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# **Invitation for Qualification**

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Government of India

Ministry of Railways

RFQ Notice No:-EL-HWH-25-21-3209-RFQ  
dated 20/12/2022.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Eastern Railway (hereafter referred to as Railways) invites eligible applicants to participate in the bidding process for “Installation of on-grid Solar plant of total capacity 225 KWp through Solar Power Developer (SPD) under PPP model (phase-II)”

The Project is located at Pakur in Howrah Division having an aggregated capacity of 225 KWp herein after referred to as Contracted Capacity. The generated solar power will be utilized solely by Railways. The scheme aims to reduce the fossil fuel based electricity load on main grid and make building self-sustainable from the point of electricity, to the extent possible and as part of this endeavor, the Railways has decided to undertake development and operation/maintenance of the “Installation of on-grid Solar plant of total capacity 225 KWp through Solar Power Developer (SPD) under PPP model (phase-II)”

**1.1.1** (PPP- Public-Private Partnership) on [Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (the “**DBFOT**”)] basis, and has, therefore, decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of [a private entity as] the bidder to whom the Project may be awarded.

The **Eastern Railways** intend to pre-qualify and short-list suitable Applicants (the “**Bidders Applicants**”) 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.

#### **Instructions for Applicants**

- Note 1:** The provisions in square brackets/ blanks and asterisk marks shall be suitably modified by the Applicant after the RFQ is issued. (See Appendix-VI)
- Note 2:** Blank spaces contain formats that are to be used by the Applicant after the RFQ is issued. (See Appendix-VI)
- Note 3:** Footnotes marked “\$” in the relevant Clauses of the RFQ are for guidance of the Applicants. In case of Appendices, the footnotes marked “\$” or in other non-numerical characters shall be omitted by the Applicants while submitting their respective Applications. (See Appendix-VI).

#### **1 Instructions for customization of this document by Railways:**

This Model Request for Qualification (the “RFQ”) may be customized for project-specific use in accordance with the instructions below:

- Note I:** Serially numbered footnotes in this RFQ are for guidance of Railways and should be omitted from the RFQ before it is issued to prospective Applicants. (See Appendix-VII)
- Note II:** All project-specific provisions in this RFQ have been enclosed in square parenthesis and may be modified, as necessary, before issuing the RFQ to prospective Applicants. The square parenthesis should be removed after carrying out the required modification. (See Appendix-VII)
- Note III:** The asterisks in this RFQ should be substituted by project-specific particulars before issuing the RFQ to prospective Applicants. (See Appendix-VII)
- Note IV:** Notes I, II, III and IV shall be omitted prior to issue of this RFQ.

2 If public sector companies are to be allowed to Bid, this Clause may be modified accordingly

- 1.1.2 The selected Bidder, who is either a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956/2013 or undertakes to incorporate as such prior to execution of the concession agreement (the “SPD”) 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] Power Purchase Agreement (the “PPA”) to be entered into between the selected SPD and the Railways in the form provided by the Railways as part of the Bidding Documents pursuant hereto.
- 1.1.3 The scope of work will broadly include [Design, Build, Finance, Operation and long – term maintenance and transfer of Roof-mounted solar PV projects at selected locations of railways] and the supply of electricity to Railways under long-term fixed rate PPA.
- 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 Railways 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 Railways, 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 Railways has adopted a two-stage bidding 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 Railways a sum of Rs. **10,000 (Rupees ten thousand)** as the cost of the RFQ process. At the end of this stage, Railways expects to announce a shortlist of 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 disinvestment. These guidelines shall apply mutatis mutandis to this Bidding Process. The Railways 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 Railways shall be invited to submit their Bids for the Project. The Railways 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 familiarize 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 Railways (collectively the “**Bidding Documents**”). The Bidding Documents for the Project will be provided to every Bidder on payment of a process fee for RFP which will be about four times the amount specified in Clause 1.2.1. 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 2% (Two per cent)<sup>6</sup> 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 Power Purchase Agreement. The Bidders will have an option to provide Bid Security in the form of a demand draft or a bank guarantee acceptable to Railways<sup>5</sup>. In case a bank guarantee is provided, its validity period 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 Railways and the Bidder from time to time. Where a demand draft is provided, its validity shall not be less than 80 (eighty) days from the Bid Due Date for the purposes of encashment thereof by Railways. The Bid shall be summarily rejected if it is not accompanied by the Bid Security.

1.2.5 The Bidder with lowest tariff quoted at RFP stage shall be the selected Bidder.

1.2.6 During the Bid Stage, Applicants 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, Railways will provide a draft Power Purchase Agreement and other information available pertaining/ relevant to the Project available with it.

1.2.8 Bids will be invited for the Project on the basis of the tariff bid and fixed for a period of 25 years by Railways. The Project shall be awarded to the Bidder quoting the lowest fixed tariff to Railways with no escalation clause fixed for 25 years.

1.2.9 Details of the process to be followed at the Bid Stage and the terms thereof will be spelt out in the Bidding Documents.

1.2.10 Any queries or request for additional information concerning this RFQ shall be submitted in writing by speed post/ courier/ special messenger and by e-mail so as to reach the officer designated in mentioned below by the specified date. The envelopes/ communications shall clearly bear the following identification/ title:

1.2.11 Queries/ Request for Additional Information: RFQ for “Installation of on-grid Solar plant of total capacity 225 KWp through Solar Power Developer (SPD) under PPP model (phase-II)”

Nature of work with its location : “Installation of 225KWp on-grid (without battery backup) rooftop /shed -top Solar plant at Pakur under PPP model (Phase-II).”

“Project”. May be send to address of “Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer /Genl ./Howrah, Eastern Railway ,DRM Building, ,Howrah Railway Station, Howrah, West Bengal – 711101.

E-mail: [srdeeghwhoffice@yahoo.in](mailto:srdeeghwhoffice@yahoo.in)

### 1.3 Schedule of Bidding Process

The Railways shall endeavor to adhere to the following schedule:

#### Event Description

“Installation of on-grid Solar plant of total capacity 225 KWp through Solar Power Developer (SPD) under PPP model (phase-II)”

Nature of work with its location : “Installation of 225KWp on-grid (without battery backup) rooftop /shed -top Solar plant at Pakur under PPP model (Phase-II).”

**Date of publication of RFQ: 20/12/2022**

	<u>Qualification Stage</u>	
1.	Last date for receiving queries	<b>04/01/2023</b>

2.	Railways response to queries latest by	<b>10/01/2023</b>
3.	Application Due Date	<b>19/01/2023</b>
4.	Announcement of short-list	<b>Within 30 days of Application Due Date</b>

	<u>Bid Stage</u>	<b>Estimated Date</b>
1.	Sale of Bid Documents	Qualifier Bidder shall be purchased RFP Document from this office after short listing
2.	Last date for receiving queries	[10 days from the date of RFP
3.	Railways response to queries latest by	25 days from the date of RFP
4.	Bid Due Date	30 days from the date of RFP
5.	Opening of Bids	On Bid Due Date
7.	Validity of Bids	120 days from the date of RFP

## 1.4 ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer /Genl ./Howrah, Eastern Railway ,DRM Building, ,Howrah Railway Station, Howrah, West Bengal – 711101.

E-mail: [srdeeghwhoffice@yahoo.in](mailto:srdeeghwhoffice@yahoo.in)

**(M-9002022300 between 11.00 to 16.00 only on working day. Meet personally if required)**

**NOTE:**The applicant should sign on all the pages of Request for qualification (RFQ) booklet.

**RFQ document should be submitted last date in Tender Box by 13.30 hrs on 19/01/2023 , which will be available at the office of “Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer /Genl /Howrah, Eastern Railway ,DRM Building, Howrah Railway Station, Howrah, West Bengal – 711101.”**

## 2. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

### GENERAL

#### 2.1 Scope of Application

- 2.1.1 The Railways 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