

# TENDERWIN INTELLIGENCE

## THE ZERO-TRUST MANDATE: SITA 2026 COMPLIANCE STANDARDS

A Sovereign Intelligence Briefing for ICT Leaders.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The upcoming 2026 provincial and national ICT tender cycles signal a definitive shift in SITA's evaluation criteria. The traditional "perimeter security" model is obsolete. National Treasury now mandates a "Zero-Trust Architecture" (ZTA) aligned with ISO 27001 standards for all critical infrastructure bids.

Firms that fail to demonstrate a mature ZTA framework in their technical methodology will face immediate disqualification on functionality scoring, regardless of price.

### THE TECHNICAL SHIFT

#### 1. Identity as the New Perimeter:

Bidders must demonstrate MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication) and continuous validation for every user and device accessing government data, moving beyond simple VPN access.

#### 2. Least-Privilege Access:

Methodologies must prove that access is restricted to the bare minimum required for function. "Admin access by default" is now a killer clause.

#### 3. Sovereign Data Residency:

Cloud proposals must guarantee data persistence within South African borders, compliant with POPIA and SITA data sovereignty requirements.

### THE TENDERWIN ADVANTAGE

Our forensic audit process identifies gaps between your current infrastructure and the 2026 SITA ZTA requirements. We engineer the remedial narratives required to secure maximum points for technical security competence.

