



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Finance  
**PHILIPPINE TAX ACADEMY**

Roxas Boulevard corner Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street,  
Manila 1004

**Bid Bulletin No. 1  
05 September 2023**

**PUBLIC BIDDING NO. 23-08-2**

**Supply, Delivery, Installation, and Configuration of Next Generation Firewall Appliance and Internet Dedicated Service (IDS), and related services for the Philippine Tax Academy (PTA)**

Issued pursuant to Sec. 22.5 of the IRR of R.A. 9184 to clarify and/or amend certain provisions in the Bidding Documents issued for this project, considering the issues raised and clarifications made by prospective bidders during the **Pre-Bid Conference** held on **29 August 2023**, likewise, response to bidders' written queries received within the prescriptive period for filing.

**A. CLARIFICATIONS**

The Philippine Tax Academy, Bids and Awards Committee hereby clarifies prospective bidders' concerns and queries:

| ITEM                                | CONCERN   | REFERENCE  | CLARIFICATION/<br>RESOLUTION  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>CONVERGE ICT SOLUTIONS, INC.</b> |   |  |   |
| 1                                   | Prospective Bidder requested clarification on:<br><br>1.1. Technical Specifications, if the Two Independent ISPs (Primary and Secondary) means that only 1 provider will win the Primary and the Secondary. | <i>Lot No. 2</i><br><br><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i> | Two independent ISPs are required which will serve as Primary and Secondary.                    |
| 2                                   | Prospective bidder requested clarification on:<br><br>1.1.3 Technical Specifications "The provider must have at least ten years as a telephone and internet   | <i>Lot No. 2</i><br><br><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i> | The requirement is retained.<br><br>Ten years as a telephone and internet provider is required. |

For the purpose of this Bulletin and for better understanding of its contents, the following rules shall apply: (a) ~~Double-Strike-out~~ – denotes deletion; (b) Underline – denotes inclusion or new item/requirement; and "xxx" – denotes separation of phrase/s being amended from the rest of the main text.

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | <p>service provider from NTC".</p> <p>if the requirement of telephone service provider is required. The prospective bidder further inquired if they can have an option to offer "telephone or internet service provider".</p>   |   |   |
| 3 | <p>Prospective bidder asked for a clarification on 1.1.4 Technical Specification on "twice the subscribed bandwidth".</p>   | <p><i>Lot No. 2</i></p> <p><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i></p> | <p>Independent Primary ISP = 150 Mbps and Independent Secondary ISP = 150 Mbps. The variable bandwidth should be preset with 300 Mbps.</p>  |
| 4 | <p>Prospective bidder requested to expound Section 1.1.8. of the Technical Specification.</p>   | <p><i>Lot No. 2</i></p> <p><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i></p> | <p>Must be capable of connecting to WAN failover and ISP internet load balancing appliances with stable bandwidth connection.</p>   |
| 5 | <p>Prospective bidder inquired if the ten (10) year telephone service provider is a requirement.</p>  | <p><i>Lot No. 2</i></p> <p><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i></p> | <p>Ten years is required as stated in 1.3 Technical Specifications.</p>   |
| 6 | <p>Prospective bidder requested for clarification on Expertise Requirements Page 29 "Must provide 2 CCNA, 2 CCNP, 2 CCIE, and must be employed in the company".</p> <p>If the requirement is CISO Certified and if other equivalent certifications can be accepted.</p> | <p><i>Lot No. 2</i></p> <p><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i></p> | <p>The requirement is retained.</p> <p>Appropriate certifications are required for verification of expertise of the provider technical personnel and to ensure that standard configurations and settings of machineries and equipment are executed and implemented.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Prospective bidder requested to remove the requirement on "bidders should be a certified Data Center Provider/Back-Up provider Tier III".</p>  | <p><i>Lot No. 2</i></p> <p><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i></p> | <p>The requirement is retained.</p> <p>Certified Data Center/Backup Provider Tier III – To ensure that continuous and uninterrupted operations relying on the required services are within the design and capacity of the provider and its support system.</p>          |
| 8 | <p>Prospective bidder requested for the details of the conduct of site inspection (both its</p>   | <p><i>Lot No. 2</i></p>   | <p>The site inspection was conducted on Sep. 04, 2023.</p>  |

|                        |   |  |  |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
|                        | tentative date and SPOC).   | <i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i>                         |  |
| <b>PLDT Enterprise</b> |   |  |  |
| 9                      | Prospective bidder requested clarification if subcontracting is allowed for 2 ISP.  | <i>Lot No. 2</i><br><br><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i> | As long as the provider can provide the required 2 independent ISP.  |
| 10                     | Prospective bidder requested clarification on the following:<br>1.) What is the meaning of the HA network solution?<br><br>2.) What is the difference of the HA network solution with the Internet dedicated services with HA? Why does it have separate ABC? | <i>Lot No. 2</i><br><br><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i> | High Availability (HA) Network Solution (for configurations of components) which is separate deliverable from HA Internet Service. |
| 11                     | Prospective bidder requested clarification they can serve the requirement via 99.9 SLA? (different cable route, different homing CO, different CEN)   | <i>Lot No. 2</i><br><br><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i> | Should satisfy the requirement stated in item no. 1  |
| 12                     | Prospective bidder requested a single line diagram/high level design of the desired set-up for reference.   | <i>Lot No. 2</i><br><br><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i> | Attached is the digital copy of the single line diagram.   |
| 13                     | Prospective bidder requested clarification with 1.2.2. if it is the cisco ISR 4351 router?  | <i>Lot No. 2</i><br><br><i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i> | Yes or higher.   |
| <b>EASTERN TELECOM</b> |   |  |  |
| 14                     | Prospective bidder requested a site survey certificate  | <i>Section VII. Technical Specifications</i>                         | The Site Survey Certificate is not required.   |

By Rules, all other related provisions in the Bidding Documents correspondingly affected by these amendments are likewise deemed amended to conform to this Bid Bulletin.



**ATTY. NOEMI B. ALCALA-GARCIA**  
*Chairperson, PTA Bids and Awards Committee*

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PTA-BAC Secretariat &lt;bacsec@dof-tax-academy.gov.ph&gt;

**PB23-08-02: Bid Clarifications\_Next Gen Firewall and ISP**

Jeffrey Ledesma &lt;jsledesma@dof-tax-academy.gov.ph&gt;

Tue, Sep 5, 2023 at 2:23 PM

To: PTA-BAC Secretariat &lt;bacsec@dof-tax-academy.gov.ph&gt;

Cc: "BAC Members, TWG and BAC Sec" &lt;ptabac@dof-tax-academy.gov.ph&gt;, Titus Navarrete &lt;vnavarrete@dof-tax-academy.gov.ph&gt;, Melvin Julao &lt;mjulao@dof-tax-academy.gov.ph&gt;, Jeffrey Ledesma &lt;jsledesma@dof-tax-academy.gov.ph&gt;

Dear BAC Sec,

Below is the end-user reply to the inquiries of Converge, PLDT, and Eastern Telecom re Firewall and IDS project. Attached is the digital copy of the Single Line diagram as requested by PLDT.

**CONVERGE**

1.1.1 : Two independent ISPs are required which will serve as Primary and Secondary.

1.3 : Ten years as a telephone and internet provider is required.

1.4 : Independent Primary ISP = 150 Mbps and Independent Secondary ISP = 150 Mbps. The variable bandwidth should be preset with 300 Mbps.

1.8 : Must be capable of connecting to WAN failover and ISP internet load balancing appliances with stable bandwidth connection.

B.

2. Ten years is required as stated in 1.3

d. Appropriate certifications are required for verification of expertise of the provider technical personnel and to ensure that standard configurations and settings of machineries and equipment are executed and implemented.

8. Certified Data Center/Backup Provider Tier III – To ensure that continuous and uninterrupted operations relying on the required services are within the design and capacity of the provider and its support system.

12. The site inspection was conducted on Sep. 05, 2023.

**PLDT**

1. As long as the provider can provide the required 2 independent ISP.

2. High Availability (HA) Network Solution (for configurations of components) which is separate deliverable from HA Internet Service.

3. Should satisfy the requirement stated in item no. 1

4. Attached is a digital copy of the single line diagram.

5. Yes or higher.

## **EASTERN TELECOM**

- The Site Survey Certificate is not required.

Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

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**JEFFREY S. LEDESMA**

Information Technology Officer III  
Information Technology Division  
Philippine Tax Academy

**WE for Gender Equality, Inclusive & Resilient Society.**

#WEcanbeEquALL

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**PTA SingleLineDiagram.pdf**

297K



August 30, 2023

**TO:** Ms. LEANNE Q. BAUTISTA  
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat  
PHILIPPINE TAX ACADEMY  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor EDC Building  
BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd  
5317-6363 local 6200  
[bacsec@doftaxacademy.gov.ph](mailto:bacsec@doftaxacademy.gov.ph)

**SUBJECT:** Philippine Tax Academy project title "Supply, Delivery, Installation, and Configuration of Next Generation Firewall Appliance and Internet Dedicated Service (IDS) and related services for the Philippine Tax Academy (PTA)".

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Dear Ms. Bautista,

This is formally clarifies the below items for the Supply, delivery, Installation and configuration Next Generation Firewall Appliance and Internet Dedicated Service (IDS) and related services for the Philippine Tax Academy (PTA)

### III. Technical Specifications

TECH Specs for Lot 2: page 14 of the TOR

1. In 1.1, it says, Two Independent ISP (Primary and Secondary), does it mean that only 1 provider will win either Primary or Secondary? The ISP will provide just 1 connection

1.1.3 "The provider must have at least ten years as a telephone and internet service provide from NTC", is telephone service provider really required? Can we have it as an option like "telephone or internet service provider"

1.1.4 "Bw preset with twice the subscribed bandwidth" what does it mean, will the subscribed bandwidth doubled? if so, what time will it be doubled

1.1.8 Please expound

### B. Expertise requirements page 29

2. "At least ten (10) year as a telephone service provider" Is this really requirement? ✓

d. page 29 "Must provide 2CCNA, 2 CCNP, 2 CCIE and must be employed int he company." Do you really require Cisco certified? can it be other brand equivalent of it? ✓

8. page 30 "Bidders should be a certified Data Center Provider/Back-up provider Tier III." What is the relevance of this on the requirement? Request to remove this

12. page 30 "conduct site inspection" May we know preferred date and SPOC ✓

Sincerely Yours,



**PRINCESS JOSEFA N. MARCELO**

Key Account Manager

CONVERGE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS INC.



Sire Survey Personnel and List of Clarification External Inbox x**ROBLES, Maria Christina (Tina) S.**

to me, Mc

Tue, Aug 29, 12:37 PM (7 days ago)



Dear @PTA-BAG Secretariat

Please find below our queries :

1. For the 2 ISP requirement, will you allow subcontracting? Coz JV with other Telco is not feasible. ✓
2. What is the meaning of the HA network solution? What is the difference of the HA network solution with the Internet dedicated services with HA? Why does it have separate ABC?
3. Can PLDT alone serve the requirement via 99.9 SLA? (different cable route, different homing CO, different CEN) ✓
4. Can we request the single line diagram/high level design of the desired set-up for reference?
5. For clarification with 1.2.2. is this the cisco ISR 4351 router? ✓

Kindly find list of personnel as well for the Site Survey on Sept. 4 at 2pm ✓

Tricom – Edgar Bustamante and Noel Barcelona

Thanks po



# Certificate of Site Survey External Inbox x



**Gonzales, Hannah B.** <GonzalesHB@etpi.com.ph>  
to me, Roy ▾

Mon, Sep 4, 2:33 PM (18 hours ago) ★ ↶ ⋮

Hi Sir/Madam,

May we request for a site survey certificate as proof that we have attended the ocular inspection today, September 4, 2023.

Per prebid meeting, Philippine Tax Academy must issue a site survey certificate to the prospective bidder that will attend the ocular inspection.

This certificate will be attached in the bidding documents.

Hoping for your kind consideration in our request.

Thanks,  
Hannah Gonzales  
Senior Account Manager  
Eastern Telecom

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