(a) Number of Contractors for Each Category/Group

1) As the purpose of the SOA-QPS bidding process is to look for pre-qualified service providers, there should be a maximum number of contractors where the cap can vary for each Service Category / Group. Unlike product requirements which are more well defined, service requirements are most often high level. For smaller service providers / startup, it would be difficult to estimate resources accurately and to deliver successfully without proper governance according to the Government standards.

2) The number of contractors for each Service Category / Group will depend on the competencies of the service providers based on their proposals received by the Government.

(b) Service Categorization

(1) We do not suggest to merge or further separate certain types of services from existing service categories as the current segregation is quite appropriate to allow service providers to decide on their focus areas. There is always the odd cases of overlapping in the procured service scope and allowing partnership across different Service Category can solve this issue.

(2) It may be appropriate to add Staff Category for Subject Matter Expert from industries worldwide such as AI, Big Data, robotics, blockchain, information management, etc.

(3) We support the PIA service to group under Category 4 as the PIA and SRAA services require similar skillset.

(4) We propose the independent QC/QA services to group under Category 3 or Category 1 as the services require similar skillset.

(c) Demarcation Limit and Group

(1) We do not suggest to adjust demarcation limit or adding new group for smaller contract value. However, we suggest that the option to allow contractors of Major Group to work as sub-contractor of Minor Group and vise versa. This can give flexibility to the market to form appropriate partnership in providing more comprehensive services to the Government even for smaller contract value.

(2) We suggest to increase the financial limit of major group to HK$20M to accommodate a wider spectrum of scope and size of projects.

(d) Other major aspects

(1) We suggest that in the procurement of SOA-QPS5, the Government should take into consideration of bidders who can demonstrate substantial project experience as subcontractors in Hong Kong Government projects. The evaluation can be based on their portion of contract value and obligations as a subcontractor. This can help to promote healthy competition and development of new HK ICT participants in the market.