

## **Technical Requirements**

### **The Provision of dark fibre links in the Gqeberha Metropolitan Area to SANReN**

**RFP No. 3683-10-07-2025**

## Table of Contents

1	Requirement Level Keywords	6
2	Technical Compliance	6
2.1	Technical Evaluation Criteria	6
3	Links Requirements	7
4	Links specifications	8
4.1	Context	8
4.2	End Points	10
4.3	Leased or otherwise shared infrastructure	11
5	Fibre Requirements	12
5.1	Fibre pairs	12
5.2	Optical fibre specifications	12
5.3	Splicing specifications	12
5.4	Termination Details	12
5.5	Civil Build Specifications	13
6	Reliability	13
6.1	Service Requirements	13
6.2	Maintenance	14
7	Project Plan	14
8	Acceptance Documentation	15
8.1	Test results	15
8.2	Customer Acceptance Certificates	15
8.3	Sample Acceptance Documentation	16

## Glossary

Abbreviation	Term	Description
CAC	Customer Acceptance Certificate	Certificate of Acceptance that the SANReN customer needs to sign off on when work done (including civil work) is done on the SANReN customer's premises.
CSIR	Council for Scientific and industrial Research	A statutory body established in terms of Scientific Research Council Act 46 of 1988, as amended
GIS	Geographic Information System	A system designed to capture, store, manipulate and visualise spatial or geographic data.
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force	A body that defines standard Internet operating protocols such as TCP/IP.
IS	Internet Solutions	
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	The International Telecommunication Union, originally the International Telegraph Union, is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies. It is the oldest global international organization. Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland  Founded: 17 May 1865
LC/APC	Lucent/Little/Local Connector - Angled Physical Contact	Fibre optic connector of the LC type with angle-polishing on fibre end-face.

Abbreviation	Term	Description
NMU	Nelson Mandela University	
ODF	Optical Distribution Frame	A passive device that terminates fibre cables.
PoP	Point of Presence	A location where networking equipment may be accessed.
RFP	Request for Proposal	A request for organisations and companies to submit a proposal to supply goods and services to CSIR
RU	Rack Unit	Unit of measure describes the height of electronic equipment designed to mount in a 19-inch rack. One rack unit is 1.75 inches (44.45 mm) high. <sup>1</sup>
SANReN	South African National Research Network	The South African National Research Network (SANReN) is a high-speed network dedicated to science, research, education and innovation traffic.

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1

### Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
Attenuation	Gradual loss in intensity of light through the fibre-optic medium. Specified in decibel (dB) for light at a specific wave-length.
Chromatic Dispersion	The phenomenon where the phase and group velocity of light in an optical fibre is dependent on the frequency of the light.
Cross Connect	Refers to a fibre connection between separate units of facilities within a data centre. A cross connect is required between the SANReN terminating point and the bidder's terminating point if a link terminates in a datacentre, e.g. Africa Data Centres, Internet Solutions ,Teraco, etc.
Fibre Pair	Consisting of two fibre cores/strands.
Fibre Link	The contiguous fibre between two sites or Points of Presence
Polarization Mode Dispersion	When different polarizations of light travel at different speeds due to imperfections and asymmetries in the optical fibre, results in spreading of optical pulses.

# Technical Requirements

Bidders must comply with the technical requirements in this document. These requirements will be evaluated in Annexure C1 – Technical Compliance Matrix – Gqeberha Metropolitan Area. Bidders that wish to respond with a solution for this project must complete the **tab/sheet for the links required** in the Annexure C1 – Technical Evaluation Matrix. Failure to complete the technical compliance matrix will exclude the bidder from being considered.

## 1 Requirement Level Keywords

To eliminate ambiguity, bidders are to interpret the meaning of functional (technical) requirements using the keywords; "must", "must not", "required", "shall", "shall not", "should", "should not", "recommended", "may", and "optional", as defined by the IETF RFC (Request For Comments) document designated as RFC2119.

## 2 Technical Compliance

Bidders shall note the evaluation criteria applicable, and the weights attached to each criterion and complete the Technical Compliance Matrix accordingly.

### 2.1 Technical Evaluation Criteria

- The evaluation of the bidder's proposal will be based on their response to Annexure C1 – Technical Compliance Matrix – Gqeberha Metropolitan Area Fibre Links.
- The bidder must complete the Technical Compliance Matrix in accordance with the instructions tabled in the Technical Compliance Matrix spreadsheet. The Technical Compliance Matrix is a mandatory submission designed to facilitate evaluation.
- Each link proposed will be evaluated individually and must be completed in a **separate tab** in Annexure C1.
- Proposals with functionality / technical points of less than the pre-determined minimum overall percentage of 70% or less than 50% on any of the individual criteria will be eliminated from further evaluation on Price and Preference Points Evaluation.

### 3 Links Requirements

Bidders are invited to offer dark fibre links as specified in **Table 1** of this document. The dark fibre link must be capable of transmitting multiple wavelengths of a bit rate of at least 100 Gbps between the end points specified below in **Table 1**. The bidders must ensure that their solution adheres to all the requirements specified in the sections that follow.

Please note that bidders are not compelled to supply all links, bidders may opt to respond for any of the links they are able to provide. Due to increased vandalism, theft, and other risks, the CSIR prefers underground fibre solutions, but overhead fibre solutions will be accepted if there are no underground fibre solutions available and/or affordable. Suppliers that do not have underground fibre solutions, are welcome to bid on links that do not require underground fibre solutions.

The proposed links will be evaluated taking the whole project into account. The purpose is to design a solution that have no overlap or shared infrastructure. If that is impossible, the aim is to minimize the overlap or shared infrastructure of links that make up the solution, i.e. minimize common failures.

Bidders must be cognisant of the following:

- The routing of the fibre will be dependent on the bidder's available infrastructure, and the bidder must ensure that it is optimised for minimum total distance.
- GIS Maps indicating the proposed routes in ESRI Shapefile or KML format **must** be provided, as well as diagrams annotated with sufficient detail to allow the CSIR to identify any and all shared infrastructure components, including the physical location of cable routes and ODFs (fibre optic patch panels), so that CSIR may independently determine where such infrastructure is shared among links.
- Bidders must include documentation for the physical installation and optical engineering standards used, as well as specifications of the fibre optic cable itself and the ODF to be installed at each site.

- CSIR expects the bidder to conduct a desktop study to plan for the required solution regardless whether the bidder intends to build a new route or propose an existing route;
- The bidders must cater for an access build if it is required for the solution.
- Bidders must provide an end-to-end solution, i.e. from one ODF to the next ODF.
- Bidders are permitted to respond to this RFP in full or in part, i.e. bidders can respond only to the links that they are able to supply

## **4 Links specifications**

### **4.1 Context**

The following diagram summarises the requirements for this tender. CSIR will require the bidder to provide dark fibre between the endpoints detailed in **Table 1** below. The existing SANReN Points of Presence (PoPs) are indicated for connection to the required infrastructure. The network diagram in **Diagram 1** below illustrates the generic solution required. Bidders must adapt the sample diagram for an optimal implementation topology (optimising for a balance of cost and reliability) given available infrastructure.



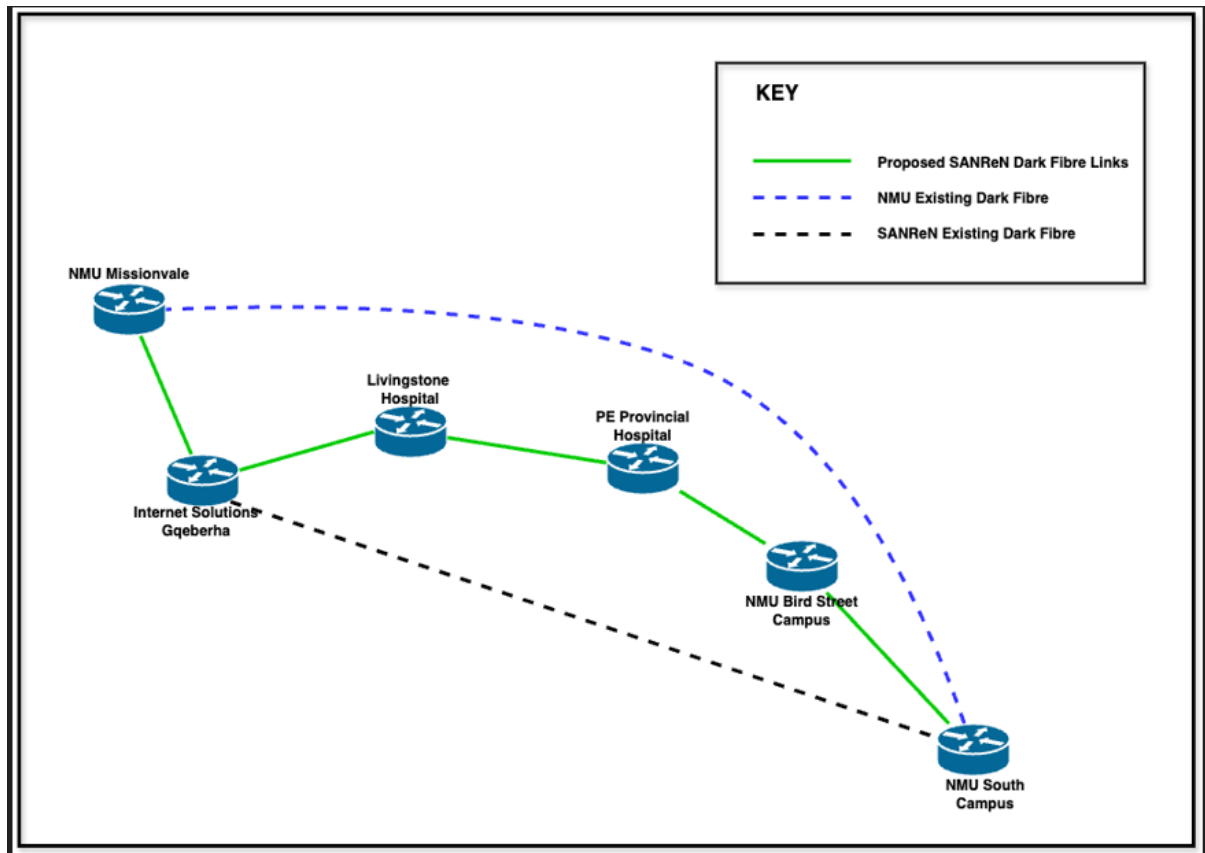


Diagram 1: Schematic diagram of required dark fibre links in the Gqeberha Metropolitan Area

## 4.2 End Points

The bidder must provide dark fibre links between the end points specified below in **Table 1**, where the address and GPS coordinates for each SANReN PoP are specified.

Please note that for links terminating at IS Gqeberha, a cross connect will be required from SANReN dedicated cabinet to the bidder's terminating point in the datacentre(s). The costs of the cross connects should be included in Annexure D1 – Pricing Schedule – Gqeberha Metropolitan Area Links. Details regarding the termination point for the SANReN cabinet will be shared with the winning bidder.

*Table 1: Site Details*

Link	Site Name	Address	Co-ordinates
<b>Link 1</b>	<b>Site A:</b> NMU Missionvale Campus	Johnson Road, Salt Pan, Bethelsdorp, 6059	Latitude: -33.873430 Longitude: 25.552995
	<b>Site B:</b> Internet Solutions (IS) Gqeberha	Block B, 3rd Floor Mutual Place Cnr. Cape and Langenhoven Roads Greenacres, Gqeberha, 6001	Latitude: -33.950544 Longitude: 25.574024
<b>Link 2</b>	<b>Site A:</b> Internet Solutions (IS) Gqeberha	Block B, 3rd Floor Mutual Place Cnr. Cape and Langenhoven Roads Greenacres, Gqeberha, 6001	Latitude: -33.950544 Longitude: 25.574024
	<b>Site B:</b> NMU Livingstone Hospital	Stanford Rd &, Lindsay Rd, Lindsay Road, Gqeberha, 6001	Latitude: -33.924671 Longitude: 25.572061

Link	Site Name	Address	Co-ordinates
Link 3	<b>Site A:</b> NMU Livingstone Hospital	Stanford Rd &, Lindsay Rd, Lindsay Road, Gqeberha, 6001	Latitude: -33.924671 Longitude: 25.572061
	<b>Site B:</b> NMU PE Provincial Hospital	Buckingham Rd, Mount Croix, Gqeberha, 6001	Latitude: -33.958016 Longitude: 25.600238
Link 4	<b>Site A:</b> NMU PE Provincial Hospital	Buckingham Rd, Mount Croix, Gqeberha, 6001	Latitude: -33.958016 Longitude: 25.600238
	<b>Site B:</b> NMU Bird Street Campus	20 Bird Street, Central, Gqeberha, 6001	Latitude: -33.965369 Longitude: 25.617223

#### 4.3 Leased or otherwise shared infrastructure

Bidders that lease the underlying infrastructure offered as part of this bid with other downstream providers must disclose such information as part of their response. Bidders will not be penalised for offering solutions based leased infrastructure as long as this is disclosed.

Bidders that have provided SANReN with services that are not part of this bid must clearly indicate if their proposed solution shares any infrastructure with any such service already offered to SANReN

## **5 Fibre Requirements**

### **5.1 Fibre pairs**

Bidders are requested to quote for 1 and 2 fibre pairs respectively.

### **5.2 Optical fibre specifications**

Bidders shall provide either G.652.D, G.657.A1 or G.657.A2 fibre in compliance to the cable specifications (including chromatic and polarization mode dispersion) specified by the ITU.

### **5.3 Splicing specifications**

Overall, the splices on the network must comply with the following:

- The two-way average splice loss at 1550 nm for all splices on a fibre span SHALL not exceed 0.12dB per splice.
- The two-way average splice loss at 1550 nm SHALL not exceed 0.15dB for any individual splice.
- Total measured losses for any single fibre span, ODF to ODF, SHALL not exceed 0.38 dB/km at 1310 nm.
- Total measured losses for any single fibre span, ODF to ODF, SHALL not exceed 0.25 dB/km at 1550 nm.
- Total measured losses for any single fibre span, ODF to ODF, SHALL not exceed 0.28 dB/km at 1625 nm.

### **5.4 Termination Details**

- The provided fibre must terminate on an ODF in a rack that CSIR specifies.
- The connector specifications and type must be provided in the bid. The CSIR requires the use of LC/APC or LC/UPC connectors.
- All terminated fibre spans must be clearly and accurately labelled.
- Sufficient fibre slack must be provided for at all points where the fibre connects to a patch panel.

## 5.5 Civil Build Specifications

Bidders must provide the following information:

- In the case of new fibre builds, construction specifications, such as depth of trenching, backfill specifications, manhole specifications, marking standards and method of trenching used/proposed.
- In the case of new access builds, building entry specifications.

## 6 Reliability

### 6.1 Service Requirements

The CSIR requires that a minimum end-to-end up-time of 99% (calculated per month) to be maintained for the links specified in **Table 1**. To manage these requirements, the CSIR encourages all bidders to include a standard SLA (Service Level Agreement) as part of its response. The bidder must commit, as a minimum, to comply to the following criteria to pass the evaluation:

1. 24/7 access to a Network Operations Centre (NOC) to log support requests;
2. Maximum response time of 4 hours;
3. Maximum service restoration time of 8 hours; and
4. Quarterly end-to-end up-time reports for each circuit that is part of this tender.

The 99% is calculated as follows:

- Using the formula: total number of days in the month, multiplied by 24 hours multiplied by 99% equals minimum end-to-end up-time;
- For a 30-day month, 99% equates to an effective uptime of 712, 8 hours out of 720 hours, allowing for 7.2 hours of downtime in the month; and
- For a 31-day month, 99% equates to an effective uptime of 736.56 hours out of 744 hours, allowing for 7.44 hours of downtime in the month.

For suppliers who wish to calculate the minimum end-to-end uptime on a quarterly basis, the number of days in the quarter under review, multiplied by 24 hours multiplied by 99% will equal the minimum end-to-end up time. Suppliers need to **explicitly state** whether their minimum end-to-end uptime of 99% will be calculated either monthly or quarterly.

## **6.2 Maintenance**

Details about the following aspects of the bidder's maintenance and support capabilities are required in order to evaluate the quality of the maintenance that the bidder will provide with respect to the links:

1. Mean Time to Repair;
2. Same day response, Working day response only, etc.;
3. Fault logging procedures;
4. Maintenance down time procedures and advance warning procedures;
5. Fault Monitoring and Alerting capability;
6. Scheduled reporting of incidents & performance measurements; and
7. Customer responsibilities indicated;

The bidder must specify whether the links being provided in this tender will be actively monitored or not. If the links are actively monitored, the bidder to provide the CSIR, or a CSIR designated party, regular notifications on the status of the links and other specific details when requested.

## **7 Project Plan**

Bidders must submit a project plan and schedule for this Project.

The project plan must, at a minimum, cover the following items:

1. Planning Planned activities
2. Last Mile Civil Works (if applicable)
  - a. Way Leaves
  - b. Trenching
  - c. Blowing Fibre
3. Access Build
  - a. Civil Works from bidder's nearest manhole to PoP's Access Build (if needed)
  - b. Pulling/Blowing fibre into the PoPs
4. Link Testing

## 5. Handover

Bidders who plan to deliver the links within six (6) months from the date of award will obtain full marks in the 'link delivery times' section of the Technical Compliance Matrix. Bidders who plan to deliver the links within nine (9) months from the date of award will obtain partial compliance points. Lastly, bidders who plan to deliver the links after 9 months from the date of award for the project link will fail the evaluation.

## 8 Acceptance Documentation

In accepting a link, the CSIR will require several documents:

1. Test results for link.
2. CACs for the access builds at the end points (if applicable).
3. As-deployed documentation e.g., KML file; and
4. Acceptance test certificate documentation.
5. Photographs of the deployed terminating ODF at each endpoint with clearly identifiable and labelled demarcation points.

### 8.1 Test results

The test results are to be provided for each fibre provided by the bidder. The following information must be included on the Test Result Sheet / Acceptance Test Sheet:

1. Both Summarised and Detailed OTDR Test results. This must include:
  - a. Fibre link designation
  - b. Fibre core number
  - c. Attenuation figures and return loss specifications and results.
2. Logical diagram of each link showing where splices and patches occur in the link.
3. Physical Routing GIS file/maps of the fibre that was provisioned in ESRI Shapefile or KML format.

### 8.2 Customer Acceptance Certificates

For access builds, CACs need to be signed off to ensure that all involved parties are satisfied with the work done by the supplier including required plans developed by the supplier be approved by relevant parties.

### **8.3 Sample Acceptance Documentation**

Bidders must provide sample test results for previous similar work. The sample of the test result documentation must include samples of all acceptance documentation described above.