

NHIDCL/HQ/DPR/NH210/Melli-Singtam/2025-Part(1)/260053/3520

15.06.2026

To,

All the Prospective Bidders,

Subject: "Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Project Report and Pre-construction activities for Melli to Singtam section of NH-210 in the state of Sikkim" (2nd call) - Reply to Pre-Bid Queries reg.

Tender ID: 2026_NHIDC_907318_1

Reply to Pre Bid Queries

Sl. No.	Reference to RFP	Existing Criteria	Query raised/Clarification Sought	Reply of NHIDCL
1.	Pg-13, Appendix to RFPL: Tender Information Summary (TIS)	Selection Method: The selection method shall be determined based on the Tentative Project Cost (Excluding GST and Excluding Land Cost): - For Normal Highway Projects: a) Tentative Project Cost <=100 Cr (Excluding GST and Excluding Land Cost) i) Cost to be Quoted by the Bidders ii) QCBS mode with 30 (Technical Score):30 (DPR Rating): 40(Financial) weightages iii) PBG @ 10 % iv) Only 1 JV partner allowed meeting at least 40% minimum eligibility criteria. Lead	This is with reference to the recent Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) for consultancy services related to the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR). In this regard, we request the Authority to kindly clarify the evaluation parameters linked with the project cost criteria to be considered or not as part of the proposal evaluation and selection methodology. Further, it is requested that the Authority may kindly consider retaining the provisions and evaluation approach as stipulated in the initial RFP circulated previously on December-2025, in order to maintain consistency in assessment criteria and to enable broader participation from technically qualified consultancy firms. This clarification will help the prospective bidders to appropriately assess the qualification requirements and prepare their proposals in line with the expectations of the Authority.	As per RFP

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		Partner to meet 60% eligibility criteria. b) 100 Cr<Tentative Project Cost <=500 Cr (Excluding GST and Excluding Land Cost) i) Fixed Cost assessed by Tender Inviting Agency- No financial proposal to be submitted by bidders ii) PBG to be quoted by Bidder iii) QBS mode with 30 (Technical Score):30 (DPR Rating): 40 (PBG quote) weightages iv) Only 1 JV partner allowed meeting at least 40% minimum eligibility criteria. Lead Partner to meet 60% eligibility criteria. c) 500 Cr<Tentative Project Cost <=1000 Cr (Excluding GST and Excluding Land Cost) i) Fixed Cost assessed by Tender Inviting Agency- No financial proposal to be submitted by bidders ii) PBG to be quoted by Bidder		

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		iii) QBS mode with 30 (Technical Score):30 (DPR Rating): 40 (PBG quote) weightages iv) Only 1 JV partner allowed meeting at least 50% minimum eligibility criteria. Lead Partner to meet at least 75% eligibility criteria. d) Tentative Project Cost >1000 Cr (Excluding GST and Excluding Land Cost) i) Fixed Cost assessed by Tender Inviting Agency- No financial proposal to be submitted by bidders ii) PBG to be quoted by Bidder iii) Modified QBS mode with 30 (Technical Score):30 (DPR Rating): 40 (PBG quote) weightages iv) Only 1 JV partner allowed who should be an international firm of repute i.e. having experience of DPR of Highway Projects for multilateral agencies such as ADB/World Bank/JICA with aggregate length equal to or greater		

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		than DPR length under bidding besides meeting at least 40% minimum eligibility criteria. Lead Partner to meet 60% eligibility criteria. Note: International firm shall be a foreign registered firm of repute or a 100% subsidiary of such an international firm, registered in India. For Standalone Bridge Projects: i) Fixed Cost assessed by Tender Inviting Agency- No financial proposal to be submitted by bidders ii) PBG to be quoted by Bidder iii) Modified QCBS mode with 60 (Technical including Rating): 40 (PBG quote) weightages iv) Only 1 JV partner is allowed fulfilling at least 50% minimum eligibility criteria and only sub-contracting for specialized survey & investigation works upto 10% of project cost is allowed with prior approval of the Implementing Agency. The Lead Partner to fulfil at least 75% of eligibility criteria.		

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2.	Pg-13, Appendix to RFP: Tender Information Summary (TIS)	Only 1 JV partner allowed who should be an international firm of repute i.e. having experience of DPR of Highway Projects for multilateral agencies such as ADB/World Bank/JICA with aggregate length equal to or greater than DPR length under bidding besides meeting at least 40% minimum eligibility criteria. Lead Partner to meet 60% eligibility criteria.	We respectfully request the Authority to kindly reconsider and modify the above clause. It is submitted that several Indian consultancy organizations/firms possess extensive and relevant experience in preparation of DPRs for large-scale highway and infrastructure projects, including assignments funded by multilateral agencies and national authorities. Therefore, restricting the JV participation mandatorily to an international firm may unnecessarily limit competition and participation from highly qualified Indian firms. Accordingly, it is requested that the clause may be modified to allow participation of Indian firms possessing similar relevant experience and technical capability, without making it mandatory for an international firm to be part of the Joint Venture. The revised provision may consider that: • The JV partner may be either an Indian or international firm having relevant experience of DPR preparation for highway/infrastructure projects of similar scale and complexity. • The experience of multilateral-funded projects may be considered as desirable rather than mandatory • The Lead Partner and JV Partner may continue to satisfy the prescribed eligibility percentages collectively in line with standard JV evaluation practices	As per RFP
3.	Pg-20, Clause 1.8 and 1.8.1 For Normal Highway/Hilly Mountainous Projects	1.8 In addition to meeting the qualification criteria stipulated in clause 1.7 above, the Residual DPR Bid Capacity viz., "R" of the participating consultants shall	Based on the understanding from the determination of length given in the RFP, the major component of DPR alignment is tunnel and bridges details are mentioned in table refer RFP page no 136. Based on our understanding of the project details provided in the RFP, the total DPR alignment length is approximately 21 km, wherein the	As per RFP

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		be more than the tentative length of the Project for which DPR assignment bids have been invited. The detailed methodology for calculation of the same has been stipulated in sub-clauses below	major components comprise tunnels and bridge structures. Hence, the project predominantly involves specialized tunnel engineering and associated structural works rather than conventional highway stretches. Accordingly, we request the Client to kindly consider the residual capacity and eligibility of standalone tunnel projects, particularly since tunnels constitute a major special structure component under the present assignment.	
4.	Pg-37, 8.4. Bid Security Related Documents	3) Forfeiture of EMD (Enforcement of BSD): EMD shall be forfeited (or in case BSD is permitted, the declaration ² shall be enforced from the date of such decision) if the Consultant breaches any of the following obligation (s) under the RFP: (a) withdraws or amends his Proposal or impairs or derogates from the Proposal in any respect within the period of validity of its Proposal; or (b) after having been notified within the period of Proposal validity of the acceptance of his Proposal by the Procuring Entity: i) refuses to or fails to submit the original documents for scrutiny or the required	We request the Client to kindly clarify Clause 3(b), as the requirement regarding submission of "original documents for scrutiny" is not clearly defined in the RFP. It is requested that the Client may kindly specify the list and nature of original documents required to be submitted by the successful Consultant after acceptance of the Proposal, since all relevant documents are generally submitted online/self-certified along with the Proposal.	As per RFP

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		Performance Security within the stipulated time as per the RFP document's conditions. ii) fails or refuses to sign the contract.		
5.	Pg-351, Enclosure-A	Refer Enclosure-A reg- MAN MONTHS INPUT FOR KEY PROFESSIONAL STAFF	We request the Client to kindly consider the inputs/support from the Design Office as equivalent to "at-site" deployment, particularly considering the difficult geographical terrain and accessibility constraints of the project area. The Design Office experts shall provide continuous technical support, review, and monitoring for the project activities, and the same shall be duly documented through daily diaries/reports submitted to the Client for record and verification. Accordingly, we request that the requirement of "at-site input" may kindly be relaxed to permit support through the Design Office along with periodic site visits, without affecting compliance with the scope of services.	As per RFP
6.	Pg-355,	A2. Firm's relevant experience in last 10 years for DPR work (30)	We request client to kindly clarify which scoring parameters is to be considered for evaluation: 1. For Normal Highway project 2. For Standalone Tunnel Project As this is not clearly indicated	As per RFP
7.	Pg-361, B2: Experience in use of technology (2.5	2) Experience of using Geo Physical Survey Equipment (Seismic Reflection/ Seismic Refraction / Electrical Resistivity / AEM etc.) for subsurface investigation with the firm through owned or outsourced equipment	We understand from the referred clause that the Client intends to encourage the use of advanced technologies such as Geo Physical Survey Equipment, Structural Health Monitoring Systems, and Satellite Imagery Processing for DEM/DTM preparation during project execution. However, as per the standard RFP practices generally followed by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), such technologies are normally not	As per RFP

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		supported by MOU / lease Agreement. 3) Experience of use of advanced structural health monitoring systems which consists of accelerometers, Sensor, inclinometers, anemometer, Load measuring pin etc. with software to analyze the data and infer the structural health and residual life. The experience can be through owned or outsourced equipment & software supported by MOU / lease Agreement. 4) Availability and experience in Processing of satellite imagery for the creation of Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and Digital Terrain Model (DTM) with the firm through owned or outsourced equipment supported by MOU / lease Agreement.	considered as part of the technical evaluation or qualification criteria at the bidding stage. Accordingly, we request the Client to kindly consider that the requirement for deployment of these technologies may be fulfilled after award of the work. Further, the marks/weightage presently assigned to these technologies may kindly be redistributed under other relevant technology or technical scoring parameters to ensure wider and fair participation of qualified consultants.	

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Ankush Mehta)
General Manager (T)