REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS : ATNS/RFP06/07/2026/27/TO-FIBRE-TERM-NODES-COM-2025-291					
THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, COMMISSIONING, AND SUPPORT OF FIBRE TERMINATION NODES AT FACT, FAGG, FAPE, FALE, FAEL, FABL, FAKM, FAUP AND AT THE ATA					
Number	**Question/Clarity Date**	**Name of the Company**	**Paragraph No. Bid Document**	**Questions**	**Response**
1	03 October 2026	Optical Fibre Trends	24 Ports Fibre Termination Node 8 Ports Fibre Termination Node 2 Ports Serial Interface Converter (RS232) 1 Ports Serial Interface Converter (RS232) 12 Ports 4-Wire E&M Gateway 4 Ports 4-Wire E&M Gateway	1.In the listed documents, shown on the left, mention of 24/8 Port Fibre Termination Node: What does this mean? Terminate 24 fibre ports? What 24 or 8 ports are reffered to? 2.What is the difference between"2 ports Serial Interface Converter(RS232 and "1 Ports Serial Interface Converter(RS232). Line 3 & 4? 3.What is the difference between"12 ports 4-wire E&M Gateway and 4 Ports 4-wire E&M Gateway Please clarify.	Please refer to the site requirements for each site in Volume 2, Sections 6 to 14. 1. This refers to the number of ethernet ports that the proposed fibre termination node shall cater for at a particular site. 2. This refers to the number of RS232 ports that the proposed fibre termination node/Serial Interface Converter (refer to section 5.1 of Volume 2) shall cater for at a particular site. 3. This refers to the number of 4-wire E&M ports that the proposed fibre termination node/4 Wire E&M Gateway (refer to section 5.2 of Volume 2) shall cater for at a particular site.
2	03 October 2026	Optical Fibre Trends	e-mail	To whom it may concern. This is an official request from Optical Fibre Trends for extension of time for the above-mentioned tender. The tender closing date is listed as 6 November 2026. I request this tender be extended until 27 November 2026. The following reasons for related request: 1. I am currently on a road trip visiting ALL ATNS site to do maintenance on the OTN system. As you well know the OTN system is the system you are aiming to replace with this tender. 2. This means I am on the road, and access to information is limited. 3. Hours to work on the tender is also limited to after hours as working hours are destined for OTN maintenance. 4. The size of the tender is considerable and proper planning will be required, but time is limited. 5. Attached, the current schedule for maintenance.	ATNS has considered the request for an extension of the tender closing date. However, the request is not approved, as the circumstances provided are specific to your organisation and do not warrant an amendment to the tender timelines applicable to all prospective bidders. Accordingly, the tender will close as advertised on 06 November 2026.
3	05 October 2026	NxgenIT	e-mail	**<u>Fibre patch cable quantity – ATA</u>** Volume 2 specifies four 1-metre fibre patch cables per Fibre Termination Node. ATA has three Fibre Termination Nodes, which would imply a requirement for twelve fibre patch cables. However, the Volume 1C pricing schedule reflects a quantity of six fibre patch cables for ATA. Please confirm the correct quantity to be priced.	The quantity is correct. The system at the ATA is for training purposes. The patch cables will be used to connect the 3 nodes to each other to create a ring network.

4	05 October 2026	NxgenIT	e-mail	**<u>Maintenance and support period</u>** The Volume 1C Instructions sheet refers to a 10-year maintenance period. However, the technical and logistics requirements, together with the maintenance pricing schedules, appear to provide for a 15-year maintenance and support period. Please confirm whether bidders are required to price maintenance and support for 10 years or 15 years.	This is an error on the Instructions sheet of Volume 1C. Bidders are required to price maintenance and support for 15 years.
5	09 October 2026	K3M Engineering	Volume 2 Port Counts and Types 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.10 4.1 General Requirements (TOC p.13) Site Requirements, Sections 6 to 14 (TOC pp.19-36)	**What the bid says:** 4.1.4 requires at least two optical SFP uplink ports per node. 4.1.5 requires Ethernet access ports, with quantities given in the site sections. The site tables list "Ethernet (minimum ports)" (e.g. 24, 8, 32, 22) without stating port type, speed, or whether gateway/management ports are counted. 4.1.10 states only a minimum of 1 Gbps throughput. **Port Counts and Types (Question)** 1. Do the minimum Ethernet port counts specified in the node tables refer to RJ45 service access ports? Are optical ring ports, ports connecting external serial/voice gateways, and management ports included in these counts? What is the minimum required speed for each port type?	1.1 Ethernet ports refers to the RJ45 service ports. 1.2. Optical ring ports - SFP - are not included in the count. 1.3. Serial/voice gateways are not included in the count, they are counted separate under the interface devices column, if this column is not there for a specific site it means that serial/voice gateways are not required. 1.4. Minimum of 100Mbps for ethernet ports and serial/gateway ports.
6	09 October 2026	K3M Engineering	Volume 2 PoE Requirements 4.1.6, 4.1.5 Site tables: 6.2.1 to 14.2.1	**What the Bid says:** 4.1.6 states that the Ethernet ports shall support PoE for IP telephone power delivery. No PoE standard (802.3af/at/bt), per-port power, number of PoE ports, or total PoE budget is stated in 4.1.6 or in the site tables. **PoE Requirements (Question)** 1. Please specify the number of PoE ports required at each node, the applicable IEEE PoE standard, the power required per port, and the total simultaneous PoE load per switch. Must all service access ports support PoE?	1.1 All Ethernet service access ports shall support PoE. 1.2 IEEE802.3at 1.3 Based on the IEEE802.3at standard. 1.4 Based on the IEEE802.3at standard.

7	09 October 2026	K3M Engineering	Volume 2 Network Management Deployment Architecture 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.4 to 4.5.6, 4.6.1 4.5 Monitoring (TOC p.15) 4.6 Security Requirements (TOC p.16)	**What the bid says:** 4.5.1 requires a monitoring computer at each station for monitoring and configuration, with alarms sent to it. 4.5.2 requires SNMP v3, SSH v2 and HTTPS "to allow a central network management system to monitor and manage all devices from a single point". 4.6.1 requires the ring network to be physically isolated from public networks and the internet. The document does not state whether the management system is per-station or central, or who provides servers and inter-site links. (58 nodes = 12 FALE + 5 FABL + 4 FAKM + 4 FAUP + 6 FAPE + 4 FAEL + 6 FAGG + 14 FACT + 3 ATA, per the site sections.) **Network Management Deployment Architecture (Question)** 1.Should network management be deployed independently at each airport, or should one central platform manage all 58 nodes? Is each station's monitoring PC intended to host an independent management system or act as a client of the central platform? For centralized deployment, who will provide the servers and inter-airport management connectivity?	1.1 The monitoring computer shall be deployed independently at each airport. a central platform is not required.
8	09 October 2026	K3M Engineering	Volume 2 Network Management Scope 4.5.2, 4.5.6, 4.6.2, 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 6.1.5	**What the bid says:** 4.5.6 requires the monitoring computer to indicate each node and its associated services. 4.6.2 refers to management access to "switches, serial/VoIP gateways". 5.1.1 and 5.2.1 require standalone serial-to-Ethernet converters and VoIP gateways at nodes serving serial and E&M equipment. 6.1.5 requires a 3kVA rack UPS at FALE. No UPS monitoring is specified. **Network Management Scope** 1.Is OEM network management platform required to manage only the project switches, or also third-party serial converters, voice gateways and UPS units? If third-party devices (OEMs) must be managed, please specify their models, supported protocols, and required monitoring, alarm and configuration functions.	1.1 The management platform shall manage all the ports provided by the project (both Ethernet and serial/voice gateway ports) including the management of the proposed UPS (the bidder will know the specifications for this).
9	09 October 2026	K3M Engineering	Volume 2 Scope of 15-Year OEM Support Vol 2: 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.6.2	**What the bid says**: Vol 2, 3.4.1 requires the nodes to operate within specification for a minimum of 10 years. Vol 1A, 2.2.4 requires a maintenance and support agreement "for the entire lifespan of the system" covering corrective maintenance, firmware updates, security patches, obsolescence management and lifecycle support. **Scope of 15-Year OEM Support (Question)** 1.Please clarify the specific OEM obligations over the 15-year service period, including hardware support, software upgrades, security patches and technical support. Is continuous support through phased service contracts, spare parts provision and equipment refresh acceptable, rather than requiring the same model to remain available for sale and supported for 15 years?	1.1 The requirements under Volume 2 Section 3.4 must be read in conjunction with Volume 4 Section 6.4 and Section 12. ATNS requires a fixed support and maintenance cost for the entire lifespan of the system. The Bidder shall cater for all associated costs upfront based on the support and maintenance requirements in Volume 4. Any interventions required to keep the service running for the 15 year period must be included in the tender.

10	09 October 2026	K3M Engineering	Volume 2 Interconnection with the Existing Network Vol 2: 3.1 General (TOC p.10), 4.3 Ring Topology (TOC p.14), 4.4 Ring Protection (TOC p.15) Vol 1A: Section 2 (p.11)	**What the bid says:** Vol 2, 3.1.2 and the site clauses require connection to the existing single-mode fibre cables (fibre only). Vol 1A, 2.2.6 requires integration with the existing ATNS fibre optic network and associated systems without disrupting operational services, and compatibility with existing infrastructure. Each site section describes its own ring (single or dual). No existing switch models, software versions or OTN equipment are identified. **Interconnection with the Existing Network (Question)** 1.Will the new switches form independent rings, or must they participate in rings with existing switches or interface with existing OTN Systems equipment? Where interoperability is required, please provide equipment models, software versions, interfaces and ring protocols.	1.1 The new nodes will create a new ring using the exisiting fibre optic cable. There is no requirement to interface with the existing OTN system. The new nodes will replace the OTN equipment.
11	09 October 2026	K3M Engineering	Volume 2 Service Protection at Dual-Node Sites 6.1 FALE Ring Configuration (TOC p.18) 13.1 FACT Ring Configuration (TOC p.32) 4.3 and 4.4 (TOC pp.14-15)	**What the bid says:** 6.1.1 (FALE) describes rings with main and standby nodes (12 nodes in total). 13.1.1 to 13.1.3 (FACT) describe 14 nodes with main and standby at each site, connected in series. The site tables list "Main Equipment Room x2" (FALE) and "Equipment Room x2" (FACT). 4.4.3 requires automatic reconfiguration on fibre breach. **Service Protection at Dual-Node Sites (Question)** 1.For sites with main and standby nodes, please clarify whether service equipment is single-homed or dual-homed, and specify the required service protection following the failure of one switch.	1.1 The provided nodes shall support both as some equipment will be single-homed while others require dual homed depending on the importance or criticality of that system. The service protection is provided under 4.4 Ring protection.
12	09 October 2026	K3M Engineering	Volume 2 Redundant Power Supplies 3.3 Power Requirements (TOC p.11) Site sections 6 to 14 15.1 Equipment rack and Cabling (TOC p.38)	**What the bid says:** 3.3.4 requires the nodes to "cater for dual power feed". 3.3.1 requires operation from 230V AC mains. 3.3.5 requires circuit breakers. 6.1.5 requires a 3kVA rack UPS (10 minutes) at FALE, and other sites connect to the building UPS. 15.1.2 provides a 4-metre power cable from the circuit breaker to the rack. **Redundant Power Supplies** 1.Is the use of two external AC/DC power supplies to provide redundant power to each industrial switch acceptable? Following the failure of one power supply, must the remaining supply sustain the full PoE load?	1.1 Yes 1.2 Yes
13	15 October 2026	Cnp Projects (pty) Ltd		Can we have the existing solution used by Atns, make and models so if an alternate solution is used we can make sure its 100 percent compatable with current solution.	The brand of the current system is OTN - Open Transport Network. ATNS uses the N22 node with the BORA600 logic card. The interface cards at each site differ depending on each sites needs.
14	15 October 2026	Cnp Projects (pty) Ltd		Old equipment removed gets returned to Atns or does the contractor dispose off?	As per the scope of the project, the Contractor is responsible for decommissioning and disposal of existing equipment. Furthermore, please refer to Section 5.3 of Volume 3 as well as the Environmental Sustainability Requirements of Appendix A of Volume 3.

15	19 October 2026	Optical Fibre Trends	In volume 2, section 10.2.1,	In volume 2, section 10.2.1, under Receiver and Transmitter there is mention of RS232 and 2w4w WE &M. To my knowledge these site communicate directly to the equipment room, but there is NO reflection of related communications at the equipment room. Does this mean the Transmitter and Receiver communicate to each other, or that they communicate to the equipment room but this information was not included?	These sites should maintain communication with the equipment room, and the proposed solution must accommodate this requirement. However, the intention is to implement an IP-based system that would transmit the 4-wire E&M signals/RS232 to the equipment room. The relevant equipment in the equipment room will then be connected to the node via ethernet ports instead of traditional 4 Wire E&M/RS232. ATNS is in the process of phasing out the use of 4Wire E&M and RS232.
16	19 October 2026	Optical Fibre Trends		Should we allow for the communication to go to the equipment room, or should we not include? This has impact on the pricing schedule and the various drawings that need to be supplied as per the technical reference? 3. This information is missing at various sites in this document. Please assist urgently.	See above.
17	19 October 2026	Optical Fibre Trends		Extension: This is an official request from Optical Fibre Trends for extension of time for the above-mentioned tender. The tender closing date is listed as 6 November 2026. I request this tender be extended until 27 November 2026. The following reasons for request: 1. As the tender include multiple sites the creation of all the various plans is a timeous exercise. As these plans also need to talk to the financial strategy and the installation methodology, considerable time is required to align between all members of the tender team. 2. The amount of information required to offer a working solution is also a time consuming exorcize. Especially considering the multiple sites to be implemented. 3. To establish costing for many sites, where UPS will be required, where enclosure sizes need to be calculated, etc is again a lengthy process and timeous exercise. 4. Some information is omitted from the Volume 2 documentation and is slowing down progress.	Extended to 20 November 2026 11:00
18	25 October 2026	Okebis Projects Pty Ltd	e-mail	Good day May I confirm whether an additional briefing session will be scheduled given that the submission deadline for this requirement has been prolonged? I observed the advertisement at a later time and have subsequently discovered that an extension is now available.	Please note that no additional briefing session will be scheduled. The compulsory briefing session was held on the date specified in the bid documents, and the extension of the closing date does not amend the tender requirements or conditions. To ensure a fair and equitable process for all prospective bidders, the tender conditions must be applied consistently.

19	28 October 2026	Bluetel Communications	e-mail	we would like to enquire whether the current network topology and network layout can be made available to prospective bidders. This information is essential to ensure that our proposed solution is fully compatible with your existing infrastructure and can communicate seamlessly with the current network architecture. In addition, it would be extremely helpful if you could provide the following technical details: · Current network topology and layout: An overview of the existing network architecture, including the interconnections between network nodes. · SFP specifications: Details of the Small Form-factor Pluggable (SFP) transceivers currently deployed across the network nodes, including the types and specifications in use. · Network capacity: The current capacity and relevant technical specifications of the network links and associated node interfaces. Access to this information would enable us to assess the existing infrastructure accurately, validate interoperability, and demonstrate the technical compatibility of our proposed solution in our tender submission.	Please refer to Volume 2 for the current network topologies (Sections 6 to 14), SFP specifications (Section 4.1) and Network capacity requirements (Section 4.1). Please also refer to previous Q&A responses which have been published on the etenders website.