

MEETING MINUTES

TE25-BFX-05Q-14539 – Compulsory Briefing Session for Supply and Delivery of Raw Steel

28 July 2026

Meeting	TE25-BFX-05Q-14539 – Compulsory Briefing Session for Supply and Delivery of Raw Steel
Date	28 July 2026
Meeting type	Compulsory tender briefing session
Chairperson	Ephraim Ramaru – Supply Management and Strategic Sourcing
Presenters / contributors	Ephraim Ramaru, Thembi Phahla, Amit Ramterath, Nokuthula Jwara, Ruan van der Merwe
Tender scope	Supply and delivery of raw steel requirements nationally, on an as-and-when-required basis, for Transnet Engineering Manufacturing Business for five years
Source for minutes	Meeting transcript, meeting chat and shared presentation content. The meeting was transcribed.

Note: These minutes summarise the transcribed briefing session and captured questions. They do not reproduce the full meeting transcript. Formal tender clarifications and addenda remain subject to publication through the applicable tender portals and official Transnet communication channels.

1. Welcome and Opening

Ephraim Ramaru opened the compulsory briefing session and confirmed that the session related to Tender TE25-BFX-05Q-14539 for the supply and delivery of raw steel. Attendees were advised that questions raised during the meeting would be recorded and that formal responses would be issued with the minutes. The Chair also advised that Transnet had identified amendments required in the issued tender documents and that addenda would be released to bidders.

The Chair confirmed that attendance would be verified using the Microsoft Teams attendance list. Bidders were requested to provide company names and email addresses in the meeting chat to support communication of addenda and clarifications. A brief safety message was also shared, reminding attendees to exercise caution with heating equipment during cold weather.

2. Purpose and Tender Scope

The purpose of the meeting was to brief bidders on the tender requirements, submission process, evaluation methodology, ESD and specific goals requirements, technical evaluation criteria, supplier quality assessment and pricing schedules for the raw steel tender.

- The tender covers supply and delivery nationally for Transnet Engineering Manufacturing Business.
- The contract period is five years.
- The requirement is on an as-and-when-required basis.
- The tender is divided into four categories: Plates and Sheets; Sectional and Shapes; 3CR12 and Stainless Steel; and Spring Steel.

3. Tender Submission Requirements

- Tender closing date and time: 21 August 2026 at 10:00.
- Clarification cut-off: 18 August 2026 at 12:00.
- Tender validity period: 180 business days from the closing date.
- Bidders were encouraged to upload submissions at least one day before closing to avoid upload, bandwidth or portal-related risks.
- Maximum upload size communicated: 30MB per upload, with multiple uploads permitted.
- Submissions must be made through the Transnet eTender submission portal. Email, fax, telephonic and telegraphic tender offers will not be accepted.
- Bidders must index and organise their submission packs clearly.

4. Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation process was explained as a staged process. Bidders must first pass administrative responsiveness before proceeding to technical evaluation. Only bidders meeting the minimum technical threshold proceed to the supplier quality assessment and thereafter to commercial evaluation.

Stage	Description
Stage 1	Administrative responsiveness / mandatory document check.
Stage 2	Technical evaluation, with a minimum threshold of 80 points out of 100.
Stage 3	Supplier Quality Assessment, with a minimum threshold of 75%.
Stage 4	Commercial evaluation based on price and specific goals.
Stage 5	Post-tender negotiation, if required, starting with the highest-ranked bidder.
Stage 6 and 7	Internal approval and award processes.

5. Returnable Documents

The Chair explained that returnable documents are categorised according to the consequence of non-submission.

5.1 Mandatory Returnable Documents

Failure to submit all mandatory returnable documents by the closing date and time will result in disqualification. Mandatory documents include the relevant pricing schedules and Annexures 1 to 4, depending on the categories for which a bidder submits a response.

5.2 Returnable Documents Used for Scoring

- B-BBEE certificate, sworn affidavit or CIPC certificate where applicable.
- Local content annexures.
- Technical evaluation criteria annexures.
- Technical specifications and signed schedules.
- Proof of existing machines or MOU evidence.
- Statement of account or letter of good standing with applicable steel mill(s).
- Valid ISO 9001:2015 certificate or QMS documentation.
- Reference letters.

5.3 Essential Returnable Documents

Essential returnable documents may be requested after bid submission. Failure to provide requested essential documents by the set deadline may result in disqualification.

6. Specific Goals and ESD Requirements

Thembi Phahla presented the specific goals and ESD initiatives. Five points are allocated for Level 1 or Level 2 B-BBEE status, and five points are allocated for local content compliance. Bidders were reminded that B-BBEE certificates must be valid and properly accredited or commissioned where applicable.

Thembi also explained transformation initiatives that may form conditions of contract. These include National Industrial Participation Programme requirements where imports exceed USD 5 million, job creation, subcontracting to local suppliers, and support for EMEs and QSEs in the steel sector. These initiatives may be monitored and reported during contract implementation.

7. Scope of Work and Category Amendments

Ephraim Ramaru explained that Transnet had identified errors in the category naming in the released documentation. The category labelled 3CR12 and Stainless Steel contained spring steel content, while the category labelled Spring Steel contained 3CR12 and stainless steel content. Transnet intends to correct the naming through an addendum while retaining the underlying item content requirements.

The Chair also advised that some items in the Excel schedules had been highlighted because additional information was lacking. These items will be amended and reissued as part of the addendum process.

8. Technical Evaluation Criteria

Amit Ramterath presented the technical evaluation criteria. Bidders were advised that scoring zero in any technical criterion results in automatic disqualification. The minimum overall technical threshold is 80 points.

Criterion	Points	Key requirement
Supplier capability	30	Evidence of machinery, processing capability, MOU capability where applicable, and mill account or letter of good standing.
Adherence to Transnet Engineering specifications	20	Signed technical specification and relevant annexures acknowledging all item and long-text requirements.
Quality management	20	Bidder's own valid ISO 9001:2015 certificate, or bidder's own QMS documentation based on the required ISO elements.

Criterion	Points	Key requirement
Delivery lead time	20	Lead times for local and imported material stated in business days in the required RFP section.
Previous relevant experience	10	Tender-specific reference letters from clients confirming steel supply and delivery experience.

For quality management, Amit repeatedly clarified that the ISO certificate or QMS must belong to the bidder or bidding entity. Supplier, manufacturer or MOU partner certificates are not accepted for the bidder's quality management score.

9. Supplier Quality Assessment

Nokuthula Jwara explained the Supplier Quality Assessment process. The assessment applies after bidders pass technical evaluation. The assessment is a structured audit to verify evidence on site. The maximum score is 38 points, with a 75% minimum threshold for this tender.

- Organisation profile and scope of activities.
- Quality management system and supporting documented procedures.
- Document control, quality control plans and inspection records.
- Risk assessments and mitigation controls.
- Process controls, workflows, job cards and check sheets.
- Material and product qualification, including traceability and acceptance/rejection criteria.
- Tooling, equipment maintenance, control and calibration requirements.
- Supplier and subcontractor assessment processes.
- Non-conformance management and customer complaint turnaround.
- Corrective action processes and internal audits.

Nokuthula clarified that the questionnaire is not completed by bidders for scoring at tender submission stage. It is used to show bidders what evidence will be required during the site assessment. Transnet representatives will complete the assessment during the site visit.

10. Pricing Schedule and Commercial Discussion

Ruan van der Merwe explained the pricing schedules. Bidders must complete only the highlighted year-one pricing column. The remaining year-two to year-five pricing and totals are formula-based and should not be altered. Bidders were advised not to change quantities or formula columns.

Ruan clarified that the escalation built into years two to five is for evaluation and contract-value estimation. It is not the contracted price adjustment mechanism. Actual contract adjustments will be governed by the price adjustment formula submitted by the bidder, including cost drivers and weightings.

The pricing schedule totals must be carried into Section 4 of the RFP for the applicable category. Bidders must quote for all line items in any category they choose to bid for. Failure to quote all line items in a selected category will render the bid non-responsive for that category.

11. Transport and Delivery Pricing Discussion

Several bidders raised concerns about delivery locations, transport costs, depot-level quantities and the possibility of separate regional pricing. Locations specifically referenced included Durban, Bloemfontein, Salt River and Koedoespoort.

Ruan clarified that Transnet requires one national price per item. Separate prices by region will not be accepted because Transnet requires a manageable contract structure and national demand may shift over the five-year contract period. Bidders must decide how to build transport into the single national price. The concerns were noted for further written response, including whether additional information on depots or delivery points can be provided.

12. Addendum and Document Updates

Ephraim confirmed that an addendum will be issued to correct and update tender documents. The updated information will be uploaded to both the Transnet eTender portal and the National Treasury tender portal. Bidders who provided email addresses will also be notified by email once updated documentation is available.

- Corrected category naming for 3CR12/Stainless Steel and Spring Steel schedules.
- Updated pricing schedules.
- Locked Excel pricing spreadsheets.
- Additional or corrected item information where required.
- Additional RFP sections including attendance, job creation and NIPP-related schedules.

Confirmed Decisions and Clarifications

Item	Confirmed position
Tender closing date and time	21 August 2026 at 10:00.
Clarification cut-off	18 August 2026 at 12:00. Questions after this cut-off will not be entertained.
Submission channel	Submissions must be uploaded via the Transnet eTender submission portal. Email, fax, telephonic and telegraphic submissions will not be accepted.
Tender validity	180 business days from the closing date.
Technical threshold	Minimum 80 points out of 100.
Supplier Quality Assessment threshold	Minimum 75%.
Bid pricing basis	One national price per item is required. Separate regional prices will not be accepted.
Pricing spreadsheet completion	Bidders must complete only the highlighted yellow year-one pricing column in the updated pricing spreadsheet. Formula-based fields should not be altered.
Reference evidence	Purchase orders, appointment letters, contracts and invoices are not accepted as reference letters.
ISO / QMS evidence	The valid ISO 9001:2015 certificate or QMS documentation must belong to the bidder or bidding entity.
Addendum	Updated tender documentation and corrected schedules will be issued through the tender portals, with notification by email to bidders who provided contact details.

Meeting Closure

The Chair thanked bidders for attending. Ephraim confirmed that meeting minutes, responses to questions raised and any addenda would be communicated through the appropriate tender portals and supporting email notifications. The briefing session was then closed.