



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

RFQ2025/ 129: Appointment of a service provider to conduct Application Penetration Testing Services for an Enterprise System

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Contact person: Philani Khatheni email - PhilaniK2@dut.ac.za

Technical queries: cio@dut.ac.za

Closing date for submission of bids: 05 December 2025 by 11am

Bids must be submitted on one (1) email (zip folder or WeTransfer) to roq@dut.ac.za

NB: Bids submitted to any other email will not be accepted.

1. Introduction

Durban university of Technology hereby invites suitably qualified, accredited, and experienced cybersecurity service providers to submit quotations for conducting Application Penetration Testing on a mission-critical enterprise application scheduled for go-live. The objective is to identify vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, and security gaps that could compromise data confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

2. Background & Context

The institution is preparing to deploy a major enterprise application that supports core business operations and processes. In line with corporate governance, POPIA compliance, IT security standards, and audit requirements, the institution must ensure that the application is tested for security weaknesses before go-live.

The penetration test must evaluate the application against industry frameworks and best practices, including the OWASP Top 10, NIST SP 800-115, ISO/IEC 27001, and relevant regulatory obligations.

3. Scope of Work

The appointed service provider will be required to perform a comprehensive, manual-led and tool-assisted Application Penetration Test covering, at minimum, the following areas:

3.1 Application Security Assessments

- Authentication and session management
- Authorization and access control
- Input validation and injection vulnerabilities
- Insecure Direct Object References (IDOR)
- Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)
- SQL/NoSQL/Command Injection
- Business logic flaws
- API security and endpoint testing
- File upload and download controls
- Error/exception handling
- Data protection and encryption controls

3.2 System & Architecture Review

- Review of environments (Development, UAT, Production)
- Assessment of integrations (API, middleware, microservices, databases)
- Review of network exposure and open ports related to the application

- Testing of application server configurations

3.3 Compliance & Governance

- POPIA compliance assessment
- Data exposure and leakage risks
- Alignment to institutional cybersecurity policies

4. Deliverables

The service provider must deliver:

4.1 Detailed Penetration Testing Report (Mandatory)

Executive summary (non-technical)

Summary risk heatmap

- Detailed findings with:
- Vulnerability description
- Evidence/screenshots
- Impact assessment
- Likelihood and severity classification
- Risk rating in line with OWASP/NIST
- Clear, practical remediation recommendations
- Root cause analysis for critical/high findings

4.2 Validation & Retesting Report

- Confirmed closure of issues
- Updated risk rating post-remediation

4.3 Debriefing Presentation

- Technical walkthrough with ICTS/security teams
- Executive briefing to Management/Steering Committee

5. Service Provider Requirements

Service providers must meet the following minimum criteria:

- At least 5 years' experience delivering penetration testing for enterprise systems
- Qualified and certified testers (minimum OSCP, CEH, CISSP, GIAC or equivalent)
- Experience in testing ERP, SIS, HCM, financial systems, or equivalent enterprise applications

- Proof of accreditation or partnership with reputable cybersecurity bodies
- Demonstrated track record (minimum 3 references from the past 3 years)
- Ability to provide independent testing (no conflict of interest with application developers)

6. Project Duration & Timelines

Testing must commence immediately upon issuing the Purchase Order and be completed within:

- Testing window: 7-14 days
- Initial report: within 5 working days after assessment
- Retesting: within 5 working days after remediation

Urgent timelines apply due to scheduled application go-live deadlines.

7. Pricing Schedule/ Structure

The quotation must include a detailed cost breakdown:

No.	Description	Price	Total Price
	Penetration testing fee		
	Reporting and validation		
	Retesting costs		
	Travel (if applicable)		
Subtotal			
VAT 15%			
Total Price Offer			

8. Evaluation Criteria

8.1 Compliance documents - Phase 1

- tax Clearance pin
- CIPC documents
- Signed Forms 5 to 8
- Completed pricing as per #7

Bidders must provide the above documents to be evaluated in Phase 2

8.2 Functionality (Minimum threshold: 70%)

Criteria	Sub points	Points
Company profile: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background• Details on experience of the company related to the above scope of work (minimum 5 years' experience in penetration testing of ERP systems)• Details on previous projects where work was done for similar services• Proof of accreditation or partnership with reputable cybersecurity bodies• Confirmation of ability to provide independent testing (no conflict of interest with application developers)	<p>2 point</p> <p>4 points</p> <p>4 points</p> <p>3 points</p> <p>2 points</p>	15 points

<p>Detailed Methodology & Approach with test plan as per above scope of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed methodology that addresses the Scope of work • Methodology that partially addresses the scope of work 	<p>30 points</p> <p>20 points</p>	<p>30 points</p>
<p>Qualifications of Testing Team</p> <p>CVs with relevant certifications / qualifications must be submitted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Manager: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Minimum 10 years' experience with project Management qualification in penetration testing for enterprise systems 2. Senior Technician or similar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 7 years' experience in penetration testing for enterprise systems with relevant qualifications. 3. Organogram for this project which must include names, responsibility, job title: 	<p>10 points</p> <p>10 points</p> <p>10 points</p>	<p>30 points</p>

Three (3) signed letters of customer references that includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer letterhead with email address, phone number and is signed. • When the work was carried out (not older than 3 years) • If the work carried out was similar to the above scope of work. 	1 point each 2 points each 2 points each	15 points
Project timeline and testing schedule which includes key milestones and timelines (refer # 6 above)		10 points
Bidders must obtain minimum 70 points to be evaluated in Phase 3		100 points

8.3 Evaluation of Price / B-BBEE (80/20)

Service providers are to submit a valid B-BBEE certificate - no submission will result in 0 points being awarded

Calculation of Price:

$$P_s = 80 \left(1 - \frac{(P_t - P_{min})}{P_{min}} \right)$$

Where:

P_s = Points scored for price of tender under consideration
P_t = Price of tender under consideration

P_{min} = Price of lowest acceptable tender.

Calculation of B-BBEE points:

Specific Goal	80/20
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		UP to R 50M	
		Sub-points	Total Points
	Exempted Micro Enterprise (EME) or Qualifying Small Enterprise (QSE)	3	3
Black-owned Enterprises	100% Black owned enterprise	3	3
	Minimum 51% black-owned enterprise	2	
	Minimum 25% black-owned enterprise	1	
Black Women owned Enterprise	100% Black Women owned enterprise	5	5
	Minimum 51% black women-owned enterprise	4	
	Minimum 25% black women-owned enterprise	3	
	Less than 25% of black women-owned enterprises but not less than 10%	2	
Enterprise owned by Youth	100% Black Youth owned enterprise	5	5
	Minimum 51% black Youth owned enterprise	4	
	Minimum 25% black Youth owned enterprise	3	
	Below 25% black youth owned enterprises but not less than 10%	2	
Enterprises owned by people with disabilities	Minimum of 51% owned by people with disabilities	2	2
	Minimum of 10% owned by people with disabilities	1	
Additional Specific goals	An entity which is at least 51% owned by black people living in rural or underdeveloped areas or townships	1	1
	A cooperative which is at least 51% owned by black people	1	1
			20

FORM 5: CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT BID DETERMINATION

I, the undersigned, in submitting the accompanying proposal: in response to the invitation for proposals made by:

DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

do hereby make the following statements that I certify to be true and complete in every respect: I certify,

on behalf of: _____ that:

(Name of Bidder)

1. I have read and I understand the contents of this Certificate.

I understand that the accompanying bid will be disqualified if this Certificate is found not to be true and complete in every respect.

I am authorised by the bidder to sign this Certificate, and to submit the accompanying bid, on behalf of the bidder.

Each person whose signature appears in the accompanying bid has been authorised by the bidder to determine the terms of, and to sign the bid, on behalf of the bidder.

2. For the purposes of this Certificate and the accompanying bid, I understand that the word "competitor" shall include any individual or organization, other than the bidder, whether or not affiliated with the bidder, who:
 - a) has been requested to submit a bid in response to this bid invitation;
 - b) could potentially submit a bid in response to this bid invitation, based on their qualifications, abilities or experience; and
 - c) Provides the same goods and services as the bidder and/or is in the same line of business as the bidder.
3. The bidder has arrived at the accompanying bid independently from, and without consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with any competitor. However, communication between partners in a joint venture or consortium¹ will not be construed as collusive bidding.

¹ Joint venture or Consortium means an association of persons for the purpose of combining their expertise, property, capital, efforts, skill and knowledge in an activity for the execution of a contract.

In particular, without limiting the generality of paragraphs 6 above, there has been no consultation, communication, agreement or arrangement with any competitor regarding

- a) prices;
- b) geographical area where product or service will be rendered (market allocation)
- c) methods, factors or formulas used to calculate prices;
- d) the intention or decision to submit or not to submit, a bid;
- e) the submission of a bid which does not meet the specifications and conditions of the bid; or
- f) bidding with the intention not to win the bid.

- 4. In addition, there have been no consultations, communications, agreements or arrangements with any competitor regarding the quality, quantity, specifications and conditions or delivery particulars of the products or services to which this bid invitation relates.
 - 5. The terms of the accompanying bid have not been, and will not be, disclosed by the bidder, directly or indirectly, to any competitor, prior to the date and time of the official bid opening or of the awarding of the contract.
 - 6. I am aware that, in addition and without prejudice to any other remedy provided to combat any restrictive practices related to bids and contracts, bids that are suspicious will be reported to the Competition Commission for investigation and possible imposition of administrative penalties in terms of section 59 of the Competition Act No 89 of 1998 and or may be reported to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for criminal investigation and or may be restricted from conducting business with the public sector for a period not exceeding ten (10) years in terms of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act No 12 of 2004 or any other applicable legislation.
10. I note that the following terms of this Expression of Interest have the following meaning:
- a. Bid means Submission
 - b. Bidder means Respondent
 - c. Bidding means Submission
 - d. Directors means directors/shareholders/partners/sole proprietors

Name of Bidder/Respondent	Signature	Date	Position

FORM 6: DECLARATION OF BIDDER'S PAST SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

**[THIS IS A NATIONAL TREASURY SCM REQUIREMENT WHICH DUT ADOPTS AS IT IS
PARTLY FUNDED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS]**

- 1 This Standard Bidding Document must form part of all bids invited.
- 2 It serves as a declaration to be used by institutions in ensuring that when goods and services are being produced, all reasonable steps are taken to combat the abuse of the supply chain management system.
- 3 The bid of any bidder may be disregarded if that bidder, or any of its directors have-
 - a. abused the DUT supply chain management system;
 - b. committed fraud or any other improper conduct in relation to such system; or
 - c. Failed to perform on any previous contract.
- 4 In order to give effect to the above, the following questionnaire must be completed and submitted with the bid.

Item	Question	Yes	No
4.1	Is the Bidder or any of its directors listed on the National Treasury's database of Restricted Suppliers as companies or persons prohibited from doing business with the public sector? (Companies or persons who are listed on this database were informed in writing of this restriction by the National Treasury after the <i>audi alteram partem</i> rule was applied). The database of Restricted Suppliers now resides on the National Treasury's website (www.treasury.gov.za) and can be accessed by clicking on its link at the bottom of the home page.	Yes	No
4.1.1	If so, furnish particulars:		
4.2	Is the Bidder or any of its directors listed on the Register for Tender Defaulters in terms of section 29 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act (No 12 of 2004)? The Register for Tender Defaulters can be accessed on the National Treasury's website (www.treasury.gov.za) by clicking on its link at the bottom of the home page.	Yes	No
4.2.1	If so, furnish particulars:		
4.3	Was the Bidder (Respondent) or any of its directors convicted by a court of law (including a court outside of the Republic of South Africa) for fraud or corruption during the past five years?	Yes	No
4.3.1	If so, furnish particulars:		
4.4	Was any contract between the Bidder and any organ of state terminated during the past five years on account of failure to perform on or comply with the contract?	Yes	No
4.4.1	If so, furnish particulars.		

5.	<p>I note that the following terms of this Expression of Interest have the following meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bid means Submission b. Bidder means Respondent c. Bidding means Submission d. Directors means directors/shareholders/partners/sole proprietors

CERTIFICATION

I, THE UNDERSIGNED (FULL NAME)

.....

CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED ON THIS DECLARATION FORM IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

I ACCEPT THAT, IN ADDITION TO CANCELLATION OF A CONTRACT, ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST ME SHOULD THIS DECLARATION PROVE TO BE FALSE.

Signature

Date

Position

Name of Bidder

FORM 7: CONFIDENTIALITY AND INDEMNITY UNDERTAKING

- 1) The Bidder hereby undertakes to abide by and adhere to the undertaking set out in this agreement.
- 2) Reference to the Bidder shall include its directors, officers, employees, agents, sub-contractors, advisors or any other person appointed by it in connection with the submission of its bid).
- 3) The Bidder undertakes to ensure that each party, to whom confidential information is disclosed, is made aware of and is bound by the terms of this confidentiality undertaking.
- 4) This undertaking must be read together with the disclaimers contained in the Bid Document.
- 5) In order to regulate the disclosure to the Bidder of confidential information, the Bidder: -
 - a) acknowledges and undertakes that all information of whatsoever nature (whether oral, written or in any other form), including information to the generality of the a foregoing data, know how, trade secrets, software techniques, procedures, unpublished financial statements and information, licenses, price lists, policies, marketing techniques, suppliers and customers, planning, business and financial documents, as well as intellectual property at any kind (which information is referred to collectively and individually as "confidential information") which is disclosed by the DUT or any other Bidder participating in this process, shall be held in complete confidence by the Bidder and shall not, without the DUT prior written consent, be disclosed to any other person, nor used for any other purposes, other than in connection with the submission of its bid;
 - b) acknowledges that the confidential information is being made available to it solely for the authorised bid process purpose and for no other purpose whatsoever, and that such information would not have been made available to it but for this confidentiality undertaking;
 - c) acknowledges that all such confidential information is valuable proprietary information to which the DUT retains exclusive rights of dissemination and reproduction, and that all copyrights and such confidential information vests in DUT;
 - d) agrees that any documentation or records relating to the confidential information which comes into the possession of the Bidder shall:
 - i) be deemed to form part of the confidential information of DUT;
 - ii) be deemed to be the property of DUT;
 - iii) not be copied, produced, published or circulated by the Bidder unless otherwise agreed to in writing by DUT;
 - iv) be surrendered to the DUT and/or destroyed on demand in the event that the Bidder no longer participates in the proposed transaction;
 - e) undertakes that, save as required by law, it will not disclose, or permit to be disclosed, confidential information to any persons other than those persons authorised in terms of this undertaking and then only to the extent necessary for the authorised purpose;

- f) warrants that it has adequate procedures in place for the protection of all confidential information; and,
 - g) warrants that it shall keep accurate and up to date records of the confidential information furnished to it, and of the location of such confidential information, as well as the list of names of all persons receiving or entitled to access of confidential information.
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- 6. This undertaking shall not apply to any confidential information which was lawfully in the Bidder's possession prior to the disclosure by DUT, or which lawfully becomes available to the Bidder from the source other than DUT.
 - 7. If proceedings are commenced or action taken which could result in the Bidder becoming compelled to disclose confidential information, it undertakes to immediately advise the DUT of such proceedings, and to take all reasonable steps to resist or avoid such proceedings or actions, including such steps that the DUT may reasonably request the Bidder to take.
 - 8. The Bidder undertakes not to request the confidential information submitted as part of any other bid submission by any other Bidder whether such information has been designated as confidential or not, and for the purposes the entire contents of any competing Bidder's bid submission will be regarded as confidential. of this clause,
 - 9. This undertaking shall also apply, with the necessary changes, to the confidential information of any other Bidder and its Bid Submissions
 - 10. This undertaking shall survive the termination of any negotiations or contractual relationship between the DUT and the Bidder
 - 11. I note that the following terms of this declaration have the following meaning:
 - a. Bid means Submission
 - b. Bidder means Respondent
 - c. Bidding means Submission
 - d. Directors means directors/shareholders/partners/sole proprietors

INDEMNITY UNDERTAKING

I/We _____

(insert Bidder's name) (herein known as the Bidder) hereby indemnify and hold DUT harmless in respect of all costs that may be incurred by my/us for the submission or performance of this bid.

I/We further indemnify DUT in respect of all legal and other expenses as they are incurred by DUT in examining, resisting or settling any damages, injuries or loss that may be occasioned by work necessary in terms of this bid.

Signed at _____ this ____ day of _____ 20____.

Name of Bidder : _____

Name of Bidder's representative: _____

Title of Bidder's representative : _____

Signature : _____

Signature of Witness : _____

Name of Witness : _____

FORM 8: DECLARATION OF INTEREST

1. Any legal person, including persons employed by DUT, or persons having a kinship with persons employed by DUT, including a blood relationship, may make an offer or offers in terms of this invitation to bid (includes an, advertised competitive bid, a limited bid, a proposal or written price quotation). In view of possible allegations of favouritism, should the resulting bid, or part thereof, be awarded to persons employed by DUT, or to persons connected with or related to them, it is required that the bidder or his/her authorised representative declare his/her position in relation to the evaluating/ adjudicating authority where -
 - 1.1. The bidder or any of its members or employees are employed by DUT; and/or
 - 1.2. The legal person on whose behalf the bidding document is signed, has a relationship with persons/a person who are/is involved in the evaluation and or adjudication of the bid(s), or where it is known that such a relationship exists between the person or persons for or on whose behalf the declarant acts and persons who are involved with the evaluation and or adjudication of the bid.
2. In order to give effect to the above, the following questionnaire must be completed and submitted with the bid.
 - 2.1. Full Name of bidder or his or her representative:
 - 2.2. Identity Number:
 - 2.3. Position occupied in the Company (director, trustee, shareholder³):
 - 2.4. Company Registration Number:
 - 2.5. Tax Reference Number:
 - 2.6. VAT Registration Number:
 - 2.6.1. The names of all directors/ trustees/ shareholders/ members, their individual identity numbers, tax reference numbers and, if applicable, employee/ PERSAL numbers must be indicated in paragraph 3 below

2.7.	Are you or any person connected with the bidder presently employed by DUT?	YES	NO
2.7.1.	If so, furnish the following particulars		

☐ Name of person/ director/
trustee/ shareholder/
member:

☐ Name of DUT institution or
department at which you or
the person connected to the
bidder is employed:

¹ "Employed" in this context is a broad term and it includes members of DUT council, the auditors from time to time or any other advisors or tribunal associated with DUT.

² "Shareholder" means a person who owns shares in the company and is actively involved in the management of the enterprise or business and exercises control over the enterprise

☐ Position occupied in the institution or department:

Any other particulars:

2.7.2. If you are presently employed by DUT, did you obtain the appropriate authority to undertake remunerative work outside employment?

YES	NO
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2.7.2.1. If yes, did you attach proof of such authority to the bid document?

YES	NO
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(Note: Failure to submit proof of such authority, where applicable, may result in the disqualification of the bid.)

2.7.3. If no, furnish reasons for non-submission of such proof:

2.8. Did you or your spouse, or any of the company's directors/ trustees/ shareholders/ members or their spouses conduct business with DUT in the previous twelve (12) months?

YES	NO
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2.8.1. If so, furnish the particulars.

2.9. Do you, or any person connected with the bidder, have any relationship (family, friend, other) with a person employed by DUT and who may be involved with the evaluation and or adjudication of this bid?

YES	NO
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2.9.1. If so, furnish particulars.

2.10. Are you, or any person connected with the bidder, aware of any relationship (family, friend, other) between any other bidder and any person employed by DUT who may be involved with the evaluation and or adjudication of this bid?

YES

NO

2.10.1. If so, furnish particulars.

2.11. Do you or any of the directors/ trustees/ shareholders/ members of the company have any interest in any other related companies whether or not they are bidding for this contract?

YES

NO

2.11.1. If so, furnish particulars.

3. Full details of directors/ trustees/ members/ shareholders.

Full Name	Identity Number	Personal Tax Reference No	State Employee Number/ PERSAL Number

3.1. Note that the following terms have the following meaning:

- a. Bid means Submission
- b. Bidder means Respondent
- c. Bidding means Submission
- d. Directors means directors/shareholders/partners/sole proprietors

DECLARATION

I, THE UNDERSIGNED (NAME)

CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION FURNISHED IN PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 ABOVE IS CORRECT FOR EACH OF THE JOINT VENTURE/CONSORTIUM PARTNERS OF THIS SUBMISSION. I ACCEPT THAT DUT MAY REJECT THE BID OR ACT AGAINST ME SHOULD THIS DECLARATION PROVE TO BE FALSE.

.....
Signature

.....
Date

.....
Position

.....
Name of Bidder