

NPP to commence Pre-Qualification process for Basic Infrastructure Services

The New Payments Platform (NPP) Steering Committee (SC), the governing body for the industry initiative, met in December and approved the sourcing approach for the NPP Basic Infrastructure (BI). This BI Sourcing Approach defines the end-to-end process to engage, evaluate and select strategic partner(s) to deliver the Basic Infrastructure for the NPP. The first step in the process commences in January 2014 with a Vendor Pre-Qualification.

Three Basic Infrastructure Services are sought – Switching, Addressing and Networking. More information on the Basic Infrastructure Services can be found in the Real-Time Payments Committee Proposed Way Forward available at the following [link](#).

Key principles of the vendor sourcing approach:

- Sourcing for the Basic Infrastructure will be for end-to-end services (including design, establishment and operation) for each BI Service.
- Sourcing for the Basic Infrastructure will be for complete solutions (all necessary products and services) to deliver each individual BI Service.
- Any industry partnerships required to deliver complete BI services/solutions will need to be indicated in the Prequalification response.
- Vendors may bid for one, two or all three of the BI Services but each BI Service will be evaluated independently and bids for more than one service will be considered where vendors can demonstrate capability to deliver each service.

Pre-Qualification will commence on the 3rd February 2014 with the publication of further information on the Pre-Qualification process and BI Services opportunity and an 'Intent to Respond' form on the APCA website. Interested vendors should monitor the site for the information release and register for Pre-Qualification by completing and submitting the Intent to Respond form. Further information on the logistics of the prequalification process will be made available on the website at that time.

A Pre-Qualification Questionnaire will be made available to registered vendors, with **responses to the questionnaire required by 20th February 2014**.

Based on an evaluation of the vendor responses to this Pre-Qualification step, the NPPSC will invite shortlisted vendors, that best demonstrate the required capability and experience to participate in the second step, a Request For Tender process expected to commence in March 2014.

Interested vendors should be aware that to be eligible to Pre-Qualify for the Basic Infrastructure Services, the following minimum criteria must be met:

1. Vendor(s) must be able to provide an end-to-end service (Design, Implement and Operate) for each individual BI Service applicable to the response
2. Vendor(s) must be able to provide a complete solution (all necessary products and services) to deliver each individual BI Service applicable to the response
3. Vendor(s) should be able to provide at least one reference for a comparable implementation completed within the last 10 years
4. Vendor(s) should be able to demonstrate experience in an Industry led program (i.e. multiple industry participants)
5. Vendor(s) must commit to the implementation timeline
6. Vendor(s) must agree to contract for the BI Service(s) through a single contracting entity with whom liability will reside
7. Vendor(s) must be able to provide a locally-led implementation and operation for each individual BI Service applicable to the response:
 - Objective of this criterion is to gauge the level of existing or planned presence of the vendor(s) in Australia to ensure local presence is established to adequately support the implementation and operation of the BI Services.

- Indications of an Australian-led implementation and operation may include: presence of a local office, roles and number of locally based resources
- This criterion does not preclude overseas vendors or vendors utilising an onshore/offshore model to deliver services

8. Vendor(s) should be able to demonstrate experience in operating in a highly regulated environment

The NPPSC looks forward to engaging with the market to identify Strategic Partners to support the delivery and ongoing operation of the Basic Infrastructure for the New Payments Platform.

Questions related to the Prequalification should be directed to the following link [NPP PMSO](#).