

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS as of 15 November 2024

ITB24/02797: 02940: Supply of IT Equipment and ICT services for the Ministry of Justice

Q1: For switches, a question appears regarding UDLD (Cisco proprietary). We can offer something similar functionally. Please confirm that the offer will be accepted.

A1: Yes, it is accepted to be proposed UDLD-like having similar functionality.

Q2: Regarding NGFW "Extension ports for future upgrades" what does this mean? We have 8 ports SFP+ which can be 1GB or 10GB.

A2: It is expected to have free slots for modular extension. Accordingly, in addition to the minimum 8x1Gb Base-T ports and 8x10 Gb SFP+ ports, we expect (require) that the equipment will allow installing extension slots for additional 8x10GbE SFP+ ports.

Q3: Paragraph 3, "Data Migration Services," states:

"The specific service requirement is to assist the Department of Justice and ARIJ in migrating certain files and folders from existing servers. The purpose of this task is to propose a migration concept and assist ARIJ staff in migrating files, including revising access rules."

Questions:

- From which system will the migration take place?
- From regular file servers to a new file server?

Understanding this we will have an idea "About the proposal of migration concept".

A3: Please note that the scope of support is to assist and advice the MoJ team. It is the MoJ team which is expected to take the lead. For the scope of the assignment it is expected that the support to MoJ and ARIJ in migration will be necessary for at least the data located on AD server (Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition SP2) Users, Organizational Units, Users groups, etc, for up to two information systems historically located on physical server at MoJ, shared files from user's workstations (up to two hundred users) to the new established file server, and apply relevant access rules, including creating the file server structure, based on MoJ organizational structure.

Q4: In "4. Implementation and deployment of specific services" there are two similar points: "Configure rules and policies for file and print sharing for all types of users.

- A Windows 2022 server configured as an AD-integrated file server with AD-based user access (user groups).
- A Windows 2022 server configured as an AD-integrated file server with AD-based user access (user groups)".

Question:

How should these be understood?
What is the difference?

A4: This is a typo. The Completion criteria shall read as:

- One Windows 2022 server configured as file server integrated in AD, with AD based users access (users' groups).
- One Windows 2022 server configured as print users' services, integrated in AD, with AD based users access (users' groups).

Q5: Based on the technical requirements specified below, please clarify the following:

1) Do we understand correctly that there should be 8 interfaces in the system?

	System must include spare drives for fast rebuild
Host ports	min. 8 x CNA ports, support ng 10Gb ethernet and 16Gb FC, with 8x included SFP+ 10Gb ethernet

A5: Yes, there should be min. 8 x CNA ports.

Q6: This requirement and this abbreviation are not entirely clear, what exactly is "SMI-S"?

Management	Dedicated port for management, easy software for storage administration hosted on controllers, secured Web based GUI and CLI. Integration with 3rd party management and monitoring solutions using SMI-S, SNMP
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A6: The Storage Management Initiative Specification, commonly called SMI-S, is a computer data storage management standard developed and maintained by the Storage Networking Industry Association.

Q7: This requirement:

Network cables	4 x Cisco Compatible 10G SFP+ DAC Twinax Cable (2-meter)
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It contradicts the requirements for network interfaces:

	System must include spare drives for fast rebuild
Host ports	min. 8 x CNA ports, support ng 10Gb ethernet and 16Gb FC, with 8x included SFP+ 10Gb ethernet

since according to this requirement, it is necessary to provide SFP+ 10Gb optical modules and thus it will not be possible to use Twinax cables in these ports.

And with Cisco equipment, only Cisco cables are 100% certified, which are definitely not certified by storage system manufacturers. Please confirm the possibility of submitting to the tender an analogue/equivalent of Network cables (not Cisco).

A7: There are no contradictions. It is expected to use initially 4x ports, other 4 ports are for future infrastructure upgrade/developments.

Furthermore, please note that it is required to deliver Cisco - COMPATIBLE cables, and it is not mandatory for these to be certified by Cisco.

Q8: Regarding Network cables for ALL FLASH STORAGE SYSTEM FOR VIRTUALIZATION, please answer the following question. In the RFP, 2 meters were requested for Network cables (4 x Cisco Compatible 10G SFP+ DAC Twinax Cable (2-meter)).

Will this be a reason for disqualification if their length is 10 meters?

A8: No, using 10-meter cables instead of the requested 2-meter cables will not result in disqualification. However, it is important to note that the 2-meter length was specifically requested to ensure optimal performance, manageability, and to meet the physical requirements of the setup. While 10-meter cables can still function properly, using cables longer than specified could introduce unnecessary slack, which might lead to cable management issues or potential signal degradation over longer distances, especially in high-performance environments like All Flash Storage systems for virtualization.

Q9: According to the requirements for personnel qualifications, you requested knowledge of the Romanian language in some points and knowledge of Romanian or Russian in others. Please clarify if a team with knowledge of the Russian language will be admitted.

A9: As outlined in Section 5: Schedule of requirements, point F: Qualifications and Experience Requirements, the language skills required for key personnel are as follows: All experts must have an advanced level of Romanian. The Project Manager must be fluent in Romanian. For the rest of the team, fluency in either Romanian or Russian is acceptable.

To clarify further, the installation of the equipment itself does not require proficiency in a specific language, as the technical work can be carried out with the available team, regardless of whether they speak Romanian or Russian. However, training of personnel will require fluency in Romanian to ensure effective communication, as the Ministry of Justice staff may not have uniform language skills in Russian. Therefore, for the training phase, it is essential to have team members fluent in Romanian to guarantee successful knowledge transfer.