basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NON-COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION – MS TEAMS

DATE:	**30 April 2026**
TIME:	**10:00 to 11:00**
TENDER NUMBER	**DBE211**
DESCRIPTION:	**Appointment of a service provider or a consortium of service provider (s) to provide the Department of Basic Education (DBE) with 4042 Coding and Robotics kits for grades 7-9 over a period of six months, including a one (1) day centralised face to face training session for selected coding and robotics officials on the utilisation of the resources.**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Ms N Metula:

i. Welcomed everyone and introduced the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) team; Ms N Metula, Ms L Selloe, Mr R Legodi and Ms N Banda (Supply Chain Management) and Ms E Khembo, Dr N Mothobi and Mr C Jones (Project Managers).
ii. She gave the bidders an opportunity to introduce themselves in the Chat during the session.

2. BID PRESENTATION

Mr Jones did a presentation of the Terms of Reference (TORs).

3. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (SCM) MATTERS

The SCM indicated that:

i. The Briefing session is non-compulsory as indicated in the Tender advert. Non-attendance to the briefing session does not lead to the disqualification of the bidders' proposal/s.
ii. The tender closes on 15 May 2026 at 11:00. Any bid submitted after 11:00 will be considered late and will not be accepted by the DBE. The tender box is situated on the right-hand side before accessing the main entrance (from the gate) to the reception, and is clearly marked "TENDERS". Regarding the submission of larger documents, reception will call the SCM officials, who will register the document (s) in the Register for receiving tender documents.
iii. Bids must be submitted as hard copies; the DBE will not accept electronic/ emailed submissions.
iv. An original bid proposal/document will suffice; there is no need for copies.
v. The discussions during the briefing session and the questions raised after the briefing session will be consolidated, responded to and uploaded on the Department's website (www.education.gov.za), eTender Portal (www.etenders.gov.za) where the tender advert and documents are published. Bidders can still forward the clarity-seeking questions regarding the bid until 12 days before the tender closes. Make a reference to a tender number when raising a question regarding that tender. The questions should be directed to tenders@dbe.gov.za.
vi. Bidders must read Mandatory Requirements carefully as listed in the TORs and ensure that they respond as required. Also see the tax requirements listed on SBD1, Part B. Below the table, it is stated that "Failure to provide/ or comply with any of the above particulars may render the bid invalid.
vii. Bidders must fully complete, sign and submit (with their bid document) the SBD forms which were uploaded with this tender document by the Department. Alteration or retyping of the SBD forms is not allowed and will result in the disqualification of the submitted bid.

4. QUESTIONS RAISED AND RESPONSES PROVIDED DURING THE BRIEFING SESSION

No.	Question	Response/ clarity
1.	A clarification was requested on how bidders should submit questions (in writing) regarding the tender.	All questions must be submitted via email to: tenders@dbe.gov.za Bidders may submit questions up to 12 days before the closing date (15 May 2026). All questions will be

		consolidated and answered in writing, with responses shared with all bidders to ensure fairness and transparency.
2.	Paragraph 7.1.6 of the TORs required bidders to submit the SITA certification of the robot. • The SITA certification process can take up to six months; how does the Department cater for bidders who want to develop a product to meet the Department's Specification? • Could DBE accept proof that bidders have submitted their products to SITA for certification by the tender closing date, or is it compulsory to provide a SITA certification of the product regardless of how long the SITA process would take? • Would the DBE consider the bidder's submission if SITA is still considering the application for certification of products? • After products have been developed, bidders need time for them to be approved, which is less time than the submission time. Would that also be taken into consideration? • Does the tender require accreditation or certification for the company or its components?	This is a mandatory government requirement; bidders must comply. The Department cannot utilise products that do not meet the required standards. Bidders developing the products were advised to start the certification process immediately with SITA via SITA's website to ensure compliance of the products before use in classrooms. The DBE will share the URL for the technology certification process. In terms of SITA Regulations paragraph 10.4, and National Treasury Practice Note 5 of 2009/2010, stated that SITA must conduct standard certification in respect of goods and services. Bidders must comply with these government prescripts.
3.	The timeframe for clarity-seeking questions is 12 days from the briefing session date or 12 days before the tender closes.	As indicated in paragraph 14 of the Terms of Reference, it is 12 days before the tender closes.
4.	Regarding the software that speaks to assessment standards and outcomes, would the DBE require software covering only Grade 7 or Grades 7 to 9?	The tender is specifically for Grade 7, and all required robots are for the Grade 7 curriculum. Bidders must provide a robot as specified (one that can perform the required activities), and the DBE Practitioners will navigate all implementation complexities in classrooms.
5.	Since the Department is supplying these kits to all schools, including special schools, would there be a requirement for the software to include functionality for special needs, e.g., visually impaired users, sign language videos, etc.?	Special needs requirements are not included at this stage. The current rollout focuses on mainstream (ordinary) schools only, and specialised solutions would be addressed in future.
6.	What would be the Department's language requirements for the tender, given that it was nationally? Would bidders be required to provide software, as well as manuals and instructions, in different languages, or all in English?	All training is currently in English, and all training manuals should be provided in English.

7.	Is the microcontroller required as a separate component, or would an in-built (embedded) microcontroller be acceptable?	The in-built microcontrollers would be accepted.

5. CONCLUSION

i. The link to the SITA website would be shared with bidders to start registering their products for certification/accreditation.
ii. Bidders were reminded:
    - That they could send questions up to 12 days before the closing date. Questions must be sent to Tenders@dbe.gov.za.
    - To be mindful of the tender closing date and time as published.
iii. Ms Metula thanked the bidders for attending the briefing session and wished them well in preparing and submitting their bids.
iv. The session was adjourned.

6. QUESTION RAISED AFTER THE BRIEFING SESSION AND THE RESPONSES

No.	Question	Response/ clarity
1.	**SITA Compliance**	
1.1	1.1 The tender refers to "SITA certification of the robot". Could the Department clarify which specific form of proof will be accepted to satisfy this requirement?	• A SITA Product Certificate issued for the specific robot model being offered; or • Written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress. Please refer to amended TORs paragraph 7.1.6 and 8.2 (to be uploaded soon with the Addendum).
1.2	1.2 Will a compliance or alignment letter from a recognised ICT solutions provider or OEM partner be accepted in place of a certificate issued directly by SITA?	Yes, if the OEM is registered with SITA.
1.3	Is the Department expecting the proposed solution to be listed on an existing SITA transversal contract, or is proof of compliance with ICT standards sufficient?	The solution will not be listed on existing SITA traversal contract. The bidder should comply with all the SITA regulations.
2.	**Technical Specifications**	

2.1	Can the Department confirm whether equivalent or superior technical specifications will be accepted if the component brands differ from those shown in the tender documentation?	The DBE has provided the minimum specifications of a robot. Superior technical specification can be provided if they are in line with the DBE minimum specifications.
2.2	Is the Department prescribing a specific robotics platform (e.g. Arduino, Raspberry Pi, Makeblock), or are bidders free to propose any compliant platform?	The bidder(s) should adhere to the proposed platforms.
2.3	Can the Department clarify whether wireless connectivity must support all listed protocols (Bluetooth, WiFi, RF), or whether one or more supported connectivity options will suffice?	The robot should comply with the specifications.
3.	**Software & Licensing**	
3.1	Are there any preferred or mandatory software licensing models for the programming environment, or may bidders propose open-source platforms?	The bidder(s) should adhere to the specified platforms.
3.2	Must the software function fully offline, given the varying levels of internet connectivity at schools?	The software should provide the online and offline modalities.
4.	**Demonstration Requirements**	
4.1	Could the Department clarify the expected format and timing for the robot demonstration? For example, will demonstrations take place during evaluation, presentations, or post-award verification?	The robot demonstration will take place as part of the evaluation of the working robot in paragraph 8.2 of the TORs.
4.2	Will bidders be evaluated solely on the prescribed functionality listed in the tender, or may additional functionality be demonstrated?	Bids will be evaluated as per TORs.
5.	**Training & Support**	
5.1	Can the Department clarify whether the training for the 42 officials must be delivered centrally or across multiple provinces?	The training for the 42 officials must be delivered at a central venue, not across multiple provinces. This means bidders should structure their training proposal around a single, centralized location where all 42 officials will gather for the training sessions.
5.2	Is the bidder expected to provide ongoing technical support after delivery? If so, what minimum support period is required beyond the warranty period?	The DBE confirms that bidders are not required to provide ongoing technical support following delivery. This means that the bidder's obligations effectively conclude upon successful delivery and

		acceptance of the goods, with no post-delivery support period required beyond the standard warranty period.
6.	**Delivery & Logistics**	
6.1	Will the Department provide final confirmed delivery quantities and delivery points by province before implementation commences?	The DBE confirms that final confirmed delivery quantities and delivery points by province are already specified within the tender document itself. This means bidders are not required to wait for additional information before implementation commences, nor will the Department provide further updates or changes to these details after contract award unless a formal tender amendment is issued. Consequently, your pricing, logistics planning, and delivery schedule must be based strictly on the quantities and addresses as they appear in the tender document.
6.2	Are delivery points expected to be provincial warehouses, district offices, or individual schools?	The DBE confirms that delivery points are the provincial offices, not district offices or individual schools. This means bidders should plan logistics exclusively around delivering the goods to the provincial education headquarters for each relevant province.
6.3	Will staged deliveries be accepted, or is the Department expecting a single nationwide deployment window?	The DBE confirms that staged deliveries are accepted, and there is no single nationwide deployment window. Instead, deliveries will be scheduled according to the contract duration following the signing of the SLA.
7.	**Evaluation & Functionality**	
7.1	Could the Department clarify how functionality scoring will differentiate between technical compliance and project implementation capability.	Evaluation will be done as per Functionality Evaluation Criteria specified in paragraphs 7.1, 7.2, 8.1 and 8.2 of the TORs.
7.2	Are reference projects required to be specifically in robotics, or will broader ICT and educational technology implementation projects also be considered?	The DBE confirms that reference projects must be specifically in coding and robotics, not merely broader ICT or educational technology implementation projects. The rationale is that the Department requires proven experience not only in supplying hardware but also in delivering effective training for coding and robotics content.
8.	**OEM & Supply Chain**	

8.1	Will OEM authorisation letters from authorised distributors be accepted if the OEM does not have a direct South African office?	This means an authorisation letter from an official, SITA-recognised distributor should be sufficient, provided the letter clearly establishes the chain of authorization from the OEM through the distributor to the bidder. The letter must demonstrate that the bidder is authorised to supply, install, and support the specific products offered. Bidders should also confirm that the relevant OEM has a signed MoA with SITA, as SITA will not certify products for OEMs without such an agreement.
8.2	Can the Department clarify whether the three-year spare parts availability applies to all individual components or to the overall robotics solution?	The DBE confirms that the three-year spare parts availability requirement applies to all individual components as well as the entire robotics solution.
8.3	In the event of global shortages of electronic components or import delays, will the Department permit equivalent substitute components, provided overall functionality and specifications remain compliant?	The DBE confirms that no equivalent substitute components will be accepted due to the impact such changes would have on teaching and learning. This means that the Department requires strict adherence to the exact components and specifications as originally proposed and approved in the bid.
8.4	Could the Department clarify whether bidders are expected to manufacture complete robotics kits themselves, or whether assembly and integration of components sourced from elsewhere will be acceptable?	The DBE confirms that bidders are not required to manufacture complete robotics kits themselves. Both approaches are acceptable: (1) self-manufacturing, provided the bidder has demonstrated capacity to produce the kits; or (2) assembling and integrating components sourced from elsewhere into a complete solution, provided the final offering meets all minimum requirements stated in the bid document. Additionally, bidders may propose an existing, off-the-shelf robotics solution that already complies with the technical specifications, without any requirement to manufacture or assemble components themselves.
9.	The tender document indicates that bidders must submit SITA certification of the robot. We would like to understand whether alternative nationally recognised compliance certifications may be considered. The robotics solution we are proposing is supported by a Letter of Authority (LOA) issued by the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), which confirms compliance with applicable South African regulatory standards for the importation and sale of electronic equipment. In addition, the proposed solution aligns with coding and	• The SITA Technology Certification Process documentation explicitly states that “no sales of uncertified products to Government will be allowed” and that contravention may result in blacklisting of the OEM, supplier, or product. • SITA regulations and National Treasury Practice Note 5 of 2009/2010 mandate that SITA must conduct standard certification

	robotics specifications previously implemented in Department-led pilot programmes at selected sites. In this context, could the Department please advise whether such certification, together with compliance to the technical specifications outlined in the tender, would be considered acceptable.	in respect of ICT goods and services before they can be procured by government departments.
10.	I have noted the Department's response to the question on SITA certification, and I share the sentiment expressed to have regulation on the classroom products. However, a robot is not just a set of components or products. In this case it must perform a set of tasks, four to be exact. The process could be deemed unfair for the Department to expect bidders to be ready with SITA certification within 30 days of publishing the tender. My question is - If I have a microcontroller that is ICASA certified and components that are SABS approved and sufficiently available over many years in the country - will this not be sufficient notwithstanding the process of SITA certification.	Bidders will be required to comply with the following: • A SITA Product Certificate issued for the specific robot model being offered; or • Written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress. Please refer to amended TORs paragraph 7.1.6 and 8.2 (to be uploaded soon with the Addendum). • In terms of SITA Regulation 10.4 and National Treasury Practice Note 5 of 2009, SITA must conduct standard certification in respect of goods and/or services. Therefore, the bidder(s) must adhere to the government prescripts as outlined above.
11.	**SITA Mandatory Requirement (Point 7.1.6)** While we recognise and support the importance of this requirement, our assessment of the current market indicates that there are limited products that both fully comply with the tender specifications and hold SITA accreditation. As such, it is not currently possible to submit a solution that meets both the technical specifications and the SITA certification requirement. Our understanding is that the robots must be aligned with the DBE curriculum, which suggests a developmental approach. In the absence of an existing	• A SITA Product Certificate issued for the specific robot model being offered; or • Written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress. Please refer to amended TORs paragraph 7.1.6 and 8.2 (to be uploaded soon with the Addendum).

	compliant product, our intention is to design and develop a new curriculum-aligned solution in line with the tender specifications. Given that such a product would still be undergoing the SITA accreditation process at the time of tender submission, we request clarification on the following: Would a formal letter from SITA confirming that the product has been submitted for accreditation be accepted as meeting the mandatory requirement outlined in point 7.1.6? Follow up: **Point 1: SITA Mandatory Requirement (7.1.6)**, as this has a direct impact on our ability to submit a fully compliant bid. Further to our initial SITA query and based on our ongoing investigations into the certification process, we understand that **ICASA certification is a prerequisite before any product can be submitted for SITA approval**. This requirement is particularly relevant in this case, as the proposed robotics solution includes **WiFi, Bluetooth, and RF communication capabilities**, which fall within regulated communication standards and therefore require ICASA certification. Based on this, we anticipate that the full certification process (ICASA followed by SITA) may take approximately **8 to 10 weeks.** Given the updated information and timelines, and as previously requested, we kindly request confirmation on whether the following would be acceptable for tender submission purposes: • A formal letter confirming that the product has been submitted for ICASA certification. • A letter confirming that the product is in the process of being prepared for submission to SITA, pending ICASA approval. This would allow us to demonstrate compliance intent while the formal certification processes are underway. We would appreciate your guidance on this matter, as well as feedback on	In terms of SITA Regulation 10.4 and National Treasury Practice Note 5 of 2009, SITA must conduct standard certification in respect of goods and/or services. Therefore, the bidder(s) must adhere to the government prescripts as outlined above. • A SITA Product Certificate issued for the specific robot model being offered; or • Written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress. Please refer to amended TORs paragraph 7.1.6 and 8.2 (to be uploaded soon with the Addendum).

	the remaining technical clarification points raised, to ensure that our submission aligns fully with the tender requirements.	
12.	**OEM / Component Accreditation (Point 7.1.5)** As we intend sourcing components directly from various manufacturers to optimise costs, will the DBE accept us as the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) of the final kit, or are individual accreditation letters required from each component manufacturer.	Based on the SITA prescripts and standard government procurement requirements, the DBE will not accept the bidder as the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) of the final assembled robotics kit, and individual authorisation letters are required from each component manufacturer or their authorised representatives.
13.	**School Hardware Compatibility** Do the 1,000 pilot schools have laptops/PCs with functional USB-A ports? Many modern devices only support USB-C, which may require the inclusion of adapters?	The DBE has advertised a separate tender for procurement of laptop.
14.	**Software & Connectivity Requirements** Will the school/learner devices have sufficient specifications and internet access to download the required software, or must all drivers and software be supplied offline (e.g. via USB).	The DBE expects the software to be supplied offline via a memory disk. While there is confirmation that school or learner devices may have sufficient specifications and internet access, the requirement to supply all necessary drivers and software on a physical disk is mandatory. Bidders should not rely on learners or schools downloading the required software over the internet, even if connectivity is available.
15.	**Programming Interface (Section 3.11.4.4)** Is programming of the 4,042 robots required via USB connection to PCs/laptops only, or must wireless programming via mobile/tablet devices (Android/iOS) also be supported? (The latter introduces additional hardware and complexity?	Paragraph 8: Technical requirements It outlines the type of software(s) that the robot can support such as Scratch, Python and Arduino
16.	**Mechanical & Component Clarification** If four omni wheels are used, what is the intended purpose of the castor wheel. The Bill of Materials lists 12 LEDs but does not include breadboards or resistors. Should modular LEDs (with built-in	All bidders must adhere strictly to the specifications as outlined in the bid document.

	resistors) be supplied or should breadboards and loose resistors be included.	
17.	**Servo Motor Requirement** What is the intended use of the servo motor, as it does not appear to be required for the four primary robot functions?	Bidders should adhere to the minimum requirements, meaning the servo motor must be included regardless of whether its application is immediately evident from the four primary movement functions.
18.	**Communication Technologies** The kit specifies Bluetooth, WiFi, and Radio Frequency (RF). Is the intention for learners to engage with each communication method as part of the learning outcome?	The learners will be exposed to a variety of communication technologies as part of their learning outcomes, though the specific requirement for learners to program each protocol (Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, RF) may vary by grade.
19.	**Complexity Consideration** If simultaneous use of Bluetooth, WiFi, and RF is required, does the DBE acknowledge the increased complexity this introduces, particularly for Grade 7 learners?	Teachers will guide learners on how these protocols are working. As part of the Digital Transformation agenda of government, coding and robotics is part of the skills of the future subjects.
20.	**RF Remote Requirement** For RF functionality, is a separate handheld remote transmitter required for each of the 4,042 kits?	Yes, because these devices will be distributed to 1000 schools across the country.
21.	**Device Availability (Mobile/Tablet)** For Bluetooth/WiFi functionality, can it be assumed that schools will have access to compatible smartphones or tablets?	The DBE and PEDs have published various tenders to procure tablets for use in the classrooms.
22.	**Training Manual (Page 12**) With reference to the “training manual”, please clarify whether this relates to the one-day DBE and PED training session as outlined in point 3.11.4.1, and/or a separate manual to be included with each kit for use by schools and learners, explaining functionality and usage. More importantly, please confirm which of these manuals, if any, must be submitted as part of the tender application?	Yes, the training manual should be included in all the kits. Bidders are required to submit, (as part of tender application) one full colour manual on how to assemble an approved robot as well as one training manual printed in colour for teacher training (refer to paragraph 3.11.5).

23.	**Testing of Robot (Page 14)** The tender refers to “testing” of the robot, including all sensor functionality. Are bidders required to submit a working prototype of the robot as part of the tender submission?	• The DBE confirms that bidders are not required to submit a working prototype with the initial tender submission. • Instead, only shortlisted bidders who qualify after the initial evaluation (paragraph 8.1) will be invited to demonstrate the robot's functionality, including all sensor testing, as per paragraph 8.2.
24.	**Touch Sensor vs. Obstacle Detection** The component list refers to a “touch sensor”, while the functional requirements indicate that the robot must react to touch and/or obstacles. From a practical robotics and educational perspective, an Ultrasonic Sensor (Obstacle Detection Sensor) would provide more effective obstacle-detection functionality for a moving robot than a physical touch switch. **Question:** Please confirm whether the use of an Ultrasonic Sensor would be acceptable and regarded as compliant with the intended requirement for obstacle detection and reaction.	The DBE confirms that any sensor whether a touch sensor, ultrasonic sensor, or alternative type will be accepted provided it meets the technical and functional specifications outlined in the bid document, including the requirement that the robot must react to touch and/or obstacles.
25.	**Light Sensor vs. LIDAR** The documentation refers to “LIDAR” within the description; however, the functional requirement specifies that the robot must “detect light and react”. As LIDAR technology is generally associated with distance and obstacle measurement rather than ambient light detection, we would appreciate clarification on the intended component requirement. **Question:** Please confirm whether the intention is for bidders to provide a standard Light Sensor (LDR or equivalent) to satisfy the “detect light and react” functionality requirement.	The evaluation typically focuses on whether the sensor enables the robot to successfully detect changes in ambient or directed light and perform a programmed reaction. An LDR is a standard, cost-effective component that fulfills this core functionality in educational robotics.

26.	Please send me the URL link for the SITA certification as per the assistance from today's briefing concerning the Coding and Robotics Briefing Session.	For more information or to submit a request for certification, please contact tas@sita.co.za
27.	**Alignment with the Curriculum** We have noted that certain sensors required in the DBE211 request are not included in Section 3.1 of the prescribed Grade 7 curriculum. Conversely, some of the sensors that are explicitly mentioned in the curriculum do not appear in the DBE211 requirements. This discrepancy creates confusion and challenges in ensuring compliance with both documents.	• The DBE confirms that bidders must adhere strictly to the sensor specifications as outlined in the DBE211 bid document. • The tender specifications take precedence for compliance evaluation; therefore, bidders should design their robotics solutions based exclusively on the sensor requirements stated in DBE211.
28.	**Suitability and Registration of Robotic Kits** The **r**obotic kits currently listed on the SITA site for registered use do not fully meet all the required tasks outlined in DBE211. Furthermore, the process for registering new kits appears to take longer than the submission timeline allows. This makes it difficult for suppliers to provide solutions in time while remaining compliant. Given these issues, we are concerned that the current requirements may unintentionally advantage a limited number of suppliers or service providers, while disadvantaging those who have been working in alignment with the officially published Grade 7 curriculum.	The DBE is responsible for developing specifications aimed at enhancing teaching and learning. The registration of products on the SITA database is the responsibility of all companies providing goods and services to government, with SITA serving as the compliance authority. This means that bidders cannot rely on the DBE to expedite or waive SITA certification requirements, as the two processes are independent and the onus is on suppliers to ensure their products are registered before bidding or to initiate the certification process early enough to meet submission deadlines. Bidders are required to submit the following requirements: • A SITA Product Certificate issued for the specific robot model being offered; or • Written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress. Please refer to amended TORs paragraph 7.1.6 and 8.2 (to be uploaded soon with the Addendum). Bidders should initiate new product certification immediately upon deciding to bid and may submit proof of application when submitting their bid while working toward full certification as per paragraph 8.2. Please note that the Department will not amend specifications to accommodate uncertified products.
29.	It can take a minimum of 60 days for a kit to be approved by SITA	The Department has extended the closing date to 20 July 2026 at 11:00.

	Furthermore, for service providers to design and develop new kits that meet the specified requirements—particularly where these requirements are not fully aligned with the curriculum—additional time is required to complete development, testing, and submission for SITA certification. This entire process exceeds the current submission timelines, making compliance impractical.	Bidders are required to submit the following: • A SITA Product Certificate issued for the specific robot model being offered; or • Written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress. Please refer to amended TORs paragraph 7.1.6 and 8.2 (to be uploaded soon with the Addendum).
30.	I would like to enquire whether it would be possible to share the list of attendees or participating organisations that were present at the briefing. I look forward to your guidance on whether the attendee list can be shared and the appropriate next steps.	The list of attendees cannot be shared but the Briefing Session Minutes including the responses to the bidders' questions raised during and after the Briefing Session will be uploaded where the tender is published (www.etenders.gov.za and www.education.gov.za).
31.	**Mandatory requirement 7.1.6:** Bidders must submit SITA certification of the robot. Will the department accept confirmation of application from SITA as site visits are backed up and the SITA will only be able to finalise certification after 15 days which falls outside the submission date.	Yes, the DBE will accept a written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress. confirmation of application from SITA for the initial bid submission, but a SITA Product Certificate will be required during the evaluation of a working robot.
32.	We would like to respectfully request an extension for the submission deadline of Tender DBE211. We kindly ask whether the Department would consider extending the submission deadline.	The tender closing/ submission date was extended to 20 July 2026 at 11:00.
33.	**Functioning Robot:** The RFP's technical criteria require demonstrating a fully coded robot with all sensors working. Could you please confirm if bidders must submit a working robot *prototype* with the bid, or if the Department will request a demonstration after shortlisting? Are there any guidelines on the acceptable form of this demonstration (in-person, video, etc.).	Based on the tender documentation for DBE211, bidders are not required to submit a working robot prototype with their initial bid submission but must be prepared to demonstrate a fully functioning robot during the evaluation process after shortlisting.
34.	**Submission Format:** Should the technical and financial proposals be submitted as separate sealed envelopes? How many copies of the bid (original, duplicates) are required? Also, please confirm the required envelope addressing or labelling.	• No, one bid document with technical and financial proposal is required. • The original bid document will suffice; copies are not necessary.

		• There is no specific envelope addressing or labelling. Bidders are encouraged to state the tender number and name of the bidder on the envelope.
35.	**Required Documentation:** Apart from SBD 3.1 and SBD 6.1 (Preference Form), which other standard forms must be included (e.g. SBD 4 Declaration, SBD 8/9 Bid Determination)? Should we include CIPC documents, tax clearance and BBBEE certification in the initial submission.	• All published SBDs (including SBD4) should be fully completed, signed and returned with the bid proposal as stated in paragraph 7.2.1 of the TORs. The SBDs 8 and 9 are no longer applicable. • Bidders are <u>not</u> required to provide the CIPC documents, tax clearance and BBBEE certification because the tax compliance status and specific goals will be verified against the bidder's Central Supplier Database (CSD) Report.
36.	**Phase Reporting:** The RFP mentions "completion of each phase" and payment per Table 4. How are the delivery phases defined? Are specific deliverable dates tied to those phases.	Table 5 clearly defines the activities and payment schedule. It outlines how the payment will be effected once all the activities have been met by the appointed bidder. Yes, the deliverable dates are tied to those phases.
37.	Kindly confirm: • The official closing date for DBE211. • Whether any formal extension has been granted. • If any addenda or clarification documents have been issued to date.	• The tender closing date is extended to 20 July 2026 at 11:00. • The Addenda will be issued regarding paragraphs 7.1.6 and 8.2 of the TORs.
38.	Certification Requirements (SITA & ICASA) We understand that SITA certification is a key requirement, and that certain components may also require ICASA approval. At present: • SITA certification for the relevant robotics kit is in progress • ICASA processes are also underway where applicable.	

	Given the timelines involved, we would appreciate clarity on the following: • Will submissions be accepted where certification is in progress. • Would an OEM undertaking or commitment letter be acceptable pending final approval. • Are there any provisions for conditional compliance subject to certification completion.	• Yes, the DBE will accept written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress, but a SITA Product Certificate will be required during the evaluation of a working robot. • Only OEM letter will be accepted as required in paragraph 7.1.4 and 7.1.5. • Yes, the DBE will accept written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress, but a SITA Product Certificate will be required during the evaluation of a working robot as indicated in paragraph 8.2 of the TORs.
39.	**OEM Documentation Requirements** We note the requirement for OEM support documentation, including: • Authorised distributor/reseller confirmation • Warranty and support commitments • Spare parts availability. Please confirm if: • OEM-issued letters covering these elements will be sufficient at submission stage.	• Therefore, for the submission stage, OEM-issued letters covering all three elements are acceptable, but bidders should ensure each letter is properly executed and maintains an unbroken chain of authorisation to the original manufacturer.

40.	**Training Requirement** We understand there is a requirement for training of DBE and provincial officials. Kindly confirm: • Expected training format (in-person / hybrid / online. • Duration and scope expectations • Whether training providers may be subcontracted.	• The training must be conducted in-person and face-to-face. The tender documents consistently specify a "one (1) day centralised face to face training session" for selected coding and robotics officials. This format is non-negotiable, as a virtual or hybrid approach would not satisfy the Department's requirements. • Subcontracting is allowed, please refer to paragraph 7.2.4.
41.	**Technical Compliance / Kit Requirements** To ensure correct alignment, please confirm if there are any further technical specifications, updates, or minimum requirements issued after the original tender document.	The DBE confirms that the Addendum to the TORs will be issued regarding paragraphs 7.1.6 and 8.2.
42.	Are you able to confirm the following: • ETA for answers to all questions raised in the meeting last week. • The names of the 42 officials to be trained.	• The DBE cannot provide an estimated time of arrival (ETA) for answers to all questions raised in last week's meeting, as this information is not specified in the tender documentation. • The names of the 42 officials to be trained, will only be provided to the successful bidder after contract award, not during the bidding or evaluation phase.
43.	**CAPS requirements** The tender specifically asks for a robot for Grades 7 to 9. We have fully developed the curriculum, directly from the published CAPS documents, to teach the Coding and Robotic subject to learners in Grades 7 to 9. As it is a specific requirement in the CAPS documents that the coding must be integrated into the robotics projects, we have also compiled detailed robotics specifications from the CAPS documents to ensure that we introduce and teach the correct prescribed electronic and mechanical components to cover the CAPS requirements. This requested Robot, as per the tender documents, we are curious to know how the specifications as	

	listed in the CAPS documents are related to the specified Robot in this tender. • Kindly clarify whether the requirement for the requested robot is for educational purposes or it is a mechatronic exercise. • Also confirm if this is line with CAPS curriculum.	The DBE confirms that the requested robot is for educational purposes, not a mechatronic exercise. The specifications are in line with the CAPS curriculum, with additional components included beyond the CAPS requirements.
44.	**Training specifications** The tender document only asks for a one-day training to build and understand the requested robot and manuals. No requirements to teach the learners to program this robot is requested. • Kindly confirm if this training clearly excludes all training for learners and training material and content to cover the prescribed CAPS for Grades 7 to 9.	• The DBE confirms that the one-day training is exclusively for officials and not learners. • The training scope is limited to enabling officials to build, understand, and operate the requested robot and to interpret the accompanying manuals.
45.	**Light Sensor Definition** In the Criteria.pdf on page 14, reference is made to a "light sensor," which would generally indicate a sensor capable of detecting light intensity or color, such as a photoresistor (LDR) or color sensor. However, in the Tender Specs.pdf on page 5, the light sensor is described as a LiDAR sensor capable of performing 3-dimensional scanning. These are significantly different technologies in terms of functionality, complexity, and cost. • Kindly clarify whether the requirement refers to a standard light-detecting sensor or specifically to a LiDAR-based scanning system.	The requirement refers to a minimum standard light detecting sensor as specified in the bid document.
46.	**Minimum Robot Dimensions** In the Tender Specs.pdf on page 5, the minimum robot dimensions are specified as 20 cm × 15 cm × 11 cm (L × W × H). However, no scoring allocation appears to be linked to the robot size itself.	• The DBE confirms that the minimum robot dimensions of 20 cm × 15 cm × 11 cm (L × W × H) as specified on page 5 of the Tender Specs document are a mandatory compliance requirement, and submissions with a smaller footprint will not be considered compliant.

	• Kindly clarify whether submissions with a smaller footprint would still be considered compliant, provided all functional requirements and educational outcomes are met.	• This requirement applies regardless of whether the robot meets all functional requirements and educational outcomes, as size is treated as a standalone minimum specification. • Bidders must therefore ensure their proposed robotics solution meets or exceeds these minimum dimensions to avoid disqualification during the responsiveness evaluation.
47.	**Touch Sensor Requirement** In the Tender Specs.pdf on page 5, a touch sensor is described as a sensor capable of detecting physical contact with an object. Clarification is requested as to whether this specifically refers to a capacitive touch sensor, or whether a standard mechanical push-button would also qualify as a touch sensor. Furthermore, in the Criteria.pdf, the testing criteria references "touch/obstacle" sensing. • Kindly clarify if an ultrasonic sensor therefore, would qualify under this category, as it is capable of detecting nearby obstacles without direct physical contact.	• The Department's specifications include sensor functionality for tasks such as obstacle detection and avoidance, which the ultrasonic sensor directly supports. • Its inclusion would align with both the CAPS curriculum's focus on introducing learners to real-world input/output devices and the tender's requirement for a fully coded robot demonstrating all sensors working. • Bidders may therefore propose ultrasonic sensors as part of their compliant robotics solution.
48.	**Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and RF Module Requirements** In the Criteria.pdf on page 14, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and RF modules are referenced. Clarification is requested as to whether all three communication methods are mandatory requirements or whether integrated solutions, such as an ESP32 module, which already includes built-in Bluetooth and Wi-Fi functionality, would satisfy the communication requirements. Additionally, if all three communication protocols are required. • Kindly confirm whether (Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and RF) are expected to be taught and demonstrated as part of the educational curriculum, as these communication methods differ significantly in complexity and implementation.	Bidders are expected to adhere strictly to the specifications as outlined, meaning the proposed solution must include each protocol or demonstrate that it meets the specified outcome.
49.	**Sound Sensor and Buzzer Requirements**	

	In the Criteria.pdf on page 14, reference is made to a “sound sensor,” while the robot testing section refers to a “sound/buzzer sensor.” In the Tender Specs.pdf on page 5, the sound sensor is described as a sensor that detects sound and converts it into an electrical signal, enabling functions such as sound-controlled robotics and recognition of specific sounds or sequences of sounds. The quantity required is listed as two units. Clarification is requested regarding the intended purpose of the two sound sensors. • Specifically: Are two microphones required for directional sound detection through latency comparison. • Would a single microphone be sufficient for sound or voice recognition applications. • Otherwise, what kind of specific sounds needs to be covered. • Does the testing requirement imply that both a microphone and a buzzer are required; or • would a single microphone satisfy the sound-sensing requirement.	The DBE clarifies that we required one (1) sound sensor. While one microphone is sufficient for basic sound recognition.
50.	**SITA Certification** According to Para 7.1.6. on page 10 it is stipulated that the bidder must have SITA certification of the robot. **Kindly clarify this requirement.**	The DBE confirms that the Addendum to the TORs will be issued regarding paragraphs 7.1.6 and 8.2. Please refer to amended TORs paragraph 7.1.6 and 8.2 (to be uploaded soon with the Addendum).
51.	Whether the STEM product will be manufactured exactly according to the specified requirements and specifications, including compliance with State Information Technology Agency (SITA) product certification requirements, and whether the delivery timeline of 4,000 units within 45 days from order confirmation is feasible.	All bidders are required to comply with the minimum specifications as set out in the bid document, including the specified delivery terms for the robotics kits.
52.	What are the mandatory documents that must accompany the bid submission?	Paragraph 7: Bidding requirements outlines the Mandatory and Administrative requirements/ documents that must be submitted with the bid.

53.	Are SMMEs and newly established companies eligible to bid independently, or is a consortium/partnership recommended?	Yes, SMMEs and newly established companies are eligible to bid independently or is a consortium/partnership recommended.
54.	What technical specifications and minimum requirements must the Coding and Robotics Kits meet?	The technical specifications are outlined in paragraph 3.10 specifications of the robotic kit.
55.	Are product samples required as part of the evaluation process?	The shortlisted bidders after the functionality evaluation process as per paragraph 8.1 will be required to demonstrate to the bid evaluation committee the working robot as per paragraph 8.2 of the bid document.
56.	What proof of supplier authorization or manufacturer partnership is required?	In terms of SITA Regulation 10.4 and National Treasury Practice Note 5 of 2009, SITA must conduct standard certification in respect of goods and/or services.
57.	What training materials and deliverables are expected for the one-day training session?	Paragraph 3.11.5 outlines the type of training material and activities expected for the one-day training session. 3.11.5.1 Administrative training 3.11.5.2 Robot specific training 3.11.5.3 Complete working robot.
58.	Are there any minimum financial, turnover, or experience requirements for bidders?	No minimum financial turnover is required from the bidders. Paragraph 8 outlines the experience required from the bidder(s).
59.	How will the bid be evaluated, and what are the functionality scoring criteria?	The evaluation will commence with compliance with mandatory requirements listed in paragraph 7.1 and proceed to be evaluated on functionality as follows: Section 8.1: Functionality evaluation criteria, and Section 8.2: Evaluation of a working robot.
60.	Are local content requirements applicable to this tender?	No.
61.	Can bidders propose equivalent products that meet or exceed the stated specifications?	The bidders must adhere to the minimum requirements as outlined in the bid document.
62.	I would like to ask about form SBD 3.1 PRICING SCHEDULE - FIRM PRICES • Firstly, We are required to fill Required by: and At: What is expected here in both areas.	• The tender is required by: Department of Basic Education. At: (see Table 4 of the TORs).

	• Secondly, If we reply "Firm" where the form indicates Period required for delivery, will that be sufficient or we still need to indicate the time needed for delivery? • Thirdly, What is expected where the form requires Delivery basis?	• Yes, the bidder is still expected to state the “period required for delivery”. • Delivery basis: Bidder is expected to describe how, where and under what conditions goods must be delivered.
63.	Firstly, could you kindly confirm whether a fully completed robot/prototype is required to be submitted as part of the initial tender submission, or whether the physical robot will only be required from shortlisted bidders during a subsequent evaluation phase?	The required robot will be requested from the shortlisted bidders during the evaluation of a working robot as per paragraph 8.2 of the TORs.
64.	Secondly, we would like to clarify the requirements relating to SITA certification and approvals. Are bidders expected to obtain and submit all required SITA certifications as part of the initial bid submission, or will these only be required from shortlisted or successful bidders at a later stage in the procurement process?	Bidders are required to submit the following: • A SITA Product Certificate issued for the specific robot model being offered; or • Written confirmation from SITA that a certification application for the product is in progress. Please refer to amended TORs paragraph 7.1.6 and 8.2 (to be uploaded soon with the Addendum).
65.	Finally, during the non-compulsory briefing session it was indicated that responses to questions raised by prospective bidders would be published. We have been monitoring the relevant channels but have not yet seen these responses. Could you kindly advise whether the questions and answers have been released and, if so, where they may be accessed?	The answers to the questions from the bidders are uploaded where the tender is published which is www.education.gov.za and www.etender.gov.za.

TENDER CLOSING DATE WAS 15 MAY 2026 AT 11:00, EXTENDED TO 29 JUNE 2026 AT 11:00 AND FURTHER EXTENDED TO 20 JULY 2026 AT 11:00