



Advance Notice of Intention to Release Request for Information

Government Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) Project

Issued by the Department of Internal Affairs

3 June 2010

Ref: DIA/2010/017

Introduction

- 1 The Department of Internal Affairs (“DIA”), Ministry of Economic Development (“MED”) and a number of other agencies are collaborating on an approach to consolidate the procurement of common ICT infrastructure, in the form of:
 - (a) shared data centre hosting services;
 - (b) virtual multi-tier storage services; and
 - (c) virtualised server services.
- 2 It is anticipated that the:
 - (a) services environment would feature, among other things, high availability, disaster recovery, high security and facilities management; and
 - (b) service management for the services would include infrastructure management, transition, billing and reporting.
- 3 For security and other reasons, the data centres and associated services would need to be based in New Zealand.
- 4 This initiative is referred to by the interested agencies as the Government Infrastructure as a Service (“IaaS”) Project. DIA is the Lead Agency.
- 5 The current vision is creation of a sustainable, competitive and outsourced common ICT infrastructure capability that is significantly more cost-effective for government than the current fragmented agency-by-agency approach.
- 6 The purpose of this Advance Notice is to inform potential suppliers of the nature and timing of DIA’s:
 - (a) proposed Request for Information (“RFI”) and related workshops; and
 - (b) the possibility, depending on the outcome of the RFI process, of a subsequent Request for Proposals (“RFP”),so as to enable suppliers to start preparing for these processes.

Background

- 7 Most public sector agencies use similar and commoditised services for their core ICT infrastructure requirements. However, despite the similarity in service requirements, there is very little sharing or collaboration among them. This leads to high levels of duplication on many fronts, including design, procurement, supply contracts, technology and infrastructure.
- 8 A Working Group has been established representing a number of interested agencies that wish to:
 - (a) actively explore the prospect of an IaaS model for government; and
 - (b) obtain a better understanding of the operational, commercial and other potential benefits that an IaaS model could deliver.

Proposed Request for Information

- 9 DIA proposes to release the RFI on the Government Electronic Tenders Service in approximately 2 weeks following the date of this Advance Notice.
- 10 The objective of the RFI will be for the Department to seek and obtain information from suppliers that are interested in participating in the development of an IaaS model that would be capable of all-of-government adoption.
- 11 Suppliers will be asked to provide a written response to the RFI and may likely to be invited to attend workshops, after receipt of their written responses, at which relevant matters can be explored in more detail.
- 12 To avoid doubt, this Advance Notice is not seeking any information from suppliers. The RFI will do that. Neither DIA, MED nor any other interested agency will enter into any communications with interested suppliers, or receive information from interested suppliers, prior to the RFI process.

Potential future processes

- 13 The reference in paragraph above to “all-of-government adoption” is intended to forecast the potential for some form of syndicated or similar procurement for an IaaS solution, should it appear from analysis of the RFI responses and workshops that the pursuit of such a model is viable.
- 14 The precise nature of any such procurement has not yet been determined and no decision has yet been made that it will in fact proceed. If it does proceed, it might take the form of:
 - (a) a procurement resulting in a syndicated contract with common use provision (subject to approval from the Syndicated Contracts Review Board);
 - (b) a large cluster contract;
 - (c) an all-of-government contract akin to the current Centre of Expertise procurements for laptops, desktops, multifunctional devices, cars and stationary; or
 - (d) some other form.
- 15 The forthcoming RFI process is intended to help DIA, MED and other interested agencies make better informed decisions in these regards.