

PDP 3 Questions and Answers

Question 1

With respect to Requirement 3.1, we ask that SSC remove 5GBASE-T downlink port requirement, this will allow our company to bid on the RFP.

As such, we most respectfully and urgently ask SSC to change Requirement 3.1 to read: "Must have 48 x 1000BASE-T Power over Ethernet Plus (PoE+) ports, with 12 ports capable of 2.5GBASE-T".

Answer 1

No, Shared Services Canada will not change the requirement.

Question 2

With respect to Requirement 3.24, we ask that SSC remove IEEE 802.3bz 5GBASE-T standard. This will allow our company to bid on the RFP.

As such, we most respectfully and urgently ask SSC to change Requirement 3.24 to read: "Must meet IEEE 802.3bz 2.5GBASE-T standard"

Answer 2

No, Shared Services Canada will not change the requirement.

Question 3

With respect to Requirements 3.2 and 4.2 that state "Must have 4 x 1/10GbE MACsec-capable transceiver uplink ports", we ask that SSC remove the 1GbE MACsec uplink port requirement, as the industry has moved to 10G/25G uplink for access switches and 10G is available in most distribution switches. We most respectfully and urgently ask SSC to change Requirements 3.2 and 4.2 to read "Must have 4 x 10GbE MACsec-capable transceiver uplink ports". SSC should note that this change should also be reflected in the optics support Requirements 15.2, 16.2, and 17.2 by removing any 1GbE optical support for the port requirements in 3.2 and 4.2.

Answer 3

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 3.2 and 4.2. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 4

With respect to Requirements 3.3 and 4.3, we ask that SSC accept 4 dedicated 25Gbps ports for stacking which will allow 100Gbps bundled bandwidth for virtual chassis operations. We recommend having redundant links between any two members for resiliency. Virtual chassis ports (VCPs) will be automatically bundled into a Link Aggregation Group when two or more ports operating at the same speed are configured into VCPs between the same two member switches.

As such, we most respectfully ask SSC to change Requirements 3.3 and 4.3 to read: "Must be stackable with 2 x dedicated 40Gbps or 4x dedicated 25Gbps to allow a minimum dedicated bandwidth of 80Gbps full-duplex for stack operations and include all necessary hardware (port modules, stacking cables, etc.)". This will allow our company to bid on the RFP.

Answer 4

No, Shared Services Canada will not change the requirement.

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Question 5

With respect to Requirement 6.1, we ask that SSC update the requirement to accept 36 transceiver ports capable of 100MbE. This will allow our company to bid on the RFP.

As such, we most respectfully and urgently ask SSC to change Requirement 6.1 to read: "Must have 48 1GbE transceiver ports with 36 transceiver ports capable of 100MbE"

Answer 5

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 6.1. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 6

With respect to Requirement 7.14 that states "Must have VLAN-based and MAC-based Access Control List (ACL) functionality", we ask SSC to clarify the MAC-Based ACL requirement. Our offering can apply ACLs under vlans or ports that use MAC addresses as matching criteria's. If the afore mentioned functionality is the desired requirement, we respectfully ask SSC to update Requirement 7.14 to read "Must have VLAN-based and Port-based Access Control List (ACL) functionality with capability to use MAC addresses as matching criteria's "

Answer 6

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 7.14. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 7

With respect to Requirement 22.2, we ask that SSC to alternatively accept 3 meter 100GbE cables for the Distribution Switch configuration (ports specified in Requirement 2.2). We understand that this requirement is for stacking or MC-LAG interconnection between members, we suggest SSC to allow 40GbE cables instead or accept shorter 100GbE cables.

Answer 7

No, Shared Services Canada will not change the requirement. We will accept an equivalency of two 100GBASE-SR-BiDi or 100GBASE-BXSR transceivers and an appropriate length OM3 or OM4 fibre patch cable with LC connectors for each unit of Annex B Item 22.

Question 8

With respect to Requirement 23.2, we ask that SSC to remove this requirement for Distribution Switch configuration (ports specified in Requirement 2.2). As this requirement is for stacking/MC-LAG interconnection between members, we suggest SSC to allow 40GbE cables instead. This will allow our company to bid on the RFP.

Answer 8

No, Shared Services Canada will not change the requirement. We will accept an equivalency of two 100GBASE-SR-BiDi or 100GBASE-BXSR transceivers and an appropriate length OM3 or OM4 fibre patch cable with LC connectors for each unit of Annex B Item 23.

Question 9

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With respect to Requirement 24.2, we ask that SSC to remove this requirement for Core Switch configuration (ports specified in Requirement 1.1). We understand that this requirement is for stacking/MC-LAG interconnection between members, we suggest SSC to allow 100GbE cables instead. This will allow our company to bid on the RFP overall as we are now non-compliant.

Answer 9

No, Shared Services Canada will not change the requirement. We will accept an equivalency of two 40GBASE-SR-BiDi or 40GBASE-BXSR transceivers and an appropriate length OM3 or OM4 fibre patch cable with LC connectors for each unit of Annex B Item 24.

Question 10

With respect to Requirement 25.2, we ask that SSC to remove this requirement for Core Switch configuration (ports specified in requirement 1.1). We understand that this requirement is for stacking or MC-LAG interconnection between members, we suggest SSC to allow 100GbE cables instead. This will allow our company to bid on the RFP overall as we are now non-compliant.

Answer 10

No, Shared Services Canada will not change the requirement. We will accept an equivalency of two 40GBASE-SR-BiDi or 40GBASE-BXSR transceivers and an appropriate length OM3 or OM4 fibre patch cable with LC connectors for each unit of Annex B Item 25.

Question 11

With respect to Requirement 27.3, we ask that SSC add 7 meters length as described in section 27 (10GbE Direct Attach Copper (DAC) Cable - 7 or 10 Meters). We most respectfully ask SSC to update the Requirement 27.3 to read: "Must be 10 or 7 meters in length"

Answer 11

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 27.3. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 12

In the case where a vendor must bid different SKUs for the same transceiver category to fit the transceiver compatibility requirements with the ports, how should a bidder present multiple optic models/SKUs in Annex B for financial evaluation?

Answer 12

For the initial delivery, Shared Services Canada will require the following breakdown included in the Annex B where different SKUs are required:

- Switch Configuration - L3 Core – 48 quantity 100GBASE-SR-BiDi or 100GBASE-BXSR Transceivers
- Switch Configuration – Distribution - 16 quantity 100GBASE-SR-BiDi or 100GBASE-BXSR Transceivers
- Switch Configuration – Distribution – 32 quantity 10GBASE-SR Transceiver
- Switch Configuration - Multigigabit Access – 156 quantity 10GBASE-SR Transceiver

Question 13

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Can SSC confirm that the deadline for questions (per Section 2.6) is 11:59 PM on Saturday January 21, 2023?

Answer 13

Yes, the question period closes at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time on January 21, 2023.

Question 14

Can SSC advise if the discount structure in the winning OEMs bid (via said OEMs reseller) will be considered as the go-forward "not to exceed pricing" for future purchases through the Network Solutions Supply Chain (NSSC) for the afore mentioned OEMs products?

Answer 14

No, this is a CanadaBuys tender opportunity and not related to the Shared Services Canada Network Solutions Supply Chain (NSSC) vehicle.

Question 15

Can SSC advise what dollar value this contract is funded to for its duration (8 years)?

Answer 15

Please refer to Request for Proposal document resulting contract clauses Section 6.2 Option to Purchase Additional Quantities in the Request for Proposal. Using those percentages and the cost of the initial delivery, potential bidders can calculate the maximum contract value should Canada exercise all options.

Question 16

With respect to Requirement 27, we ask that SSC accept an Active Optical Cable (AOC) as an equivalent to Direct Attach Copper (DAC).

Answer 16

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 27. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 17

With respect to Requirements 3.11, 4.11 and 6.9, we ask that SSC replace these requirements with: "Must support adding/removing stack members with minimum service impact on the rest of the stack".

Answer 17

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 17. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 18

Using copper 10GbE transceivers (10GBASE-T) in switch uplink ports (3.2, 4.2, 5.2 & 6.2) is not supported on access switches that otherwise meet the current RFP requirements, due to the increased power needed by the copper medium. Fibre transceivers (10GBASE-SR and 10BASE-LR) are fully supported in all switches. Would the customer amend requirement 14.02 to remove support for 10GBE Copper transceivers on 3.2, 4.2, 5.2 and 6.2?

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Answer 18

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has removed requirement 14. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 19

With respect to Requirement 1.5, we ask that SSC remove the requirement for two dedicated 100Gbps ports for stacking or MC-LAG connectivity and accept the use of two 100G transceiver ports that are provided in Requirement 1.1 for such connectivity. This will allow our company to bid on the RFP overall as we are now non-compliant.

Answer 19

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 1.5. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 20

With respect to Requirement 7.40, our company respectfully requests that that SSC remove the 2-Post rack mount capability from the Common Requirements for all switch configurations and make it specific to the Access and Distribution switches.

Answer 20

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has removed requirement 7.40. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 21

Annex C: List of requirements: Item 6: Switch Configuration, 6.1: Must have 48 x 100MbE/1GbE transceiver ports: Are all 48 ports required to support SFPs?

Answer 21

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 6.1. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 22

The quantities defined for Transceivers in Annex B are only for: 100GBASE-SR-BiDi or 100GBASE-BXSR Transceiver and 10GBASE-SR Transceiver: Do you also require responses for and compliance with all other Transceiver Types listed in Annex C?

Answer 22

Yes, Shared Services Canada requires responses and compliance for all transceiver types listed in the Annex C.

Question 23

With respect to Requirements 1.32, 2.17, 3.31, and 4.29, the OEM does not have control over the workload or validation priorities of the NIST Cryptographic Module Validation Program and, as such, cannot bind its company over the activities of a third party without having NIST also enter into a contractual agreement with the OEM legally binding NIST to an 18 month validation timeframe which would require contract negotiations between the OEM and the United States Government before the

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closing of this RFP. As such, we ask that SSC remove these requirements and accept a commitment letter from the OEM that the product proposed will be submitted to the CMVP "In Process list" within 18 months.

Answer 23

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirements 1.32, 2.17, 3.31, and 4.29. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 24

Reference: Annex C - List of Requirements

2 - Switch Configuration – Distribution; 2.1 - Must have 48 x 1GbE/10GbE MACsec-capable transceiver ports

Does Canada require MACSec to be available on all 48-ports of the distribution switch?

Answer 24

Yes, Shared Services Canada requires MACsec on all ports.

Question 25

Reference: Annex C - List of Requirements

2 - Switch Configuration – Distribution; 2.7 - Must not exceed 2 Rack Units (RU) in height

Would Canada accept a distribution switch that is higher than 2 Rack Units (RU)?

Answer 25

Yes. Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised requirement 2.7. Please see revised Annex C.

Question 26

Reference: 6.5 Delivery Date - Delivery Date All the deliverables must be received on or before 30 days from contract award.

We respectfully request SSC provide additional lead time (six weeks) for both the potential delivery of testing equipment; and the delivery lead time (90 days) of deliverables from contract award. The network OEMs continue to experience long lead times for switches due to ongoing supply chain shortages on components.

Answer 26

Shared Services Canada (SSC) has revised the delivery dated to on or before June 30, 2023. Please refer to Request for Proposal document resulting contract clauses Section 6.5 Delivery Date.

Question 27

Are you willing to extend the closing date?

Answer 27

Shared Services Canada will extend the solicitation to February 3rd 2023 at 15:00pm.

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Question 28

As there has not been a Q&A released for this solicitation as of yet and that any OEM financial approvals require a firm understanding of what products are compliant for the OEM, we respectfully ask that SSC extend the closing date of this RFP by three weeks.

Answer 28

Shared Services Canada will extend the solicitation to February 3rd 2023 at 15:00pm.