction. State currency or currencies of proposal. If three currencies are not used state "nil" as appropriate. If the PDS requires the proposal price to be quoted separately for different Activities, complete this form as a "Summary of Proposal Price" for each activity and complete one overall Summary of prices.]

4.2.2 Summary of Proposal Price (Breakdown of Lump Sum)

Cost item	Currency	Amount(s)
Fees – currency 1		
Fees – currency 2		
Reimbursables – currency 1		
Reimbursables – currency 2		
Miscellaneous Expenses –currency 1		
Miscellaneous Expenses –currency 2		
Local taxes		
Total Lump Sum/Cost Estimate – currency 1		
Total Lump Sum/Cost Estimate – currency 2		

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

4.2.3 Breakdown of Fees

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State activity name or total proposal: _____

Name	Position	Input Qty	Unit (Days/months etc.)	Rate	Total
Grand Total					

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

4.2.4 Breakdown of Reimbursables

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State activity name or total proposal: _____

Currency: _____

Description of Cost	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Unit Price	Total Price
Grand Total				

Notes: Local transportation costs are not to be included if local transportation is being made available by the Procuring Entity. Similarly, the project site, office rent/accommodations/clerical assistance costs are not to be included if being made available by the Procuring Entity.

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Part 1: Section 4 Proposal Forms

4.2.5 Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses

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State activity name or total proposal: _____ **Currency:** _____

Description of Cost	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Unit Price	Total Price
Grand Total				

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Part 1: Section 5 Eligible Countries

Section 5. Eligible Countries

Procurement Reference Number:

All countries are eligible except countries subject to the following provisions.

A country shall not be eligible if:

- (a) as a matter of law or official regulation, the Government of Eswatini prohibits commercial relations with that country, provided that the Government of Eswatini is satisfied that such exclusion does not preclude effective competition for the provision of services required; or
- (b) by an act of compliance with a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of Eswatini prohibits the provision of Services from that country or any payments to persons or entities in that country.

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PART 2 - Statement of Requirements

Section 6. Statement of Requirements

EWSC 17 of 2025/26

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Introduction

This document delineates the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a comprehensive digitization project focused on the physical records held by the Eswatini Water Services Corporation (EWSC). These records are of paramount importance for maintaining operational efficiency, preserving institutional history, and ensuring strict regulatory compliance. The current reliance on physical records presents significant challenges concerning accessibility, physical storage limitations, inefficient retrieval processes, and the risks associated with long-term preservation. By embracing digitization, EWSC aims to achieve efficient records management, significantly enhance accessibility for authorized personnel, bolster data security protocols, and contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious record-keeping framework.

This strategic project is designed to transform EWSC's physical archives into secure, easily searchable digital formats. This transition will yield tangible benefits, including a reduction in physical storage overheads, mitigation of risks related to record deterioration or loss due to unforeseen events, and alignment with contemporary data governance best practices. This ToR meticulously outlines the scope of work, project objectives, and the detailed processes necessary for the effective execution of this critical digitization initiative, encompassing the digitization of *all* physical records currently held by EWSC.

2.0 Objectives

2.1 The overarching objectives of this digitization project are to:

2.1.1 Enhance Accessibility: To grant authorized users seamless and timely access to records in a digital format directly from their designated workstations.

2.1.2 Optimize Storage Space: To substantially decrease the physical space currently allocated for the storage of paper-based records, thereby freeing up valuable resources.

2.1.3 Fortify Data Security: To establish and implement robust security measures for all digital records, including stringent access control mechanisms, comprehensive audit trails, and reliable data backup and recovery procedures.

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Part 2: Section 6. Statement of Requirements

2.1.4 Ensure Long-Term Preservation: To safeguard the informational value of the records by converting them into a durable and readily accessible digital format that can be maintained and migrated over time, ensuring their availability for future reference.

2.1.5 Improve Workflow Efficiency: To streamline and optimize existing business processes by seamlessly integrating digital records into relevant workflows, facilitating faster decision-making and improved collaboration.

2.1.6 Achieve Regulatory Compliance: To ensure full adherence to all pertinent legal and regulatory mandates concerning record keeping, data management, and information governance within the Kingdom of Eswatini.

2.1.7 Preservation: To proactively safeguard vital records from physical degradation due to environmental factors, potential disasters (e.g., fire, flood), or the obsolescence of current physical storage methods.

3.0 Description of Works

The scope of work for this digitization project explicitly includes the digitization of *all* physical records held by EWSC and shall encompass, but not be limited to, the following key activities:

3.1 Record Inventory and Preparation:

3.1.1 Conduct a meticulous and comprehensive inventory of all physical records slated for digitization. This includes accurate identification, systematic categorization based on record type and series, and detailed initial indexing to establish a baseline.

3.1.2 Prepare all physical records for the scanning process. This involves the careful removal of all binding materials such as staples, paper clips, and bindings, as well as ensuring that all pages are correctly ordered to maintain document integrity.

3.1.3 Identify and clearly flag any fragile, damaged, or historically significant records that may necessitate specialized handling techniques during the digitization process to prevent further deterioration.

3.1.4 Thoroughly document the current physical location of all records, their existing format (e.g., paper size, condition), an accurate estimation of the total volume (e.g., number of boxes), and any pre-existing metadata or indexing information associated with each record series.

3.2 Scanning:

3.2.1 Employ appropriate, high-quality scanning hardware and software capable of capturing clear and accurate digital images of all physical records, regardless of their size or format.

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Part 2: Section 6. Statement of Requirements

3.2.2 Ensure that optimal image resolution, clarity, and overall legibility are achieved in strict accordance with mutually agreed-upon technical standards and best practices for digital preservation.

3.2.3 Implement rigorous quality control measures throughout the scanning process to promptly identify and rectify any scanning errors, such as skewing, blurring, or missing pages, ensuring the integrity of the digital surrogates.

3.2.4 Adhere to any specific requirements for colour or grayscale scanning as dictated by the nature and informational content of each record type to preserve essential details.

4.0 Indexing and Metadata Tagging:

4.1 Develop and implement a well-defined and standardized metadata schema tailored to EWSC's specific needs for indexing all digitized records. This schema will incorporate relevant metadata fields to facilitate highly efficient and accurate searching, filtering, and retrieval of information.

4.2 Accurately index every digitized record according to the established metadata schema. This process may involve precise manual data entry, the application of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology to enable text-based searching, followed by thorough human verification to ensure accuracy and completeness.

4.3 Maintain strict consistency and accuracy in the application of metadata tags across all digitized records to ensure data integrity and facilitate effective information management.

5.0 Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC):

5.1 Establish and implement a comprehensive and robust QA/QC process that will be applied at each critical stage of the digitization workflow, including record preparation, scanning, and indexing, for *all* records.

5.2 Conduct meticulous checks on a representative sample (or ideally, 100%) of the digitized records and their associated metadata to guarantee completeness, accuracy of content and metadata, and optimal legibility of the digital images.

5.3 Define and implement clear procedures for the systematic identification, documentation, and timely rectification of any errors, inconsistencies, or omissions during the QA/QC process.

5.4 Maintain detailed and auditable records of all QA/QC activities undertaken, including the nature of any errors identified and the specific corrective actions implemented.

6.0 Data Migration and Integration:

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Part 2: Section 6. Statement of Requirements

6.1 Transfer *all* verified digitized records and their corresponding metadata to the designated digital repository or document management system specified by EWSC.

6.2 Ensure the seamless and robust integration of the newly digitized records with EWSC's existing IT infrastructure and relevant business workflows, if required, to maximize the utility of the digital archive.

6.3 Conduct thorough system testing, in collaboration with EWSC's IT personnel, to rigorously verify the integrity, accessibility, and performance of the migrated digital data within the target system.

7.0 Training and Documentation:

7.1 Provide comprehensive training programs to designated EWSC staff on the effective utilization of the digitized records system. This training will cover search functionalities, access protocols, data management procedures, and system administration basics, as applicable.

7.2 Develop clear, concise, and user-friendly documentation that comprehensively outlines the entire digitization process undertaken, the detailed metadata schema employed, clear system usage guidelines for end-users, and practical troubleshooting procedures for common issues.

8.0 Required Qualifications of Key Staff:

8.1 The lead consultant or key staff should have a degree in records management.

9.0 End of Service:

9.1 Upon the successful completion of the digitization project, the service provider shall guarantee the secure and complete transfer of *all* digitized records and their associated metadata to EWSC in the agreed-upon digital format and on the specified storage media.

9.2 The service provider shall furnish EWSC with a comprehensive final project report detailing all activities undertaken, any challenges encountered during the project lifecycle, the methodologies employed to overcome these challenges, and a clear summary of the key outcomes and deliverables achieved.

9.3 The service provider shall be responsible for ensuring the proper and secure disposal or return of *all* physical records to EWSC in strict accordance with EWSC's established policies and all relevant legal and regulatory requirements pertaining to record disposal

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PART 3 - Contract

Section 7: General Conditions of Contract for the Procurement of Consultancy Services

Any resulting contract shall be subject to the Government of Eswatini General Conditions of Contract (GCC) for the Procurement of Consultancy Services available on the Agency's website except where modified by the Special Conditions below.

- 1 Definition of Services: Services include scanning, indexing, quality control, and secure digital archiving of physical records.
- 2 Standards and Compliance: Contractor shall comply with industry digitization standards (e.g., ISO 15489, ISO 27001).
- 3 Performance Security: Contractor to provide performance security equivalent to 10% of contract value.
- 4 Duration of Contract: Duration shall be as specified in the Terms of Reference (ToR).
- 5 Payment Terms: Payments made upon achievement of milestones, subject to approval.
- 6 Ownership of Data: All digitized data and metadata remain the property of EWSC.
- 7 Confidentiality: Contractor must treat all EWSC records and data as confidential.
- 8 Intellectual Property Rights: All intellectual property created under the contract belongs to EWSC.
- 9 Subcontracting: No subcontracting without prior written approval from EWSC.
- 10 Force Majeure: Either party may be excused from performance due to force majeure events.
- 11 Termination: EWSC may terminate the contract for non-performance or breach.
- 12 Inspection & Acceptance: EWSC reserves the right to inspect digitized records before acceptance.
- 13 Liability for Loss or Damage: Contractor liable for any loss/damage to EWSC records during digitization.

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Part 3: Section 8 Special Conditions of Contract

- 14 Dispute Resolution: Disputes shall be settled through negotiation, failing which arbitration under Eswatini law.
- 15 Health and Safety: Contractor must adhere to workplace health and safety regulations.

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Section 8. Special Conditions of Contract

The following Special Conditions of Contract (SCC) shall supplement the General Conditions of Contract (GCC). Whenever there is a conflict, the provisions herein shall prevail over those in the GCC.

clause reference	Special Conditions of Contract
SCC 1	The Procurement Reference Number is: EWSC 17 of 2025/26
SCC 2	The Eligible Countries are those listed in Section 5 of the Request for Proposals Document. International
SCC 3	Member in Charge: The Member in Charge is:
SCC 3	Contract Documents: Other documents forming part of the contract are:
SCC 5	Authorised Representatives: The Authorised Representatives are: for the Procuring Entity: Senior Manager Supply Chain Management for the Consultant: The one stated on the Power of Attorney
SCC 6	Law: The Contract shall be governed by the Laws of Eswatini.
SCC 7	Notices: The addresses for Notices are: for the Procuring Entity: Eswatini Water Services Corporation Physical Address: EWSC Headquarter Emtfonjeni Building Cnr MR103 & Mantenga Cultural drive Town/City: Ezulwini P. O. Box No: P. O. Box 20 Mbabane Country: Eswatini Telephone: (+268) 2416 9000 Email: procurement@ewsc.co.sz For the Consultant Physical Address: Town/City: P. O. Box No: Country: Telephone: Email:
SCC 8	Commencement: The Period within which the Services shall have commenced is: To be determined
SCC 9	Dispute settlement: Dispute settlement shall be in accordance with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Process under the Laws of Eswatini.

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Part 3: Section 8 Special Conditions of Contract

clause reference	Special Conditions of Contract
SCC 10	Completion of the Services: The Period within which the Services shall have been completed following commencement of the Services is: 4 Months.
SCC 11	Further Assistance: The Procuring Entity shall provide the following further assistance: N/A
SCC 12	Counterpart Staff: Counterpart Staff shall not be provided
SCC 13	Payment currencies: Payments shall be made in the currency or currencies of the contract price. The exchange rate for purposes of payment shall be the Central Bank of Eswatini exchange rate prevailing at the time of financial proposal opening
SCC 14	The Contract is a Time base contract
SCC 15	Payment Schedule: The payment schedule shall be: Full Amount Upon Completion of contract.
SCC 16	Advance Payment Guarantee: An Advance Payment Guarantee is not required and advance payment will be made.
SCC 17	Payment Period: Payment shall be made by the Procuring Entity within 30 days of receipt and certification of the invoice accompanied by supporting documents and within days in the case of the final payment.
GCC 1	Services shall be performed at EWSC-designated premises unless otherwise approved in writing.
GCC 2	Contractor must comply with EWSC Records Management Policy and Eswatini data protection laws.
GCC 3	Performance security to be submitted within 14 days of contract award.
GCC 4	Contract to be completed within 4 months from the commencement date.
GCC 5	Payments will be processed monthly, based on verified output reports.
GCC 6	Contractor may not retain or replicate any information without prior written consent.
GCC 7	NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) must be signed before accessing records.
GCC 8	Contractor must transfer all source codes, software (if customized), and related tools upon completion.
GCC 9	Contractor must submit profiles of any proposed subcontractors for approval.
GCC 10	Notification must be made within 5 days of occurrence with supporting documentation.

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Part 3: Section 8 Special Conditions of Contract

clause reference	Special Conditions of Contract
GCC 11	Termination notice period shall be 30 days unless due to gross misconduct.
GCC 12	Final acceptance contingent on quality audit and successful metadata verification.
GCC 13	Insurance coverage for handling of physical records must be provided by the contractor.
GCC 15	Contractor to submit a safety plan and risk assessment prior to start of work.

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Section 9. Contract Forms

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Agreement

For Lump Sum/Time Based Contracts

This Agreement is made this..... day of the month of between of (hereinafter called the “Procuring Entity”) and of hereinafter called the “Consultant”).

WHEREAS

- (a) the Procuring Entity has requested the Consultant to provide certain consultancy services (hereinafter called the “Services”) as defined herein and attached to this Contract;
- (b) the Consultant having represented to the Procuring Entity that it has the required professional skills, personnel and technical resources, has agreed to provide the Services on the terms and conditions set forth in this Contract.

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto agree as follows:

- 1. The documents forming the Contract shall be as stated in and in the order of priority stated in the General Conditions of Contract.
- 2. The mutual rights and obligations of the Procuring Entity and the Consultant shall be as set forth in the Contract, in particular:
 - (a) The Consultant shall carry out the Services in accordance with the provisions of the Contract; and
 - (b) the Procuring Entity shall pay the Consultant the Contract Price of _____ or such other sum as may become payable under the provisions of the Contract, at the times and in the manner prescribed by the Contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Contract to be signed in their respective names as of the day and year first above written.

Signed by _____ (Authorized Representative of the Procuring Entity)

Name: _____ Position: _____

In the presence of:

Name: _____ Position: _____

Signed by _____ (Authorized Representative of the Consultant)

Name: _____ Position: _____

In the presence of:

Name: _____ Position: _____

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Part 3: Section 9: Contract Forms

Appendices

APPENDIX A **STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS**

[Detailed descriptions of the Services to be provided, dates for completion of tasks, location of tasks, etc.]

APPENDIX B **KEY PERSONNEL AND SUB-CONTRACTOR**

- B.1 Team Composition – Technical/Managerial Staff: Names, (where available), positions, assigned tasks and staff-months for each (Section 4 Table 4.1.5).
- B.2 Team Composition – Support Staff [Names, where available], positions, assigned tasks and staff-months for each. (Same as B.1 for Key foreign Personnel to be assigned to work outside Eswatini). (Section 4 Table 4.1.5)
- B.3 List of Sub-contractors (where available); same information with respect to their Personnel as in B.1.
- B.4 List of Sub-contractors (where available); Same information as B.1 for Key local Personnel.]
- B.5 Time Schedule for Professional Staff (Section 4 Table 4.1.7). Specify working hours, holidays and travel time, etc. in accordance with GC Clause 48.

APPENDIX C **BREAKDOWN OF CONTRACT PRICE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY**

[List here the elements of cost used to arrive at the breakdown of the lump-sum price—foreign currency portion:

- C.1 Breakdown of Contract Price (summarising the main elements of the contract price detailing fees, reimbursables and miscellaneous expenses (Section 4 Table 4.2.2) :
- C.2 Breakdown of Fees into the monthly rates for Personnel (Key Personnel and other Personnel) (Section 4 Table 4.2.3).
- C.3. Breakdown of Reimbursable (Section 4 Table 4.2.4)
- C.4 Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses (Section 4 Table 4.2.5)

This appendix will exclusively be used for determining remuneration for additional services.]

APPENDIX D **BREAKDOWN OF CONTRACT PRICE IN ESWATINI LILANGENI**

[List here the elements of cost used to arrive at the breakdown of the lump-sum price—local currency portion:

- D.1 Breakdown of Contract Price (summarising the main elements of the contract price detailing fees, reimbursables and miscellaneous expenses (S. 4 Table 4.2.2)
- D.2 Breakdown of Fees into the monthly rates for Personnel (Key Personnel and other Personnel) (Section 4 Table 4.2.3).
- D.3. Breakdown of Reimbursable expenditures (Section 4 Table 4.2.4)
- D.4 Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses (Section 4 Table 4.2.5). This appendix will exclusively be used for determining remuneration for additional services.

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Part 3: Section 9: Contract Forms

[The Advance Payment Security should be on the letterhead of the issuing Financial Institution and should be signed by a person with the proper authority to sign documents that are binding on the Financial Institution]

Advance Payment Security

Date: *[insert date (as day, month, and year) of Advance Payment Security]*

Procurement Reference No.: *[insert Procurement Reference number]*

To: *[insert complete name of Procuring Entity]*

In accordance with the payment provision included in the Contract, in relation to advance payments, *[insert complete name of Consultant]* (hereinafter called “the Consultant”) shall deposit with the Procuring Entity a security consisting of *[indicate type of security]*, to guarantee its proper and faithful performance of the obligations imposed by said Clause of the Contract, in the amount of *[insert currency and amount of guarantee in words and figures]*.

We, the undersigned *[insert complete name of Guarantor]*, legally domiciled in *[insert full address of Guarantor]* (hereinafter “the Guarantor”), as instructed by the Consultant, agree unconditionally and irrevocably to guarantee as primary obligor and not as surety merely, the payment to the Procuring Entity on its first demand without whatsoever right of objection on our part and without its first claim to the Consultant, in the amount not exceeding *[insert currency and amount of guarantee in words and figures]*.

This security shall remain valid and in full effect from the date of the advance payment received by the Consultant under the Contract until *[insert day and month]*, *[insert year]*.

This guarantee is subject to the Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees, ICC Publication No. 758, except that subparagraph (ii) of Sub-article 20(a) is hereby excluded.

Name: *[insert complete name of person signing the Security]*

In the capacity of *[insert legal capacity of person signing the Security]*

Signed: *[signature of person whose name and capacity are shown above]*

Duly authorised to sign the Security for and on behalf of: *[insert complete name of the Financial Institution]*

Dated on _____ day of _____, _____ *[insert date of signing]*

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