BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
BID BULLETIN No. 1

Procurement of Hyper Converged Infrastructure

This is to inform all prospective bidders of the following questions, clarifications and amendments in the Bidding Documents:

On the technical specification "HCI":

1. **"Proposed solution must be "Hyper Converged Infrastructure" listed in the leaders' quadrant of latest Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Hyper Converged Infrastructure"**

   Can this requirement be removed since this limits the number of bidders who can participate in this procurement? Based on a memorandum issued in 2020 there is a change in the criteria on the list of Gartner which causes only two brands to qualify.

   ☐ **No. Generally, Products and Solutions belonging to Gartner's Leader Quadrant, are more credible, reliable and better solutions compared to the Non Leaders.**

2. **"Must be cross compatible with the Existing HCI solution of PHILGUARANTEE"**,

   What does "cross compatible" mean and if the "compatible" means that the existing equipment and the equipment to be provided by the winning bidder will be able to meet in the application layer?

   ☐ **PHILGUARANTEE has an existing HCI, the HCI to be procured must be 100% compatible with the Existing HCI solution of PHILGUARANTEE to avoid incompatibilities. PHILGUARANTEE do not intend to mix and match the existing hardware because it will be difficult to manage.**

   What is the version of the Existing HCI's Virtualization Software solution of PHILGUARANTEE?

   ☐ **Existing Virtualization Software solution of PHILGUARANTEE is version 6 and 6.7.**

On the technical specification "Replication":

1. **"HCI solution should have storage-agnostic replication that supports use of low-end storage, including direct-attached storage and also provides host based replication which will replicate only changed blocks to increase network efficiency"**

   What is the meaning of "storage-agnostic"?

   ☐ **Based on experience, PHILGUARANTEE can use NAS and SAN via iSCSI.**

On the technical specification "Hypervisor":

1. **"Shared Storage must be created by clustering server attached disks (like SSDs, HDDs, NVMs etc.) and should not use any external storage devices (like NAS, SAN etc.)"**

   What is the meaning of this specification?

   ☐ **It means that the proposed data protection should not be a NAS, however, HCI itself must be able to connect with an ordinary storage.**

   Is it allowed to use another external storage?

   ☐ **It is allowed to use another storage as long as it is compatible with the external storage, and the data protection is not a NAS or a SAN.**

   What is the purpose of the external storage?

   ☐ **The purpose of the external storage is for versatility, because PHILGUARANTEE is transporting cold backups and as of now, PHILGUARANTEE's existing HCI backups are saved in an external storage and transported as cold backup. It is all available in the VMware and KVM.**

On the technical specification "Hardware":

1. **To be provided with minimum of four (4) nodes with capacity to be factored for HA. The HCI solution should provide High Availability. The proposed solution must be able to sustain one (1) node failure and it should in no way affect/degrade the production services & usable resources, to the end user application"**

   How did PHILGUARANTEE came up with the 4 nodes and if it is possible to reduce it with just 3 nodes, assuming the 3 nodes has the same capacity as the 4 nodes?

   ☐ **The 4-node setup is more reliable. For the same capacity, in the 3-nodes setup, if one of the nodes fails, then the infrastructure will be operating at 2/3 capacity. Unlike if there are 4 nodes and if one fails, the infrastructure will be operating at 3/4 capacity. There is a performance issue.**

2. **"Each node should be configured with minimum of 6x32GB DDR DIMMS to have 192GB total ram"**

   Is the 12x16GB memory with a total of 192GB acceptable?

   ☐ **With that factor, PHILGUARANTEE has no way to expand because the bay may be full. But with the clarification of the bidder that the bidder's memory slots per node is 24, this will be acceptable as long as PHILGUARANTEE has a room for expansion and it is equivalent to 192GB RAM.**

3. **"Each HCI node should be a 1U rack unit form factor"**

Is 1U the required size or it can exceed?

☐ **Exceeding with 1U rack will require PHILGUARANTEE to require more rack space.**

Is it possible to provide additional rack for the additional rack space requirement?

☐ **PHILGUARANTEE's current data center cannot accommodate another rack.**

How many more RU are available for the 4 nodes?

☐ **This is why the rack form factor was specified, as the rack space is limited and the data center has limited space.**

Is it only 1U per one HCI node?

☐ **Efforts will be made just to make these HCI's fit properly in PHILGUARANTEE's current rack space.**

On the technical specification "Storage Appliance":

1. **"Solution must be an integrated appliance"**

Is it necessary that the storage appliance comes together with the data protection or can be separated?

☐ **It is separate from one another because the storage appliance's size is another 2U.**

On the technical specification "Top of Rack Switch":

1. **"Must have Sixteen (16) SFP+ Transceiver modules 10 Gbe"**

Is the 16 SFP+ Transceiver modules 10 Gbe per switch or is it the total for 2 switches?

☐ **It is the total for the 2 Top of Rack Switches because it is 8 for HCIs with 4 nodes with 2 switches each, and 12 for data protection, and also the core switches.**

Does it have a total of 16 transceivers for the 2 switches?

☐ **It is correct.**

On the technical specification "Services":

1. **"Must be a Distributor of the proposed solution"**

   Can the "distributor" be relaxed to "distributor or reseller" since majority of the bidders are resellers.?

   ☐ **Change to "Must be a Distributor or Reseller of the proposed solution"**

On the technical specification "Certification":

1. **"Must submit certificate of satisfaction from at least two (2) clients of similar projects with PHILGUARANTEE"**

   Can the client of the contract to be declared in the SLCC be counted as one of the required two clients or there should be another two clients on top of the declared contract in the SLCC?

   ☐ **The client of the contract declared in the SLCC may be counted as one of the required two clients of similar projects as long as they can submit a certificate of satisfaction.**

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