



Published by
The Secretariat for Infrastructure
Planning Commission, Government of India
Yojana Bhawan, Parliament Street
New Delhi - 110001

Guidelines for Public Private Partnership Pre-qualification of Bidders





सत्यमेव जयते

Guidelines
for
Public Private Partnership

PRE-QUALIFICATION
OF
BIDDERS

Planning Commission
Government of India
New Delhi

*Published by the Secretariat for the Committee on Infrastructure
Planning Commission
Yojana Bhavan
Parliament Street
New Delhi-110 001
www.infrastructure.gov.in*

Second Edition: June 2009

*Printed by Aravali Printers & Publisher Pvt. Ltd.
W-30, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II
New Delhi-110 020*

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Preface

The justification for promoting Public Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure lies in its potential to improve the quality of service at lower costs, besides attracting private capital to fund public projects. This, however, is predicated on a policy and regulatory framework that provides a fair, transparent and competitive environment. Flaws in the framework can lead to unintended outcomes; a cautious and diligent approach is, therefore, necessary while formulating the rules of engagement.

One of the key factors that determine the success of a PPP project is the criteria for selection of the project sponsor, especially as such projects typically involve large capital investments for providing essential infrastructure services to users on a long-term basis. A bidder lacking in sufficient technical and financial capacity can jeopardise the project and compromise the services that the government is committed to provide. On the other hand, selection based on negotiations or inadequate competition can deprive the public exchequer and users of the assurance that they are paying a competitive price.

There was divergence in the principles and practices followed for selection of bidders for PPP projects in different sectors. A variety of technical, financial and other criteria were being used by the project authorities, and in some cases, technical proposals/bids were also invited along with financial offers. Some of the qualification parameters appeared subjective and were, therefore, prone to disputes and controversy. In several cases, the costs of making applications accompanied by detailed technical proposals were significant, and dampened bidder participation. There were instances where inadequacies in the process attracted judicial review coupled with the attendant delays in project implementation. A comprehensive review of the ongoing practices had, therefore, become necessary.

With a view to deliberating on the guidelines to be laid down for pre-qualification and short-listing of applicants who should be invited to make financial offers, the Committee on

Infrastructure (CoI), chaired by the Prime Minister constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Expenditure. Following extensive consultations with stakeholders and experts, the Group submitted its recommendations that were considered and accepted by CoI. The Guidelines were issued by the Ministry of Finance in May 2007. Since then, the Model RFQ document has been used by several ministries, state governments and other project authorities for pre-qualification and short-listing of bidders for their respective PPP projects.

In the course of experience gained in evaluating the RFQ applications for various projects, it was felt that some provisions of the Model RFQ required modifications and/or clarifications. Industry associations had also made representation seeking certain modifications. It was decided that all the suggestions would be examined by an Inter-Ministerial Task Force under the chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission with a view to recommending modifications where necessary. The recommendations of the Task Force have since been accepted by the Government and the Model RFQ has been modified accordingly.

These Guidelines include the Model RFQ (Request for Qualification) document that Ministries and autonomous bodies of the Central Government are expected to follow. This Model would also serve as a best practice document that State Governments may wish to adopt. It is hoped that adoption of these Guidelines would enhance the possibilities of a fair, transparent and competitive selection of bidders for delivery of successful PPP projects in infrastructure.



(Gajendra Haldea)
Adviser to Deputy Chairman
Planning Commission

June 29, 2009

Overview of the framework

For ensuring competitive, efficient and economic delivery of services, selection of bidders for undertaking infrastructure projects through Public Private Partnership (PPP) should be undertaken in a manner that is fair, transparent and inexpensive. In line with this objective, guidelines have been framed for pre-qualification of bidders for PPP projects. The guidelines are broad and generic in nature and are aimed at providing predictability to the entire process, allowing decisions to be made objectively and expeditiously. They address the critical minimum requirements that must be observed in conducting the selection process.

Selection must be fair and transparent

It is expected that the administrative ministries/autonomous bodies intending to procure PPP projects would observe these guidelines for short listing of bidders for the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage involving submission of financial bids. The salient features of the guidelines are as follows.

Two Stage process

The bidding process for PPP projects is typically divided into two stages. In the first stage, eligible and prospective bidders are shortlisted. This stage is generally referred to as Request for Qualification (RFQ) or Expression of Interest (EoI). The objective is to short-list eligible bidders for stage two of the process. In the second and final stage, which is generally referred to as the Request for Proposal (RFP) or invitation of financial bids, the bidders engage in a comprehensive scrutiny of the project before submitting their financial offers.

Selection should be in two stages

Request for Qualification (RFQ)

The RFQ process should aim at short-listing and pre-qualifying applicants who will be asked to submit financial bids in the RFP stage. The objective is to identify credible bidders who have the requisite technical and financial capacity for

Only credible bidders should be pre-qualified

undertaking the project. In order to encourage greater participation from credible domestic and international investors, the RFQ document should not require respondents to incur significant expense in preparing a response. The information sought for the purposes of pre-qualification should generally be restricted to technical and financial capabilities that are relevant to the project. Such information should be precise and quantified so that the process of short-listing is fair and transparent, and does not expose the government to disputes or controversies.

Conflict of interest

Elimination of Conflict of Interest

With a view to preventing potential collusion or cartelisation among bidders, a set of transparent guidelines have been laid down for eliminating any conflicts of interest among bidders. These should be strictly applied for ensuring a fair and competitive bidding process.

Number of bidders to be pre-qualified

Bidders should be short-listed for inviting financial bids

The number of bidders to be pre-qualified and short-listed for the final stage of bidding i.e. the RFP stage needs careful consideration. On the one hand, the number of pre-qualified bidders should be adequate for ensuring real competition in bidding. On the other hand, a large number of short-listed bidders is viewed as a factor that dampens participation by serious bidders, thus diluting competition, because credible investors are normally less inclined to spend the time and money necessary for making a competitive PPP bid if the zone of consideration is unduly large.

Unlike a bid for procurement of goods and services, bids for PPP projects involve greater risks, significantly larger investments and long-term participation. Since PPP projects in infrastructure provide a critical service to the users at large, the quality and reliability of service assumes greater importance. Moreover, restricting the list to the best available bidders improves the chances of a successful PPP operation. It is also an international best practice to short-list about three to four bidders for the final stage of bidding. Considering all these

factors, short-listing of about six to seven pre-qualified bidders has been specified in the RFQ with a view to securing high quality and competitive financial bids. Towards this end, a fair and transparent system of evaluation at the RFQ stage would be necessary.

Specifying stringent pre-qualification criteria

While stringent eligibility criteria would ensure pre-qualification of bidders well suited for the RFP stage, yet the same would effectively reduce the number of qualified bidders. A balance, therefore, needs to be drawn for serving the objective of pre-qualifying a reasonable number of bidders for the RFP stage. The principles for determining the eligibility criteria such as technical and financial capacity should be formulated keeping these considerations in view.

Criteria must identify suitable bidders

Project-specific flexibility

The Model RFQ provides sufficient flexibility to adapt its provisions for meeting sector-specific and project-specific needs. Provisions encased in square parenthesis can be modified by the project authorities to suit their respective requirements. Further flexibility has been provided through options specified in the footnotes. In addition, project authorities can add project-specific conditions in their respective RFQ documents.

Project authorities would have sufficient flexibility

Evaluation criteria

The criteria for short-listing of bidders should be divided into technical and financial parameters as stated below:

Technical Capacity

The applicant should have acquired sufficient experience and capacity in building infrastructure projects. This can be measured either from the construction work undertaken/commissioned by him, or from revenues of BOT/BOLT/BOO projects, or from both, during the 5 years preceding the application date. Eligibility conditions, as necessary, may also be stipulated in respect of O&M experience.

Experience to be indicator of technical capacity

The technical capacity of a bidder can be assessed on the following parameters:

- (a) Project experience on BOT projects in the specified sector.
- (b) Project experience on BOT Projects in the core sector.
- (c) Construction experience in the specified sector.
- (d) Construction experience in the core sector.
- (e) O&M Experience: The consortium may include a member with at least ten per cent equity participation and having relevant experience in operation and maintenance (O&M). Alternatively, the successful bidder may be required to enter into an operation & maintenance (O&M) agreement with an entity having equivalent experience. While suggesting this arrangement, it is proposed to provide sufficient flexibility for modifying these requirements to suit the needs of individual sectors/projects.

For an Applicant to be pre-qualified, it must have undertaken projects having a weighted capital cost/ revenues equal to twice the Estimated Project Cost.

Financial Capacity

Net worth to be an indicator of financial capacity

Applicants should have a minimum net worth equivalent to 25 per cent of the estimated capital cost of the project for which bids are to be invited. This would ensure that pre-qualified applicants have sufficient financial strength to undertake the project.

Stake of consortium members

Consortium members should have substantial stake

The consortium members on whose strength an Applicant has been short-listed should have a substantial stake in the project. Each Member should, therefore, hold at least 26 per cent of the equity in the project SPV and should also hold equity equal to at least 5 per cent of the total project cost for a period of two years after commissioning of the project. This would

ensure that members with small equity holdings are not included with the sole purpose of achieving pre-qualification. In other words, only the experience and network of consortium members who shall have a substantial stake in implementation of the project is to be counted.

Technical evaluation to be part of Pre-Qualification stage

Requiring a technical evaluation at the RFP stage would normally lead to an elaborate and costly evaluation of complex proposals which are, by their very nature, difficult to compare since technical proposals of different bidders would vary significantly. Apart from the difficulties in evaluating diverse proposals on a common set of parameters, such evaluation also implies that instead of the government determining the assets and services to be provided by the selected bidder, it is the technical bid that would tend to guide the outcome. Logically, the government should set the technical parameters and ask for financial bids only, leaving sufficient flexibility for bidders to design and engineer the project in a manner that conforms to pre-determined standards and specifications, including service outputs.

In case of exceptionally complex projects where the project authority determines that the bidders must submit their technical proposals/plans, the requirements thereof should be specified in detail and such proposals/plans should be invited at the qualification stage, either along with the initial applications or at an intermediate stage preceding the bid stage. Only pre-qualified applicants should be invited to participate in the bid stage, which should only consist of an invitation to submit financial offers.

Parity of experience

In order to provide parity between the projects executed in developed countries and those in India, the weightage for projects executed in OECD countries will be reduced by one-half of their nominal experience score.

Technical evaluation to precede bid stage

Restrict bid stage to financial bids

Pre-qualification for social sector projects

Use of the document for social sector projects

Enabling provision has been made for suitably adapting the RFQ document to meet the requirements of social sectors and other projects. The overarching principles relating to the bid process would continue to apply.

Conclusion

Model RFQ document should be followed

A Model RFQ document has been developed based on the principles outlined above. It is generic in nature and aims at lending transparency and predictability to the entire process, allowing decisions to be made objectively and expeditiously. It also provides the requisite sector-specific and project-specific flexibility by placing several provisions within square brackets, thus enabling project authorities to make necessary additions and substitutions. To the extent possible, the concerned ministries should standardise the provisions contained in square brackets so that case by case modifications are minimised. Some flexibility has also been afforded through explanations in the footnotes and project-specific/sector specific modifications may be undertaken to the extent enabled by the footnotes. Additional project-specific conditions may also be added, if necessary.

The Model RFQ document addresses the critical requirements that should be satisfied for conducting a fair and transparent process of pre-qualification. It is expected that the administrative ministries and other organisations intending to procure infrastructure projects through PPP would observe these guidelines and adopt the Model RFQ document for short-listing of applicants for the Request for Proposal (RFP)/ financial bid stage. The Model RFQ document is also commended for use by the State Governments.

GUIDELINES OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

*F.No. 24(1)/PF.II/07
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure
Plan Finance II Division*

New Delhi, the 5th December, 2007

OFFICE MEMORANDUM*

Subject : Guidelines for Pre-Qualification of Bidders for PPP Projects

- 1.1 I am directed to state that for pre-qualification and short-listing of bidders eligible for submission of financial bids for projects to be implemented through Public Private Partnership (PPP), the following guidelines may be followed henceforth:*
- 1.2 These guidelines shall apply to all Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, all statutory entities under the control of Central Government and all Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).*

2. *Two-stage Process*

The bidding process for PPP projects is divided into two stages. The first stage is generally referred to as Request for Qualification (RFQ) or Expression of Interest (EoI). The objective is to short-list eligible bidders for stage two of the process. In the second and final stage, generally referred to as the Request for Proposal (RFP) or invitation of financial bids, the bidders engage in a comprehensive scrutiny of the project before submitting their financial offers.

3. *Request for Qualification (RFQ)*

The RFQ process should aim at short-listing and pre-qualifying applicants who will be asked to submit financial bids in the RFP stage. The objective is to identify credible

** As amended vide O.M. of even number dated May 18, 2009.*

bidders who have the requisite technical and financial capacity for undertaking the project. In order to encourage greater participation from credible domestic and international investors, the RFQ document should not require respondents to incur significant expense in preparing a response. The information sought for the purposes of pre-qualification should generally be restricted to technical and financial capabilities that are relevant to the project. Such information should be precise and quantified so that the process of short-listing is fair and transparent, and does not expose the government to disputes or controversy.

4. Number of bidders to be pre-qualified

- 4.1 *The number of bidders to be pre-qualified and short-listed for the final stage of bidding i.e. the RFP stage needs careful consideration. On the one hand, the number should be adequate for ensuring real competition in bidding. On the other hand, a large number of short-listed bidders could dampen participation by serious bidders, thus diluting competition, because credible investors are normally less inclined to spend the time and money necessary for making a competitive PPP bid, if the zone of consideration is unduly large.*
- 4.2 *It is to be recognised that unlike a bid for procurement of goods and services, bids for PPP projects involve greater risks, significantly larger investments and long-term participation. Since PPP projects in infrastructure provide a critical service to the users at large, the quality and reliability of service assumes greater importance. Moreover, restricting the list to the best available bidders improves the chances of a successful PPP operation. For these reasons, about six to seven pre-qualified bidders are favoured as a best practice for securing high quality bids with adequate competition. For this purpose, a fair and transparent system of evaluation at the RFQ stage would be necessary.*

5. Specifying stringent pre-qualification criteria

While stringent eligibility criteria would ensure pre-qualification of bidders well suited for the RFP stage, it would also effectively reduce the number of qualified bidders. A balance, therefore, needs to be drawn for serving the objective of pre-qualifying a reasonable number of suitable bidders for the RFP stage. The principles for determining the eligibility criteria such as technical and financial capacity should be formulated keeping these considerations in view.

6. Evaluation Criteria

6.1 *The criteria for short-listing of bidders should be divided into technical and financial parameters as stated below:*

Technical Capacity

6.2 *The applicant should have acquired sufficient experience and capacity in building infrastructure projects. This can be measured either from the construction work undertaken/ commissioned by it, or from revenues of BOT/BOLT/BOO projects, or from both, during the 5 years preceding the application date. Eligibility conditions, as necessary, may also be stipulated in respect of O&M experience.*

6.3 *The technical capacity of bidders can be assessed on the following parameters:*

- (a) **Project/construction Experience:** *Experience on eligible projects in the specified sector or other core sectors should be considered for determining the technical capacity of the applicant.*
- (b) **O&M Experience:** *The applicant should have experience of five years or more in operation and maintenance (O&M) of projects in the specified sector. In the absence of such experience, the applicant may be required to enter into an operation & maintenance (O&M) agreement with an entity having equivalent experience, failing which the concession agreement would be liable to termination. While suggesting this arrangement, it is proposed to provide sufficient flexibility for modifying these requirements to suit the needs of individual sectors/projects.*

Financial Capacity

6.4 *Applicants should have a minimum net worth equivalent to 25 per cent of the estimated capital cost of the project for which bids are to be invited. This would ensure that pre-qualified applicants have sufficient financial strength to undertake the project.*

7. Eligibility of Experience

The members of the consortium, who claim experience or networth in the RFQ must hold at least 26 per cent of the consortium's equity. This condition is necessary for ensuring that only the experience of those members who have a substantial stake is counted for the purposes of pre-qualification, and members with a small equity holding are not added with the sole objective of improving the ranking in pre-qualification.

8. *Technical evaluation at the RFP stage*

- 8.1 *Requiring a technical evaluation at the RFP stage would normally lead to an elaborate and costly evaluation of complex proposals which are, by their very nature, difficult to compare since technical proposals of different bidders could vary significantly. Apart from the difficulties in evaluating diverse proposals on a common set of parameters, such evaluation also implies that instead of the government determining the assets and services to be provided by the selected bidder, it is the technical bid that would tend to guide the outcome. Logically, the government should set the technical parameters and ask for financial bids only, leaving sufficient flexibility for bidders to design and engineer the project in a manner that conforms to pre-determined standards and specifications, including service outputs.*
- 8.2 *In case of exceptionally complex projects where the project authority determines that the bidders must submit their technical proposals/ plans, the requirements thereof should be specified in detail and such proposals / plans should be invited at the qualification stage, either along with the initial applications or at an intermediate stage preceding the bid stage. Only pre-qualified applicants should be invited to participate in the bid stage, which shall only consist of an invitation to submit financial offers.*

9. *Model RFQ Document*

- 9.1 *A model RFQ document has been developed based on the principles outlined above. The model document is generic in nature and aims at lending transparency and predictability to the entire process, allowing decisions to be made expeditiously. It also provides the requisite sector-specific and project-specific flexibility by placing several provisions within square brackets, thus enabling project authorities to make necessary substitutions. To the extent possible, the concerned Ministries should standardise the provisions contained in square brackets so that case by case modifications are minimised. Some flexibility has also been afforded through explanations in the footnotes and project-specific/ sector-specific modifications may be undertaken to the extent enabled by the footnotes. In case any further flexibility is needed for a specific sector or project, the required modifications may be made with prior approval of the PPP Appraisal Committee.*
- 9.2 *The model RFQ document* addresses the critical requirements that should be observed for conducting a fair and transparent process of pre-qualification. The administrative ministries/autonomous bodies intending to procure infrastructure projects through PPP should observe these guidelines for short-listing of bidders for the Request for Proposal (RFP)/Financial Bid stage.*

10. *These instructions shall supersede O.M. of even No. dated May 16, 2007 and shall come into force with immediate effect.*



(Dr. Anuradha Balaram)

Director/PF II

Tel.No. 23092668

1. *Chairman, Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.*
2. *Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.*
3. *Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi.*
4. *Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi.*
5. *Secretary, Department of Shipping, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi.*
6. *Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.*
7. *Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.*
8. *Secretary, Department of Telecommunication, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.*
9. *Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, CGO Complex, New Delhi.*
10. *Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.*
11. *Adviser to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.*

Copy to: PS to JS(PF.II) / PS to AS(E) / PPS to Secretary(E)

Model

Request For Qualification (RFQ)

Disclaimer

The information contained in this Request for Qualification document (the “**RFQ**”) or subsequently provided to Applicant(s), whether verbally or in documentary or any other form, by or on behalf of the Authority or any of its employees or advisors, is provided to Applicant(s) on the terms and conditions set out in this RFQ and such other terms and conditions subject to which such information is provided.

This RFQ is not an agreement and is neither an offer nor invitation by the Authority to the prospective Applicants or any other person. The purpose of this RFQ is to provide interested parties with information that may be useful to them in the formulation of their application for qualification pursuant to this RFQ (the “**Application**”). This RFQ includes statements, which reflect various assumptions and assessments arrived at by the Authority in relation to the Project. Such assumptions, assessments and statements do not purport to contain all the information that each Applicant may require. This RFQ may not be appropriate for all persons, and it is not possible for the Authority, its employees or advisors to consider the investment objectives, financial situation and particular needs of each party who reads or uses this RFQ. The assumptions, assessments, statements and information contained in this RFQ may not be complete, accurate, adequate or correct. Each Applicant should therefore, conduct its own investigations and analysis and should check the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability and completeness of the assumptions, assessments, statements and information contained in this RFQ and obtain independent advice from appropriate sources.

Information provided in this RFQ to the Applicant(s) is on a wide range of matters, some of which may depend upon interpretation of 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 Authority accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise for any interpretation or opinion on law expressed herein.

The Authority, its employees and advisors make no representation or warranty and shall have no liability to any person, including any Applicant or Bidder, under any law, statute, rules or regulations or tort, principles of restitution or unjust enrichment or otherwise for any loss, damages, cost or expense which may arise from or be incurred or suffered on account of anything contained in this RFQ or otherwise, including the accuracy, adequacy, correctness,

completeness or reliability of the RFQ and any assessment, assumption, statement or information contained therein or deemed to form part of this RFQ or arising in any way with pre-qualification of Applicants for participation in the Bidding Process.

The Authority also accepts no liability of any nature whether resulting from negligence or otherwise howsoever caused arising from reliance of any Applicant upon the statements contained in this RFQ.

The Authority may, in its absolute discretion but without being under any obligation to do so, update, amend or supplement the information, assessment or assumptions contained in this RFQ.

The issue of this RFQ does not imply that the Authority is bound to select and short-list pre-qualified Applications for Bid Stage or to appoint the selected Bidder or Concessionaire, as the case may be, for the Project and the Authority reserves the right to reject all or any of the Applications or Bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

The Applicant shall bear all its costs associated with or relating to the preparation and submission of its Application including but not limited to preparation, copying, postage, delivery fees, expenses associated with any demonstrations or presentations which may be required by the Authority or any other costs incurred in connection with or relating to its Application. All such costs and expenses will remain with the Applicant and the Authority shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for the same or for any other costs or other expenses incurred by an Applicant in preparation or submission of the Application, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Bidding Process.

Glossary

Applicant(s)	As defined in Clause 1.2.1
Application	As defined in the Disclaimer
Application Due Date	As defined in Clause 1.1.5
Associate	As defined in Clause 2.2.9
Authority	As defined in Clause 1.1.1
Bids	As defined in Clause 1.2.3
Bid Due Date	As defined in Clause 1.2.3
Bid Security	As defined in Clause 1.2.4
Bidders	As defined in Clause 1.1.1
Bidding Documents	As defined in Clause 1.2.3
Bidding Process	As defined in Clause 1.2.1
Bid Stage	As defined in Clause 1.2.1
[BOT]	Build, Operate and Transfer
Concessionaire	As defined in Clause 1.1.2
Concession Agreement	As defined in Clause 1.1.2
Conflict of Interest	As defined in Clause 2.2.1(c)
Consortium	As defined in Clause 2.2.1(a)
[DBFOT]	As defined in Clause 1.1.1
Eligible Experience	As defined in Clause 3.2.1
Eligible Projects	As defined in Clause 3.2.1
Estimated Project Cost	As defined in Clause 1.1.4
Experience Score	As defined in Clause 3.2.6
Financial Capacity	As defined in Clause 2.2.2 (B)
Government	Government of *****
Grant	As defined in Clause 1.2.8
Highest Bidder	As defined in Clause 1.2.8
Jt. Bidding Agreement	As defined in Clause 2.2.6 (g)
Lead Member	As defined in Clause 2.2.6 (c)
LOA	Letter of Award

Member	Member of a Consortium
Net Worth	As defined in Clause 2.2.4 (ii)
PPP	Public Private Partnership
Premium	As defined in Clause 1.2.8
Project	As defined in Clause 1.1.1
Qualification	As defined in Clause 1.2.1
Qualification Stage	As defined in Clause 1.2.1
Re. or Rs. or INR	Indian Rupee
RFP or Request for Proposals	As defined in Clause 1.2.1
RFQ	As defined in the Disclaimer
SPV	As defined in Clause 2.2.6
Technical Capacity	As defined in Clause 2.2.2 (A)
Threshold Technical Capacity	As defined in Clause 2.2.2 (A)

The words and expressions beginning with capital letters and defined in this document shall, unless repugnant to the context, have the meaning ascribed thereto herein.

Invitation for Qualification

[Name of Authority]

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background¹

1.1.1 The [National Highways Authority of India]² (the “**Authority**”) is engaged in the development of [highways] and as part of this endeavour, the Authority has decided to undertake development and operation/ maintenance of the *****³ Project (the “**Project**”) through Public-Private Partnership (the “**PPP**”) on [Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (the “**DBFOT**”)] basis, and has decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of [a private entity as]⁴ the bidder to whom the Project may be awarded. [A brief description of the project may be seen in the Information Memorandum of the Project at the Authority’s website www.*****.] Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:

Name of the [Highway]	[Length in Km]	Indicative Project Cost ⁵ (In Rs. cr.) ⁶
[Jaipur-Kishengarh section of NH-8]	[94]	[500]

The Authority intends to pre-qualify and short-list suitable Applicants (the “**Bidders**”) who will be eligible for participation in the Bid Stage, for awarding the Project through an open competitive bidding process in accordance with the procedure set out herein.

1.1.2 The selected Bidder, who is either a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 or undertakes to incorporate as such prior to execution of the concession agreement

¹ Serially numbered footnotes are for guidance of the Authority and should be omitted prior to issue of RFQ. Footnotes marked in non-numerical characters shall be retained in the RFQ.

² All project-specific provisions in this document have been enclosed in square parenthesis and may be modified, as necessary, before issuing the RFQ for the Project. The square parenthesis should be removed after carrying out the required modifications. The curly parenthesis including the provisions contained therein and all the blank spaces may be retained in the RFQ document to be issued to prospective Applicants. They should be suitably modified/filled up subsequently by the respective Applicants or the Authority, as the case may be, to reflect the particulars relating to the Project or the Applicants.

³ Wherever asterisk is used, it should be substituted by project-specific details prior to issue of RFQ.

⁴ If public sector companies are to be allowed to bid, this Clause may be modified accordingly.

⁵ If the project agreements do not provide for any obligations or liabilities that arise from or are related to capital costs of the project, this column may be omitted.

⁶ This amount should normally include the likely construction cost plus 25% thereof by way of financing costs, physical and price contingencies etc.

(the “**Concessionaire**”) shall be responsible for [designing,] engineering, financing, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of the Project under and in accordance with the provisions of a [long-term] concession agreement (the “**Concession Agreement**”) to be entered into between the Concessionaire and the Authority in the form provided by the Authority as part of the Bidding Documents pursuant hereto.

- 1.1.3 The scope of work will broadly include [rehabilitation, upgradation and widening of the existing carriageway to four-lane standards with construction of new pavement, rehabilitation of existing pavement, construction and/or rehabilitation of major and minor bridges, culverts, road intersections, interchanges, drains, etc.] and the operation and maintenance thereof.
- 1.1.4 Indicative capital cost of the Project (the “**Estimated Project Cost**”) will be revised and specified in the Bidding Documents of the Project. The assessment of actual costs, however, will have to be made by the Bidders.
- 1.1.5 The Authority shall receive Applications pursuant to this RFQ in accordance with the terms set forth herein as modified, altered, amended and clarified from time to time by the Authority, and all Applications shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with such terms on or before the date specified in Clause 1.3 for submission of Applications (the “**Application Due Date**”).

1.2 Brief description of Bidding Process

- 1.2.1 The Authority has adopted a two-stage process (collectively referred to as the “**Bidding Process**”) for selection of the bidder for award of the Project. The first stage (the “**Qualification Stage**”) of the process involves qualification (the “**Qualification**”) of interested parties/ consortia who make an Application in accordance with the provisions of this RFQ (the “**Applicant**”, which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context, include the Members of the Consortium). Prior to making an Application, the Applicant shall pay to the Authority a sum of Rs. 50,000 (Rupees fifty thousand) as the cost of the RFQ process⁷. At the end of this stage, the Authority expects to announce a short-list of up to [6 (six)] suitable pre-qualified Applicants who shall be eligible for participation in the second stage of the Bidding Process (the “**Bid Stage**”) comprising Request for Proposals (the “**Request for Proposals**” or “**RFP**”).

[Government of India has issued guidelines (see Appendix-V) for qualification of bidders seeking to acquire stakes in any public sector enterprise through the process of

⁷ The cost of RFQ may be determined at the rate of Rs. 10,000 for every Rs. 100 crore or part thereof comprising the estimated Project Cost. Thus the cost of an RFQ document for a project of Rs. 500 crore shall be Rs. 50,000.

disinvestment. These guidelines shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to this Bidding Process. The Authority shall be entitled to disqualify an Applicant in accordance with the aforesaid guidelines at any stage of the Bidding Process. Applicants must satisfy themselves that they are qualified to bid, and should give an undertaking to this effect in the form at Appendix-I.]

- 1.2.2 In the Qualification Stage, Applicants would be required to furnish all the information specified in this RFQ. Only those Applicants that are pre-qualified and short-listed by the Authority shall be invited to submit their Bids for the Project. The Authority is likely to provide a comparatively short time span for submission of the Bids for the Project. The Applicants are, therefore, advised to visit the site and familiarise themselves with the Project.
- 1.2.3 In the Bid Stage, the Bidders will be called upon to submit their financial offers (the “**Bids**”) in accordance with the RFP and other documents to be provided by the Authority (collectively the “**Bidding Documents**”). The Bidding Documents for the Project will be provided to every Bidder on payment of {Rs. 100,000 (Rupees one lakh only)}⁵. The Bid shall be valid for a period of not less than 120 days from the date specified in Clause 1.3 for submission of bids (the “**Bid Due Date**”).
- 1.2.4 In terms of the RFP, a Bidder will be required to deposit, along with its Bid, a bid security [equivalent to about 1% (one per cent)⁸ of the Estimated Project Cost] (the “**Bid Security**”), refundable no later than 60 (sixty) days from the Bid Due Date, except in the case of the selected Bidder whose Bid Security shall be retained till it has provided a Performance Security under the Concession Agreement. The Bidders will have an option to provide Bid Security in the form of a demand draft or a bank guarantee acceptable to the Authority⁹ and in such event, the validity period of the demand draft or bank guarantee, as the case may be, shall not be less than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date, inclusive of a claim period of 60 (sixty) days, and may be extended as may be mutually agreed between the Authority and the Bidder from time to time. The Bid shall be summarily rejected if it is not accompanied by the Bid Security.

⁵ The actual amount will be indicated in the RFP.

⁸ The Authority may, if deemed necessary, prescribe a higher bid security not exceeding 2% of the Estimated Project Cost. In case of a project having an Estimated Project Cost of Rs. 2,000 cr. or above, the Authority may reduce the bid security, but not less than 0.5% of the Estimated Project Cost in any case.

⁹ The format for the bank guarantee has been published as part of the Model RFP document.

- 1.2.5 Generally, the Highest Bidder shall be the selected Bidder. The remaining Bidders shall be kept in reserve and may, in accordance with the process specified in the RFP, be invited to match the Bid submitted by the Highest Bidder in case such Highest Bidder withdraws or is not selected for any reason. In the event that none of the other Bidders match the Bid of the Highest Bidder, the Authority may, in its discretion, invite fresh Bids from the remaining Bidders or annul the Bidding Process, as the case may be.
- 1.2.6 During the Bid Stage, Bidders are invited to examine the Project in greater detail, and to carry out, at their cost, such studies as may be required for submitting their respective Bids for award of the concession including implementation of the Project.
- 1.2.7 As part of the Bidding Documents, the Authority will provide a draft Concession Agreement and [project/ feasibility] report prepared by the [Authority/ its consultants] and other information pertaining/ relevant to the Project available with it.
- 1.2.8 Bids will be invited for the Project on the basis of [the lowest financial grant (the “**Grant**”) required] by a Bidder for implementing the Project. [A Bidder may, instead of seeking a Grant, offer to pay a premium in the form of revenue share and/ or upfront payment, as the case may be, (the “**Premium**”) to the Authority for award of the concession.] The concession period shall be pre-determined, and will be indicated in the draft Concession Agreement forming part of the Bidding Documents. The [Grant/ Premium amount] shall constitute the sole criteria for evaluation of Bids. The Project shall be awarded to the Bidder quoting the [highest Premium, and in the event that no Bidder offers a Premium, then to the Bidder seeking the lowest Grant.]
- In this RFQ, the term “**Highest Bidder**” shall mean the Bidder who is offering the [highest Premium, and where no Bidder is offering a Premium, the Bidder seeking the lowest Grant shall be the Highest Bidder].
- 1.2.9 The Concessionaire shall be entitled to [levy and charge a pre-determined user fee from users] of the Project.
- 1.2.10 Further and other details of the process to be followed at the Bid Stage and the terms thereof will be spelt out in the Bidding Documents.
- 1.2.11 Any queries or request for additional information concerning this RFQ shall be submitted in writing or by fax and e-mail to the officer designated in Clause 2.13.3 below. The envelopes/ communications shall clearly bear the following identification/ title:

“Queries/ Request for Additional Information: RFQ for ***** Project”.

1.3 Schedule of Bidding Process

The Authority shall endeavour to adhere to the following schedule:

Event Description	
Qualification Stage	Date
1. Last date for receiving queries	[25 days from date of RFQ]
2. Pre-Application Conference	[30 days from date of RFQ]
3. Authority response to queries latest by	[35 days from date of RFQ]
4. Application Due Date	[45 days from date of RFQ]
5. Announcement of short-list	Within 15 days of Application Due Date
Bid Stage	Estimated Date
1. Sale of Bid Documents	[To be specified]
2. Last date for receiving queries	[To be specified]
3. Pre-Bid meeting - 1	[To be specified]
4. Authority response to queries latest by	[To be specified]
5. Pre-Bid meeting - 2	[To be specified] ¹⁰
6. Bid Due Date	[To be specified]
7. Opening of Bids	On Bid Due Date
8. Letter of Award (LOA)	Within 30 days of Bid Due Date
9. Validity of Bids	120 days of Bid Due Date
10. Signing of Concession Agreement	Within 30 days of award of LOA

¹⁰ In case of complex projects, the number of pre-bid meetings could be two or more.

2. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

A. GENERAL

2.1 Scope of Application

- 2.1.1 The Authority wishes to receive Applications for Qualification in order to short-list experienced and capable Applicants for the Bid Stage.
- 2.1.2 Short-listed Applicants may be subsequently invited to submit the Bids for the Project.

2.2 Eligibility of Applicants

- 2.2.1 For determining the eligibility of Applicants for their pre-qualification hereunder, the following shall apply:
 - (a) The Applicant for pre-qualification may be a single entity or a group of entities (the “**Consortium**”), coming together to implement the Project. However, no applicant applying individually or as a member of a Consortium, as the case may be, can be member of another Applicant. The term Applicant used herein would apply to both a single entity and a Consortium.
 - (b) An Applicant may be a natural person, private entity, [government-owned entity] or any combination of them with a formal intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement to form a Consortium. A Consortium shall be eligible for consideration subject to the conditions set out in Clause 2.2.6 below.
 - (c) An Applicant shall not have a conflict of interest (the “**Conflict of Interest**”) that affects the Bidding Process. Any Applicant found to have a Conflict of Interest shall be disqualified. An Applicant shall be deemed to have a Conflict of Interest affecting the Bidding Process, if:
 - (i) the Applicant, its Member or Associate (or any constituent thereof) and any other Applicant, its Member or any Associate thereof (or any constituent thereof) have common controlling shareholders or other ownership interest; provided that this disqualification shall not apply in cases where the direct or indirect shareholding of an Applicant, its Member or an Associate thereof (or any shareholder thereof having a shareholding of

more than 5% (five per cent) of the paid up and subscribed share capital of such Applicant, Member or Associate, as the case may be) in the other Applicant, its Member or Associate is less than 5% (five per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity share capital thereof; provided further that this disqualification shall not apply to any ownership by a bank, insurance company, pension fund or a public financial institution referred to in section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956. For the purposes of this Clause 2.2.1 (c), indirect shareholding held through one or more intermediate persons shall be computed as follows: (aa) where any intermediary is controlled by a person through management control or otherwise, the entire shareholding held by such controlled intermediary in any other person (the “**Subject Person**”) shall be taken into account for computing the shareholding of such controlling person in the Subject Person; and (bb) subject always to sub-clause (aa) above, where a person does not exercise control over an intermediary, which has shareholding in the Subject Person, the computation of indirect shareholding of such person in the Subject Person shall be undertaken on a proportionate basis; provided, however, that no such shareholding shall be reckoned under this sub-clause (bb) if the shareholding of such person in the intermediary is less than 26% (twenty six per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity shareholding of such intermediary; or

- (ii) a constituent of such Applicant is also a constituent of another Applicant; or
- (iii) such Applicant, or any Associate thereof receives or has received any direct or indirect subsidy, grant, concessional loan or subordinated debt from any other Applicant, or any Associate thereof or has provided any such subsidy, grant, concessional loan or subordinated debt to any other Applicant, its Member or any Associate thereof; or
- (iv) such Applicant has the same legal representative for purposes of this Application as any other Applicant; or
- (v) such Applicant, or any Associate thereof has a relationship with another Applicant, or any Associate thereof, directly or through common third party/ parties, that puts either or both of them in a position to have access to each others’ information about, or to influence the Application of either or each other; or
- (vi) such Applicant, or any Associate thereof has participated as a consultant

to the Authority in the preparation of any documents, design or technical specifications of the Project.

- (d) An Applicant shall be liable for disqualification if any legal, financial or technical adviser of the Authority in relation to the Project is engaged by the Applicant, its Member or any Associate thereof, as the case may be, in any manner for matters related to or incidental to the Project. For the avoidance of doubt, this disqualification shall not apply where such adviser was engaged by the Applicant, its Member or Associate in the past but its assignment expired or was terminated 6 (six) months prior to the date of issue of this RFQ. Nor will this disqualification apply where such adviser is engaged after a period of 3 (three) years from the date of commercial operation of the Project.

Explanation:

In case an Applicant is a Consortium, then the term Applicant as used in this Clause 2.2.1, shall include each Member of such Consortium.

- [(e) Other eligibility conditions shall include:***]¹¹

2.2.2 To be eligible for pre-qualification and short-listing, an Applicant shall fulfil the following conditions of eligibility:

- (A) **Technical Capacity:** For demonstrating technical capacity and experience (the “**Technical Capacity**”), the Applicant shall, over the past 5 (five) financial years preceding the Application Due Date, have:
- (i) paid for, or received payments for, construction of Eligible Project(s); and/or
 - (ii) paid for development of Eligible Project(s) in Category 1 and/or Category 2 specified in Clause 3.2.1; and/ or
 - (iii) collected and appropriated revenues from Eligible Project(s) in Category 1 and/or Category 2 specified in Clause 3.2.1,

such that the sum total of the above is more than [Rs. 1,000 crore (Rupees one thousand crore)] (the “**Threshold Technical Capacity**”).¹²

¹¹ Other sector-specific conditions of eligibility or restrictions, if any, may be stated here, such as limit on FDI. In case of sectors such as ports and airports, the Authority may specify restrictions in order to prevent the same entity from acquiring more than a pre-determined number of projects. In sectors where a large number of projects are offered within a comparatively short period, such as in the case of highways, the Authority may specify restrictions in order to prevent the same entity from getting shortlisted in a large number of projects with the potential effect of curtailing effective competition.

¹² This amount should be equivalent to twice the Estimated Project Cost of the Project for which bids are being invited. Where deemed necessary, the Authority may increase/decrease this amount by one half of the Estimated Project Cost.

[Provided that at least one fourth of the Threshold Technical Capacity shall be from the Eligible Projects in Category 1 and/ or Category 3 specified in Clause 3.2.1.]

- (B) Financial Capacity:** The Applicant shall have a minimum Net Worth¹³ (the “**Financial Capacity**”) of [Rs. 125 crore (Rupees one hundred and twenty five crore)]¹⁴ at the close of the preceding financial year.

In case of a Consortium, the combined technical capacity and net worth of those Members, who have and shall continue to have an equity share of at least 26% (twenty six per cent) each in the SPV, should satisfy the above conditions of eligibility; provided that each such Member shall, for a period of 2 (two) years from the date of commercial operation of the Project, hold equity share capital not less than: (i) 26% (twenty six per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity of the SPV; and (ii) 5% (five per cent) of the Total Project Cost specified in the Concession Agreement¹⁵.

- 2.2.3 O&M Experience:** The Applicant shall, [in the case of a Consortium, include a Member who shall subscribe and continue to hold at least 10% (ten per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity of the SPV for a period of 5 (five) years from the date of commercial operation of the Project, and has either by itself or through its Associate, experience of 5 (five) years or more in operation and maintenance (O&M) of Category 1 projects specified in Clause 3.2.1, which have an aggregate capital cost equal to the Estimated Project Cost¹⁵. In case the Applicant is not a Consortium, it shall be eligible only if it has equivalent experience of its own or through its Associates. In the event that the Applicant does not have such experience, it should furnish an undertaking that if selected to undertake the Project, it shall for a period of at least 5 (five) years from the date of commercial operation of the Project, enter into an agreement for entrusting its operation & maintenance (O&M) obligations to an entity having the aforesaid experience, failing which the Concession Agreement shall be liable to termination]¹⁶.

¹³ Net worth has been adopted as the criterion for assessing financial capacity since it is a comprehensive indication of the financial strength of the Applicant. In exceptional cases, however, the Authority may also prescribe a minimum annual turnover and/ or net cash accruals as an indication of the Applicant’s cash flows and financial health.

¹⁴ This amount should be 25% (twenty five per cent) of the Estimated Project Cost of the project for which bids are being invited.

¹⁵ The Authority may, in its discretion, impose further obligations in the Concession Agreement, but such obligations would provide sufficient mobility for partial divestment of equity without compromising the interests of the Project.

¹⁵ Where deemed necessary, the Authority may increase/decrease this amount by one-half of the Estimated Project Cost.

¹⁶ In case of comparatively less complex projects like highways, the Concessionaire may be allowed to undertake O&M through qualified and experienced staff of its own. In such cases, Clause 2.2.3 may be modified suitably.

2.2.4 The Applicants shall enclose with its application, to be submitted as per the format at Appendix-I, complete with its Annexes, the following:

- (i) Certificate(s) from its statutory auditors^s or the concerned client(s) stating the payments made/ received or works commissioned, as the case may be, during the past 5 years in respect of the projects specified in paragraph 2.2.2 (A) above. In case a particular job/ contract has been jointly executed by the Applicant (as part of a consortium), it should further support its claim for the share in work done for that particular job/ contract by producing a certificate from its statutory auditor or the client; and
- (ii) certificate(s) from its statutory auditors specifying the net worth of the Applicant, as at the close of the preceding financial year, and also specifying that the methodology adopted for calculating such net worth conforms to the provisions of this Clause 2.2.4 (ii). For the purposes of this RFQ, net worth (the “**Net Worth**”) shall mean the sum of subscribed and paid up equity and reserves from which shall be deducted the sum of revaluation reserves, miscellaneous expenditure not written off and reserves not available for distribution to equity share holders.

2.2.5 The Applicant should submit a Power of Attorney as per the format at Appendix-II, authorising the signatory of the Application to commit the Applicant. In the case of a Consortium, the Members should submit a Power of Attorney in favour of the Lead Member as per format at Appendix-III.

2.2.6 Where the Applicant is a single entity, it may be required to form an appropriate Special Purpose Vehicle, incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 (the “**SPV**”), to execute the Concession Agreement and implement the Project. In case the Applicant is a Consortium, it shall, in addition to forming an SPV, comply with the following additional requirements:

- (a) Number of members in a consortium shall not exceed 6 (six), but information sought in the Application may be restricted to 4 (four) members in the order of their equity contribution;

^s In case duly certified audited annual financial statements containing explicitly the requisite details are provided, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary in respect of Clause 2.2.4 (i). In jurisdictions that do not have statutory auditors, the firm of auditors which audits the annual accounts of the Applicant may provide the certificates required under this RFQ.

- (b) subject to the provisions of sub-clause (a) above, the Application should contain the information required for each member of the Consortium;
- (c) members of the Consortium shall nominate one member as the lead member (the “**Lead Member**”), who shall have an equity share holding of at least 26% (twenty six per cent) of the paid up and subscribed equity of the SPV. The nomination(s) shall be supported by a Power of Attorney, as per the format at Appendix-III, signed by all the other members of the Consortium;
- (d) the Application should include a brief description of the roles and responsibilities of individual members, particularly with reference to financial, technical and O&M obligations;
- (e) an individual Applicant cannot at the same time be member of a Consortium applying for pre-qualification. Further, a member of a particular Applicant Consortium cannot be member of any other Applicant Consortium applying for pre-qualification;
- (f) the members of a Consortium shall form an appropriate SPV to execute the Project, if awarded to the Consortium;
- (g) members of the Consortium shall enter into a binding Joint Bidding Agreement, substantially in the form specified at Appendix-IV (the “**Jt. Bidding Agreement**”), for the purpose of making the Application and submitting a Bid in the event of being short-listed. The Jt. Bidding Agreement, to be submitted along with the Application, shall, *inter alia*:
 - (i) convey the intent to form an SPV with shareholding/ ownership equity commitment(s) in accordance with this RFQ, which would enter into the Concession Agreement and subsequently perform all the obligations of the Concessionaire in terms of the Concession Agreement, in case the concession to undertake the Project is awarded to the Consortium;
 - (ii) clearly outline the proposed roles and responsibilities, if any, of each member;
 - (iii) commit the minimum equity stake to be held by each member;
 - (iv) commit that each of the members, whose experience will be evaluated for the purposes of this RFQ, shall subscribe to 26% (twenty six per cent)

or more of the paid up and subscribed equity of the SPV and shall further commit that each such member shall, for a period of 2 (two) years from the date of commercial operation of the Project, hold equity share capital not less than: (i) 26% (twenty six per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity share capital of the SPV; and (ii) 5% (five per cent) of the Total Project Cost specified in the Concession Agreement¹⁷;

- (v) members of the Consortium undertake that they shall collectively hold at least 51% (fifty one per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity of the SPV at all times until the second anniversary of the commercial operation date of the Project; and
- (vi) include a statement to the effect that all members of the Consortium shall be liable jointly and severally for all obligations of the Concessionaire in relation to the Project until the Financial Close of the Project is achieved in accordance with the Concession Agreement; and

(h) except as provided under this RFQ and the Bidding Documents, there shall not be any amendment to the Jt. Bidding Agreement without the prior written consent of the Authority.

2.2.7 Any entity which has been barred by the [Central/ State Government, or any entity controlled by it,] from participating in any project (BOT or otherwise), and the bar subsists as on the date of Application, would not be eligible to submit an Application, either individually or as member of a Consortium.

2.2.8 An Applicant including any Consortium Member or Associate should, in the last 3 (three) years, have neither failed to perform on any contract, as evidenced by imposition of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award against the Applicant, Consortium Member or Associate, as the case may be, nor has been expelled from any project or contract by any public entity nor have had any contract terminated by any public entity for breach by such Applicant, Consortium Member or Associate.

2.2.9 In computing the Technical Capacity and Net Worth of the Applicant/ Consortium Members under Clauses 2.2.2, 2.2.4 and 3.2, the Technical Capacity and Net Worth of their respective Associates would also be eligible hereunder.

¹⁷ Add further conditions relating to the O&M Member, if any.

For purposes of this RFQ, Associate means, in relation to the Applicant/ Consortium Member, a person who controls, is controlled by, or is under the common control with such Applicant/ Consortium Member (the “**Associate**”). As used in this definition, the expression “control” means, with respect to a person which is a company or corporation, the ownership, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% (fifty per cent) of the voting shares of such person, and with respect to a person which is not a company or corporation, the power to direct the management and policies of such person by operation of law.

2.2.10 The following conditions shall be adhered to while submitting an Application:

- (a) Applicants should attach clearly marked and referenced continuation sheets in the event that the space provided in the prescribed forms in the Annexes is insufficient. Alternatively, Applicants may format the prescribed forms making due provision for incorporation of the requested information;
- (b) information supplied by an Applicant (or other constituent Member if the Applicant is a Consortium) must apply to the Applicant, Member or Associate named in the Application and not, unless specifically requested, to other associated companies or firms. Invitation to submit Bids will be issued only to Applicants whose identity and/ or constitution is identical to that at pre-qualification;
- (c) in responding to the pre-qualification submissions, Applicants should demonstrate their capabilities in accordance with Clause 3.1 below; and
- (d) in case the Applicant is a Consortium, each Member should substantially satisfy the pre-qualification requirements to the extent specified herein.

2.2.11 [While Qualification is open to persons from any country, the following provisions shall apply:]

- [(a) Where, on the date of the Application, not less than 15% (fifteen per cent) of the aggregate issued, subscribed and paid up equity share capital in an Applicant or its Member is held by persons resident outside India or where an Applicant or its Member is controlled by persons resident outside India; or]
- [(b) if at any subsequent stage after the date of the Application, there is an acquisition of not less than 15% (fifteen per cent) of the aggregate issued, subscribed and paid up equity share capital or control, by persons resident outside India, in or of the Applicant or its Member;]

[then the Qualification of such Applicant or in the event described in sub-clause (b) above, the continued Qualification of the Applicant shall be subject to approval of the Authority from national security and public interest perspective. The decision of the Authority in this behalf shall be final and conclusive and binding on the Applicant.]

[The holding or acquisition of equity or control, as above, shall include direct or indirect holding/ acquisition, including by transfer, of the direct or indirect legal or beneficial ownership or control, by persons acting for themselves or in concert and in determining such holding or acquisition, the Authority shall be guided by the principles, precedents and definitions contained in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997, or any substitute thereof, as in force on the date of such acquisition.]¹⁸

The Applicant shall promptly inform the Authority of any change in the shareholding, as above, and failure to do so shall render the Applicant liable for disqualification from the Bidding Process.

- 2.2.12 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, in the event that the Application Due Date falls within three months of the closing of the latest financial year of an Applicant, it shall ignore such financial year for the purposes of its Application and furnish all its information and certification with reference to the 5 (five) years or 1 (one) year, as the case may be, preceding its latest financial year. For the avoidance of doubt, financial year shall, for the purposes of an Application hereunder, mean the accounting year followed by the Applicant in the course of its normal business.

2.3 Change in composition of the Consortium

- 2.3.1 Change in the composition of a Consortium will not be permitted by the Authority during the Qualification Stage.
- 2.3.2 Where the Bidder is a Consortium, change in the composition of a Consortium may be permitted by the Authority during the Bid Stage, only where:
- (a) the application for such change is made no later than 15 (fifteen) days prior to the Bid Due Date;
 - (b) the Lead Member continues to be the Lead Member of the Consortium;

¹⁸ The provisions of this Clause 2.2.11 may be modified from time to time in accordance with the extant instructions of the Government.

- (c) the substitute is at least equal, in terms of Technical Capacity, to the Consortium Member who is sought to be substituted and the modified Consortium shall continue to meet the pre-qualification and short-listing criteria for Applicants; and
 - (d) the new Member(s) expressly adopt(s) the Application already made on behalf of the Consortium as if it were a party to it originally, and is not an Applicant/Member/Associate of any other Consortium bidding for this Project.
- 2.3.3 Approval for change in the composition of a Consortium shall be at the sole discretion of the Authority and must be approved by the Authority in writing.
- 2.3.4 The modified/ reconstituted Consortium shall submit a revised Jt. Bidding Agreement before the Bid Due Date.
- 2.3.5 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in sub-clause (c) (i) of Clause 2.2.1, an Applicant may, within 10 (ten) days after the Application Due Date, remove from its Consortium any Member who suffers from a Conflict of Interest, and such removal shall be deemed to cure the Conflict of Interest arising in respect thereof.

2.4 Number of Applications and costs thereof

- 2.4.1 No Applicant shall submit more than one Application for the Project. An applicant applying individually or as a member of a Consortium shall not be entitled to submit another application either individually or as a member of any Consortium, as the case may be.
- 2.4.2 The Applicants shall be responsible for all of the costs associated with the preparation of their Applications and their participation in the Bid Process. The Authority will not be responsible or in any way liable for such costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the Bidding Process.

2.5 Site visit and verification of information

Applicants are encouraged to submit their respective Applications after visiting the Project site and ascertaining for themselves the site conditions, traffic, location, surroundings, climate, availability of power, water and other utilities for construction, access to site, handling and storage of materials, weather data, applicable laws and regulations, and any other matter considered relevant by them.

2.6 Acknowledgement by Applicant

- 2.6.1 It shall be deemed that by submitting the Application, the Applicant has:
- (a) made a complete and careful examination of the RFQ;
 - (b) received all relevant information requested from the Authority;
 - (c) accepted the risk of inadequacy, error or mistake in the information provided in the RFQ or furnished by or on behalf of the Authority relating to any of the matters referred to in Clause 2.5 above; and
 - (d) agreed to be bound by the undertakings provided by it under and in terms hereof.
- 2.6.2 The Authority shall not be liable for any omission, mistake or error in respect of any of the above or on account of any matter or thing arising out of or concerning or relating to the RFQ or the Bidding Process, including any error or mistake therein or in any information or data given by the Authority.

2.7 Right to accept or reject any or all Applications/ Bids

- 2.7.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in this RFQ, the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Application and to annul the Bidding Process and reject all Applications/ Bids, at any time without any liability or any obligation for such acceptance, rejection or annulment, and without assigning any reasons therefor. In the event that the Authority rejects or annuls all the Bids, it may, in its discretion, invite all eligible Bidders to submit fresh Bids hereunder.
- 2.7.2 The Authority reserves the right to reject any Application and/ or Bid if:
- (a) at any time, a material misrepresentation is made or uncovered, or
 - (b) the Applicant does not provide, within the time specified by the Authority, the supplemental information sought by the Authority for evaluation of the Application.

If the Applicant/Bidder is a Consortium, then the entire Consortium may be disqualified/ rejected. If such disqualification/ rejection occurs after the Bids have been opened and the Highest Bidder gets disqualified/ rejected, then the Authority reserves the right to:

- (i) invite the remaining Bidders to match the Highest Bidder/ submit their Bids in accordance with the RFP; or

- (ii) take any such measure as may be deemed fit in the sole discretion of the Authority, including annulment of the Bidding Process.
- 2.7.3 In case it is found during the evaluation or at any time before signing of the Concession Agreement or after its execution and during the period of subsistence thereof, including the concession thereby granted by the Authority, that one or more of the pre-qualification conditions have not been met by the Applicant, or the Applicant has made material misrepresentation or has given any materially incorrect or false information, the Applicant shall be disqualified forthwith if not yet appointed as the Concessionaire either by issue of the LOA or entering into of the Concession Agreement, and if the Applicant/SPV has already been issued the LOA or has entered into the Concession Agreement, as the case may be, the same shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained therein or in this RFQ, be liable to be terminated, by a communication in writing by the Authority to the Applicant, without the Authority being liable in any manner whatsoever to the Applicant and without prejudice to any other right or remedy which the Authority may have under this RFQ, the Bidding Documents, the Concession Agreement or under applicable law.
- 2.7.4 The Authority reserves the right to verify all statements, information and documents submitted by the Applicant in response to the RFQ. Any such verification or lack of such verification by the Authority shall not relieve the Applicant of its obligations or liabilities hereunder nor will it affect any rights of the Authority thereunder.

B. DOCUMENTS

2.8 Contents of the RFQ

This RFQ comprises the disclaimer set forth hereinabove, the contents as listed below, and will additionally include any Addenda issued in accordance with Clause 2.10.

Invitation for Qualification

- Section 1. Introduction
- Section 2. Instructions to Applicants
- Section 3. Criteria for Evaluation

- Section 4. Fraud & Corrupt Practices
- Section 5. Pre Application Conference
- Section 6. Miscellaneous

Appendices

- I. Letter comprising the Application
- II. Power of Attorney for signing of Application
- III. Power of Attorney for Lead Member of Consortium
- IV. Joint Bidding Agreement for Consortium
- V. Guidelines of the Department of Disinvestment

2.9 Clarifications

- 2.9.1 Applicants requiring any clarification on the RFQ may notify the Authority in writing or by fax and e-mail in accordance with Clause 1.2.11. They should send in their queries before the date specified in the schedule of Bidding Process contained in Clause 1.3. The Authority shall endeavour to respond to the queries within the period specified therein, but no later than 10 (ten) days prior to the Application Due Date. The responses will be sent by fax and/or e-mail. The Authority will forward all the queries and its responses thereto, to all purchasers of the RFQ without identifying the source of queries.
- 2.9.2 The Authority shall endeavour to respond to the questions raised or clarifications sought by the Applicants. However, the Authority reserves the right not to respond to any question or provide any clarification, in its sole discretion, and nothing in this Clause shall be taken or read as compelling or requiring the Authority to respond to any question or to provide any clarification.
- 2.9.3 The Authority may also on its own motion, if deemed necessary, issue interpretations and clarifications to all Applicants. All clarifications and interpretations issued by the Authority shall be deemed to be part of the RFQ. Verbal clarifications and information given by Authority or its employees or representatives shall not in any way or manner be binding on the Authority.

2.10 Amendment of RFQ

- 2.10.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of Application, the Authority may, for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to clarifications requested by an Applicant, modify the RFQ by the issuance of Addenda.
- 2.10.2 Any Addendum thus issued will be sent in writing to all those who have purchased the RFQ.
- 2.10.3 In order to afford the Applicants a reasonable time for taking an Addendum into account, or for any other reason, the Authority may, in its sole discretion, extend the Application Due Date.⁵

C. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

2.11 Language

The Application and all related correspondence and documents in relation to the Bidding Process shall be in English language. Supporting documents and printed literature furnished by the Applicant with the Application may be in any other language provided that they are accompanied by translations of all the pertinent passages in the English language, duly authenticated and certified by the Applicant. Supporting materials, which are not translated into English, may not be considered. For the purpose of interpretation and evaluation of the Application, the English language translation shall prevail.

2.12 Format and signing of Application

- 2.12.1 The Applicant shall provide all the information sought under this RFQ. The Authority will evaluate only those Applications that are received in the required formats and complete in all respects. Incomplete and /or conditional Applications shall be liable to rejection.
- 2.12.2 The Applicant shall prepare 1 (one) original set of the Application (together with originals/ copies of documents required to be submitted along therewith pursuant to this RFQ) and clearly marked “ORIGINAL”. In addition, the Applicant shall submit 1 (one) copy of

⁵ While extending the Application Due Date on account of an addendum, the Authority shall have due regard for the time required by bidders to address the amendments specified therein. In the case of significant amendments, at least 15 (fifteen) days shall be provided between the date of amendment and the Application Due Date, and in the case of minor amendments, at least 7 (seven) days shall be provided.

the Application, alongwith documents required to be submitted along therewith pursuant to this RFQ, marked “COPY”. The Applicant shall also provide 2 (two) soft copies on Compact Disc (CD). In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copy, the original shall prevail.

- 2.12.3 The Application and its copy shall be typed or written in indelible ink and signed by the authorised signatory of the Applicant who shall also initial each page in blue ink. In case of printed and published Documents, only the cover shall be initialled. All the alterations, omissions, additions or any other amendments made to the Application shall be initialled by the person(s) signing the Application. The Application shall contain page numbers and shall be bound together in hard cover.

2.13 Sealing and Marking of Applications

- 2.13.1 The Applicant shall submit the Application in the format specified at Appendix-I, together with the documents specified in Clause 2.13.2, and seal it in an envelope and mark the envelope as “APPLICATION”. The Applicant shall seal the original and the copy of the Application, together with their respective enclosures, in separate envelopes duly marking the envelopes as “ORIGINAL” and “COPY”. The envelopes shall then be sealed in an outer envelope which shall also be marked in accordance with Clauses 2.13.2 and 2.13.3.

- 2.13.2 Each envelope shall contain:

- (i) Application in the prescribed format (Appendix-I) along with Annexes and supporting documents;
- (ii) Power of Attorney for signing the Application as per the format at Appendix-II;
- (iii) if applicable, the Power of Attorney for Lead Member of Consortium as per the format at Appendix-III;
- (iv) copy of the Jt. Bidding Agreement, in case of a Consortium, substantially in the format at Appendix-IV;
- (v) copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association, if the Applicant is a body corporate, and if a partnership then a copy of its partnership deed;
- (vi) copies of Applicant’s duly audited balance sheet and profit and loss account for the preceding five years; and

[(vii) any other sector or project-specific requirement that may be specified by the Authority].

Each of the envelopes shall clearly bear the following identification:

“Application for Qualification: ***** Project”

and shall clearly indicate the name and address of the Applicant. In addition, the Application Due Date should be indicated on the right hand corner of each of the envelopes.

2.13.3 Each of the envelopes shall be addressed to:

ATTN. OF:	Mr. *****
DESIGNATION:	*****
ADDRESS:	*****
FAX NO:	*****
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	*****

2.13.4 If the envelopes are not sealed and marked as instructed above, the Authority assumes no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the contents of the Application and consequent losses, if any, suffered by the Applicant.

2.13.5 Applications submitted by fax, telex, telegram or e-mail shall not be entertained and shall be rejected.

2.14 Application Due Date

2.14.1 Applications should be submitted before 1100 hours IST on the Application Due Date, at the address provided in Clause 2.13.3 in the manner and form as detailed in this RFQ. A receipt thereof should be obtained from the person specified in Clause 2.13.3.

2.14.2 The Authority may, in its sole discretion, extend the Application Due Date by issuing an Addendum in accordance with Clause 2.10 uniformly for all Applicants.

2.15 Late Applications

Applications received by the Authority after the specified time on the Application Due Date shall not be eligible for consideration and shall be summarily rejected.

2.16 Modifications/ substitution/ withdrawal of Applications

- 2.16.1 The Applicant may modify, substitute or withdraw its Application after submission, provided that written notice of the modification, substitution or withdrawal is received by the Authority prior to the Application Due Date. No Application shall be modified, substituted or withdrawn by the Applicant on or after the Application Due Date.
- 2.16.2 The modification, substitution or withdrawal notice shall be prepared, sealed, marked, and delivered in accordance with Clause 2.13, with the envelopes being additionally marked “MODIFICATION”, “SUBSTITUTION” or “WITHDRAWAL”, as appropriate.
- 2.16.3 Any alteration/ modification in the Application or additional information supplied subsequent to the Application Due Date, unless the same has been expressly sought for by the Authority, shall be disregarded.

D. EVALUATION PROCESS

2.17 Opening and Evaluation of Applications

- 2.17.1 The Authority shall open the Applications at 1130 hours IST on the Application Due Date, at the place specified in Clause 2.13.3 and in the presence of the Applicants who choose to attend.
- 2.17.2 Applications for which a notice of withdrawal has been submitted in accordance with Clause 2.16 shall not be opened.
- 2.17.3 The Authority will subsequently examine and evaluate Applications in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 3.
- 2.17.4 Applicants are advised that pre-qualification of Applicants will be entirely at the discretion of the Authority. Applicants will be deemed to have understood and agreed that no explanation or justification on any aspect of the Bidding Process or selection will be given.
- 2.17.5 Any information contained in the Application shall not in any way be construed as binding on the Authority, its agents, successors or assigns, but shall be binding against the Applicant if the Project is subsequently awarded to it on the basis of such information.
- 2.17.6 The Authority reserves the right not to proceed with the Bidding Process at any time without notice or liability and to reject any or all Application(s) without assigning any reasons.

- 2.17.7 If any information furnished by the Applicant is found to be incomplete, or contained in formats other than those specified herein, the Authority may, in its sole discretion, exclude the relevant project from computation of the Eligible Score of the Applicant.
- 2.17.8 In the event that an Applicant claims credit for an Eligible Project, and such claim is determined by the Authority as incorrect or erroneous, the Authority shall reject such claim and exclude the same from computation of the Eligible Score, and may also, while computing the aggregate Experience Score of the Applicant, make a further deduction equivalent to the claim rejected hereunder. Where any information is found to be patently false or amounting to a material misrepresentation, the Authority reserves the right to reject the Application and/ or Bid in accordance with the provisions of Clauses 2.7.2 and 2.7.3.

2.18 Confidentiality

Information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation, and recommendation for the short-listed pre-qualified Applicants shall not be disclosed to any person who is not officially concerned with the process or is not a retained professional advisor advising the Authority in relation to, or matters arising out of, or concerning the Bidding Process. The Authority will treat all information, submitted as part of Application, in confidence and will require all those who have access to such material to treat the same in confidence. The Authority may not divulge any such information unless it is directed to do so by any statutory entity that has the power under law to require its disclosure or is to enforce or assert any right or privilege of the statutory entity and/ or the Authority or as may be required by law or in connection with any legal process.

2.19 Tests of responsiveness

- 2.19.1 Prior to evaluation of Applications, the Authority shall determine whether each Application is responsive to the requirements of the RFQ. An Application shall be considered responsive only if:
- (a) it is received as per format at Appendix-I;
 - (b) it is received by the Application Due Date including any extension thereof pursuant to Clause 2.14.2;
 - (c) it is signed, sealed, bound together in hard cover, and marked as stipulated in Clauses 2.12 and 2.13;

- (d) it is accompanied by the Power of Attorney as specified in Clause 2.2.5, and in the case of a Consortium, the Power of Attorney as specified in Clause 2.2.6 (c);
- (e) it contains all the information and documents (complete in all respects) as requested in this RFQ;
- (f) it contains information in formats same as those specified in this RFQ;
- (g) it contains certificates from its statutory auditors⁵ in the formats specified at Appendix-I of the RFQ for each Eligible Project;
- (h) it contains an attested copy of the receipt for payment of [Rs. 50,000 (Rupees fifty thousand only)] to Authority towards the cost of the RFQ document;
- (i) it is accompanied by the Jt. Bidding Agreement (for Consortium), specific to the Project, as stipulated in Clause 2.2.6 (g);
- (j) it does not contain any condition or qualification; and
- (k) it is not non-responsive in terms hereof.

2.19.2 The Authority reserves the right to reject any Application which is non-responsive and no request for alteration, modification, substitution or withdrawal shall be entertained by the Authority in respect of such Application.

2.20 Clarifications

2.20.1 To facilitate evaluation of Applications, the Authority may, at its sole discretion, seek clarifications from any Applicant regarding its Application. Such clarification(s) shall be provided within the time specified by the Authority for this purpose. Any request for clarification(s) and all clarification(s) in response thereto shall be in writing.

2.20.2 If an Applicant does not provide clarifications sought under Clause 2.20.1 above within the prescribed time, its Application shall be liable to be rejected. In case the Application is not rejected, the Authority may proceed to evaluate the Application by construing the particulars requiring clarification to the best of its understanding, and the Applicant shall be barred from subsequently questioning such interpretation of the Authority.

⁵ In case duly certified audited annual financial statements containing the requisite details are provided, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary in respect of Clause 2.19.1(g). In jurisdictions that do not have statutory auditors, the firm of auditors which audits the annual accounts of the Applicant may provide the certificates required under this RFQ.

E. QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

2.21 Short-listing and notification¹⁹

After the evaluation of Applications, the Authority would announce a list of short-listed pre-qualified Applicants (Bidders) who will be eligible for participation in the Bid Stage. At the same time, the Authority would notify the other Applicants that they have not been short-listed. The Authority will not entertain any query or clarification from Applicants who fail to qualify.

2.22 Submission of Bids

The Bidders will be requested to submit a Bid in the form and manner to be set out in the Bidding Documents.

Only pre-qualified Applicants shall be invited by the Authority to submit their Bids for the Project. The Authority is likely to provide a comparatively short time span for submission of the Bids for the Project. The Applicants are therefore advised to visit the site and familiarise themselves with the Project by the time of submission of the Application. No extension of time is likely to be considered for submission of Bids pursuant to invitation that may be issued by the Authority.

2.23 Proprietary data

All documents and other information supplied by the Authority or submitted by an Applicant to the Authority shall remain or become the property of the Authority. Applicants are to treat all information as strictly confidential and shall not use it for any purpose other than for preparation and submission of their Application. The Authority will not return any Application or any information provided along therewith.

2.24 Correspondence with the Applicant

Save and except as provided in this RFQ, the Authority shall not entertain any correspondence with any Applicant in relation to the acceptance or rejection of any Application.

¹⁹ In case of exceptionally complex projects where the Authority is of the opinion that the Bidders must submit their technical proposal/ plan, the requirements thereof shall be specified in detail and such proposal/ plan shall be invited at the Qualification Stage, either along with the initial applications or at an intermediate stage. This shall form part of the pre-qualification process and only the Applicants who have been pre-qualified shall be invited to participate in the Bid Stage for submission of Bids. The Bid Stage shall only consist of invitation to submit financial offers.

3. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

3.1 Evaluation parameters

- 3.1.1 Only those Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria specified in Clause[s] 2.2.2 [and 2.2.3] above shall qualify for evaluation under this Section 3. Applications of firms/ consortia who do not meet these criteria shall be rejected.
- 3.1.2 The Applicant's competence and capability is proposed to be established by the following parameters:
- (a) Technical Capacity; and
 - (b) Financial Capacity

3.2 Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation²⁰

- 3.2.1 Subject to the provisions of Clause 2.2, the following categories of experience would qualify as Technical Capacity and eligible experience (the “**Eligible Experience**”) in relation to eligible projects as stipulated in Clauses 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 (the “**Eligible Projects**”):

- Category 1: Project experience on Eligible Projects in [highways] sector that qualify under Clause 3.2.3
- Category 2: Project experience on Eligible Projects in core sector that qualify under Clause 3.2.3
- Category 3: Construction experience on Eligible Projects in [highways] sector that qualify under Clause 3.2.4
- Category 4: Construction experience on Eligible Projects in core sector that qualify under Clause 3.2.4

For the purpose of this RFQ:

- (i) [highways sector would be deemed to include highways, expressways, bridges, tunnels and airfields;]²¹ and

²⁰ In the case of social sectors such as health, education etc., the provisions of Clauses 3.2.1, 3.2.3, 3.2.4 and 3.2.6 may be suitably modified to meet sector-specific and project-specific requirements.

²¹ In case the RFQ is not for a highway project, substitute the highway sector by the relevant sector in sub-clause (i), and include highways and bridges in sub-clause (ii).

- (ii) core sector would be deemed to include power, telecom, ports, airports, railways, metro rail, industrial parks/ estates, logistic parks, pipelines, irrigation, water supply, sewerage and real estate development.⁵

3.2.2 Eligible Experience in respect of each category shall be measured only for Eligible Projects.

3.2.3 For a project to qualify as an Eligible Project under Categories 1 and 2:

- (a) It should have been undertaken as a PPP project on BOT, BOLT, BOO, BOOT or other similar basis for providing its output or services to a public sector entity or for providing non-discriminatory access to users in pursuance of its charter, concession or contract, as the case may be. For the avoidance of doubt, a project which constitutes a natural monopoly such as an airport or port should normally be included in this category even if it is not based on a long-term agreement with a public entity;
- (b) the entity claiming experience should have held, in the company owning the Eligible Project, a minimum of 26% (twenty six per cent) equity during the entire year for which Eligible Experience is being claimed;
- (c) the capital cost of the project should be more than [Rs. 100 crore (Rupees one hundred crore)]²²; and
- (d) the entity claiming experience shall, during the last 5 (five) financial years preceding the Application Due Date, have (i) paid for development of the project (excluding the cost of land), and/ or (ii) collected and appropriated the revenues from users availing of non-discriminatory access to or use of fixed project assets, such as revenues from highways, airports, ports and railway infrastructure, but shall not include revenues from sale or provision of goods or services such as electricity, gas, petroleum products, telecommunications or fare/freight revenues²³ and other incomes of the company owning the Project.

⁵ Real estate development shall not include residential flats unless they form part of a real estate complex or township which has been built by the Applicant.

²² This amount should not be less than 20% of the Estimated Project Cost. In case of Projects with an Estimated Project Cost of Rs. 1,000 cr. or above, this amount may be suitably reduced but not less than 10% in any case.

²³ In case of an RFQ for power generating stations, the Authority may, in its discretion, include all or part of the revenues from sale of electricity. A similar dispensation could also be applied to revenues from telephony projects or to other sector-specific revenues.

- 3.2.4 For a project to qualify as an Eligible Project under Categories 3 and 4, the Applicant should have paid for execution of its construction works or received payments from its client(s) for construction works executed, fully or partially, during the 5 (five) financial years immediately preceding the Application Due Date, and only the payments (gross) actually made or received, as the case may be, during such 5 (five) financial years shall qualify for purposes of computing the Experience Score. However, payments/receipts of less than [Rs. 100 crore (Rupees one hundred crore)]²⁴ shall not be reckoned as payments/receipts for Eligible Projects. For the avoidance of doubt, construction works shall not include supply of goods or equipment except when such goods or equipment form part of a turn-key construction contract/ EPC contract for the project. Further, the cost of land shall not be included hereunder.
- 3.2.5 The Applicant shall quote experience in respect of a particular Eligible Project under any one category only, even though the Applicant (either individually or along with a member of the Consortium) may have played multiple roles in the cited project. Double counting for a particular Eligible Project shall not be permitted in any form.
- 3.2.6 Subject to the provisions of Clause 3.2.7, an Applicant's experience shall be measured and stated in terms of a score (the "**Experience Score**"). The Experience Score for an Eligible Project in a given category would be the eligible payments and/or receipts specified in Clause 2.2.2 (A), divided by one crore and then multiplied by the applicable factor in Table 3.2.6 below. In case the Applicant has experience across different categories, the score for each category would be computed as above and then aggregated to arrive at its Experience Score.

Table 3.2.6: Factors for Experience across categories²⁵

Categories	Factor
Category 1	1.25
Category 2	1.00
Category 3	0.75
Category 4	0.50

- 3.2.7 The Experience Score determined in accordance with Clause 3.2.6 in respect of an Eligible Project situated in a developed country which is a member of OECD shall be further multiplied by a factor of 0.5 (zero point five) and the product thereof shall be the Experience Score for such Eligible Project.

²⁴ This amount should be determined as per footnote 22 above.

²⁵ These factors may be modified by the Authority by upto 15% thereof in each category.

- 3.2.8 Experience for any activity relating to an Eligible Project shall not be claimed by two or more Members of the Consortium. In other words, no double counting by a Consortium in respect of the same experience shall be permitted in any manner whatsoever.

3.3 Details of Experience

- 3.3.1 The Applicant should furnish the details of Eligible Experience for the last 5 (five) financial years immediately preceding the Application Due Date.
- 3.3.2 The Applicants must provide the necessary information relating to Technical Capacity as per format at Annex-II of Appendix-I.
- 3.3.3 The Applicant should furnish the required Project-specific information and evidence in support of its claim of Technical Capacity, as per format at Annex-IV of Appendix-I.

3.4 Financial information for purposes of evaluation

- 3.4.1 The Application must be accompanied by the Audited Annual Reports of the Applicant (of each Member in case of a Consortium) for the last 5 (five) financial years, preceding the year in which the Application is made.
- 3.4.2 In case the annual accounts for the latest financial year are not audited and therefore the Applicant cannot make it available, the Applicant shall give an undertaking to this effect and the statutory auditor shall certify the same. In such a case, the Applicant shall provide the Audited Annual Reports for 5 (five) years preceding the year for which the Audited Annual Report is not being provided.
- 3.4.3 The Applicant must establish the minimum Net Worth specified in Clause 2.2.2 (B), and provide details as per format at Annex-III of Appendix-I.

3.5 Short-listing of Applicants

- 3.5.1 The credentials of eligible Applicants shall be measured in terms of their Experience Score. The sum total of the Experience Scores for all Eligible Projects shall be the 'Aggregate Experience Score' of a particular Applicant. In case of a Consortium, the Aggregate Experience Score of each of its Members, who have an equity share of at

least 26% (twenty six per cent) in such Consortium, shall be summed up for arriving at the combined Aggregate Experience Score of the Consortium.

- 3.5.2 The Applicants shall then be ranked on the basis of their respective Aggregate Experience Scores and short-listed for submission of Bids. The Authority expects to short-list upto 6 (six)²⁶ pre-qualified Applicants for participation in the Bid Stage. The Authority, however, reserves the right to increase the number of short-listed pre-qualified Applicants by adding additional Applicant.
- 3.5.3 The Authority may, in its discretion, maintain a reserve list of pre-qualified Applicants who may be invited to substitute the short-listed Applicants in the event of their withdrawal from the Bid Process or upon their failure to conform to the conditions specified herein; provided that a substituted Applicant shall be given at least 30 (thirty) days to submit its Bid.

²⁶ The Authority may, in case of repetitive projects that attract a larger number of bidders, or where the total project cost is less than Rs. 500 crore (Rupees five hundred crore), increase the number of short-listed bidders to 7 (seven). In case of power projects to be awarded on the basis of statutory guidelines for tariff-based bidding and having no obligations or liabilities for buy-out of project assets or any similar obligations, the Authority may suitably increase the number of short-listed bidders.

4. FRAUD AND CORRUPT PRACTICES

- 4.1 The Applicants and their respective officers, employees, agents and advisers shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the Bidding Process. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Authority may reject an Application without being liable in any manner whatsoever to the Applicant if it determines that the Applicant has, directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, undesirable practice or restrictive practice in the Bidding Process.
- 4.2 Without prejudice to the rights of the Authority under Clause 4.1 hereinabove, if an Applicant is found by the Authority to have directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged or indulged in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, undesirable practice or restrictive practice during the Bidding Process, such Applicant shall not be eligible to participate in any tender or RFQ issued by the Authority during a period of 2 (two) years from the date such Applicant is found by the Authority to have directly or indirectly or through an agent, engaged or indulged in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, undesirable practice or restrictive practice, as the case may be.
- 4.3 For the purposes of this Section 4, the following terms shall have the meaning hereinafter respectively assigned to them:
- (a) “**corrupt practice**” means (i) the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence the actions of any person connected with the Bidding Process (for avoidance of doubt, offering of employment to, or employing, or engaging in any manner whatsoever, directly or indirectly, any official of the Authority who is or has been associated in any manner, directly or indirectly, with the Bidding Process or the LOA or has dealt with matters concerning the Concession Agreement or arising therefrom, before or after the execution thereof, at any time prior to the expiry of one year from the date such official resigns or retires from or otherwise ceases to be in the service of the Authority, shall be deemed to constitute influencing the actions of a person connected with the Bidding Process); or (ii) save and except as permitted under sub-clause (d) of Clause 2.2.1, engaging in any manner whatsoever, whether during the Bidding Process or after the issue of the LOA or after the execution of the Concession Agreement, as the case may be, any person in respect of any matter relating to the Project or the LOA or the Concession Agreement, who

at any time has been or is a legal, financial or technical adviser of the Authority in relation to any matter concerning the Project;

- (b) **“fraudulent practice”** means a misrepresentation or omission of facts or suppression of facts or disclosure of incomplete facts, in order to influence the Bidding Process;
- (c) **“coercive practice”** means impairing or harming or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any person or property to influence any person’s participation or action in the Bidding Process;
- (d) **“undesirable practice”** means (i) establishing contact with any person connected with or employed or engaged by the Authority with the objective of canvassing, lobbying or in any manner influencing or attempting to influence the Bidding Process; or (ii) having a Conflict of Interest; and
- (e) **“restrictive practice”** means forming a cartel or arriving at any understanding or arrangement among Applicants with the objective of restricting or manipulating a full and fair competition in the Bidding Process.

5. PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE

- 5.1 A Pre-Application conference of the interested parties shall be convened at the designated date, time and place. Only those persons who have purchased the RFQ document shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Application conference. Applicants who have downloaded the RFQ document from the Authority's website (www.****) should submit a Demand Draft of [Rs. 50,000 (Rupees fifty thousand)] towards the cost of document, through their representative attending the conference. A maximum of three representatives of each Applicant shall be allowed to participate on production of authority letter from the Applicant.
- 5.2 During the course of Pre-Application conference, the Applicants will be free to seek clarifications and make suggestions for consideration of the Authority. The Authority shall endeavour to provide clarifications and such further information as it may, in its sole discretion, consider appropriate for facilitating a fair, transparent and competitive Bidding Process.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

- 6.1 The Bidding Process shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of India and the Courts at [New Delhi] shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all disputes arising under, pursuant to and/ or in connection with the Bidding Process.
- 6.2 The Authority, in its sole discretion and without incurring any obligation or liability, reserves the right, at any time, to;
- (a) suspend and/ or cancel the Bidding Process and/ or amend and/ or supplement the Bidding Process or modify the dates or other terms and conditions relating thereto;
 - (b) consult with any Applicant in order to receive clarification or further information;
 - (c) pre-qualify or not to pre-qualify any Applicant and/ or to consult with any Applicant in order to receive clarification or further information;
 - (d) retain any information and/ or evidence submitted to the Authority by, on behalf of, and/ or in relation to any Applicant; and/ or
 - (e) independently verify, disqualify, reject and/ or accept any and all submissions or other information and/ or evidence submitted by or on behalf of any Applicant.
- 6.3 It shall be deemed that by submitting the Application, the Applicant agrees and releases the Authority, its employees, agents and advisers, irrevocably, unconditionally, fully and finally from any and all liability for claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses or liabilities in any way related to or arising from the exercise of any rights and/ or performance of any obligations hereunder and the Bidding Documents, pursuant hereto, and/ or in connection with the Bidding Process, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, and waives any and all rights and/ or claims it may have in this respect, whether actual or contingent, whether present or in future.

Appendices

APPENDIX-I

Letter Comprising the Application for Pre-Qualification

(Refer Clause 2.13.2)

Dated:

To,
[The Secretary,

*****]

Sub: Application for pre-qualification for ***** Project

Dear Sir,

With reference to your RFQ document dated⁵, I/we, having examined the RFQ document and understood its contents, hereby submit my/our Application for Qualification for the aforesaid project. The Application is unconditional and unqualified.

2. I/ We acknowledge that the Authority will be relying on the information provided in the Application and the documents accompanying such Application for pre-qualification of the Applicants for the aforesaid project, and we certify that all information provided in the Application and in Annexes I to IV is true and correct; nothing has been omitted which renders such information misleading; and all documents accompanying such Application are true copies of their respective originals.
3. This statement is made for the express purpose of qualifying as a Bidder for the [development, construction, operation and maintenance] of the aforesaid Project.
4. I/ We shall make available to the Authority any additional information it may find necessary or require to supplement or authenticate the Qualification statement.
5. I/ We acknowledge the right of the Authority to reject our Application without assigning any reason or otherwise and hereby waive, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, our right to challenge the same on any account whatsoever.
6. I/ We certify that in the last three years, we/ any of the Consortium Members or our/ their Associates have neither failed to perform on any contract, as evidenced by imposition

⁵ All blank spaces shall be suitably filled up by the Applicant to reflect the particulars relating to such Applicant.

of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award, nor been expelled from any project or contract by any public authority nor have had any contract terminated by any public authority for breach on our part.

7. I/ We declare that:
 - (a) I/ We have examined and have no reservations to the RFQ document, including any Addendum issued by the Authority;
 - (b) I/ We do not have any conflict of interest in accordance with Clauses 2.2.1(c) and 2.2.1(d) of the RFQ document;
 - (c) I/We have not directly or indirectly or through an agent engaged or indulged in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, undesirable practice or restrictive practice, as defined in Clause 4.3 of the RFQ document, in respect of any tender or request for proposal issued by or any agreement entered into with the Authority or any other public sector enterprise or any government, Central or State; and
 - (d) I/ We hereby certify that we have taken steps to ensure that in conformity with the provisions of Section 4 of the RFQ document, no person acting for us or on our behalf has engaged or will engage in any corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, undesirable practice or restrictive practice.
8. I/ We understand that you may cancel the Bidding Process at any time and that you are neither bound to accept any Application that you may receive nor to invite the Applicants to Bid for the Project, without incurring any liability to the Applicants, in accordance with Clause 2.17.6 of the RFQ document.
9. I/ We believe that we/ our Consortium/ proposed Consortium satisfy(s) the Net Worth criteria and meet(s) all the requirements as specified in the RFQ document and are/ is qualified to submit a Bid.
10. I/ We declare that we/ any Member of the Consortium, or our/ its Associates are not a Member of a/ any other Consortium applying for pre-qualification.
11. I/ We certify that in regard to matters other than security and integrity of the country, we/ any Member of the Consortium or any of our/ their Associates have not been convicted by a Court of Law or indicted or adverse orders passed by a regulatory

authority which could cast a doubt on our ability to undertake the Project or which relates to a grave offence that outrages the moral sense of the community.

12. I/ We further certify that in regard to matters relating to security and integrity of the country, we/ any Member of the Consortium or any of our/ their Associates have not been charge-sheeted by any agency of the Government or convicted by a Court of Law.
13. I/ We further certify that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending either against us/ any Member of the Consortium or against our/ their Associates or against our CEO or any of our directors/ managers/ employees.
14. [I/ We further certify that we are qualified to submit a Bid in accordance with the guidelines for qualification of bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public Sector Enterprises through the process of disinvestment issued by the GOI vide Department of Disinvestment OM No. 6/4/2001-DD-II dated 13th July, 2001 which guidelines apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Bidding Process. A copy of the aforesaid guidelines form part of the RFQ at Appendix-V thereof.]
15. I/ We undertake that in case due to any change in facts or circumstances during the Bidding Process, we are attracted by the provisions of disqualification in terms of the provisions of this RFQ, we shall intimate the Authority of the same immediately.
16. The Statement of Legal Capacity as per format provided at Annex-V in Appendix-I of the RFQ document, and duly signed, is enclosed. The power of attorney for signing of application and the power of attorney for Lead Member of consortium, as per format provided at Appendices II and III respectively of the RFQ, are also enclosed.
17. I/ We understand that the selected Bidder shall either be an existing Company incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1956, or shall incorporate as such prior to execution of the Concession Agreement.
18. I/ We herby confirm that we [are in compliance of/ shall comply with] the O&M requirements specified in Clause 2.2.3.
19. I/ We hereby irrevocably waive any right or remedy which we may have at any stage at law or howsoever otherwise arising to challenge or question any decision taken by the Authority in connection with the selection of Applicants, selection of the Bidder, or

in connection with the selection/ Bidding Process itself, in respect of the above mentioned Project and the terms and implementation thereof.

20. I/ We agree and undertake to abide by all the terms and conditions of the RFQ document.
21. I/ We certify that in terms of the RFQ, my/our Networth is Rs. (Rupees in words) and the Aggregate Experience Score is (number in words).
- {22. We agree and undertake to be jointly and severally liable for all the obligations of the Concessionaire under the Concession Agreement till occurrence of Financial Close in accordance with the Concession Agreement. }⁵

In witness thereof, I/ we submit this application under and in accordance with the terms of the RFQ document.

Yours faithfully,

Date: (Signature, name and designation of the Authorised Signatory)

Place: Name and seal of the Applicant/ Lead Member

Note: Paragraphs in square parenthesis may be omitted, if not applicable, or modified as necessary.

⁵ Omit if the Applicant is not a Consortium.

ANNEX-I

Details of Applicant

1.
 - (a) Name:
 - (b) Country of incorporation:
 - (c) Address of the corporate headquarters and its branch office(s), if any, in India:
 - (d) Date of incorporation and/ or commencement of business:
2. Brief description of the Company including details of its main lines of business and proposed role and responsibilities in this Project:
3. Details of individual(s) who will serve as the point of contact/ communication for the Authority:
 - (a) Name:
 - (b) Designation:
 - (c) Company:
 - (d) Address:
 - (e) Telephone Number:
 - (f) E-Mail Address:
 - (g) Fax Number:
4. Particulars of the Authorised Signatory of the Applicant:
 - (a) Name:
 - (b) Designation:
 - (c) Address:
 - (d) Phone Number:
 - (e) Fax Number:
5. In case of a Consortium:
 - (a) The information above (1-4) should be provided for all the Members of the Consortium.
 - (b) A copy of the Jt. Bidding Agreement, as envisaged in Clause 2.2.6 (g) should be attached to the Application.

- (c) Information regarding the role of each Member should be provided as per table below:

Sl. No.	Name of Member	Role* {Refer Clause 2.2.6 (d)} ⁵	Percentage of equity in the Consortium {Refer Clauses 2.2.6 (a), (c) & (g)}
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

- * The role of each Member, as may be determined by the Applicant, should be indicated in accordance with instruction 4 at Annex-IV.

- (d) The following information shall also be provided for each Member of the Consortium:

Name of Applicant/ member of Consortium:

No.	Criteria	Yes	No
1.	Has the Applicant/ constituent of the Consortium been barred by the [Central/ State] Government, or any entity controlled by it, from participating in any project (BOT or otherwise)?		
2.	If the answer to 1 is yes, does the bar subsist as on the date of Application?		
3.	Has the Applicant/ constituent of the Consortium paid liquidated damages of more than 5% (five per cent) of the contract value in a contract due to delay or has been penalised due to any other reason in relation to execution of a contract, in the last three years?		

6. A statement by the Applicant and each of the Members of its Consortium (where applicable) or any of their Associates disclosing material non-performance or contractual non-compliance in past projects, contractual disputes and litigation/ arbitration in the recent past is given below (Attach extra sheets, if necessary):

⁵ All provisions contained in curly parenthesis shall be suitably modified by the Applicant to reflect the particulars relating to such Applicant.

ANNEX-II

Technical Capacity of the Applicant[@]*(Refer to Clauses 2.2.2(A), 3.2 and 3.3 of the RFQ)*

Applicant type [#]	Member Code [*]	Project Code ^{**}	Category [§]	Experience [†] (Equivalent Rs. crore) ^{§§}			Experience Score [£]
				Payments made/received for construction of Eligible Projects in Categories 3 and 4	Payments made for development of Eligible Projects in Categories 1 and 2	Revenues appropriated from Eligible Projects in Categories 1 and 2	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Single entity Applicant		a					
		b					
		c					
		d					
Consortium Member 1		1a					
		1b					
		1c					
		1d					
Consortium Member 2		2a					
		2b					
		2c					
		2d					
Consortium Member 3		3a					
		3b					
		3c					
		3d					
Consortium Member 4		4a					
		4b					
		4c					
		4d					
Aggregate Experience Score =							

- [®] *Provide details of only those projects that have been undertaken by the Applicant under its own name and/ or by an Associate specified in Clause 2.2.9 and/ or by a project company eligible under Clause 3.2.3 (b). In case of Categories 1 and 2, include only those projects which have an estimated capital cost exceeding the amount specified in Clause 3.2.3 (c) and for Categories 3 and 4, include only those projects where the payments made/received exceed the amount specified in Clause 3.2.4. In case the Application Due Date falls within 3 (three) months of the close of the latest financial year, refer to Clause 2.2.12.*
- [#] *An Applicant consisting of a single entity should fill in details as per the row titled Single entity Applicant and ignore the rows titled Consortium Member. In case of a Consortium, the row titled Single entity Applicant may be ignored. In case credit is claimed for an Associate, necessary evidence to establish the relationship of the Applicant with such Associate, in terms of Clause 2.2.9, shall be provided.*
- ^{*} *Member Code shall indicate NA for Not Applicable in case of a single entity Applicant. For other Members, the following abbreviations are suggested viz. LM means Lead Member, TM means Technical Member, FM means Financial Member, OMM means Operation & Maintenance Member, OM means Other Member.*
- ^{**} *Refer Annex-IV of this Appendix-I. Add more rows if necessary.*
- [§] *Refer Clause 3.2.1.*
- [¥] *In the case of Eligible Projects in Categories 1 and 2, the figures in columns 6 and 7 may be added for computing the Experience Score of the respective projects. In the case of Categories 3 and 4, construction shall not include supply of goods or equipment except when such goods or equipment form part of a turn-key construction contract/ EPC contract for the project. In no case shall the cost of land be included while computing the Experience Score of an Eligible Project.*
- ^{§§} *For conversion of US Dollars to Rupees, the rate of conversion shall be Rupees [50 (fifty)] to a US Dollar. In case of any other currency, the same shall first be converted to US Dollars as on the date 60 (sixty) days prior to the Application Due Date, and the amount so derived in US Dollars shall be converted into Rupees at the aforesaid rate. The conversion rate of such currencies shall be the daily representative exchange rates published by the International Monetary Fund for the relevant date.*
- [£] *Divide the amount in the Experience column by one crore and then multiply the result thereof by the applicable factor set out in Table 3.2.6 to arrive at the Experience Score for each Eligible Project. In the case of an Eligible Project situated in an OECD country, the Experience Score so arrived at shall be further multiplied by 0.5, in accordance with the provisions of Clause 3.2.7, and the product thereof shall be the Experience Score for such Eligible Projects.*

ANNEX-III

Financial Capacity of the Applicant*(Refer to Clauses 2.2.2 (B), 2.2.4 (ii) and 3.4 of the RFQ)***(In Rs. crore^{ss})**

Applicant type ^s (1)	Member Code [£] (2)	Net Cash Accruals					Net Worth [€]
		Year 1 (3)	Year 2 (4)	Year 3 (5)	Year 4 (6)	Year 5 (7)	Year 1 (8)
Single entity Applicant							
Consortium Member 1							
Consortium Member 2							
Consortium Member 3							
Consortium Member 4							
TOTAL							

Name & address of Applicant's Bankers:

^s An Applicant consisting of a single entity should fill in details as per the row titled Single entity Applicant and ignore the rows titled Consortium Members. In case of a Consortium, row titled Single entity Applicant may be ignored.

[£] For Member Code, see instruction 4 at Annex-IV of this Appendix-I.

[€] The Applicant should provide details of its own Financial Capacity or of an Associate specified in Clause 2.2.9.

^{ss} For conversion of other currencies into rupees, see note below Annex-II of Appendix-I.

Instructions:

1. The Applicant/ its constituent Consortium Members shall attach copies of the balance sheets, financial statements and Annual Reports for 5 (five) years preceding the Application Due Date. The financial statements shall:
 - (a) reflect the financial situation of the Applicant or Consortium Members and its/ their Associates where the Applicant is relying on its Associate's financials;
 - (b) be audited by a statutory auditor;
 - (c) be complete, including all notes to the financial statements; and
 - (d) correspond to accounting periods already completed and audited (no statements for partial periods shall be requested or accepted).
2. Net Cash Accruals shall mean Profit After Tax + Depreciation.
3. Net Worth shall mean (Subscribed and Paid-up Equity + Reserves) less (Revaluation reserves + miscellaneous expenditure not written off + reserves not available for distribution to equity shareholders).
4. Year 1 will be the latest completed financial year, preceding the bidding. Year 2 shall be the year immediately preceding Year 1 and so on. In case the Application Due Date falls within 3 (three) months of the close of the latest financial year, refer to Clause 2.2.12.
5. In the case of a Consortium, a copy of the Jt. Bidding Agreement shall be submitted in accordance with Clause 2.2.6 (g) of the RFQ document.
6. The applicant shall also provide the name and address of the Bankers to the Applicant.
7. The Applicant shall provide an Auditor's Certificate specifying the net worth of the Applicant and also specifying the methodology adopted for calculating such net worth in accordance with Clause 2.2.4 (ii) of the RFQ document.

ANNEX-IV

Details of Eligible Projects*(Refer to Clauses 2.2.2 (A), 3.2 and 3.3 of the RFQ)***Project Code:****Member Code:**

Item (1)	Refer Instruction (2)	Particulars of the Project (3)
Title & nature of the project		
Category	5	
Year-wise (a) payments received/ made for construction, (b) payments made for development of PPP projects and/ or (c) revenues appropriated	6	
Entity for which the project was constructed/ developed	7	
Location		
Project cost	8	
Date of commencement of project/ contract		
Date of completion/ commissioning	9	
Equity shareholding(with period during which equity was held)	10	
Whether credit is being taken for the Eligible Experience of an Associate (Yes/ No)	15	

Instructions:

- Applicants are expected to provide information in respect of each Eligible Project in this Annex. The projects cited must comply with the eligibility criteria specified in Clause 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 of the RFQ, as the case may be. Information provided in this section is intended to serve as a back up for information provided in the Application. Applicants should also refer to the Instructions below.
- For a single entity Applicant, the Project Codes would be a, b, c, d etc. In case the Applicant is a Consortium then for Member 1, the Project Codes would be 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d etc., for Member 2 the Project Codes shall be 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d etc., and so on.

3. A separate sheet should be filled for each Eligible Project.
4. Member Code shall indicate NA for Not Applicable in case of a single entity Applicant. For other Members, the following abbreviations are suggested viz. LM means Lead Member, TM means Technical Member, FM means Financial Member, OMM means Operation & Maintenance Member; and OM means Other Member. In case the Eligible Project relates to an Associate of the Applicant or its Member, write “Associate” along with Member Code.
5. Refer to Clause 3.2.1 of the RFQ for category number.
6. The total payments received/ made and/or revenues appropriated for each Eligible Project are to be stated in Annex-II of this Appendix-I. The figures to be provided here should indicate the break-up for the past 5 (five) financial years. Year 1 refers to the financial year immediately preceding the Application Due Date; Year 2 refers to the year before Year 1, Year 3 refers to the year before Year 2, and so on (Refer Clause 2.2.12). For Categories 1 and 2, expenditure on development of the project and/or revenues appropriated, as the case may be, should be provided, but only in respect of projects having an estimated capital cost exceeding the amount specified in Clause 3.2.3 (c). In case of Categories 3 and 4, payments made/ received only in respect of construction should be provided, but only if the amount paid/received exceeds the minimum specified in Clause 3.2.4. Payment for construction works should only include capital expenditure, and should not include expenditure on repairs and maintenance.
7. In case of projects in Categories 1 and 2, particulars such as name, address and contact details of owner/ Authority/ Agency (i.e. concession grantor, counter party to PPA, etc.) may be provided. In case of projects in Categories 3 and 4, similar particulars of the client need to be provided.
8. Provide the estimated capital cost of Eligible Project. Refer to Clauses 3.2.3 and 3.2.4
9. For Categories 1 and 2, the date of commissioning of the project, upon completion, should be indicated. In case of Categories 3 and 4, date of completion of construction should be indicated. In the case of projects under construction, the likely date of completion or commissioning, as the case may be, shall be indicated.
10. For Categories 1 and 2, the equity shareholding of the Applicant, in the company owning the Eligible Project, held continuously during the period for which Eligible Experience is claimed, needs to be given (Refer Clause 3.2.3).

11. Experience for any activity relating to an Eligible Project shall not be claimed by two or more Members of the Consortium. In other words, no double counting by a consortium in respect of the same experience shall be permitted in any manner whatsoever.
12. Certificate from the Applicant’s statutory auditor^s or its respective clients must be furnished as per formats below for each Eligible Project. In jurisdictions that do not have statutory auditors, the auditors who audit the annual accounts of the Applicant/ Member/ Associate may provide the requisite certification.
13. If the Applicant is claiming experience under Categories 1 & 2^z, it should provide a certificate from its statutory auditor in the format below:

Certificate from the Statutory Auditor regarding PPP projects^o

Based on its books of accounts and other published information authenticated by it, this is to certify that (*name of the Applicant/Member/Associate*) is/ was an equity shareholder in (*title of the project company*) and holds/ held Rs. cr. (Rupees crore) of equity (which constitutes%^e of the total paid up and subscribed equity capital) of the project company from (*date*) to (*date*)^y. The project was/is likely to be commissioned on (*date of commissioning of the project*).

We further certify that the total estimated capital cost of the project is Rs. cr. (Rupeescrore), of which Rs. cr. (Rupees crore) of capital expenditure was incurred during the past five financial years as per year-wise details noted below:

.....

We also certify that the eligible annual revenues collected and appropriated by the aforesaid project company in terms of Clauses 3.2.1 and 3.2.3 (d) of the RFQ during the past five financial years were Rs. cr. (Rupees..... crore) as per year-wise details noted below:

.....

Name of the audit firm:

Seal of the audit firm: (Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

Date:

^s In case duly certified audited annual financial statements containing the requisite details are provided, a separate certification by statutory auditors would not be necessary.

^e Refer Clause 3.2.1 of the RFQ.

^o Provide Certificate as per this format only. Attach Explanatory Notes to the Certificate, if necessary. Statutory auditor means the entity that audits and certifies the annual accounts of the company.

^c Refer instruction no. 10 in this Annex-IV.

^y In case the project is owned by the Applicant company, this language may be suitably modified to read: “It is certified that (name of Applicant) constructed and/ or owned the (name of project) from (date) to(date).”

14. If the Applicant is claiming experience under Category 3 & 4*, it should provide a certificate from its statutory auditors or the client in the format below:

Certificate from the Statutory Auditor/ Client regarding construction works[Ⓞ]

Based on its books of accounts and other published information authenticated by it, {this is to certify that (name of the Applicant/Member/Associate) was engaged by (title of the project company) to execute (name of project) for (nature of project)}[Ⓜ]. The construction of the project commenced on (date) and the project was/ is likely to be commissioned on (date, if any). It is certified that (name of the Applicant/ Member/ Associate) received/paid Rs. cr. (Rupees crore) by way of payment for the aforesaid construction works.

We further certify that the total estimated capital cost of the project is Rs. cr. (Rupeescrore), of which the Applicant/Member/Associate received/paid Rs. cr. (Rupees crore), in terms of Clauses 3.2.1 and 3.2.4 of the RFQ, during the past five financial years as per year-wise details noted below:

.....

.....

{It is further certified that the payments/ receipts indicated above are restricted to the share of the Applicant who undertook these works as a partner or a member of joint venture/ consortium.}^

Name of the audit firm:

Seal of the audit firm: (Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory).

Date:

* Refer Clauses 3.2.1 and 3.2.4 of the RFQ.

Ⓞ Provide Certificate as per this format only. Attach Explanatory Notes to the Certificate, if necessary. Statutory auditor means the entity that audits and certifies the annual accounts of the company.

Ⓜ In case the Applicant owned the Eligible Project and engaged a contractor for undertaking the construction works, this language may be modified to read: “ this is to certify that (name of Applicant/ Member/ Associate) held 26% or more of the paid up and subscribed share capital in the (name of Project company) when it undertook construction of the (name of Project) through (name of the contractor).

^ This certification should only be provided in case of jobs/ contracts, which are executed as part of a partnership/ joint venture/ consortium. The payments indicated in the certificate should be restricted to the share of Applicant in such partnership/ joint venture/ consortium. This portion may be omitted if the contract did not involve a partnership/ joint venture/ consortium. In case where work is not executed by partnership/ joint venture/ consortium, this paragraph may be deleted.

15. In the event that credit is being taken for the Eligible Experience of an Associate, as defined in Clause 2.2.9, the Applicant should also provide a certificate in the format below:

Certificate from Statutory Auditor/ Company Secretary regarding Associate⁵

Based on the authenticated record of the company, this is to certify that more than 50% (fifty per cent) of the subscribed and paid up voting equity of (name of the Applicant/ Consortium Member/ Associate) is held, directly or indirectly[‡], by (name of Associate/ Applicant/ Consortium Member). By virtue of the aforesaid share-holding, the latter exercises control over the former, who is an Associate in terms of Clause 2.2.9 of the RFQ.

A brief description of the said equity held, directly or indirectly, is given below:

{Describe the share-holding of the Applicant/ Consortium Member and the Associate. In the event the Associate is under common control with the Applicant/ Consortium Member, the relationship may be suitably described and similarly certified herein.}

Name of the audit firm:

Seal of the audit firm: (Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory).

Date:

16. It may be noted that in the absence of any detail in the above certificates, the information would be considered inadequate and could lead to exclusion of the relevant project in computation of Experience Score[⊖].

⁵ In the event that the Applicant/ Consortium Member exercises control over an Associate by operation of law, this certificate may be suitably modified and copies of the relevant law may be enclosed and referred to.

[‡] In the case of indirect share-holding, the intervening companies in the chain of ownership should also be Associates i.e., the share-holding in each such company should be more than 50% (fifty per cent) in order to establish that the chain of “control” is not broken.

[⊖] Refer Clause 3.2.6 of the RFQ.

ANNEX-V

Statement of Legal Capacity

(To be forwarded on the letterhead of the Applicant/ Lead Member of Consortium)

Ref. Date:

To,

Dear Sir,

We hereby confirm that we/ our members in the Consortium (constitution of which has been described in the application) satisfy the terms and conditions laid out in the RFQ document.

We have agreed that (insert member's name) will act as the Lead Member of our consortium.*

We have agreed that (insert individual's name) will act as our representative/ will act as the representative of the consortium on its behalf* and has been duly authorized to submit the RFQ. Further, the authorised signatory is vested with requisite powers to furnish such letter and authenticate the same.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Signature, name and designation of the authorised signatory)

For and on behalf of.....

* Please strike out whichever is not applicable.

APPENDIX-II

Power of Attorney for signing of Application

(Refer Clause 2.2.5)

Know all men by these presents, We..... (name of the firm and address of the registered office) do hereby irrevocably constitute, nominate, appoint and authorise Mr/ Ms (name), son/daughter/wife of and presently residing at, who is presently employed with us/ the Lead Member of our Consortium and holding the position of, as our true and lawful attorney (hereinafter referred to as the “Attorney”) to do in our name and on our behalf, all such acts, deeds and things as are necessary or required in connection with or incidental to submission of our application for pre-qualification and submission of our bid for the ***** Project proposed or being developed by the ***** (the “Authority”) including but not limited to signing and submission of all applications, bids and other documents and writings, participate in Pre-Applications and other conferences and providing information/ responses to the Authority, representing us in all matters before the Authority, signing and execution of all contracts including the Concession Agreement and undertakings consequent to acceptance of our bid, and generally dealing with the Authority in all matters in connection with or relating to or arising out of our bid for the said Project and/ or upon award thereof to us and/or till the entering into of the Concession Agreement with the Authority.

AND we hereby agree to ratify and confirm and do hereby ratify and confirm all acts, deeds and things done or caused to be done by our said Attorney pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred by this Power of Attorney and that all acts, deeds and things done by our said Attorney in exercise of the powers hereby conferred shall and shall always be deemed to have been done by us.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE,, THE ABOVE NAMED PRINCIPAL HAVE EXECUTED THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY ON THIS DAY OF, 20.....

For

.....

(Signature, name, designation and address)

Witnesses:

- 1.
- 2.

(Notarised)

Accepted

.....

(Signature)

(Name, Title and Address of the Attorney)

Notes:

- *The mode of execution of the Power of Attorney should be in accordance with the procedure, if any, laid down by the applicable law and the charter documents of the executant(s) and when it is so required, the same should be under common seal affixed in accordance with the required procedure.*
- *Wherever required, the Applicant should submit for verification the extract of the charter documents and documents such as a board or shareholders' resolution/ power of attorney in favour of the person executing this Power of Attorney for the delegation of power hereunder on behalf of the Applicant.*
- *For a Power of Attorney executed and issued overseas, the document will also have to be legalised by the Indian Embassy and notarised in the jurisdiction where the Power of Attorney is being issued. However, the Power of Attorney provided by Applicants from countries that have signed the Hague Legislation Convention, 1961 are not required to be legalised by the Indian Embassy if it carries a conforming Appostille certificate.*

APPENDIX-III

Power of Attorney for Lead Member of Consortium

(Refer Clause 2.2.5)

Whereas the ***** (“the Authority”) has invited applications from interested parties for the ***** Project (the “Project”).

Whereas,,, and (collectively the “Consortium”) being Members of the Consortium are interested in bidding for the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Request for Qualification document (RFQ), Request for Proposal (RFP) and other connected documents in respect of the Project, and

Whereas, it is necessary for the Members of the Consortium to designate one of them as the Lead Member with all necessary power and authority to do for and on behalf of the Consortium, all acts, deeds and things as may be necessary in connection with the Consortium’s bid for the Project and its execution.

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

We, having our registered office at, M/s. having our registered office at, M/s. having our registered office at, and M/s. having our registered office at, (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Principals”) do hereby irrevocably designate, nominate, constitute, appoint and authorise M/s. having its registered office at, being one of the Members of the Consortium, as the Lead Member and true and lawful attorney of the Consortium (hereinafter referred to as the “Attorney”). We hereby irrevocably authorise the Attorney (with power to sub-delegate) to conduct all business for and on behalf of the Consortium and any one of us during the bidding process and, in the event the Consortium is awarded the concession/contract, during the execution of the Project and in this regard, to do on our behalf and on behalf of the Consortium, all or any of such acts, deeds or things as are necessary or required or incidental to the pre-qualification of the Consortium and submission of its bid for the Project, including but not limited to signing and submission of all applications, bids and other documents and writings, participate in bidders and other conferences, respond to queries, submit information/ documents, sign and execute contracts and undertakings consequent to

acceptance of the bid of the Consortium and generally to represent the Consortium in all its dealings with the Authority, and/ or any other Government Agency or any person, in all matters in connection with or relating to or arising out of the Consortium's bid for the Project and/ or upon award thereof till the Concession Agreement is entered into with the Authority.

AND hereby agree to ratify and confirm and do hereby ratify and confirm all acts, deeds and things done or caused to be done by our said Attorney pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred by this Power of Attorney and that all acts, deeds and things done by our said Attorney in exercise of the powers hereby conferred shall and shall always be deemed to have been done by us/ Consortium.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF WE THE PRINCIPALS ABOVE NAMED HAVE EXECUTED THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY ON THIS DAY OF, 20.....

For
(Signature)

.....
(Name & Title)

For
(Signature)

.....
(Name & Title)

For
(Signature)

.....
(Name & Title)

Witnesses:

1.

2.

.....

(Executants)

(To be executed by all the Members of the Consortium)

Notes:

- *The mode of execution of the Power of Attorney should be in accordance with the procedure, if any, laid down by the applicable law and the charter documents of the executant(s) and when it is so required, the same should be under common seal affixed in accordance with the required procedure.*
- *Also, wherever required, the Applicant should submit for verification the extract of the charter documents and documents such as a board or shareholders' resolution/ power of attorney in favour of the person executing this Power of Attorney for the delegation of power hereunder on behalf of the Applicant.*
- *For a Power of Attorney executed and issued overseas, the document will also have to be legalised by the Indian Embassy and notarised in the jurisdiction where the Power of Attorney is being issued. However, the Power of Attorney provided by Applicants from countries that have signed the Hague Legislation Convention, 1961 are not required to be legalised by the Indian Embassy if it carries a conforming Apostille certificate.*

APPENDIX-IV
Joint Bidding Agreement

(Refer Clause 2.13.2)

(To be executed on Stamp paper of appropriate value)

THIS JOINT BIDDING AGREEMENT is entered into on this the day of,
20.....

AMONGST

1. { Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956} and having its registered office at (hereinafter referred to as the “**First Part**” which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context include its successors and permitted assigns)

AND

2. { Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956} and having its registered office at (hereinafter referred to as the “**Second Part**” which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context include its successors and permitted assigns)

AND

3. { Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office at (hereinafter referred to as the “**Third Part**” which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context include its successors and permitted assigns)}

AND

4. { Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office at (hereinafter referred to as the “**Fourth Part**” which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context include its successors and permitted assigns)}⁵

The above mentioned parties of the FIRST, SECOND, {THIRD and FOURTH} PART are collectively referred to as the “**Parties**” and each is individually referred to as a “**Party**”

⁵ The number of Parties will be shown here, as applicable, subject however to a maximum of 6 (six).

WHEREAS

- (A) [THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA, established under the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988, represented by its Chairman and having its principal offices at G-5 & 6, Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075] (hereinafter referred to as the “**Authority**” which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include its administrators, successors and assigns) has invited applications (the “**Applications**”) by its Request for Qualification No. dated(the “**RFQ**”) for pre-qualification and short-listing of bidders for development and operation/ maintenance of ***** Project (the “**Project**”) through public private partnership.
- (B) The Parties are interested in jointly bidding for the Project as members of a Consortium and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the RFQ document and other bid documents in respect of the Project, and
- (C) It is a necessary condition under the RFQ document that the members of the Consortium shall enter into a Joint Bidding Agreement and furnish a copy thereof with the Application.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:**1. Definitions and Interpretations**

In this Agreement, the capitalised terms shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning ascribed thereto under the RFQ.

2. Consortium

- 2.1 The Parties do hereby irrevocably constitute a consortium (the “**Consortium**”) for the purposes of jointly participating in the Bidding Process for the Project.
- 2.2 The Parties hereby undertake to participate in the Bidding Process only through this Consortium and not individually and/ or through any other consortium constituted for this Project, either directly or indirectly or through any of their Associates.

3. Covenants

The Parties hereby undertake that in the event the Consortium is declared the selected Bidder and awarded the Project, it shall incorporate a special purpose vehicle (the “**SPV**”) under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 for entering into a Concession Agreement with

the Authority and for performing all its obligations as the Concessionaire in terms of the Concession Agreement for the Project.

4. Role of the Parties

The Parties hereby undertake to perform the roles and responsibilities as described below:

- (a) Party of the First Part shall be the Lead member of the Consortium and shall have the power of attorney from all Parties for conducting all business for and on behalf of the Consortium during the Bidding Process and until the Appointed Date under the Concession Agreement when all the obligations of the SPV shall become effective;
- (b) Party of the Second Part shall be {the Technical Member of the Consortium;}
- {(c) Party of the Third Part shall be the Financial Member of the Consortium; and}
- {(d) Party of the Fourth Part shall be the Operation and Maintenance Member/ Other Member of the Consortium.}

5. Joint and Several Liability

The Parties do hereby undertake to be jointly and severally responsible for all obligations and liabilities relating to the Project and in accordance with the terms of the RFQ, RFP and the Concession Agreement, till such time as the Financial Close for the Project is achieved under and in accordance with the Concession Agreement.

6. Shareholding in the SPV

- 6.1 The Parties agree that the proportion of shareholding among the Parties in the SPV shall be as follows:

First Party:

Second Party:

{Third Party:}

{Fourth Party:}

- 6.2 The Parties undertake that a minimum of 26% (twenty six per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity share capital of the SPV shall, at all times till the second anniversary

of the date of commercial operation of the Project, be held by the Parties of the First, {Second and Third} Part whose experience and networth have been reckoned for the purposes of qualification and short-listing of Applicants for the Project in terms of the RFQ.

- 6.3 The Parties undertake that each of the Parties specified in Clause 6.2 above shall, at all times between the commercial operation date of the Project and the second anniversary thereof, hold subscribed and paid up equity share capital of SPV equivalent to at least 5% (five per cent) of the Total Project Cost.
- 6.4 The Parties undertake that they shall collectively hold at least 51% (fifty one per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity share capital of the SPV at all times until the second anniversary of the commercial operation date of the Project.
- 6.5 The Parties undertake that they shall comply with all equity lock-in requirements set forth in the Concession Agreement.
- [6.6 The Parties undertake that the O&M Member shall subscribe and hold at least 10% (ten per cent) of the subscribed and paid up equity shares in the SPV²⁷ in terms of the Concession Agreement.]

7. Representation of the Parties

Each Party represents to the other Parties as of the date of this Agreement that:

- (a) Such Party is duly organised, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its incorporation and has all requisite power and authority to enter into this Agreement;
- (b) The execution, delivery and performance by such Party of this Agreement has been authorised by all necessary and appropriate corporate or governmental action and a copy of the extract of the charter documents and board resolution/ power of attorney in favour of the person executing this Agreement for the delegation of power and authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Consortium Member is annexed to this Agreement, and will not, to the best of its knowledge:
- (i) require any consent or approval not already obtained;

²⁷ Add further conditions relating to the O&M Member, if any.

- (ii) violate any Applicable Law presently in effect and having applicability to it;
 - (iii) violate the memorandum and articles of association, by-laws or other applicable organisational documents thereof;
 - (iv) violate any clearance, permit, concession, grant, license or other governmental authorisation, approval, judgement, order or decree or any mortgage agreement, indenture or any other instrument to which such Party is a party or by which such Party or any of its properties or assets are bound or that is otherwise applicable to such Party; or
 - (v) create or impose any liens, mortgages, pledges, claims, security interests, charges or Encumbrances or obligations to create a lien, charge, pledge, security interest, encumbrances or mortgage in or on the property of such Party, except for encumbrances that would not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on the financial condition or prospects or business of such Party so as to prevent such Party from fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement;
- (c) this Agreement is the legal and binding obligation of such Party, enforceable in accordance with its terms against it; and
- (d) there is no litigation pending or, to the best of such Party's knowledge, threatened to which it or any of its Affiliates is a party that presently affects or which would have a material adverse effect on the financial condition or prospects or business of such Party in the fulfillment of its obligations under this Agreement.

8. Termination

This Agreement shall be effective from the date hereof and shall continue in full force and effect until the Financial Close of the Project is achieved under and in accordance with the Concession Agreement, in case the Project is awarded to the Consortium. However, in case the Consortium is either not pre-qualified for the Project or does not get selected for award of the Project, the Agreement will stand terminated in case the Applicant is not pre-qualified or upon return of the Bid Security by the Authority to the Bidder, as the case may be.

9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1 This Joint Bidding Agreement shall be governed by laws of {India}.

9.2 The Parties acknowledge and accept that this Agreement shall not be amended by the Parties without the prior written consent of the Authority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PARTIES ABOVE NAMED HAVE EXECUTED AND DELIVERED THIS AGREEMENT AS OF THE DATE FIRST ABOVE WRITTEN.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

For and on behalf of
LEAD MEMBER by:

(Signature)

(Name)

(Designation)

(Address)

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

For and on behalf of
SECOND PART by:

(Signature)

(Name)

(Designation)

(Address)

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

For and on behalf of
THIRD PART by:

(Signature)

(Name)

(Designation)

(Address)

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

For and on behalf of
FOURTH PART by:

(Signature)

(Name)

(Designation)

(Address)

In the presence of:

1.

2.

Notes:

1. *The mode of the execution of the Joint Bidding Agreement should be in accordance with the procedure, if any, laid down by the Applicable Law and the charter documents of the executant(s) and when it is so required, the same should be under common seal affixed in accordance with the required procedure.*

2. *Each Joint Bidding Agreement should attach a copy of the extract of the charter documents and documents such as resolution / power of attorney in favour of the person executing this Agreement for the delegation of power and authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Consortium Member.*
3. *For a Joint Bidding Agreement executed and issued overseas, the document shall be legalised by the Indian Embassy and notarized in the jurisdiction where the Power of Attorney has been executed.*

APPENDIX-V²⁸

Guidelines of the Department of Disinvestment

(Refer Clause 1.2.1)

No. 6/4/2001-DD-II
Government of India
Department of Disinvestment

Block 14, CGO Complex
New Delhi.
Dated 13th July, 2001.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Guidelines for qualification of Bidders seeking to acquire stakes in Public Sector Enterprises through the process of disinvestment

Government has examined the issue of framing comprehensive and transparent guidelines defining the criteria for bidders interested in PSE-disinvestment so that the parties selected through competitive bidding could inspire public confidence. Earlier, criteria like net worth, experience etc. used to be prescribed. Based on experience and in consultation with concerned departments, Government has decided to prescribe the following additional criteria for the qualification/disqualification of the parties seeking to acquire stakes in public sector enterprises through disinvestment:

- (a) In regard to matters other than the security and integrity of the country, any conviction by a Court of Law or indictment/ adverse order by a regulatory authority that casts a doubt on the ability of the bidder to manage the public sector unit when it is disinvested, or which relates to a grave offence would constitute disqualification. Grave offence is defined to be of such a nature that it outrages the moral sense of the community. The decision in regard to the nature of the offence would be taken on case to case basis after considering the facts of the case and relevant legal principles, by the Government of India.
- (b) In regard to matters relating to the security and integrity of the country, any charge-sheet by an agency of the Government/ conviction by a Court of Law for an offence

²⁸ These guidelines may be modified or substituted by the Government from time to time.

committed by the bidding party or by any sister concern of the bidding party would result in disqualification. The decision in regard to the relationship between the sister concerns would be taken, based on the relevant facts and after examining whether the two concerns are substantially controlled by the same person/ persons.

- (c) In both (a) and (b), disqualification shall continue for a period that Government deems appropriate.
- (d) Any entity, which is disqualified from participating in the disinvestment process, would not be allowed to remain associated with it or get associated merely because it has preferred an appeal against the order based on which it has been disqualified. The mere pendency of appeal will have no effect on the disqualification.
- (e) The disqualification criteria would come into effect immediately and would apply to all bidders for various disinvestment transactions, which have not been completed as yet.
- (f) Before disqualifying a concern, a Show Cause Notice why it should not be disqualified would be issued to it and it would be given an opportunity to explain its position.
- (g) Henceforth, these criteria will be prescribed in the advertisements seeking Expression of Interest (EOI) from the interested parties. The interested parties would be required to provide the information on the above criteria, along with their Expressions of Interest (EOI). The bidders shall be required to provide with their EOI an undertaking to the effect that no investigation by a regulatory authority is pending against them. In case any investigation is pending against the concern or its sister concern or against its CEO or any of its Directors/ Managers/ employees, full details of such investigation including the name of the investigating agency, the charge/ offence for which the investigation has been launched, name and designation of persons against whom the investigation has been launched and other relevant information should be disclosed, to the satisfaction of the Government. For other criteria also, a similar undertaking shall be obtained along with EOI.

sd/-

(A.K. Tewari)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

APPENDIX-VI
LIST OF BID-SPECIFIC CLAUSES⁵

A. Clauses and appendices with non-numerical footnotes

1. Clause 1.2.3: Brief description of Bidding Process
2. Clause 2.2.2 (B): Eligibility of Applicants: Financial Capacity
3. Clause 2.2.4 (i): Eligibility of Applicants
4. Clause 2.10.3: Amendment of RFQ
5. Clause 2.19.1 (g): Tests of responsiveness
6. Clause 3.2.1 (ii): Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation
7. Appendix I: Letter Comprising the Application for Pre-Qualification: Para 1 and 22
8. Annex-I, Appendix I: Details of Applicant (Table to Para 5(c))
9. Annex-II, Appendix I: Technical Capacity of the Applicant
10. Annex-III, Appendix I: Financial Capacity of the Applicant
11. Annex-IV, Appendix I: Details of Eligible Projects
12. Annex-IV, Appendix I: Details of Eligible Projects:
 - (i) Certificate from the Statutory Auditor regarding PPP projects
 - (ii) Certificate from the Statutory Auditor/ Client regarding construction works, and
 - (iii) Certificate from Statutory Auditor/ Company Secretary regarding Associate
13. Appendix IV: Joint Bidding Agreement: Recital, Para 4
14. Appendix VI: List of bid-specific clauses

B. Clauses and appendices with curly brackets

1. Clause 1.2.3: Brief description of Bidding Process
2. Appendix I: Letter Comprising the Application for Pre-Qualification: Para 22
3. Annex-I, Appendix I: Details of Applicant (Table to Para 5(c), Column 3)
4. Annex-IV, Appendix I: Form of Certificate from the Statutory Auditor/ Client regarding construction works
5. Appendix IV: Joint Bidding Agreement

⁵ This Appendix-VI contains a list of clauses and appendices that would need to be suitably modified for reflecting applicant-specific provisions. This Appendix-VI may, therefore, be included in the RFQ document to be issued to prospective Applicants. The blank spaces in Appendices may be filled up by the Applicant and the footnotes may be deleted when it submits its Application

C. Clauses and appendices with blank spaces

1. Appendix I: Letter Comprising the Application for Pre-Qualification: Para 1 and 21
2. Annex-IV, Appendix I: Details of Eligible Projects: Certificate from the Statutory Auditor regarding PPP project.
3. Annex-IV, Appendix I: Details of Eligible Projects: Certificate from the Statutory Auditor/ Client regarding construction works
4. Annex-IV, Appendix I: Details of Eligible Projects: Certificate from Statutory Auditor/ Company Secretary regarding Associate
5. Annex-V, Appendix I: Statement of Legal Capacity
6. Appendix II: Power of Attorney for signing of Application
7. Appendix III: Power of Attorney for Lead Member of Consortium
8. Appendix IV: Joint Bidding Agreement: Recitals

APPENDIX-VII
LIST OF PROJECT-SPECIFIC CLAUSES²⁹

A. Clauses and appendices with serially numbered footnotes

1. Clause 1.1: Background (Footnote No. 1)
2. Clause 1.1.1: Background (Footnote No. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)
3. Clause 1.2.1: Brief description of Bidding Process (Footnote No. 7)
4. Clause 1.2.4: Brief description of Bidding Process (Footnote No. 8 and 9)
5. Clause 1.3 (Item 10): Schedule of Bidding Process (Footnote No. 10)
6. Clause 2.2.1 (e): Eligibility of Applicants (Footnote No. 11)
7. Clause 2.2.2 (A) (iii): Eligibility of Applicants (Technical Capacity) (Footnote No. 12)
8. Clause 2.2.2 (B): Eligibility of Applicants (Financial Capacity) (Footnote No. 13 and 14)
9. Clause 2.2.3: O&M Experience (Footnote No. 15 and 16)
10. Clause 2.2.6 (iv): Eligibility of Applicants (Footnote No. 17)
11. Clause 2.2.11: Eligibility of Applicants (Footnote No. 18)
12. Clause 2.21: Short-listing and notification (Footnote No. 19)
13. Clause 3.2: Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation (Footnote No. 20)
14. Clause 3.2.1 (i): Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation (Footnote No. 21)
15. Clause 3.2.3 (c): Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation (Footnote No. 22)
16. Clause 3.2.3 (d): Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation (Footnote No. 23)
17. Clause 3.2.4: Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation (Footnote No. 24)
18. Clause 3.2.6: Table 3.2.6: Factors for Experience across categories (Footnote No. 25)
19. Clause 3.5.2: Short-listing of Applicants (Footnote No. 26)
20. Appendix IV: Joint Bidding Agreement: Clause 6.6, Shareholding in the SPV (Footnote No. 27)
21. Appendix V: Guidelines of the Department of Disinvestment (Footnote No. 28)
22. Appendix VII: List of project-specific clauses (Footnote No. 29)

B. Clauses and appendices with square parenthesis

1. Glossary: Definition of BOT and DBFOT
2. Index: Appendix V: Guidelines of the Department of Disinvestment

²⁹ This Appendix-VII contains a list of clauses and appendices that would need to be suitably modified, prior to issue of the RFQ document, for reflecting project-specific provisions. This Appendix-VII should be omitted before issuing the RFQ document to prospective Applicants.

3. Title of the Authority
4. Clause 1.1.1: Background
5. Clause 1.1.2: Background
6. Clause 1.1.3: Background
7. Clause 1.2.1: Brief description of Bidding Process
8. Clause 1.2.4: Brief description of Bidding Process
9. Clause 1.2.7: Brief description of Bidding Process
10. Clause 1.2.8: Brief description of Bidding Process
11. Clause 1.2.9: Brief description of Bidding Process
12. Clause 1.3: Schedule of Bidding Process
13. Clause 2.2.1 (b) and (e): Eligibility of Applicants
14. Clause 2.2.2 (A) (iii): Eligibility of Applicants (Technical Capacity)
15. Clause 2.2.2 (B): Eligibility of Applicants (Financial Capacity)
16. Clause 2.2.3: O&M Experience
17. Clause 2.2.7: Eligibility of Applicants
18. Clause 2.2.11: Eligibility of Applicants
19. Clause 2.13.2 (vii): Sealing and Marking of Applications
20. Clause 2.19.1(h): Tests of responsiveness
21. Clause 3.1.1: Evaluation parameters
22. Clause 3.2.1: Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation: Category 1 and 3
23. Clause 3.2.3 (c): Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation
24. Clause 3.2.4: Technical Capacity for purposes of evaluation
25. Clause 5.1: Pre-Application Conference
26. Clause 6.1: Miscellaneous
27. Appendix I: Letter Comprising the Application for Pre-Qualification (Para 3, 14 and 18)
28. Annex-I, Appendix I: Details of Applicant (Table below sub clause (d))
29. Annex-II, Appendix I: Technical Capacity of the Applicant (Footnotes)
30. Appendix IV: Joint Bidding Agreement: Recitals
31. Appendix IV: Joint Bidding Agreement: Clause 6.6

C. Clauses and appendices with asterisk

1. Glossary: Definition of Government
2. Clause 1.1.1: Background
3. Clause 1.2.11: Brief description of Bidding Process
4. Clause 2.2.1 (e): Eligibility of Applicants
5. Clause 2.13.2: Sealing and Marking of Applications

6. Clause 2.13.3: Sealing and Marking of Applications
7. Clause 5.1: Pre-Application Conference
8. Appendix I: Letter Comprising the Application for Pre-Qualification
9. Annex-II, Appendix I: Technical Capacity of the Applicant
10. Annex-V, Appendix I: Statement of Legal Capacity
11. Appendix II: Power of Attorney for signing of Application
12. Appendix III: Power of Attorney for Lead Member of Consortium
13. Appendix IV: Joint Bidding Agreement: Recital Para A

