

August 18, 2022

“The Nimbus Project”

Re: Request for Information Regarding Productivity and Collaboration Systems and Services, as Part of the Nimbus Cloud Project

The Government Procurement Administration in the Accountant General’s Department of the Ministry of Finance (hereinafter: the “**Government Procurement Administration**” / “**GPA**”) hereby publishes an RFI, (Request for Information), as it is defined in Section 14A of the Mandatory Tenders Regulations, 5753-1993 (hereinafter: the “**Mandatory Tenders Regulations**”), as detailed below:

1. General:

- 1.1. The “Nimbus Project” is a multiyear, large-scale flagship project intended to provide a comprehensive framework for the provision of cloud services to the Government of Israel, while adopting a broad perspective on the procurement and use of cloud services by the Government. The Project includes a number of tiers the purpose of which are to create channels for the purchase of cloud services, the formulation of strategy and government policy thereof, the migration of government ministries and additional government units to the cloud and the modernization of workloads, the execution of financial review and optimization of cloud activity, and the establishment of the government digital marketplace on the platform of the winning cloud providers, as will be further specified (hereinafter: the “**Project**”).
- 1.2. Within the framework of the project, the GPA has published a number of different tenders, the first of which was Central Tender No. 01-2020, for the provision of cloud services on a public platform, for the government ministries and additional government units (hereinafter: the “**Cloud Tender**”). The providers who won the tender were Amazon Web Services (hereinafter: “**AWS**”) and Google (hereinafter: “**GCP**”), as the first and second winners, respectively (hereinafter, jointly: the “**Nimbus Providers**”); both provide public cloud services for the Government of Israel in accordance with the

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wide range of services they offer. The Nimbus Providers are now establishing an Israeli Region (a separate Region for each provider) within the territorial area of the State of Israel, which complies with the requirements set forth in the Cloud Tender, and according to what is specified in their proposals (hereinafter: the "**Israeli Region**").

- 1.3. On August 1, 2021, in light of the progress made in the “Nimbus Project”, the Government of Israel passed Resolution No. 231, according to which, the Government will adopt among other things, a policy to give priority to the development or migration of the government’s information systems to the public cloud (Cloud First Policy), based on the public cloud of the Nimbus Providers; the government also resolved to promote solutions for various trans-governmental infrastructure services on the public cloud, among which are an infrastructure to manage and share documents and an infrastructure to manage the government’s email communication.

2. Request details:

- 2.1. In order to continue promoting the migration of the government’s services to the Nimbus providers’ cloud platforms, in line with Government Resolution 231, the GPA is examining options for procuring Cloud Productivity & Collaboration Suites that will satisfy the ongoing operational needs of the government ministries, for Document Management, Productivity and Collaboration (hereinafter: "**CPACS Services**" / the "**System**"). These will be fully provided within the Israeli Region of at least one Nimbus provider. Information storage, traffic, and processing will be fully carried out in the Israeli Region and under the terms specified in Central Tender 01-2022 for the addition of the services to the government digital marketplace on cloud (hereinafter: the "**Government Digital Marketplace Tender**"). See section 2.4 below.
- 2.2. At present, the government’s ministries and additional government units are primarily using Microsoft Office products and Exchange servers, which are operated on-premises. The requested CPACS Services are intended to provide a comprehensive response to the government’s needs in this area, with respect to different functions, such as: Email, Calendar and Contacts, Tasks and Notes, document storage and management (personal folders, shared folders, smart file sharing, folder hierarchy structure, etc.), and administrative work tools (Documents, Spreadsheets,

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Presentations, Diagrams, Forms, Whiteboards, Archiving, etc), Content and Workstream Collaboration, Chat, Video Conferencing, and others.

- 2.3. In this publicly issued RFI, we hereby invite all those who wish to do so, to submit their response, based on the details listed in Appendix A to this RFI, as well as to submit any other information they may consider relevant for the formulation of the Central Tender.
- 2.4. It is possible to review the government’s requirements relating to cyber protection, privacy, terms of use, information storage and processing, and other cyber security requirements relating to cloud operations, with which the proposed solutions should comply, based on the specifications detailed in the Government Digital Marketplace Tender which was published as part of the Nimbus Project framework; the tender documents are available on the GPA website at: <https://mr.gov.il/ilgstorefront/en/p/4000553566>.
3. The response to the RFI should be submitted in accordance with the following instructions:
 - 3.1. The contact person for this RFI is Ms. Hila Gigi, email: nimbus@mof.gov.il.
 - 3.2. The response to the RFI will be submitted in Word (Doc/Docx) format, as well as in PDF format, which should be identical in content to the Word file.
 - 3.3. The response is to be sent to the email address listed in section 3.1 above, **no later than October 25, 2022 (Israel Standard Time)**. The responders should make sure that they have received a return email, confirming their response has been received.
 - 3.4. The GPA is entitled to change the final date for submitting the response to the RFI, and should the GPA so decide, it will be published on the GPA’s website.
 - 3.5. This RFI is published in both the Hebrew and English languages. **In the event of any discrepancy between the two versions, the Hebrew version will prevail. The response to the RFI** may be submitted in either Hebrew or English.
4. **The response rules:**
 - 4.1. **To remove any doubt, this document is not a tender nor a request for proposals (RFP)**, nor does it obligate the GPA to issue a tender as set forth above, nor does it create or form any other obligation between the Procurement Administration and

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anyone that has submitted a response to the request. Following the receipt of responses to this RFI, the Procurement Administration will consider its future actions, at its sole discretion.

4.2. It is further clarified that a response to the RFI, neither grants an advantage in, nor constitutes a condition for, participation in a tender, if any were to be conducted in the future, and it will not obligate the Procurement Administration to include the responder in a tender or entail engagement with the responder in any other form.

4.3. Further to this request, the GPA reserves its right, at its sole discretion:

4.3.1. to contact and meet any party that submitted a response to the RFI, for the purpose of presenting information and clarifications, presentations and demonstrations (“pilot”), and to visit the responder’s sites or the sites of its customers.

4.3.2. to use the information received following the RFI to compile a list of potential providers.

4.3.3. to change or add conditions and requirements from the RFI, in the event of any future engagement or tender, for the purpose of receiving the aforementioned services.

4.3.4. to publish in a tender or by any other means, specifications or features that are based on the information gathered from this RFI.

4.3.5. To use any information conveyed in the response in order to examine possible engagement in this area, subject to what is stated in section 4.4 below.

4.4. Confidentiality of the response

4.4.1. The identity of the responder will not be disclosed, except under the conditions stated in Section 14A(f) of the Mandatory Tenders Regulations.

4.4.2. Without derogating from the foregoing and subject to law, the Procurement Administration will maintain the confidentiality of the information it received under the RFI and will not use it in any of the following ways:

4.4.2.1. It will not publish the information in public.

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- 4.4.2.2. It will not infringe on the responder’s intellectual property.
- 4.4.2.3. It will not use the information for any commercial purposes except for those listed in the RFI.
- 4.4.2.4. It will not pass the information on to a third party unless the other party is relevant for formulating a future engagement, such as a government representatives involved in the process or an expert consultant.
- 4.4.3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Procurement Administration will be entitled to contact the responder and seek permission to use the information, as stated in section.4.4.2.
- 4.4.4. The responder should explicitly specify in the response, which parts of that response are considered a commercial or professional secret; the responder will have no claim if this has not been so indicated.
- 4.5. All expenses involved in preparing a response to the RFI and its submission thereof, are the sole responsibility of the responders and will be carried out at their expense. It should be emphasized that the responders will not be entitled to any compensation, indemnification, reimbursement, or payment of any kind from the Procurement Administration, for submitting a response to the request.
- 4.6. By responding to this request, the responder hereby declares that the information presented in the response, whether used now or in the future, does not infringe on any third party’s rights, including copyrights, and that the responder will bear sole responsibility for any demand or lawsuit arising from the claim that use of the submitted information infringed upon such third party rights. Immediately following receipt of such a demand, the responder will indemnify the Procurement Administration, for any amount the Procurement Administration will be required to pay and/or will be sued for, as a result of such a lawsuit or claim, including expenses and legal fees.

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Appendix A – RFI Details

1. General details:

1.	Name of Responder, as it appears in the Registrar	
2.	Type of incorporation (company/non-profit organization/partnership, etc.)	
3.	Identifying number (Company No./any other ID)	
5.	Responder's website:	
6.	Contact person acting on behalf of the responder, and his/her role.	Name
		Tel:
		Mobile:
		Email:

2. General information on the responder (hereinafter: the "**Company**"):

- 2.1. What does the Company do? Describe its fields of operations in detail.
- 2.2. How many years has the Company been providing the required services?
- 2.3. Provide details on the Company's status, i.e., manufacturer, official representative of the service provider, franchisee, distributor/marketer, integrator, etc.
- 2.4. Provide details on the Company's background in CPACS systems, as required in this document, with emphasis on supply of service to organizations and institutions.

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3. The solution concept:

The Company should provide an extensive response, to the extent possible, on the following aspects described below; it should specify what capabilities are already available in the system; which capabilities will be developed in the future, and also provide information on the system’s Road Map and timetable for its further development.

3.1. The Company should state who is the manufacturer of the CPACS services; whether the Company developed the system itself or whether it acts as a representative of another manufacturer that developed the system.

3.2. With reference to the aforementioned requirements, the Company should elaborate extensively on its proposed solution concept, with respect to the CPACS services. Special attention should be paid to the following points:

3.2.1. The services and applications that are included in the solution concept, the supported capabilities and their scope (a detailed description should be provided for each of the applications and their capabilities, vis-a-vis the above specified needs, and any other supported capability). The Company should specify how the proposed CPACS services meet the needs of an enterprise organization, as well as government organizations, referring specifically to Collaboration and Productivity. If the system is currently implemented in other organizations, and its configuration is similar to the Company’s proposed solution concept, the Company should elaborate on that as well.

3.2.2. The system’s architecture and the interfaces between the different applications that are included in the service suite.

3.2.3. The system’s management capabilities, with emphasis on reports, user and access management capabilities.

3.2.4. User experience and ease of use for both system managers and end users. The company should refer to the system’s use and operation, including the use of a browser and a dedicated client.

3.2.5. The system’s security capabilities, referring to the location, storage and processing of information in the Israeli Region of at least one of the Nimbus Providers. If, in addition to the aforementioned, the proposed system has

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additional capabilities for the location, storage and processing of information, these should also be described in detail.

3.2.6. Ecosystem, partnerships and interfaces that the system has with third party tools.

The Company should refer to the ability to realize these capabilities in line with its response to the request.

3.2.7. Availability of training and courses on the system, for both system administrators and end users.

3.2.8. The system’s development and modification capabilities, including independently by the customers.

3.2.9. The system’s pricing and licensing model.

3.3. The Company should provide information on the system’s SLA referring to enterprise customers worldwide. In the event that the SLA may be affected by the Company’s solution concept, the Company should refer to this aspect as well.

3.4. Interfaces with the Nimbus Providers:

3.4.1. The ability to deploy the System on one or two of Nimbus providers’ platforms.

3.4.2. Possible timetables for the deployment of the system in the Israeli Region, by the responder.

3.4.3. Availability of the service within the government digital marketplace (to be based on the Nimbus providers’ cloud marketplace). For this purpose, see the Government Digital Marketplace Tender.

3.4.4. Additional interfaces that the company has with the Nimbus providers (if any).