

Section II: Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

1. The Tender Document

1.1. Basic Tender Details

This 'Hiring Light Commercial Vehicle on monthly and call basis for a period of 02 years' Document (hereinafter referred to as the 'the Tender Document') details the terms and conditions for entering into a contract for delivery of the Services (hereinafter called 'the Services') mentioned in Section VI: "Schedule of Requirements". Bidders must go through the Tender Document for further details. 'Tender Information Summary' (TIS) is appended to Section I: Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for ready reference. The 'Services' may include incidental Goods and Works if so indicated. In this Tender Document, any generic reference to 'Services' shall be deemed to include such incidental Goods and Works.

1.2. Interpretations, Definitions, Abbreviations and Document Conventions

Section IV: General Conditions of Contract (GCC), details Tenets of interpretation (GCC-clause 1.1), Definitions (GCC-clause 1.2), Document conventions (GCC-clause 1.3) and Abbreviations (GCC-clause 1.4), which shall also apply to the rest of the Tender Document.

1.3. Overview of Contents

- 1) Unless otherwise stipulated in TIS/ AITB, the Sections, Forms and Formats comprising this Tender Document are described in ITB-clauses 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 below. A BOQ file separately available on the eProcurement Portal is also part of this Tender Document. Any generic reference to Tender Document shall also imply a reference to any/ all the sections, Forms, Formats and the BOQ file or other files that comprise this Tender Document.
- 2) Bidder must submit the bid in the Forms/ Formats mentioned in ITB-clauses 1.5 and 1.6 below. The sections mentioned in ITB-clause 1.4 below need not be signed or returned by the bidders; however, Bidder must declare in his bid Form (Form 1) that he has read, understood, complied, and stands bound by all requirements of these sections:

1.4. Sections of the Tender Document (need not be signed or uploaded)

1.4.1 Sections of the Tender Document (need not be signed or uploaded)

Unless otherwise stipulated in TIS/ AITB, the Tender Document contains the following sections, which are described in subsequent sub-clauses:

- 1) Section I: Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and its Appendix: Tender Information Summary (TIS)
- 2) Section II: Instructions to Bidders (ITB)
- 3) Section III: Appendix to Instructions to Bidders (AITB)
- 4) Section IV: General Conditions of Contract (GCC)
- 5) Section V: Special Conditions of Contract (SCC)
- 6) Section VI: Schedule of Requirements
 - a) Section VI-1: Services and Activities Schedule
- 7) Section VII: Performance Standards and Quality Assurance
 - a) Section VII-1: Method Statement
 - b) Section VII-2: Work Plan

- c) Section VII-3: Critical Material Schedule
- 8) Section VIII: Qualification Criteria
 - a) Section VIII-1: Key Personnel Schedule
 - b) Section VIII-2: Critical Equipment Schedule

1.4.2 Section I: Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and its Appendix: Tender Information Summary (TIS)

Section I – Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and its Appendix – Tender Information Summary (TIS) provides a synopsis of information relevant for a Bidder to decide on participating in the Tender. Any generic reference to NIT shall also imply a reference to TIS as well. Bidders must fill up ‘Form 5: Terms and Conditions - Compliance’ regarding any deviations from this Schedule.

1.4.3 Section II: Instructions to Bidders (ITB) and Section III: Appendix to Instructions to Bidders (AITB)

Section II: “Instructions to Bidders” - ITB along with Section III: “Appendix to Instructions to Bidders – AITB” provides the relevant information as well as instructions to assist the prospective Bidders in preparation and submission of Bids. It also includes the mode and procedure adopted for receipt/ opening, scrutiny/ evaluation of Bids, and contract award. In case of a conflict, provisions of AITB shall prevail over those in the ITB. Any generic reference to ITB shall also imply a reference to AITB as well. Bidders must fill up ‘Form 5: Terms and Conditions - Compliance’ regarding any deviations from this Schedule.

1.4.4 Section IV: General Conditions of Contract (GCC) and Section V: Special Conditions of Contract (SCC)

Section IV – General Conditions of Contract (GCC) and Section V – Special Conditions of Contract (SCC) describe the conditions that shall govern the resulting contract. In case of a conflict, provisions of SCC shall prevail over those in the GCC. Any generic reference to GCC shall also imply a reference to SCC as well. In case of any conflict, provisions of GCC/ SCC shall prevail over those in ITB/ AITB. Bidders must fill up ‘Form 5: Terms and Conditions - Compliance’ regarding any deviations from terms and conditions in this and other Schedules.

1.4.5 Section VI: Schedule of Requirements and Section VI-1: Services Schedule

Section VI: Schedule of Requirements and Section VI-1: Service and Activities Schedule describe the background, purpose/ objectives, description/ scope, deliverables/ outcomes, quantum, timelines of Services required etc. The requirements may consist of more than one schedule. Each schedule may contain more than one Service. Bidders must fill up ‘Form 2: Schedule of Requirements - Compliance’ and its sub-forms regarding these Schedules.

1.4.6 Section VII: Performance Standards and Quality Assurance

- 1) Section VII – Performance Standards and Quality Assurance stipulates the quantitative/ qualitative parameters/ limits/ thresholds for Performance standards/ Service Levels and functional/ technical specifications to which the service must be performed. It shall stipulate procedures for measurement, reporting and monitoring of performance parameters, including institutional or third-party arrangements for this purpose. It shall also stipulate the procedure for resolution and escalation in case of deficiency in performance/ quality/ service levels. In the case of long-term and complex services, it may stipulate a Service-Level Agreement (SLA) agreement which must be complied with during delivery of Services.

Performance Standards shall also include statutory compliance required for Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions requirements during delivery of Services.

- 2) Procuring Entity may, if considered necessary, specify Section VII-1: Method Statement, Section VII-2: Work Plan and Section VII-3: Critical Material Schedule required for the performance of services to desired quality and standards. Otherwise, these may be left to be quoted by the Bidder.
- 3) Bidders must fill up the following Forms regarding this Schedule:
 - a) Form 3: Performance Standards and Quality Assurance - Compliance
 - b) Form 3.1: Method Statement
 - c) Form 3.2: Work-Plan
 - d) Form 3.3: Personnel Deployment Plan
 - e) Form 3.4: Equipment Deployment Form
 - f) Form 3.5: Materials Deployment Plan

1.4.7 Section VIII: Qualification Criteria; Section VIII-1: Key Personnel Schedule and Section VIII-2: Critical Equipment Schedule:

- 1) These Sections lay down the Qualifying Criteria for a bid/ Bidder to be considered a responsive bid/ bidder for further evaluation. Bids/ bidders not meeting these Qualification criteria shall be rejected as nonresponsive. It may indicate the extent of dispensation allowed for Start-ups under ITB-clause 4.3.2-2) and Make in India -JVs under ITB 4.1.7-2. Unless otherwise stipulated in Section VII: Qualification Criteria, the Qualification Criteria shall include:
 - a) Criteria 1: Experience and Past Performance
 - i) Similar Experience
 - ii) Non-performing Contracts and Litigation
 - b) Criteria 2: Performance Capability
 - i) Key Personnel
 - ii) Critical Equipment
 - c) Criteria 3: Financial Capability
 - i) Financial Ratios
 - ii) Turnover
 - iii) Financial Liquidity
- 2) Bidders must fill up the following Forms regarding this Schedule. Forms quoted by the Bidder under Form 3 shall also be evaluated for determining compliance to qualification criteria.:
 - a) Form 4: Qualification Criteria - Compliance
 - b) Form 4.1: Performance Statement.
 - b) Form 4.2: Non-performance, Litigation Statement
 - c) Form 4.3: Financial Capability Statements
- 2) Following Forms quoted by the Bidder under Form 3 shall also be evaluated for determining compliance to qualification criteria.
 - a) Form 3.3: Personnel Deployment Plan
 - b) Form 3.4: Equipment Deployment Plan

1.5. Forms (To be filled, digitally signed, and uploaded by Bidders)

Please refer to ITB-clause 1.4 above to relate the following forms to the corresponding Sections.

- 1) Form 1: bid Form – (To serve as a covering letter to both the Techno-commercial and Financial Bids)
 - a) Form 1.1: Bidder Information
 - b) Form 1.2: Eligibility Declarations
 - c) Form 1.3: Declaration by Agents/ Associates of Foreign Principals
- 2) Form 2: Schedule of Requirements - Compliance
- 3) Form 3: Performance Standards and Quality Assurance - Compliance
 - a) Form 3.1: Method Statement
 - b) Form 3.2: Work-Plan
 - c) Form 3.3: Personnel Deployment Plan
 - d) Form 3.4: Equipment Deployment Plan
 - e) Form 3.5: Materials Deployment Plan
- 4) Form 4: Qualification Criteria - Compliance
 - a) Form 4.1: Performance Statement
 - b) Form 4.2: Non-performance, Litigation Statement
 - c) Form 4.3 Financial Capability Statements
- 5) Form 5: Terms and Conditions - Compliance
- 6) Form 6: Checklist for the Bidders
- 7) Form 7: Documents Relating to Bid Security
- 8) BOQ Excel Sheet (To be Downloaded from the Portal).
- 9) Form 8: Integrity Pact

1.6. Other Formats

- 1) Format 1: Contract Form (Required after Letter of Award)
 - a) Format 1.1: Description of Services
 - i) Format 1.1.1: Personnel Deployment Plan
 - ii) Format 1.1.2: Equipment Deployment Plan
 - iii) Format 1.1.3: Materials Deployment Plan
 - b) Format 1.2: Price Schedule
 - c) Format 1.3: Bank Guarantee Format for Performance Security
 - d) Format 1.4: Certification by Prospective Arbitrators
- 2) Format 2: Authorisation for Attending Pre-bid Conference. (To be filled up, if required, by Bidder)

2. Procuring Entity - Rights and Disclaimers

2.1. The Procuring Entity

Bids are to be addressed to the Director (IIM Amritsar) through the Dean Administration, Store and Purchase office in the Indian Institute of Management Amritsar (headed by Director (IIM Amritsar)).

The Store and Purchase office is the designated officer for uploading and clarifying this Tender Document. The contract may designate, as required, counterpart Contract Manager (or Contract Management Team); interim/ ultimate Beneficiaries of Services and Paying authority who shall discharge designated function during contract execution.

2.2. Right to Intellectual Property and confidentiality:

- 1) The Tender Document and associated correspondence are subject to copyright laws and shall always remain the property of the Procuring Entity and must not be shared with third parties or reproduced, whether in whole or part, without the Procuring Entity's prior written consent.
- 2) However, Bidders may share these to prepare and submit its bid with its employees, subcontractor(s), or holding Company. Bidders shall obtain from them an undertaking of confidentiality similar to that imposed on Bidder under this clause.
- 3) This condition shall also apply to bidders who do not submit a bid after downloading it or who are not awarded a contract in the process.
- 4) The obligation of the Bidders under sub-clauses above, however, shall not apply to information that:
 - a) now or hereafter is or enters the public domain through no fault of Bidder;
 - b) is legally possessed by Bidder at the relevant time and was not previously obtained, directly or indirectly, from the Procuring Entity; or
 - c) otherwise lawfully becomes available to Bidder from a third party that has no obligation of confidentiality.
- 5) The provisions of this clause shall survive completion or termination for whatever reason of the Tender Process or the contract.

2.3. Right to Reject any or all Bids

The Procuring Entity reserves its right to accept or reject any or all Bids, abandon/ cancel the Tender process, and issue another tender for the same or similar Goods at any time before the award of the contract. It would have no liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders or any obligation to inform the affected Bidder or Bidders of the grounds for such action(s).

2.4. Disclaimers

2.4.1 Regarding Purpose of the Tender Document

The Tender Document is neither an agreement nor an offer to prospective Bidder(s) or any other party hereunder. The purpose of the Tender Document is to provide the Bidder(s) with information to assist them in participation in this Tender Process.

2.4.2 Regarding Documents/ guidelines

The Tender Document, ensuing communications, and Contracts shall determine the legal and commercial relationship between the bidders/ contractors and the Procuring Entity. No other Government or Procuring Entity's document/ guidelines/ Manuals including its Procurement Manual (for internal and official use of its officers), notwithstanding any mention thereof in the Tender Document, shall have any locus-standii in such a relationship. Therefore, such documents/ guidelines/ Manuals shall not be admissible in any legal or dispute resolution or grievance redressal proceedings.

2.4.3 Regarding Information Provided

Information contained in the Tender Document or subsequently provided to the Bidder(s) is on the terms and conditions set out in the Tender Document or subject to which that was provided. Similar terms apply to information provided verbally or in documentary or any other form, directly or indirectly, by the Procuring Entity or any of its employees or associated agencies.

2.4.4 Regarding Tender Document:

- 1) The Tender Document does not purport to contain all the information Bidder(s) may require. It may not address the needs of all Bidders. They should conduct due diligence, investigation, and analysis, check the information's accuracy, reliability, and completeness, and obtain independent advice from appropriate sources. Information provided in the Tender Document to the Bidder(s) is on a wide range of matters, some of which may depend upon interpreting the law. The information given is not intended to be an exhaustive account of statutory requirements and should not be regarded as a complete or authoritative statement of law. The Procuring Entity, its employees and other associated agencies accept no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise for any interpretation or opinion on law expressed herein.
- 2) The Procuring Entity, its employees and other associated agencies make no representation or warranty for the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, completeness or reliability, assessment, assumption, statement, or information in the Tender Document. They have no legal liability, whether resulting from negligence or otherwise, for any loss, damages, cost, or expense that may arise from/ incurred/ suffered howsoever caused to any person, including any Bidder, on such account.

3. Bidders – Eligibility and Preferential Policies

3.1. Bidders

Subject to provisions in the following clauses in this section and provisions in Tender Document, this invitation for Bids is open to all bidders who fulfil the 'Eligibility Criteria' stipulated in the Tender Document. In the case of the Second Stage (of two Stage Bidding or PQB) or Special Limited Tenders, this invitation is open only to such bidders who have been previously shortlisted or specifically invited.

3.1.1 Sub-Contractors

Subject to the restrictions outlined in this Tender Document, any Bidder may propose to sub-contract a part of the contract for specialised items of services, provided that the names and details of the sub-contracts are clearly stated in the bid submitted by Bidder and provided further that such sub-contractor should not circumvent the eligibility condition laid down below. Procurement of material, hire of equipment or engagement of labour shall not be considered as sub-contracting. Despite any approval granted by the Procuring Entity for such arrangements, the Bidder/ Contractor shall be solely and directly responsible for executing sub-contracted portions of the contract. The total value of the sub-contracting portion of services must not exceed the per cent of the contract price as specified in the Tender Document/ Contract (if not so specified 25 (twenty-five) percent). Sub-contracting by the contractor without the approval of the Procuring Entity shall be a breach of contract.

3.2. Eligibility Criteria for Participation in this Tender

Subject to provisions in this Tender Document, participation in this Tender Process is open to all bidders who fulfil the 'Eligibility' and 'Qualification criteria. Bidder should meet (as on the date of his bid submission and should continue to meet till the award of the contract) the 'Eligibility Criteria' detailed in NIT-clause 3, which shall be considered to be part of this clause of ITB (even though it is

not being reproduced here for the sake of brevity). Bidder shall submit a declaration about the 'Eligibility Criteria' compliance in Form 1.2 – Eligibility Declarations.

3.3. Eligibility of bidders from specified countries

Orders issued by the Government of India restricting procurement from bidders from certain countries that share a land border with India shall apply to this procurement.

- 1) Any bidder (as defined in GCC-clause 1.2) from a country that shares a land border with India¹, excluding countries as listed on the website of the Ministry of External Affairs², to which the Government of India has extended lines of credit or in which the Government of India is engaged in development projects – hereinafter called 'Restricted Countries') shall be eligible to bid in this tender only if Bidder is registered³ with the Registration Committee constituted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Bidders shall enclose the certificate in this regard in Form 1 - bid Form.
- 2) In Bids for Turnkey contracts, including Works contracts, the successful bidder shall not be allowed to sub-contract works to any contractor from such Restricted Countries unless such contractor is similarly registered. In such cases, the bidders shall enclose the certificate in Form 1: Bid Form.
- 3) If Bidder has proposed to sub-contract Services or incidental Goods directly/ indirectly from the vendors from such countries, such vendor shall be required to be registered with the Competent Authority. However, if Bidder procures raw material, components, and sub-assemblies from such countries' vendors, such vendors shall not require registration.
- 4) "Bidder from such Restricted Countries" means: -
 - a) An entity incorporated, established, or registered in such a country; or
 - b) A subsidiary of an entity incorporated, established, or registered in such a country; or
 - c) An entity substantially controlled through entities incorporated, established, or registered in such a country; or
 - d) An entity whose beneficial owner is situated in such a country; or
 - e) An Indian (or other) agent of such an entity; or
 - f) A natural person who is a citizen of such a country; or
 - g) A consortium/ joint venture where any member falls under any of the above
- 5) The beneficial owner shall mean:
 - a) In a company or Limited Liability Partnership, the beneficial owner is the natural person(s). Whether acting alone or together or through one or more juridical persons, controlling ownership interest or exercises control through other means.

Explanation-

- i) "Controlling ownership interest" means ownership of or entitlement to more than twenty-five percent of the company's shares or capital, or profits.

¹ <https://mea.gov.in/india-and-neighbours.htm>

² <http://meadashboard.gov.in/indicators/92>

³ <https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/Revised-Application-Format-for-Registration-of-Bidders-15Oct2020.pdf>

- ii) "Control" shall include the right to appoint a majority of the directors or to control the management or policy decisions including by virtue of their shareholding or management rights or shareholder agreements or voting agreements;
- b) In the case of a partnership firm, the beneficial owner is the natural person(s) who, whether acting alone or together or through one or more juridical persons, has ownership of entitlement to more than fifteen percent of capital or profits.
- c) In case of an unincorporated association or body of individuals, the beneficial owner is the natural person(s), who, whether acting alone or together or through one or more juridical person, has ownership of or entitlement to more than fifteen percent of the property or capital or profits of such association or body of individuals;
- d) Where no natural person is identified under (1) or (2) or (3) above, the beneficial owner is the relevant natural person who holds the position of senior managing official.
- e) In case of a trust, the identification of beneficial owner(s) shall include identification of the author of the trust, the trustee, the beneficiaries with fifteen percent or more interest in the trust and any other natural person exercising ultimate effective control over the trust through a chain of control or ownership.

3.4. Conflict of Interest

Any bidder having a conflict of interest, which substantially affects fair competition, shall not be eligible to bid in this tender. Bids found to have a conflict of interest shall be rejected as nonresponsive. Bidder shall be required to declare the absence of such conflict of interest in Form 1.2 - Eligibility Declarations. A bidder in this Tender Process shall be considered to have a conflict of interest if the bidder:

- 1) directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with another Bidder; or
- 2) receives or have received any direct or indirect subsidy/ financial stake from another bidder; or
- 3) has the same legal representative/ agent as another bidder for purposes of this bid. A Principal can authorise only one agent, and an agent also should not represent or quote on behalf of more than one Principals. However, this shall not debar more than one Authorised distributor from quoting equipment manufactured by an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), in procurements under Proprietary Article Certificate; or
- 4) has a relationship with another bidder, directly or through common third parties, that puts it in a position to have access to information about or influence the bid of another Bidder or influence the decisions of the Procuring Entity regarding this Tender process; or
- 5) participates in more than one bid in this tender process. Participation in any capacity by a Bidder (including the participation of a Bidder as sub-contractor in another bid or vice-versa) in more than one bid shall result in the disqualification of all bids in which he is a party. However, this does not limit the participation of a non-bidder firm as a sub-contractor in more than one bid; or
- 6) would be providing goods, works, or non-consulting services resulting from or directly related to consulting services that it provided (or were provided by any affiliate that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with that firm), for the procurement planning (inter-alia preparation of feasibility/ cost estimates/ Detailed Project

Report (DPR), design/ technical specifications, terms of reference (ToR)/ Activity Schedule/ schedule of requirements or the Tender Document etc) of this Tender process; or

- 7) has a close business or family relationship with a staff of the Procuring Organisation who: (i) are directly or indirectly involved in the preparation of the Tender document or specifications of the Tender Process, and/or the evaluation of bids; or (ii) would be involved in the implementation or supervision of resulting Contract unless the conflict stemming from such relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Procuring Entity throughout the Tender process and execution of the Contract.

3.5.Regulation of Indian Agents/ Associates of Foreign Principals

Wherever the foreign principal desires to involve in this tender process, an Indian Agent/ associate, their dealings shall be regulated. Foreign Principals and their Agents/ Associates must provide required declarations in Form 1.3 – Declarations by Agents/ Associates of Foreign Principals:

- 1) The name and address of the foreign principals, if any, indicating their nationality as well as their status, i.e., whether manufacturer or agents of manufacturer holding the Letter of Authority of the Principal authorising them specifically to make an offer in India in response to tender either directly or through the agents/ representatives.
- 2) Such Agents/ Associates shall provide self-attested documentary evidence about their identity, business details to establish that they are a bonafide business and conform to regulations.
- 3) The Bidder/ Foreign Principal must commit to submitting after the Financial bid opening, due to price-sensitive information, the Agreement between them, including the amount of commission/ remuneration included in the price (s).
- 4) Confirmation on behalf of the foreign principals that the commission/ remuneration, if any, reserved for Indian Agents/ Associates in the quoted price(s), shall be paid by the Procuring Entity in India in equivalent Indian Rupees on satisfactory completion of the Project or supplies of Goods and Spares.
- 5) Failure to furnish correct and detailed information shall render Foreign Principal's bid liable to be rejected as nonresponsive in addition to other punitive actions against the Foreign Principal and their Indian Agents/ Associates for violation of Code of Integrity as per the Tender Document.

4. Purchase Preference Policies of the Government

Unless otherwise stipulated in TIS/ AITB, the Procuring Entity reserves its right to grant preferences to the following categories of eligible Bidders under various Government Policies/ Directives:

- 1) Class I Local Suppliers under Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017" (MII) of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, (DPIIT - Public Procurement Section) as revised from time to time.
- 2) Bidders from Micro and/ or Small Enterprises (MSEs) under Public Procurement Policy for the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) Order, 2012 as amended from time to time.
- 3) Start-ups Bidders under Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Public Procurement Division OM No F.20\212014-PPD dated 25.07.2016 and subsequent clarifications; and/ or
- 4) Any other category of Bidders, as per any Government Policies, announced from time to time, if so provided in the TIS/ AITB

4.1.Make in India Order

Orders issued by the Government of India regarding eligibility to participate and for purchase preference to “Local Suppliers” to encourage 'Make in India' and promote manufacturing and production of goods and services in India shall apply to this procurement, as detailed below.

4.1.1 Categories of Local Suppliers

Bidders/Contractors are divided into three categories based on Local Content. Local content in the context of this policy is the total value of the service procured (excluding net domestic indirect taxes) minus the value of imported content in the service/ incidental Goods (including all customs duties) as a proportion of the total value, in percent):

- 1) 'Class-I local Supplier' with local content equal to or more than that prescribed in TIS or 50% if not prescribed.
- 2) 'Class-II local Supplier' with local content equal or more than that prescribed in TIS or 20% if not prescribed, but less than that applicable for Class-I local Supplier.
- 3) 'Non - Local Supplier' with local content less than that applicable for Class-II local Supplier, in sub-clause above.

4.1.2 Eligibility Restrictions based on Reciprocity.

If so stipulated in the Tender Document, entities from such countries identified as not allowing Indian companies to participate in their Government procurement shall not be allowed to participate on a reciprocal basis in this tender. The term entity of a country shall have the same meaning as under the FDI Policy of DPIIT as amended from time to time.

4.1.3 Eligibility to participate

- 1) **Minimum local content for eligibility to participate:** Only bidders meeting the minimum prescribed local content for the product shall be eligible to participate subject to the following conditions.
- 2) **Classes of Local Suppliers eligible to Participate:** Based on the Make in India Policy, classes of local/ non-local Suppliers eligible to participate in the tender shall be declared in TIS/ AITB/ Schedule of Requirements. If not so declared, only Class-I and Class-II local Suppliers shall be eligible to participate and not non-local Suppliers.

4.1.4 Thresholds

- 1) Following thresholds shall be declared in the Tender Document.
 - a) **Minimum local content for Contractor classification:** local content percentage prescribed to qualify as Class-I or Class-II local Suppliers for various products
 - b) **Minimum local content for eligibility to participate:** Minimum local content percentage prescribed for eligibility for a bid to be considered.
 - c) **The margin of purchase preference:** The bid price quoted by Class-I Local Supplier should be within this percentage from the L-1 price quoted by Non-local or Class-II bidders for being eligible for purchase preference.
- 2) If not so declared, the default threshold shall be as follows:
 - (a) Local content for eligibility for Class-I; Class-II local Suppliers and Non-local Suppliers shall be 50% and above; 20% and above but less than 50%; and less than 20%, respectively.
 - (b) Minimum local content for eligibility to participate shall be 50%,
 - (c) The margin of purchase preference shall be 20%

4.1.5 Purchase preference to Class-I local Suppliers

- 1) Where the Services are divisible by nature:
 - a) Among all qualified bids, the lowest bid shall be termed as L-1. If L-1 is 'Class-I local Supplier', the contract for full quantity shall be awarded to L-1.
 - b) If the L-1 bid is not a 'Class-I local Supplier', 50% of the order quantity shall be awarded to L-1. After that, the lowest bidder among the 'Class-I local' whose quoted price falls within the margin of purchase preference shall be invited to match the L-1 price for the remaining 50% quantity, and a contract for that quantity shall be awarded him, subject to matching the L-1 price. In case such lowest eligible 'Class-I local Supplier' fails to match the L-1 price or accepts less than the offered quantity, the next higher 'Class-I local Supplier' within the margin of purchase preference shall be invited to match the L-1 price for the remaining quantity and so on, and the contract shall be awarded accordingly. If some quantity is still left uncovered on Class-I local Suppliers, such balance quantity shall also be ordered on the L-1 bidder.
- 2) Where the Services are not divisible, and in the procurement of Services where the bid is evaluated on price alone:
 - a) Among all qualified bids, the lowest bid shall be termed as L-1. If L-1 is 'Class-I local Supplier', the contract shall be awarded to L-1.
 - b) If L-1 is not 'Class-I local Supplier', the lowest bidder among the 'Class-I local Supplier' shall be invited to match the L-1 price subject to Class-I local Supplier's quoted price falling within the margin of purchase preference, and the contract shall be awarded to such 'Class-I local Supplier' subject to matching the L-1 price.
 - c) If such lowest eligible 'Class-I local Supplier' fails to match the L-1 price, the 'Class-I local Supplier' with the next higher and so on, bid within the margin of purchase preference shall be invited to match the L-1 price, and the contract shall be awarded accordingly. If none of the 'Class-I local Supplier' within the margin of purchase preference matches the L-1 price, the contract shall be awarded to the L-1 bidder.
- 3) Where parallel contracts are to be awarded to multiple bidders: In Bids where parallel contracts are to be awarded to multiple bidders subject to matching of L-1 rates or otherwise, the 'Class-I local Supplier' shall get purchase preference over 'Class-II local Supplier' as well as 'Non-local Supplier', as per following procedure:
 - a) If there is sufficient local capacity and competition for the service to be procured, as notified by the nodal Ministry, only Class I local Suppliers shall be eligible to bid. As such, the multiple Contractors, who would be awarded the contract, should be all and only 'Class I, Local Suppliers'.
 - b) In Bids, other than those mentioned above, 'Class II local Suppliers' or both 'Class II local Suppliers' and 'Nonlocal Suppliers' may also participate in the tender process along with 'Class I Local Suppliers'. If 'Class I Local Suppliers' qualify for the contract award for at least 50% of the tendered quantity in tender, the contract shall be awarded to all the qualified bidders as per award criteria stipulated in the Tender Documents. However, in case 'Class Local Suppliers' do not qualify for the contract award for at least 50% of the tendered quantity as per

award criteria, purchase preference should be given to the 'Class I local Supplier' over 'Class II local Suppliers' / 'Non-local Suppliers' provided that their quoted rate falls within the margin of purchase preference of the highest bid considered for award of contract. To ensure that the 'Class I Local Suppliers' taken in totality are considered for award of contract for at least 50% of the tendered quantity, first purchase preference has to be given to the lowest among such eligible 'Class-I local Suppliers', subject to its meeting the prescribed criteria for the award of contract as also the constraint of the maximum quantity that can be sourced from any single Contractor. If the lowest among such 'Class-I local Suppliers' does not qualify for purchase preference because of aforesaid constraints or does not accept the offered quantity, an opportunity shall be given to next higher among such 'Class-I local Supplier', and so on.

4.1.6 Verification of local content and violations:

- 1) The 'Class-I local Supplier' / 'Class-II local Supplier' at the time of tender, bidding, or solicitation shall be required to indicate the percentage of local content and provide self-certification that the service offered meets the local content requirement for 'Class-I local Supplier' / 'Class-II local Supplier', as the case may be.
- 2) In cases of procurement for a tender value above Rs. 10 crores, the 'Class-I local Supplier' / 'Class-II local Supplier' shall be required to provide a certificate from the statutory auditor or cost auditor of the company (in the case of companies) or a practising cost accountant or practising chartered accountant (in respect of Contractors other than companies) giving the percentage of local content.
- 3) Complaints about Local content declarations may be made through the channels of Procuring Entity. Procuring Entities and Nodal Ministries may prescribe fees for such complaints.
- 4) Bids with false declarations regarding Local contents shall be rejected as responsive, in addition to punitive actions under the MII orders and for violating the Code of Integrity as per the Tender Document.

4.1.7 Manufacture under license/ technology collaboration agreements with phased indigenisation

- 1) If so, declared in TIS and/ or AITB, foreign companies shall enter into a joint venture with an Indian company to participate.
- 2) The Procuring Entity reserves its right, but without being under any obligation to do so, to grant exemption from meeting the stipulated local content to Bidders manufacturing indigenously a product developed abroad under a license from a foreign manufacturer (who holds intellectual property rights) under a technology collaboration agreement/ transfer of technology agreement with a precise phasing of increase in local content. Bidder must obtain such an exemption letter and submit it along with his bid to avail such an exemption.

4.1.8 Information to be provided by Bidders regarding Make in India policy

Bidder shall provide required self-declaration as detailed in Form 1.2 – Eligibility Declarations:

- 1) Self-declaration of their local content (and required certificate, in case of procurements above Rs 10 Crores) and their status as Class-I/ Class-II/ Non-local Supplier and their eligibility to participate as per this clause.
- 2) If the Tender Document indicates countries identified as not allowing Indian companies to participate in their Government procurement, then a declaration that they are not an 'Entity'

of such countries (as per criteria of the FDI Policy of DPIIT as amended from time to time) and are therefore eligible to participate in this tender.

3) If a Bidder is claiming exemption (as obtained from relevant authorities) from meeting the stipulated local content on account of manufacturing the product in India under a license from a foreign manufacturer with the precise phasing of increase in local content, he must provide proof thereof.

4.2.Support/ Preferential Treatment to Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs)

Policies of the Government to support Micro and Small Industries (MSEs, registered as per the following sub-clause) in comparison to non-MSE enterprises shall apply to this procurement.

4.2.1 Registration of MSEs

- 1) MSEs interested in availing such benefits must enclose in Form 1.2 with their offer the Udhyam Registration Certificate with the Udhyam Registration Number as proof of their being MSE registered on the Udhyam Registration Portal. The certificate shall be of latest but before the deadline for the bid submission.
- 2) MSEs shall be treated as owned by SC/ ST or women entrepreneurs:
 - (a) The proprietor(s) shall be SC/ ST or women In proprietary MSEs
 - (b) At least 51% shares shall be held by the SC/ ST or women partners in a partnership MSEs.
 - (c) At least a 51% share shall be held by SC/ ST or women promoters in Private Limited Companies MSEs.

4.2.2 Support to MSEs

- 1) Tender sets shall be provided free of cost to MSEs.
- 2) MSEs shall be exempted from payment of Earnest Money. (as per ITB-clause 9.4 below, they shall be required only to submit Bid Security Declaration)

4.2.3 Purchase Preference to MSEs

The Procuring Entity reserves its option to give purchase preference to MSEs compared to the non-MSE enterprises as per policies of the Government from time to time. This preference shall only apply to products produced and services rendered by Micro and Small Enterprises. If an MSE bidder quotes a price within the band of the lowest (L-1) +15 percent in a situation where the L-1 price is quoted by someone other than an MSE, the MSE bidders are eligible for being awarded up to 25 percent of the total quantity being procured if they agree to match the L-1 price. In case of more than one such eligible MSE, this 25 percent quantity shall be distributed proportionately among these bidders.

4.3.Support to Start-up Enterprises

4.3.1 Definition of Start-up Enterprises

- 1) As defined by DPIIT, an entity shall be considered as a 'Start-up':
 - a) Upto a period of ten years from the date of incorporation/ registration, if it is incorporated as a private limited company (as defined in the Companies Act, 2013) or registered as a partnership firm (registered under section 59 of the Partnership Act, 1932) or a limited liability partnership (under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008) in India, and
 - b) Turnover of the entity for any of the financial years since incorporation/ registration has not exceeded one hundred crore rupees, and

- c) The entity works towards innovation, development or improvement of products or processes or services or a scalable business model with a high potential for employment generation or wealth creation.
- 2) Provided that an entity formed by splitting up or reconstructing an existing business shall not be considered a 'Start-up'.
- 3) A Start-up so identified under the above definition shall be required to obtain and submit along with his bid a certificate of an eligible Start-up from the inter-Ministerial Board of Certification to obtain support.

4.3.2 Support to Start-ups

The Government of India has ordered the following support to Start-ups (as defined by the Department of Promotion of Industrial and Internal Trade - DPIIT).

- 1) **Exemption from submission of Bid Security:** Such Start-ups shall be exempted from payment of Earnest Money. (as per ITB-clause 9.4 below, they shall be required only to submit Bid Security Declaration)
- 2) **Relaxation in Prior Turnover and Experience:** The Procuring Entity reserves its right to relax the condition of prior turnover and prior experience for start-up enterprises subject to meeting of quality & technical specifications. The decision of the Procuring Entity in this regard shall be final. The decision of the Procuring Entity in this regard shall be final.

5. The Schedule of Requirements and Form of Contract

5.1. Eligible Services – Origin and Minimum Local Content

Unless otherwise stipulated in the Tender Document, all 'Services' and incidental 'Goods and Works' to be delivered under the contract must conform to i) restrictions on certain countries with land-borders with India; ii) minimum local content (Make in India Policy). If Bidder avails benefits under any preferential policy as Class-I Local Supplier or as MSE or Start-up enterprise, the Services delivered must not circumvent the provisions relating to such benefits.

5.2. Quotation for All Schedules and all Services

Unless otherwise stipulated in the Tender Document, Bidder must quote for all the schedules (and all the Services in a Schedule) in the Schedule of Requirement; otherwise, his bid would be rejected as nonresponsive.

5.3. Facilities to be Provided by the Procuring Entity

- 1) Unless otherwise stipulated in the Tender Document, no Facilities (including Reference Documents, Medical facilities, Rooms, Furniture, Transport, Access to IT Services etc.) shall be provided by the Procuring Entity to Contractor at Site.
- 2) Unless otherwise stipulated in the Tender Document, The Procuring Entity may supply without any obligation to do so, to the contractor part or whole of the quantity of the water and electricity required for the delivery of Services from the Procuring Entity's existing water/ electricity supply system at or near the site of Services on specified terms and conditions and on chargeable basis (unless specified otherwise), provided that the contractor shall arrange, at his own expense, to effect the connections and lay additional pipe/ power lines and accessories on the site. Nevertheless, it shall be the responsibility of the contractor to install adequate alternative arrangements to tide over outages in utilities or failure in supply by the

Procuring Entity, and that the contractor shall not be entitled to any compensation— nor shall this be a reason for the delay in delivery of Services.

- 3) If so stipulated in the Tender Document, The Procuring Entity may hire to the contractor non-key Equipment owned and sparable by Procuring Entity for use during execution of the Services on terms and conditions and on a chargeable basis as may be stipulated in the contract or a separate agreement for Hire of such equipment.

5.4. Contract Period

Unless otherwise stipulated, the contract Period for which the Service shall be contracted shall be one year, unless terminated earlier as per the contract. In addition, at the option of the Procuring Entity, the contract period may be extended by four months (unless otherwise stipulated). Notice of renewal shall be provided by physical/ digital means to the Service Provider no later than thirty (30) days before the contract end.

5.5. Form of Contract

5.5.1 Form of BOQ/ Contract

Unless otherwise stipulated, the Form of BOQ/ Contract shall be Time-Based (Input admeasurement - a sum of the price of Inputs per month). Otherwise, If it is stipulated in TIS/ AITB, one of the following forms of BOQ/ Contract shall be applicable. The evaluation of bids and payments in the resulting Contract shall be as per such BOQ:

- 1) Unit-Rate (Output admeasurement - based on price per unit of quantity of Service)
- 2) Lumpsum Price
- 3) Percentage- Based (of the value of Transactions)

5.5.2 Time-Based (Inputs Admeasurement) form of BOQ/ Contract

Unless otherwise stipulated in TIS/ AITB form of BOQ/ Contract shall be 'Time-Based (Inputs Admeasurement)':

- 1) Section VI: Schedule of Requirement shall indicate the quantum, frequency and duration of the Services/ Activities and also key inputs estimated to be required per month (Personnel, Equipment, Materials and Miscellaneous) for performing the Services/ Activities to the stipulated performance standards and quality. It shall also indicate the contract Period (one year, unless otherwise stipulated) of service required.
- 2) The Bidders shall quote the quantum of inputs per month he considers necessary to perform the Services/ Activities to the required performance standards and quality, in the Techno-commercial bid in respective Deployment Plan – Form 3.3: Personnel Deployment Plan, Form 3.4: Equipment Deployment Plan, and Form 3.5: Material Deployment Plan etc.
- 3) The Bidders shall quote the monthly rates of Inputs - Personnel, Equipment, Materials and Miscellaneous in the BOQ/ financial bid as per deployment plans in his techno-commercial bid. BOQ would calculate the total monthly cost of all inputs and total bid-amount over the Contract Period.
- 4) Evaluation of Bids shall be on the total price for Services for the Contract period.
- 5) Instead of quotation of rate separately of each input element, the Tender Document may pre-indicated such rates (based on Schedule of Rates (SOR) or otherwise) in BOQ. Bidders shall indicate only one %age figure above or below (negative %age not allowed in personnel schedule) such indicated rates, and evaluation shall be based on the %age quoted.

5.5.3 Unit-Rate (Output admeasurement) form of BOQ/ Contract

1) Unit-Rate form of BOQ/ Contract – Definite-delivery

If it is stipulated in TIS/ AITB that this is a Unit-Rate (Output admeasurement – definite volume) form of BOQ/ Contract, then:

- a) Section VI: Schedule of Requirement shall indicate the volume of required service outputs in specified units (Length, area, volume, hours/ days/ months etc.) as well as the contract Period (one year, unless otherwise stipulated) over which such volume shall be availed. Actual off-take of the volume of Services may be subject to a specified tolerance (+/- 5 % if not specified).
- b) The Bidders shall quote the per unit (e.g., length, area, volume, hourly/ daily/ monthly) price of outputs for the specified volume of service.
- c) The evaluation shall be done based on the total price of such specified volume of Services.
- d) Unless otherwise stipulated in the Tender Document, prices of Input Deployments (Personnel, equipment, materials, etc.) shall also be called for but shall be used only to price the variations and monitor performance standards, but not for evaluation of bids or payment of Services.

2) Unit-Rate form of BOQ/ Contract – Indefinite-Delivery (Rate Contract/ on-call)

If it is stipulated in TIS/ AITB that this is a Unit-Rate (Output admeasurement – indefinite Delivery) form of BOQ/ Contract, then:

- a) Section VI: Schedule of Requirement shall indicate only a tentative estimate of the volume of required service outputs in specified units (Length, area, volume, hours/ days/ months etc.) as well as the contract Period (one year, unless otherwise stipulated) over which such volume is likely to be availed. The Services shall be availed on-call as and when needed by the procuring entity without any commitment regarding the volume of services.
- b) The Bidders shall quote the per unit (e.g., length, area, volume, hourly/ daily/ monthly) price of outputs for the specified volume of service.
- c) The evaluation shall be done based on the total price of such indicative volume of Services.
- d) If expressly stipulated in the Tender Document, prices of Input Deployments (Personnel, equipment, materials, etc.) shall also be called for but shall be used only to price the variations and monitor performance standards, but not for evaluation of bids or payment of Services.

5.5.4 Lumpsum form of BOQ/ Contract

If it is stipulated in TIS/ AITB that this is a Lumpsum form of BOQ/ Contract, then:

- 1) Section VI: Schedule of Requirement shall indicate the scope of Services required.
- 2) The Bidders shall quote the Lumpsum price of complete Services.
- 3) The evaluation shall be done based on the Lumpsum price of such Services.
- 4) If expressly stipulated in the Tender Document, prices of Input Deployments (Personnel, equipment, materials, etc.) shall also be called for but shall be used only to price the variations and monitor performance standards, but not for evaluation of bids or payment of Services.

5.5.5 Percentage-Based (of Value of Transactions) form of BOQ/ Contract

If it is stipulated in TIS/ AITB that this is a Percentage of Value of Transactions form of BOQ/ Contract, then:

- 1) Section VI: Schedule of Requirement shall indicate the estimated value of required transactions as well as the contract Period (one year, unless otherwise stipulated) over which such volume shall be availed. However, there shall be no firm commitment to avail the entire value of transactions within the contract period.
- 2) The Bidders shall quote a percentage as service charge on the value of transactions.
- 3) The evaluation shall be done for the percentage quoted multiplied by the specified value of transactions.
- 4) If expressly stipulated in the Tender Document, prices of Input Deployments (Personnel, equipment, materials, etc.) may also be called for but shall be used only to price the variations and monitor performance standards, but not for evaluation of bids or payment of Services.

6. Bid Prices, Taxes and Duties

6.1. Prices

6.1.1 Competitive and Independent Prices

- a) The prices should be arrived at independently, without restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder or competitor relating to:
 - i) those prices; or
 - ii) the intention to submit an offer; or
 - iii) the methods or factors used to calculate the prices offered.
- b) The prices should neither be nor shall be knowingly disclosed by the Bidder, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder or competitor before bid opening or contract award unless otherwise required by law.

6.1.2 Undue profiteering

- 1) **Controlled Price, if any:** The price quoted by Bidder shall not be higher than the controlled price fixed by law for the Services, if any, or where there is no controlled price, it shall not exceed the prices or contravene the norms for fixation of prices if any, laid down by Government or where the Government has fixed no such prices or norms, it shall not exceed the price appearing in any agreement, if any, relating to price regulation by any industry.
- 2) **Undue profiteering:** If the price quoted is higher than the controlled price in the sub-clause above, Bidder shall specifically mention this fact in his bid giving reasons for quoting a higher price(s). If he fails to do so or makes any misstatement, it shall be lawful for the Procuring Entity either to revise the price at any stage to bring it in conformity with the sub-clause (1) above or to terminate the contract for default as per the contract and avail all the remedies available therein in addition to other punitive actions for violation of Code of Integrity.

6.1.3 Price Components

- 1) Bidder shall indicate in the Price Schedule all the specified components of prices shown therein, including the unit prices and total bid prices.

- 2) All costs related to Personnel shall be based on the prevailing minimum wages and shall show applicable liabilities of EPF and ESI and other statutory allowances. Quotation of 'Nil' Service charge/ margin over such minimum wages cost of personnel shall be rejected as nonresponsive.

6.1.4 Price Schedule

- 1) Bidders are to upload only the downloaded BOQ (in excel format) after entering the relevant fields without any alteration/ deletion/ modification of other portions of the excel sheet. All the columns shown in the price schedule should be filled up as required. If any column does not apply to a Bidder, he should clarify the same.
- 2) Bidders shall fill in their rates other than zero value in the specified cells without keeping it blank.
- 3) The quoted price shall be considered to include all relevant financial implications, including inter-alia the scope of the Services to be delivered and the incidental goods/ works to be supplied, location of the bidder, site(s) of the delivery of Services, terms of delivery, extant rules and regulations relating to taxes, duties, customs, transportation, environment, labour, Private Security Agencies, Mining & Forest of the bidder's country and in India.

6.1.5 Provisions of GST

- 1) Break up of different price elements, i.e., as per GST Act, shall be indicated separately, along with its associated HSN code and GST rate.
- 2) While quoting the basic rate, the bidder should offset the input credit available as per the GST Act.
- 3) Please refer to ITB-Clause 6.3 for further details.

6.1.6 Currencies of Bid and Payment

- 1) Unless otherwise stipulated in the Tender Document, the currency of bid and payment shall be quoted by Bidder entirely in Indian Rupees. All payments shall be made in Indian Rupees only.
- 2) Where the Tender Document permits quotations in different currencies, then, for Services performed in India, prices shall be quoted in Indian rupees only, and for Services performed from foreign locations, prices shall be quoted either in Indian rupees or in the currency stipulated in the AITB. For evaluation, all quoted prices shall be converted into Indian Rupees as per procedure mentioned in ITB-clause 12.4.2 below.
 - a) Regarding price(s) for incidental works/ goods, if any required with the Services, the same shall be quoted in Indian Rupees if such works/ goods are to be performed in or sourced from India.
 - a) Commission for Indian Agent, if any and if payable, shall be indicated in the space provided for in the price schedule and quoted in Indian Rupees only.

6.1.7 Non-compliance

Tenders, where prices are quoted in any other way, shall be rejected as nonresponsive.

6.2. Firm/ Variable Price

6.2.1 Firm Price

Unless otherwise stipulated in the AITB, prices quoted by Bidder shall remain firm and fixed during the currency of the contract and not subject to variation on any account.

6.2.2 Price Variation Clause:

- 1) In case the Tender Documents require/ permit offers on a variable price basis, the price quoted by the Bidders shall be subject to adjustment during the original delivery period to take care of the changes in the input cost of labour, material, and fuel/ power components under the price variation formula as stipulated in the Tender Document.
- 2) If a Bidder submits a firm price quotation against the requirement of variable price quotation, that bid shall be prima-facie acceptable and considered further, taking price variation asked for by Bidder as nil.

6.3. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

6.3.1 GST Registration Status:

- 1) All the Bidders should ensure that they are GST compliant and their quoted tax structure/ rates as per GST Act/ Rules. Bidder should be registered under GST and furnish GSTIN number and GST Registration Certificate in their offer unless they are specifically exempted from registration under specific notification/ circular/ section/ rule issued by statutory authorities.
- 2) **GST Registration Number (15-digit GSTIN).** If the bidder has multiple business verticals in a state and has separate registration for each vertical, the GSTIN of each vertical is concerned with the delivery of Services involved, as per the Schedule of Requirements and Price Schedule's scope be quoted. If the services provided are from multiple states, the bidder should mention GST registration numbers for each state separately.
- 3) **Composition scheme:** If the Bidder has opted for a composition levy under Section 10 of CGST, he should declare the fact while bidding along with GSTIN and GST registration certificate.
- 4) **Exemption from Registration:** If a bidder is not liable to take GST registration, i.e., having turnover below threshold, he shall submit undertaking/ indemnification against tax liability. Bidder claiming exemption in this respect shall submit a valid certificate from practising Chartered Accountant (CA)/ Cost Accountant with Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN) to the effect that Bidder fulfils all conditions prescribed in notification exempting him from registration. Such bidder/ dealer shall not charge any GST and/ or GST Cess in the bill/ invoice. In such case, applicable GST shall be deposited under Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) or otherwise as per GST Act by the Procuring Entity directly to concerned authorities. Bidder should note that his offer would be loaded with the payable GST under the RCM. Further, Bidder should notify and submit to the Procuring Entity within 15 days from the date of becoming liable to registration under GST.
- 5) The Procuring Entity's state-wise GSTINs are indicated in Section VI – Schedule of Requirements.

6.3.2 HSN Code and GST Rate:

- 1) HSN (Harmonized System of Nomenclature) code for the goods provided in this Tender Document is only indicative. It shall be the responsibility of Bidder to ensure that they quote the exact HSN Code and corresponding GST rate for each activity of the Services being offered by them
- 2) As per the GST Act, the bid and contract must show the GST Tax Rates (and GST Cess if applicable) and GST Amount explicitly and separate from the bid/ contract price (exclusive of

GST). If the price is stated to be inclusive of GST, the current rate included in the price must be declared by the bidder.

- 3) If a Bidder asks for GST (and GST Cess if applicable) to be paid extra, the rate and nature of such taxes applicable should be shown separately. Bidders should quote 'GST' if payable extra on the total basic rate of each service and quoted GST in '%' inclusive of cess.
- 4) If GST, other taxes, duties are not specified, or column is left blank in the price schedule, it shall be presumed that no such tax/ levy is applicable or payable by the Procuring Entity.
- 5) **Applicability to Imported Goods/ Services:** Following the implementation of GST, the import of commodities shall not be subject to such erstwhile applicable duties like safeguard duty, education cess, basic customs duty, anti-dumping duty, etc. All these supplementary custom duties are subsumed under GST. The supply of commodities or services or both, if imported into India, shall be considered as supply under inter-state commerce/ trade and shall attract integrated tax (IGST). The IGST rate and GST cess shall be applicable on the 'Custom Assessable Value' plus the 'Basic Customs duty applicable thereon'.

6.4. Payments

6.4.1 General

Unless otherwise stipulated, the usual payment term is 100% on delivery and acceptance of Services at 'the Site' by the Procuring Entity and production of all required documents. However, periodic "On Account" payments shall be made unless otherwise stipulated as per the procedure laid down in GCC.

6.4.2 No Advance Payments

Unless otherwise stipulated, no advance payment of any type (Mobilization, secured advances etc.), shall be made by the Procuring Entity. If so, provided the conditions for such advances shall be as per conditions stipulated therefor.

7. Downloading the Tender Document; Corrigenda and Clarifications

7.1. Downloading the Tender Document

The Tender Document shall be published and be available for download as mentioned in TIS. Bidders can obtain the Tender Document after the date and time of the start of availability till the deadline for availability. If the office happens to be closed on the deadline for the availability of the Tender Document, the deadline shall not be extended.

7.2. Corrigenda/ Addenda to Tender Document

Before the deadline for submitting bids, the Procuring Entity may update, amend, modify, or supplement the information, assessment or assumptions contained in the Tender Document by issuing a corrigenda and addenda. The corrigenda and addenda shall be published in the same manner as the original Tender Document. Without any liability or obligation, the Portal may send intimation of such corrigenda/ addenda to bidders who have downloaded the document under their login. However, the bidders' responsibility is to check the website(s) for any corrigenda/ addenda. Any corrigendum or addendum thus issued shall be considered a part of the Tender Document. To give reasonable time to the prospective bidders to take such corrigendum/ addendum into account in preparing their bids, the Procuring Entity may suitably extend the deadline for the bid submission, as necessary. After the procuring entity makes such modifications, any Bidder who has submitted his bid in response to the original invitation shall have the opportunity to either withdraw his bid or re-submit

his bid superseding the original bid within the extended time of submission as per ITB-clause 10.4.1 below.

7.3. Clarification on the Tender Document

A Bidder may seek clarification of the Tender Document from Office/ Contact Person/ e-procurement Help Desk as mentioned in TIS, provided the clarifications are raised before the clarification end date mentioned in TIS (or if not mentioned, within 7 days before the deadline for the bid submission). The Procuring Entity shall respond within 5 working days of receipt of such a request for clarification. The query and clarification shall be shared on the portal with all the prospective bidders. Any modification of the Tender Document that may become necessary due to the clarification shall be made by the Procuring Entity through an Addendum/ Corrigendum issue under the sub-clause above.

8. Pre-bid Conference

- 1) If a Pre-bid conference is stipulated in the TIS, prospective bidders interested in participating in this tender may attend a Pre-bid conference to clarify the techno- commercial conditions of the Tenders at the venue, date and time specified therein. Participation in the Pre-bid conference is restricted to prospective bidders who have downloaded the Tender Document.
- 2) Participation is not mandatory. However, if a bidder chooses not to (or fails to) participate in the Pre-bid conference or does not submit a written query, it shall be assumed that they have no issues regarding the techno-commercial conditions.
- 3) The date and time by which the written queries for the Pre-bid must reach the authority and the last date for registration for participation in the Pre-bid conference are also mentioned in the TIS. If the dates are not mentioned, such date and time shall be 7 days before the date and time of the pre-bid conference.
- 4) Delegates participating in the Pre-bid conference must provide a photo identity and an authorization letter as per Format 2: "Authorization for attending a Pre-bid Conference " from their Company/ principals; else, they shall not be allowed to participate. The pre-bid conference may also be held online at the discretion of the Procuring Entity.
- 5) After the Pre-bid conference, Minutes of the Pre-bid conference shall be published on the Procuring Entity's portal within seven days from the Pre-bid conference. If required, a clarification letter and corrigendum to Tender Document shall be issued, containing amendments of various provisions of the Tender Document, which shall form part of the Tender Document. As per ITB-clause 7.2 above, to give reasonable time to the prospective bidders to take such clarifications into account in preparing their bids, the Procuring Entity may suitably extend, as necessary, the deadline for the bid submission.

9. Preparation of Bids

9.1. The bid

9.1.1 Language of the bid

Unless otherwise stipulated in the AITB, the bid submitted by Bidder and all subsequent correspondence and documents relating to the bid exchanged between Bidder and the Procuring Entity shall be written in English or the Official Language. However, the language of any printed literature furnished by Bidder in connection with its bid may be written in any other language provided a translation accompanies the same in the bid language. For purposes of interpretation of the bid, translation in the language of the bid shall prevail.

9.1.2 Acquaintance with Local Conditions and Factors

The Bidder, at his own cost, responsibility, and risk, is encouraged to visit, examine, and familiarise himself with all the site/ local conditions and factors. The Bidder acknowledges that before the submission of the bid, he has, after a complete and careful examination, made an independent evaluation of the Site/ local conditions, infrastructure, logistics, communications, the legal, environmental, and any other conditions or factors, which would have any effect on the performance of the contract. Bidders shall themselves be responsible for compliance with Rules, Regulations, Laws and Acts in force from time to time at relevant places. On such matters, the Procuring Entity shall have no responsibility and shall not entertain any request from the bidders in these regards.

9.1.3 Cost of Bidding

The Bidder(s) shall bear all direct or consequential costs, losses and expenditure associated with or relating to the preparation, submission, and subsequent processing of their Bids, including but not limited to preparation, copying, postage, delivery fees, expenses associated with any submission of samples, demonstrations, or presentations which the Procuring Entity may require, or any other costs incurred in connection with or relating to their Bids. All such costs, losses and expenses shall remain with the Bidder(s), and the Procuring Entity shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for the same or any other costs, losses and expenses incurred by a Bidder(s) for participation in the Tender Process, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Tender process.

9.1.4 Interpretation of Provisions of the Tender Document

The provisions in the Tender Document must be interpreted in the context in which these appear. Any interpretation of these provisions far removed from such context or other contrived or between-the-lines interpretation is unacceptable.

9.1.5 Quote Quantities/ Prices in both Numerals and Words

Although the software on the Portal may convert quantities/ rates/ amounts in numerical digits in Bids to words, the bidders are advised to ensure that there is no ambiguity in this regard.

9.1.6 Alternate Bids not Allowed.

Unless otherwise stipulated in the TIS/ AITB, conditional offers, alternative offers, multiple bids by a bidder shall not be considered. The Portal shall permit only one bid to be uploaded.

9.2. Documents comprising the bid:

9.2.1 Techno-commercial bid/ Cover

"Technical Bid" shall include inter-alia the original or scanned copies of duly signed or digitally signed copies of the following documents in pdf format. Pdf documents should not be password protected. If so stipulated in TIS/ AITB, specified originals or self-certified copies of originals shall also be required to be physically submitted as per instruction contained therein. *No price details should be given or hinted at in the Technical bid:*

- 1) Form 7: Documents relating to Bid Security: A Bid Securing Declaration (BSD) in lieu of bid security in the format provided therein shall be uploaded as per ITB clause 9.4.
- 2) Form 1: bid Form (to serve as covering letter and declarations applicable for both the Technical bid and Financial bid);
 - a) Form 1.1: Bidder Information;

- a) Form 1.2: Eligibility Declarations;
 - b) If applicable. Form 1.3: Declaration by Agents/ Associates of Foreign Principals (ITB-clause 3.5 above)
- 3) Form 4: Qualification Criteria - Compliance: Documentary evidence and following related forms needed to establish the Bidder's qualifications as stipulated in Section VIII: Qualification Criteria. Besides the stipulated documents, other supporting documents, literature, pamphlets may also be attached.
 - a) Form 4.1: Performance Statement
 - b) Form 4.2 Non-performance, Litigation Statement
 - c) Form 4.3 Financial Capability Statements (and its sub-forms)
- 4) Form 2: Schedule of Requirements - Compliance. Bidders should fill this form to detail the Schedules of Services offered by them, maintaining the same numbering and structure. They may add additional details not covered elsewhere in their bid. They should highlight here any deviations/ exceptions/ reservations regarding Section VI: 'Schedule of Requirements', in a chart form, without any ambiguity or conditionality along with justification and supporting documents. Even in case of no deviation, please fill in confirmations and nil deviation statements. If mentioned elsewhere in the bid, such deviations shall not be recognised and shall be null and void.
- 5) Form 3: Performance Standards and Quality Assurance - Compliance.

Bidder shall upload the required and relevant documents like technical data, literature, drawings, and other documents. to establish that the Services offered in the bid fully conform to the Services specified by the Procuring Entity in the Tender Document. Bidder is also required to provide clause by clause compliance/ deviation Statement in a chart form (without ambiguity or conditionality along with justification) relating to all Performance Standards, Quality Assurance, Methods Statement, and Work Plan parameters. Even in case of no deviation, please fill in confirmations and nil deviation statements. If mentioned elsewhere in the bid, such deviations shall not be recognised and shall be null and void.

 - a) Form 3.1: Method Statement
 - b) Form 3.2: Work-Plan
 - c) Form 3.3: Personnel Deployment Plan (shall also be evaluated for compliance to qualification criteria).
 - d) Form 3.4: Equipment Deployment Plan (shall also be evaluated for compliance to qualification criteria)
 - e) Form 3.5: Materials Deployment Plan
- 6) Form 5: Terms and Conditions - Compliance. Bidder must comply with the entire commercial and other clauses of this Tender Document. Any deviations should be listed in a chart form without ambiguity or conditionality, along with justification and supporting documents. All such Statements and Documents shall be uploaded as Form 5. Even in case of no deviation, please fill in confirmations and nil deviation statements. If mentioned elsewhere in the bid, such deviations shall not be recognised and shall be null and void.
- 7) Form 6- Checklist for the Bidders: Bidder must also upload the Checklist given in the Tender Document as Form 6 to confirm that he has complied with all the instructions in the Tender Document, and nothing is inadvertently left out. This checklist is only for general guidance and

is not comprehensive, and does not absolve Bidder from complying with all the requirements stipulated elsewhere in the Tender Document.

- 8) If stipulated in TIS/ AITB, duly signed Form 8: Integrity Pact
- 9) Any other format/ Form if stipulated in AITB or if considered relevant by the bidder

9.2.2 Financial bid/ Cover

"Financial bid" shall comprise the Price Schedule (To be submitted separately as an excel sheet) considering all financially relevant details, including Taxes and Duties as per ITB-clause 6.3. No additional technical details, which have not been brought out in the Technical bid shall be brought out in the Financial bid.

9.3. Bid Validity

- 1) Unless specified to the contrary in the TIS/ AITB, Bids shall remain valid for a period not less than 90 days from the deadline for the bid submission stipulated in TIS. A bid valid for a shorter period shall be rejected as nonresponsive.
- 2) In case the day upto which the bids are to remain valid falls on/ subsequently declared a holiday or closed day for the Procuring Entity, the bid validity shall automatically be deemed to be extended upto the next working day.
- 3) In exceptional circumstances, before the expiry of the original time limit, the Procuring Entity may request the bidders to extend the validity period for a specified additional period. The request and the bidders' responses shall be made in writing or electronically. A bidder may agree to or reject the request. A bidder who has agreed to the Procuring Entity's request for extension of bid validity, in no case, he shall be permitted to modify his bid.

9.4. Bid Security and Related Documents

- 1) Bid securities of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them as soon as possible after the expiry of the final bid validity period and, at the latest, by the 30th day after the award of the contract. Bid security shall be refunded to the successful bidder upon receipt of performance security.
- 2) In lieu of Bid Security, all Bidders shall furnish/ upload a Bid Securing Declaration (BSD) as Form 7: Documents Relating to Bid Security, along with its Technical bid. The BSD is required to protect the Procuring Entity against the risk of the Bidder's unwarranted conduct as amplified under the sub-clause below.
- 3) The BSD provides for automatic suspension of the Bidder from being eligible for bidding in any tender in Ministry/ Department of Procuring Organisation for 2 years from the date of such enforcement. This declaration shall stand enforced if Bidder breaches the following obligation(s) under the tender conditions:
 - (a) withdraws or amends his bid or impairs or derogates from the bid in any respect within the period of validity of its bid; or
 - (b) after having been notified within the period of bid validity of the acceptance of his bid by the Procuring Entity:
 - i) refuses to or fails to submit the original documents for scrutiny or the required Performance Security within the stipulated time as per the conditions of the Tender Document.
 - ii) fails or refuses to sign the contract.

- 4) Unsuccessful Bidders' bid-Securing Declaration shall expire, if the contract is not awarded to them, upon:
 - (a) receipt by Bidder of the Procuring Entity's notification
 - i) of cancellation of the entire tender process or rejection of all bids or
 - ii) of the name of the successful bidder or
 - (b) forty-five days after the expiration of the bid validity or any extension thereof
- 5) The bid-Securing Declaration of the successful bidder shall stand expired only when Bidder has furnished the required Performance Security and signed the Agreement.

9.5. Non-compliance with these provisions

Bids are liable to be rejected as nonresponsive if a Bidder:

- 1) fails to provide and/ or comply with the required information, instructions etc., incorporated in the Tender Document or gives evasive information/ reply against any such stipulations.
- 2) furnishes wrong and/ or misleading data, statement(s) etc. In such a situation, besides rejection of the bid as nonresponsive, it is liable to attract other punitive actions under relevant provisions of the Tender Document for violation of the Code of Integrity.

10. Signing and Uploading of Bids

10.1. Relationship between Bidder and eProcurement Portal

The Procuring Entity is neither a party nor a principal in the relationship between Bidder and the organisation hosting the e-procurement portal (hereinafter called the Portal). Bidders must acquaint and train themselves with the rules, regulations, procedures, and implied conditions/ agreements of the Portal. Bidders intending to participate in the bid shall be required to register in the Portal. Bidders shall settle clarifications and disputes, if any, regarding the Portal directly with them. In case of conflict between provisions of the Portal with the Tender Document, provisions of the Portal shall prevail. Bidders may study the resources provided by the Portal for Bidders.

10.2. Signing of bid

The individual signing/ digitally signing the bid or any other connected documents should submit an authenticated copy of the document(s), which authorizes the signatory to commit and submit bids on behalf of the bidder in Form 1.1: Bidder Information.

10.3. Submission/ uploading of Bids.

10.3.1 Submission/ Uploading to the Portal

- 1) No manual Bids shall be made available or accepted for submission (except for originals of scanned copies as per sub-clause 5 below). In the case of downloaded documents, Bidder must not make any changes to the contents of the documents while uploading, except for filling the required information— otherwise, the bid shall be rejected as nonresponsive.
- 2) Bids shall be received only *Online* on or before the deadline for the bid submission as notified in TIS.
- 3) Only one copy of the bid can be uploaded, and Bidder shall digitally sign all statements, documents, certificates uploaded by him, owning sole and complete responsibility for their

correctness/ authenticity as per the provisions of the IT Act 2000 as amended from time to time.

- 4) Bidder need not sign or up-load the Schedules in ITB-clause 1.4 above while uploading his bid unless otherwise instructed in the Tender Document. It is assumed that Bidder commits itself to comply with all the Sections and documents uploaded by the Tender Inviting Officer.
- 5) Bidder must upload scanned copies of originals (or self-attested copies of originals – as specified). Uploaded Pdf documents should not be password protected. Bidder should ensure the clarity/ legibility of the scanned documents uploaded by him.
- 6) If stipulated in the TIS, copies/ originals of such specified uploaded scanned documents must also be physically submitted sealed in double cover and acknowledgement be obtained before the deadline for the bid submission at the venue mentioned. Failure to do so is likely to result in the bid being rejected as nonresponsive. If the office is closed on the deadline for physical submission of originals, it shall stand extended to the next working day at the same time and venue. The Procuring Entity reserves its right to call for verification originals of all such self-certified documents from the Bidders at any stage of evaluation, especially from the successful Bidder(s) before the issue of Letter of Award (LoA).
- 7) Regarding the protected Price Schedule (excel format, Cover-2), Bidder shall write his name in the space provided in the specified location only. Bidder shall type rates in the figure only in the rate column of respective service(s) without any blank cell or Zero values in the rate column, without any alteration/ deletion/ modification of other portions of the excel sheet. If space is inadequate, Bidder may upload additional documents under "Additional Documents" in the "bid Cover Content."
- 8) The date and time of the deadline for the bid submission shall remain unaltered even if the specified date is declared a holiday for the Tender Inviting Officer.
- 9) The date and time of the e-Procurement server clock, which is also displayed on the dashboard of the bidders, shall be taken as the reference time for deciding the closing time of bid submission. Bidders are advised to ensure they submit their bid within the deadline and time of bid submission, taking the server clock as a reference, failing which the portal shall not accept the Bids. No request on the account that the server clock was not showing the correct time and that a particular bidder could not submit their bid because of this shall be entertained. Failure or defects on the internet or heavy traffic at the server shall not be accepted as a reason for a complaint. The Procuring Entity shall not be responsible for any failure, malfunction or breakdown of the electronic system used during the e-Tender Process.
- 10) All Bids uploaded by Bidder to the portal shall get automatically encrypted. The encrypted bid can only be decrypted/ opened by the authorised persons on or after the due date and time. The bidder should ensure the correctness of the bid before uploading and take a printout of the system generated submission summary to confirm successful bid upload.
- 11) The Procuring Entity may extend the deadline for the bid submission by issuing an amendment as per ITB-clause 7.2 above, in which case all rights and obligations of the Procuring Entity and the bidders previously subject to the original deadline shall then be subject to the new deadline for the bid submission.
- 12) Bid submitted through modalities other than those stipulated in TIS shall be liable to be rejected as nonresponsive.

10.3.2 Implied acceptance of procedures by Bidders

Submission of bid in response to the Tender Document is deemed to be acceptance of the e-Procurement and tender procedures and conditions of the Tender Document.

10.3.3 Late Bids

The bidder shall not be able to submit his bid after the expiry of the deadline for the bid submission (as per server time). Therefore, in eProcurement, a situation of Late Tender does not arise.

10.4. Modification, Resubmission and Withdrawal of Bids

10.4.1 Modification & Resubmission

Once submitted in e-Procurement, Bidder cannot view or modify his bid since it is locked by encryption. However, resubmission of the bid by the bidders for any number of times superseding earlier bid(s) before the date and time of submission is allowed. Resubmission of a bid shall require uploading of all documents, including financial bid afresh. The system shall consider only the last bid submitted.

10.4.2 Withdrawal

- 1) The bidder may withdraw his bid before the bid submission deadline, and it shall be marked as withdrawn and shall not get opened during the Bid opening.
- 2) No bid should be withdrawn after the deadline for the bid submission and before the expiry of the bid validity period. If a Bidder withdraws the bid during this period, the Procuring Entity shall be within its right to enforce Bid Securing Declaration (in lieu of forfeiture of the Bid Security), in addition to other punitive actions provided in the Tender Document for such misdemeanour.

11. Bid Opening

The date & time of the opening bid is as stipulated in TIS. Bids cannot be opened before the specified date & time, even by the Tender Inviting Officer, the Procurement Officer, or the Publisher. If the specified date of Bid opening falls on a subsequently declared a holiday or closed day for the Procuring Entity, the Bids shall be opened at the appointed time on the next working day.

12. Evaluation of Bids and Award of Contract

12.1. General norms

12.1.1 Evaluation based only on declared criteria.

The evaluation shall be based upon scrutiny and examination of all relevant data and details submitted by Bidder in its/ his bid and other allied information deemed appropriate by Procuring Entity. Evaluation of bids shall be based only on the criteria/ conditions included in the Tender Document.

12.1.2 Deviations/ Reservations/ Omissions - Substantive or Minor

- 1) During the evaluation of Bids, the following definitions apply:
 - a) "Deviation" is a departure from the requirements specified in the Tender Document;
 - b) "Reservation" is the setting of limiting conditions or withholding from complete acceptance of the requirements specified in the Tender Document; and
 - c) "Omission" is the failure to submit part or all of the information or documentation required in the Tender Document.

- 2) A deviation/ reservation/ omission from the requirements of the Tender Document shall be considered as a substantive deviation as per the following norm, and the rest shall be considered as Minor deviation:
 - a) which affects in any substantive way the scope, quality, or performance standards of the Services;
 - b) which limits in any substantive way, inconsistent with the Tender Document, the Procuring Entity's rights or the Bidder's obligations under the contract; or
 - c) Whose rectification would unfairly affect the competitive position of other Bidders presenting substantively responsive Bids.
- 3) The decision of the Procuring Entity shall be final in this regard. Bids with substantive deviations shall be rejected as nonresponsive.
- 4) Variations and deviations and other offered benefits (Techno-commercial or Financial) above the scope/ quantum of Services stipulated in the Tender Document shall not influence evaluation Bids. If the bid is otherwise successful, such benefits shall be availed by the Procuring Entity, and these would become part of the contract.
- 5) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject bids with any minor deviations. Wherever necessary; the Procuring Entity shall convey its observation as per ITB-clause 12.1.3 below, on such 'minor' issues to Bidder by registered/ speed post/ electronically etc. asking Bidder to respond by a specified date. If Bidder does not reply by the specified date or gives an evasive reply without clarifying the point at issue in clear terms, that bid shall be liable to be rejected as nonresponsive.

12.1.3 Clarification of Bids and shortfall documents

- 1) During the evaluation of Techno commercial or Financial Bids, the Procuring Entity may, at its discretion, but without any obligation to do so, ask Bidder to clarify its bid by a specified date. Bidder should answer the clarification within that specified date (or, if not specified, 7 days from the date of receipt of such request). The request for clarification shall be submitted in writing or electronically, and no change in prices or substance of the bid shall be sought, offered, or permitted that may grant any undue advantage to such bidder. Any clarification submitted by a Bidder regarding its Bid that is not in response to a request by the Purchasing Entity shall not be considered.
- 2) If discrepancies exist between the uploaded scanned copies and the Originals submitted by the bidder, the original copy's text, etc., shall prevail. Any substantive discrepancy shall be construed as a violation of the Code of Integrity, and the bid shall be liable to be rejected as nonresponsive in addition to other punitive actions under the Tender Document for violation of the Code of Conduct.
- 3) The Procuring Entity reserves its right to, but without any obligation to do so, to seek any shortfall information/ documents only in case of historical documents which pre-existed at the time of the Bid Opening, and which have not undergone change since then and does not grant any undue advantage to any bidder. There is a provision on the portal for requesting Short-fall documents from the bidders. The system allows taking the shortfall documents from any bidders only once after the technical bid opening.

12.1.4 Contacting Procuring Entity during the evaluation

From the time of bid submission to awarding the contract, no Bidder shall contact the Procuring Entity on any matter relating to the submitted bid. If a Bidder needs to contact the Procuring Entity for any

reason relating to this tender and/ or its bid, it should do so only in writing or electronically. Any effort by a Bidder to influence the Procuring Entity during the processing of bids, evaluation, bid comparison or award decisions shall be construed as a violation of the Code of Integrity, and bid shall be liable to be rejected as nonresponsive in addition to other punitive actions for violation of Code of Integrity as per the Tender Document.

12.2. Evaluation of Bids

12.2.1 Preliminary Examination of Bids - Determining Responsiveness

A substantively responsive bid is complete and conforms to the Tender Document's essential terms, conditions, and requirements, without substantive deviation, reservation, or omission. Only substantively responsive bids shall be considered for further evaluation. Unless otherwise stipulated in the AITB, the following are some of the crucial aspects for which a bid shall be rejected as nonresponsive:

- 1) The bid is not in the prescribed format or is not submitted as per the stipulations in the Tender Document.
- 2) The Required Bid Security Declaration (Form 7) has not been provided.
- 3) Bidder is not eligible to participate in the bid as per laid down eligibility criteria;
- 4) The Services offered are not eligible as per the provisions of this tender.
- 5) Bidder has quoted conditional bids or more than one bid or alternative bids unless permitted explicitly in the TIS/ AITB.
- 6) The bid validity is shorter than the required period.
- 7) The bid departs from the essential requirements stipulated in the bidding document;
- 8) Bidder has not quoted all Schedules or against a schedule in Section VI: Schedule of Requirement or has not quoted the entire Services as stipulated in that schedule.
- 9) Bidder has quoted 'Nil' Service charges/ margin over the minimum wages in Personnel Deployment Schedule.
- 10) Non-submission or submission of illegible scanned copies of stipulated documents/ declarations

12.2.2 The evaluation process in Single/ multiple Cover(s) and PQB Tenders

- 1) Unless otherwise stated, this Tender Process is for multiple (two or more) covers Bids. Initially, only the techno-commercial bids shall be opened on the stipulated date of opening of bids. After that, the techno-commercial evaluation shall be done whether these bids meet the eligibility & qualification criteria and techno-commercial aspects. Subsequent opening of financial bids and financial evaluation shall be done only of bids declared successful in techno-commercial evaluation.
- 2) If it is stipulated that this is the second stage of the two-stage tender Process or pre-qualified bidding (PQB) after shortlisting qualified bidders in the EoI/ PQB stage, evaluation of responses from the shortlisted qualified bidders shall follow the same procedure as described above for multiple covers Tender Process.
- 3) If the TIS/ AITB stipulate this to be a single cover Tender process, the single cover bids shall be opened on the stipulated date of opening of bids. After that, evaluation of eligibility/ qualification of bidders, the techno-commercial, and the financial aspects shall be done simultaneously. There shall be no interim/ separate declaration of results of the techno-commercial evaluation.

12.2.3 Unresponsive Bids

A substantively responsive bid is complete and conforms to the Tender Document's essential terms, conditions, and requirements without substantive deviation, reservation, or omission. Only substantively responsive bids shall be considered for further evaluation. Other bids shall be treated as unresponsive and ignored. All bids received shall first be scrutinised to identify unresponsive bids, if any. Some important points based on which a bid may be declared as unresponsive and be ignored during the evaluation are:

- a) The bid is not in the prescribed format or is unsigned or not signed as per the stipulations in the tender document;
- b) The required EMD has not been provided, or exemption from EMD is claimed without acceptable proof of exemption;
- c) The bidder is not eligible to participate in the bid as per the eligibility criteria that have been laid down (including conflict of interest and other provisions of CIPP). In case procurement is on a limited tender basis or where procurement is restricted to pre-approved vendors, it should be especially ensured that there is no conflict of interest;
- d) The bidder has quoted for goods manufactured by a different firm without the required authority letter from the proposed manufacturer;
- e) The bid departs from the essential requirements specified in the tender document (for example, the bidder has not agreed to give the required performance security) or
- f) Against a schedule in the list of requirements in the tender enquiry, the bidder has not quoted for the entire requirement as specified in that schedule (for example, in a schedule, it has been stipulated that the bidder will supply the equipment, install, and commission it and also train the purchaser's operators for operating the equipment. The bidder has, however, quoted only for the supply of the equipment).
- g) Bidder has quoted conditional bids or more than one bid or alternative bids unless permitted explicitly in the Tender Document
- h) The bid validity is shorter than the required period. However, in case of STE/ PAC procurement, shorter bid validity may be accepted.
- i) Non-submission or submission of illegible scanned copies of stipulated documents/ declarations, if so, stipulated in the Tender Document.
- j) If a firm quotes NIL charges/consideration, the bid shall be treated as unresponsive and will not be considered.

12.3. Techno-commercial Evaluation

Only substantively responsive bids shall be evaluated for techno-commercial evaluation. In evaluating the techno-commercial bid, conformity to the eligibility/ qualification criteria, technical specifications, and Quality Assurance; and commercial conditions of the offered Services to those in the Tender Document is ascertained. Additional factors incorporated in the Tender Document shall also be considered in the manner indicated therein. Bids with substantive techno-commercial deviations shall be rejected as nonresponsive. Procuring entity reserves its right to consider and allow minor deviations in technical and Commercial Conditions as per ITB-clause 12.1.2.

12.3.1 Evaluation of eligibility

Procuring Entity shall determine, to its satisfaction, whether the Bidders are eligible as per ITB-clause 3.2 and NIT-clause 3 above to participate in the Tender Process as per submission in Form 1.2: Eligibility Declarations. Tenders that do not meet the required eligibility criteria prescribed shall be rejected as nonresponsive.

12.3.2 Evaluation of Qualification Criteria

Procuring Entity shall determine, to its satisfaction, whether the Bidders are qualified and capable in all respects to perform the contract satisfactorily (subject to dispensation if any, for Start-ups, as per ITB-clause 4.3.2) as per submission in Form 4 and its sub-forms (4.1 to 4.3). This determination shall, inter-alia, consider the Bidder's Experience/ Past Performance, Performance and Financial Capabilities; for satisfying all requirements incorporated in the Tender Document. The determination shall not consider the qualifications of other firms such as the Bidder's subsidiaries, parent entities, affiliates, subcontractors (other than specialized subcontractors if permitted in the bidding document), or any other firm(s) different from the Bidder.

12.3.3 Evaluation of Conformity to Performance Standards and Quality Assurance

The Procuring Entity shall examine the Performance Standards and Quality Assurance; Methods Statement, Input Deployment Plans and Work Plan, as per Form 3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.

12.3.4 Evaluation of Conformity to Commercial and Other Clauses

Bidder must comply with all the Commercial and other clauses of the Tender Document as per submissions in Form 5. The Procuring Entity shall also evaluate the commercial conditions quoted by Bidder to confirm that all terms and conditions stipulated in the Tender Document have been accepted without substantive omissions/ reservations/ exception/ deviation by the Bidder. Deviations from or objections or reservations to critical provisions such as those concerning Governing laws and Jurisdiction (GCC Clause 3), Contractor's Obligations and Restrictions of its Rights (GCC Clause 5), Performance Bond/ Security (GCC Clause 5.8), Force Majeure (GCC Clause 10.7), Taxes & Duties (GCC Clause 11.2), Defects Liability Period (GCC Clause 11.7) and Code of Integrity (GCC Clause 14) will be deemed to be a material deviation.

12.3.5 Declaration of Techno-commercially Suitable Bidders and Opening of Financial Bids

Bids that succeed in the above techno-commercial evaluation shall be considered techno-commercially suitable, and financial evaluation shall be done only of such Bids. The list of such techno-commercially suitable bidders and a date/time and venue for the opening of their financial bids shall be declared on the Portal and individually to all participant bidders in accordance with ITB-clause 12.2.2 as per the type of Tender Processes.

12.4. Evaluation of Financial Bids and Ranking of Bids

12.4.1 Ranking of Financial Bids

- 1) Unless otherwise stipulated, evaluation of the financial bids shall be on the price criteria only. Financial Bids of all Techno-commercially suitable bids are evaluated and ranked to determine the lowest priced bidder.
- 2) Unless otherwise stipulated, the comparison of the responsive Bids shall be on total outgo from the Procuring Entity's pocket, to be paid to the contractor or any third party, including all elements of costs as per the terms of the proposed contract, duly delivered, commissioned, etc. as the case may be, including any taxes, duties, levies etc.
- 3) Unless otherwise stipulated, if the Schedule of Requirements contains more than one schedule, the financial ranking of bids shall be done based on all schedules put together. The bid for a schedule shall not be considered if the complete requirements prescribed in that schedule are not included in the bid;

- 4) If any bidder offers conditional discounts/ rebates in his bid or suo-motu discounts and rebates after the Bid Opening (techno-commercial or financial), such rebates/ discounts shall not be considered for ranking the offer. But if such a bidder does become L-1 without discounts/ rebates, such discounts/ rebates shall be availed and incorporated in the contracts;
- 5) Unless announced beforehand, the quoted price shall not be loaded based on deviations in the commercial conditions. If it is so declared, such loading of a financial bid shall be done as per the relevant provisions.
- 6) As per policies of the Government, from time to time, the Procuring Entity reserves its option to give purchase preferences to eligible categories of Bidders as indicated in the Tender Document.
- 7) evaluation of Bids shall include and consider the following taxes/ duties, as per ITB-clause 6.3 above:
 - a) in the case of Services performed in India or incidental goods of foreign origin already located in India, GST & other similar duties, which shall be contractually payable, on the Services and incidental Goods, if a contract is awarded on the bidder;
 - b) The offers shall be evaluated based on the GST rate quoted by each bidder, and the same shall be used for determining the inter-se ranking. The Procuring Entity shall not be responsible for any misclassification of HSN Number or incorrect GST rate if quoted by the bidder. Any increase in GST rate due to misclassification of HSN number shall have to be absorbed by the supplier, and
 - c) If GST is quoted extra, but with the provision that it shall be charged as applicable at the time of delivery, the offer shall be evaluated for comparison purposes by loading the maximum existing rate of GST for the product/ HSN code.
- 8) **Price Variation:** If the tenders have been invited on a variable price basis, the tenders shall be evaluated, compared, and ranked based on the position as prevailing on the last deadline for techno-commercial bid submission and not on any future date.
- 9) **Ambiguous Financial bid:** If the financial bid is ambiguous and leads to two equally valid total price amounts, it shall be rejected as nonresponsive.
- 10) **Non-conformities between Figures and Words:** Sometimes, non-conformities/errors are also observed in responsive tenders between the quoted prices in figures and words. This situation normally does not arise in the case of e-procurement. This should be taken care of in the manner indicated below:
 - a) If, in the price structure quoted for the required goods, there is a discrepancy between the unit price and total price (which is obtained by multiplying the unit price by the quantity), the unit price shall prevail, and the total price corrected accordingly;
 - b) If there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of sub-totals, the sub-totals shall prevail, and the total shall be corrected.
 - c) If there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words shall prevail.
- 11) Rarely, there may be a tie at the lowest bid (L-1) position between two or more bidders. It must be first determined whether it is a case of Cartel formation or anti-competitive practices, and if so, it shall be dealt with accordingly. If this is not a case of cartel formation, in such cases the decision will be taken in the following manner:
 - I. In case one of the L1 bidders is MSE owned by SC/ST or a Women Entrepreneur, then 25% quantity order reserved for MSEs will be placed on the MSE owned by SC/ST or a Women Entrepreneur subject to fulfilment of other tender conditions.

- II. If one of the L1 bidders is MSE, other than MSE owned by SC/ST or a Women Entrepreneur then an order shall be placed on such MSE bidders.
- III. In all other scenarios, the order shall be placed on the L1 bidder having a higher turnover in the previous financial year.

12.4.2 Global Tender Enquiry (GTE, International Competitive Bidding)

If stipulated in the TIS/ AITB that this is a Global Tender Enquiry (International Competitive Bidding), the following additional aspects of the evaluation of the financial offer shall also apply:

1) Currency of Tender

In GTE tenders, if permitted in AITB, the bid price may be in foreign currencies, except for expenditure incurred in India (including incidental Works/ Goods delivered in India and agency commission, if any) which should be stated in Indian Rupees.

2) Evaluation of Offers

- a) For financial evaluation, all Bids shall be converted to Indian Rupees based on the “Bill for Collection (BC) selling” exchange rate on the last deadline for the bid submission (Techno-commercial offer) from a source as specified (State Bank of India, if not so specified) in the tender document. The offers would be compared based on the principle of the total outgo from Procuring Entity’s pockets, including all applicable taxes and duties (Customs duty, GST, and GST Cess). For bids with Letter of Credit (LC) payment, the likely LC charges (as ascertained from the Procuring Entity’s bankers) should also be loaded. Import of Goods or services or both attract integrated tax (IGST). The IGST rate and GST cess shall be applicable on the ‘Custom Assessable Value’ plus the ‘Basic Customs duty applicable thereon’.
- b) The terms FOB, FAS, CIF, DDP etc. shall be governed by the rules & regulations prescribed in the current edition of INCOTERMS, published by the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris

12.4.3 Evaluation Process in Tender cum e-Reverse Auction

If it is specified in TIS/ AITB that this is a Tender cum e-Reverse Auction Tender Process then, the e-Reverse Auction process shall be mandatorily conducted on the same portal after the financial bid opening (declaration of L-1 landed price/ s), provided the number of valid bidders is not less than the stipulated number (3 if not specified). Unless otherwise stipulated following procedure shall be followed:

1) Shortlisting of bidders eligible to participate in e-Reverse Auction:

- (a) The bids disallowed from participating in the Reverse Auction(e-RA) shall be the highest bidder(s) in the tabulation of prices in the financial bid. If the highest bidders quote the same rate, the Price Offer received last, as per the time log of the Portal, shall be removed first, on the principle of last in first out by the system.
- (b) If the number of valid bidders is less than the minimum stipulated number (or 3 if not specified), a Reverse auction shall not be conducted, and the financial bids shall be evaluated. In the case of 4 to 6 valid bidders lowest three (3) bidders shall be allowed to participate in the reverse auction. In the case of more than 6 valid bidders, only 50% of the bidders (rounded up to next integer) shall be allowed to participate.
- (c) However, if MSE bidders or Class-I Local suppliers under the Make in India policy do not come under the above criteria, but their prices in financial bids are within the policy’s

margin of preference, they shall be allowed to participate. Such bidders would be over and above the short-list mentioned above.

2) **Reverse Auction Process (RAP)**

Note: If the Portal RAP process is different from the one described below, the portal provisions shall prevail.

- (a) Upon opening the financial bids, a reverse auction platform shall be created. The reverse auction shall start within the specified period (two hours if not specified) of the bid. There shall be no participation fees for the e-Reverse auction.
 - (b) Unless modified by TIA, L-1 landed price in financial bid (as per the calculation schema based on the Tender Document evaluation criteria) shall be the start bid price on which the auction shall be initiated.
 - (c) The TIA shall specify the decrement value before starting the e-Reverse Auction (or, if not specified, 0.5% of the start bid price rounded off to the next unit, tens, hundreds, thousands etc., with a minimum of Rs. 1). The reduction shall have to be made as per decrement value or in multiple thereof.
 - (d) An initial period of the reverse auction shall be as stipulated (or two hours if not specified). All times and periods are as per server time-stamp. There shall be auto extensions of time by specified minutes (ten minutes if not specified) in case of any reduction recorded in the last auto-extension period. The Maximum number of auto extensions shall be as stipulated (or 50 if not stipulated).
 - (e) In case of service disruption at the service provider's end during the reverse auction, the reverse auction process shall start all over again, with the last recorded lowest price of prematurely ended RAP as the 'Start bid' price. The prices quoted in the prematurely ended RAP shall be binding on all the bidders for consideration if the restarted process does not trigger within the stipulated time (or by 5.00 pm on the same day, if not stipulated). Disruption and restarting of RAP shall be intimated to all the bidders through system/ SMS/ e-mail through the e-procurement portal.
- 3) Bidders must submit only the landed price in the reverse auction, and only the item-wise L-1 price shall be displayed without disclosing the number of bids and names of the bidders. The landed price would not be the same for two bidders, even if any bidder makes such an attempt. While evaluating the bids, the exchange rate captured by the e-procurement system shall be considered for converting foreign currency into Indian Rupees.
 - 4) On the auction's closing time expiry, the bid history showing all the last valid bids offered along with the name of the bidders shall be published. All bidders shall have the facility to see and get a print of the same for their record.
 - 5) All electronic bids submitted during the reverse auction process shall be legally binding on the bidder. Only the chronologically last bid submitted by Bidder until the end of the auction shall be considered the valid financial bid of Bidder, and consideration of the same for entering into a contract by the Procuring Entity shall bind on the bidder. If a bidder does not submit his bid in the Reverse Auction, the price quoted in the financial bid shall be considered the valid price of that bidder. The status of Bidder (L-1, L-2 etc.) shall be evaluated considering either the bid price submitted in Reverse auction or the Price quoted in the financial bid, whichever is lower.
 - 6) The successful L-1 bidder, after the reverse auction, has to upload within a stipulated period (within 2 working days, if not specified) the breakup of Landed Prices in the shortfall documents, at which the contract shall be awarded. While giving the breakup, the Bidder shall include the same taxes and duties as quoted while submitting the financial bid. If the L-1

bidder fails to submit the breakup of landed price within the stipulated period, the Procuring Entity shall place an order based on the breakup of the financial bid submitted by Bidder, and the same shall be binding on the bidder.

7) Purchase Preference

Short-listed bidders, eligible for any purchase preference policy as per the Tender Document, shall get an opportunity to match the L-1 prices concluded after the reverse auction if their final prices in Reverse Auction fall within the permitted percentage.

12.4.4 Cartel Formation/ Pool Rates

- 1) Unless the Procuring Entity decides this to be a case of Cartel/ Pool Rates, if more than one bidder quote the same total evaluated price, then the Procuring Entity reserves its right to distribute unequal quantities among the bidders - excluding one or more bidders based on considerations like performance/ financial capabilities, any extra features/ benefits offered etc.
- 2) If Procuring Entity decides this to be a case of Cartel/ Pool Rates, leading to “Appreciable Adverse Effect on Competition” (AAEC) as identified in Competition Act, 2002, as amended from time to time, It reserves its rights to:
 - a) order any quantity on any one or more bidders without assigning any reason thereof.

And/ or

- b) consider it as a violation of the Code of Integrity and reject the bid(s) as nonresponsive in addition to other punitive actions provided in this regard in the Tender Document. In addition to such remedies, the Procuring Entity also reserves the right to refer the matter to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for obtaining necessary relief. In addition, the attention of the bidders is drawn to Chapter VI of the “The Competition Act 2002”, which deals with Penalties. Such actions shall be in addition to other rights and remedies available to the Procuring Entity under the contract and Law.

12.4.5 Reasonableness of Rates Received

Procuring Entity shall evaluate whether the rates received in the Bids in the zone of consideration are reasonable. If the rates received are considered abnormally low or unreasonably high, it reserves its right to take action as per the following sub-clauses, or as per ITB-clause 2.3, reject any or all Bids; abandon/ cancel the Tender process and issue another tender for identical or similar Services.

12.4.6 Consideration of Abnormally Low Bids

An Abnormally Low bid is one in which the bid price, in combination with other elements of the bid, appears so low that it raises substantive concerns as to the Bidder's capability to perform the contract at the offered price. Procuring Entity shall in such cases seek written clarifications from the Bidder, including detailed price analyses of its bid price concerning scope, schedule, allocation of risks and responsibilities, and any other requirements of the Tender Document. If, after evaluating the price analyses, procuring entity determines that Bidder has substantively failed to demonstrate its capability to deliver the contract at the offered price, the Procuring Entity shall reject the bid/ proposal, and evaluation shall proceed with the next ranked bidder.

12.4.7 Price Negotiation

Usually, there shall be no price negotiations. However, the Procuring Entity reserves its right to negotiate with the lowest acceptable bidder (L-1), who is techno-commercially suitable for delivery of Services and on whom the contract would have been placed but for the decision to negotiate. This right shall also apply to post eReverse Auction process.

13.Award of Contract

13.1. The Procuring Entity's Rights

13.1.1 Right to Vary Quantities at the Time of Award:

At the time of contract award, the Procuring Entity reserves the right to increase or decrease without any change in the unit prices or other terms and conditions of the bid and the Tender Document, the quantum of Services originally stipulated in Section VI: Schedule of Requirements, provided this increase/ decrease does not exceed 25 (twenty-five) percent of tendered quantity (or any other percentage indicated in the Tender Document),.

13.1.2 Parallel Contracts or Splitting of Award

The Procuring Entity reserves its right to split the quantities and conclude Parallel contracts with more than one bidder (for the same tender) in the following circumstances:

- 1) Unless otherwise stipulated in TIS/ AITB, there shall be no parallel orders or splitting quantities among more than one Bidders.
- 2) However, if the Tender Document stipulates such parallel contracts due to the critical/ strategic/ specific nature of the Services, the manner of deciding relative share of the lowest bidder (L-1) and the rest shall be clearly defined, along with the minimum number of Bidders sought (subject to availability of suitable bids meeting the requirements) for the contract. In such cases, the bidders should not quote for less than 25% of the tendered quantity; otherwise, their offer shall be rejected as nonresponsive. Unless otherwise stipulated in the AITB, in case of splitting in two and three, the ratio of 70:30; 50:30:20, respectively shall be used. These ratios are approximate, and the Procuring Entity reserves its right to marginally vary quantities to suit capacity/ past performance of the bidder/ unit loads of packing or transportation/ relative ranking of the bids/ delivery period offered/ existing load of Bidder and other similar factors affecting smooth delivery of Services as per requirements.

13.2. Letter of Award (Acceptance - LoA) and Signing of Contract

13.2.1 Selection of Successful Bidder(s)

The Procuring Entity shall award the contract to the Bidder(s) whose bid(s) is Techno-commercially suitable and bid price(s) is lowest and reasonable, as per evaluation criteria detailed in the Tender Document.

13.2.2 Verification of Original Documents

Before issuing a Letter of Award (LoA) to the successful Bidder(s), the Procuring Entity may, at its discretion, ask Bidder to submit for verification the originals of all such documents whose scanned copies were submitted online along with the Technical bid. If so decided, the photocopies of such self-certified documents shall be verified and signed by the competent officer and kept in the records as part of the contract agreement. If the Bidder fails to provide such originals or in case of substantive discrepancies in such documents, it shall be construed as a violation of the Code of Integrity. Such bid

shall be liable to be rejected as nonresponsive in addition to other punitive actions provided in the Tender Document. The evaluation of Bids shall proceed with the subsequent ranked offers.

13.2.3 Letter of Award (LoA)

- 1) The Bidder, whose bid has been accepted and documents verified (at the discretion of Procuring Entity), shall be notified of the award by the Procuring Entity before the expiration of the bid validity period by written or electronic means. This notification (hereinafter and in the Conditions of Contract called the "Letter of Award - LoA") shall state the sum (hereinafter and in the contract called the "Contract Price") that the Procuring Entity shall pay the contractor in consideration of delivery of Services. The Letter of Award (LoA) shall constitute the legal formation of the contract, subject only to the furnishing of performance security as per the provisions of the sub-clause below. The Procuring Entity, at its discretion, may directly issue the contract subject only to the furnishing of performance security, skipping the issue of LoA.
- 2) It shall be mandatory for the successful bidder to be registered on GeM and obtain a unique GeM Seller ID. before the placement of LoA or the contract. This ID shall be incorporated in the contract.

13.2.4 Performance Security

- 1) Within 14 days (or any other period stipulated in AITB) of receipt of the Letter of Award (LoA, or the contract if LoA has been skipped), performance Security as per details in GCC-5.8 shall be submitted by the contractor to the Procuring Entity.
- 2) If the contractor, having been called upon by the Procuring Entity to furnish Performance Security, fails to do so within the specified period, it shall be lawful for the Procuring Entity at its discretion to annul the award and enforce Bid Securing Declaration (in lieu of forfeiture of the Bid Security), besides taking any other administrative punitive action like 'Removal from List of Registered Suppliers' etc.
- 3) If the bidder, whose bid is the lowest evaluated bid withdraws or whose bid has been accepted, fails to sign the procurement contract as may be required or fails to provide the security as may be required for the performance of the contract or otherwise withdraws from the procurement process, the Procuring Entity shall cancel the procurement process. The Procuring Entity on being satisfied that it is not a case of cartelization and that the integrity of the procurement process has been maintained, may offer the next successful bidder an opportunity to match the financial bid of the first successful bidder, and if the offer is accepted, award the contract to the next successful bidder at the price bid of the first successful bidder.

13.2.5 Signing of Contract

- 1) Within seven working days of receiving performance security, the Procuring Entity shall send the contract form (as per Format 1: Contract Form along with sub-formats) duly completed and signed, in duplicate, by registered/ speed post or by suitable digital means to the successful Bidder.
- 2) If so asked by the Procuring Entity, the successful Bidder shall return the original copy of the contract, duly signed and dated, within seven days from the date of receipt of the contract, to the Procuring Entity by registered/ speed post or by a suitable digital means.

- 3) Otherwise, the contract shall be taken to be legally effective from the date of its signing. The contractor may point out to the Procuring Entity, in writing/ electronically, any anomalies noticed in the contract within seven days of its receipt.

13.2.6 Expiry of bid Declaring Declarations

Upon the furnishing by the successful Bidder of the Performance Security, the Procuring Entity shall promptly notify the other Bidders that their Bids have been unsuccessful. The Bid Securing Declarations of unsuccessful bidders shall expire on receipt of this notification by them, in terms of ITB-clause 9.4 above. The bid-Securing Declaration of the successful bidder shall expire when Bidder has furnished the required Performance Security and signed the Agreement.

13.2.7 Publication of Tender Result

The name and address of the successful Bidder(s) receiving the contract(s) shall be published in the Portal and notice board/ bulletin/website of the Procuring Entity.

14. Grievance Redressal/ Complaint Procedure

- 1) Bidder has the right to submit a complaint or seek de-briefing regarding the rejection of his bid, in writing or electronically, within 10 days of declaration of techno-commercial or financial evaluation results. The complaint shall be addressed to the Dean Administration.
- 2) Within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint, the Tender Inviting Officer shall acknowledge the receipt in writing to the complainant indicating that it has been received, and the response shall be sent in due course after a detailed examination.
- 3) The Tender Inviting Officer shall convey the final decision to the complainant within 15 days of receiving the complaint. No response shall be given regarding the confidential process of evaluating bids and awarding the contract before the award is notified, although the complaint shall be kept in view during such a process. However, no response shall be given regarding the following topics explicitly excluded from such complaint process:
 - a) Only a bidder who has participated in the concerned Tender Process, i.e., pre-qualification, bidder registration or bidding, as the case may be, can make such representation.
 - b) Only a directly affected bidder can represent in this regard.
 - i) In case of pre-qualification bid has been evaluated before the bidding of Technical/ financial bids, an application for review concerning the technical/ financial bid may be filed only by a bidder who has qualified in pre-qualification bid;
 - ii) In case a technical bid has been evaluated before the opening of the financial bid, an application for review concerning the financial bid may be filed only by a bidder whose technical bid is found to be acceptable.
 - c) Following decisions of the Procuring Entity shall not be subject to review:
 - i) Determination of the need for procurement.
 - ii) Complaints against performance standards except under the premise that they are either vague or too specific to limit competition
 - iii) Selection of the mode of procurement or bidding system;
 - iv) Choice of the selection procedure.
 - v) Provisions limiting the participation of bidders in the Tender Process, in terms of policies of the Government
 - vi) Provisions regarding purchase preferences to specific categories of bidders in terms of policies of the Government

- vii) The decision to enter into negotiations with the L-1 bidder; and
- viii) Cancellation of the Tender Process except where it is intended to subsequently re-tender the same Services.

15.Code of Integrity in Public Procurement, Misdemeanours and Penalties:

Procuring authorities, bidders, suppliers, contractors, and consultants should observe the highest standard of integrity and not indulge in prohibited practices or other misdemeanours, either directly or indirectly, at any stage during the Tender Process or during the execution of resultant contracts. GCC-clause 14 (including the penalties prescribed therein) shall be considered to be part of this clause of ITB (even though it is not being reproduced here for the sake of brevity) and shall apply mutadis mutandis during the pre-award tender process.