

Corrigendum II

RFP for selection of Independent Engineer for BharatNet Phase-III Project (Amended Bharatnet Program) in the State of Gujarat under GFGNL

(Tender No. 340973)

(Notice No: GFGNL/GFG/e-file/263/2026/0129/Independent Engineer (IE))

22nd September 2026



Issued By:

Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL)

A Government of Gujarat Company

Block No: 6, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar 382010

v)FACT SHEET

#	Particular	Details
9.	Last date for submission of Bid/proposal	16/09/2026 23/09/2026 06/10/2026 at 06:10 pm
10.	Submission of Integrity Pact, EMD, RFP Document Fee and Letter of Authorization	Within 4 working days from the Date of submission of online bid dates in working hours (till 06:10pm) Address: Chief Finance Officer(CFO), Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited Block No: 6, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar 382010 in event of particular ask of submitting physical copy then logical portion of the bid should be appropriate in the respective sealed cover for maintaining confidentiality.

Pre bid Query Answers:

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
1	Fact Sheet	Sr. No. 6 & 7 (Fact Sheet); Cl. 5.3	Timeline for pre-bid queries (08/09/2026) and Bid Submission (16/09/2026)	The window between the pre-bid query deadline and Bid Submission Date is only 8 days, which does not allow adequate time to receive GFGNL's clarifications and incorporate them into the technical and financial bid, particularly for clarifications requiring reconciliation of manpower/payment figures (see Queries 4, 5 and 7 below). We respectfully request GFGNL to extend the Bid Submission Date by two (2) weeks, i.e. up to 30/09/2026, to allow bidders sufficient time to factor in the Authority's responses.	As per RFP
2	Section-4, Eligibility Criteria	Cl. 4.2, Pre-Qualification Criteria, Item 12 (Relationship/Conflict of Interest), read with Definitions Item 14 (PIA) and Cl. 2.2 (Objective of BharatNet Phase-III)	Conflict of interest — scope of 'PIA' across Phase-I/II/III	The RFP's Definitions section (Item 14) defines 'PIA/Project Implementation Agency' as spanning Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III, and Cl. 2.2 states that the Amended BharatNet Phase-III Program 'encompasses the integration, expansion and technological upgrade of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II networks.' Cl. 2.1.1 separately records that BharatNet Phase-I in Gujarat was executed under an 'Executive Agency' model. We request GFGNL to clarify whether an entity that held the Executive Agency/Implementation role for BharatNet Phase-I in Gujarat, but is not participating as PIA or PIA-consortium-partner in the ongoing Phase-III PIA tender (Tender No. GFGNL/GFG/e-file/263/2026/0070), is excluded	As the clause clearly stated that bidder or any member of consortium shall not be part of Amended Bharatnet program which is PH-III, PIA of PH-I and PH-II do not have any conflict of interest.

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				from the conflict-of-interest restriction at Cl. 4.2, Item 12 for the purpose of this IE tender.	
3	Fact Sheet & Section-4	Fact Sheet — Contract Duration; Cl. 4.39.1 and Cl. 4.39.2	Discrepancy in stated Contract Duration (3 years) vs. O&M payment period (7 years)	The Fact Sheet states the Contract Duration as 3 (three) years, and Cl. 4.39.1 refers to the financial bid as covering a 'construction period of 3 years.' However, Cl. 4.39.2 states that the O&M Payment shall be 'equally divided into 4 quarters of 7 (seven) years till the end of BharatNet Ph-III.' We request GFGNL to clarify the actual total Contract Duration (construction + O&M) and reconcile this inconsistency, as it has a direct and material bearing on manpower deployment planning and financial bid pricing.	Clause no 4.39.2 stands deleted
4	Section-3, Scope of Work	Cl. 3.1 (Item 1.1, Total Sub-Blocks = 638) and Cl. 3.4, Resource Requirement Table (Field Technician — '1 per two block') and Cl. 3.4 Count Table / Section-7 Financial Bid	Discrepancy between ratio-based and fixed Field Technician deployment quantity	Cl. 3.4's Resource Requirement Table prescribes Field Technician deployment at a minimum ratio of 1 per two blocks. Applied to the state-wide Sub-Block count of 638 (Cl. 3.1, Item 1.1), this ratio yields approximately 319 Field Technicians. However, the Count table at the end of Cl. 3.4 (also carried into the Section-7 Financial Bid Format) states a fixed Field Technician quantity of 135 — a variance of nearly 2.4x. As this materially affects commercial bid pricing, we request GFGNL to confirm which figure — the stated ratio or the	As per the administrative records. The prescribed manpower ratio of 1:2 Blocks has been determined considering overall project management requirements. The requirement represents the minimum deployment considered necessary by the GFGNL and has been finalized

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		Format (Field Technician = 135)		fixed quantity of 135 — governs the minimum Field Technician deployment requirement, and to correct the RFP accordingly.	based on operational assessment.
5	Section-3, Scope of Work	Cl. 3.4, Resource Requirement Table (Team Lead — '1 per two Zone') and Cl. 3.4 Count Table (Team Lead = 3)	Discrepancy between ratio-based and fixed Team Lead deployment quantity	Applying the stated ratio of 1 Team Lead per two Zones to the state's 4 Zones (Vadodara, Surat, Ahmedabad and Rajkot, per Cl. 2.1.2) yields 2 Team Leads, whereas the Count table at Cl. 3.4 and the Roles & Responsibilities Matrix state a fixed requirement of 3 Team Leads. We request GFGNL to clarify and correct this discrepancy, consistent with our request at Query 4 above.	As per ABP(PH-III) RFP of GFGNL, there shall be six zones. Considering said count of zones, Count of TL has been derived.
6	Section-3, Scope of Work	Cl. 3.4(g) and Cl. 3.4(i)	Manpower deployment flexibility — proportionate scale-down during PIA delay/inactivity	Cl. 3.4(g) provides that IE field resource deployment 'will be in response to and in sync with the project execution and mobilization plan of the PIA.' Cl. 3.4(i), however, only expressly empowers GFGNL to increase manpower at any stage; it does not provide a corresponding mechanism for the IE to proportionately redeploy or scale down field manpower (Network Engineers/Field Technicians) during periods where the PIA's execution pace is slower than planned, or in blocks where PIA work has not yet commenced. We request GFGNL to	Pls see revision clause 3.4--> h. Any reduction or redeployment of manpower shall be undertaken only with prior approval/intimation of GFGNL. The IE shall maintain adequate resources to meet the required timelines for inspection, verification, monitoring and reporting activities whenever called

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				confirm that field manpower may be proportionately redeployed/scaled in line with actual PIA progress without this being construed as non-compliance, and that no penalty under Cl. 6.3, Item 12 (Absence of field staff) shall apply where the IE's field strength is aligned to a slower PIA execution pace intimated by GFGNL under Cl. 3.4(g).	upon by GFGNL. 2. Penalty provisions under Clause 6.3, Item 12 shall not be applicable solely on account of reduced field deployment in locations where project activities have not commenced or have been formally deferred by GFGNL/PIA, provided such deployment pattern is in accordance with the approved resource plan and does not adversely impact the performance of IE obligations under the Contract. In all other cases, the provisions of the RFP shall apply.
7	Section-5, Payment Terms	Cl. 4.39.1, Payment Schedule (Items 1-15) and Note below the table ('The advance shall be adjusted in the invoices submitted for the	Payment milestones effectively totalling only 90% of Award Price, net of the recoverable Mobilization Advance	The payment schedule at Cl. 4.39.1 lists 15 line items nominally summing to 100% of Award Price, comprising the Mobilization Advance (10%, Item 1) and 14 further items (cumulatively 90%, Items 2-15). However, the Note to the table states that the Mobilization Advance 'shall be adjusted in the invoices submitted for the project (not O&M) after completion of 2nd milestone' — i.e., the 10% advance is a recoverable loan, deducted from the	Pls see revision for Adjustment of mobilization advance

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		project (not O&M) after completion of 2nd milestone...')		payments otherwise due against Items 2-13, and is not additional/incremental consideration. On this reading, the IE's genuine earned fee, net of the recoverable advance, totals only 90% of Award Price (Items 2-15), with the Mobilization Advance functioning purely as a cash-flow/timing mechanism. We request GFGNL to confirm whether this reading is correct, and if so, to either (i) restructure the Mobilization Advance as an amount over and above the 100% value represented by Items 2-15 (i.e., a true advance, recoverable against future invoices but not reducing the IE's total entitlement below 100% of Award Price for the Project Phase), or (ii) confirm that the IE's total entitlement for the Project Phase is intended to be 90% (not 100%) of Award Price, so this may be correctly factored into the financial bid.	
8	Section-5, Payment Terms	Cl. 4.39.1, Payment Schedule (Mobilization Advance 10%; balance milestones linked to PIA-dependent activity)	Request for assured periodic payment de-linked from PIA execution pace	Beyond the Mobilization Advance, all further payment milestones under Cl. 4.39.1 are contingent on the PIA's pace of execution (HOTO, RKM verification, Acceptance Testing, O&M) — a factor outside the IE's control. As the IE is required to sustain dedicated manpower and digital tools/platforms (Cl. 3.4(a)) for the full Contract Duration regardless of PIA's pace, we request GFGNL to consider structuring a portion of the Award Price (e.g. 20-30%) as an assured periodic	As per RFP

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				(monthly/quarterly) payment, de-linked from PIA milestone achievement, to support the IE's uninterrupted resource deployment obligation.	
9	Section-3, Scope of Work	Cl. 3.4, Resource Requirement Table — Project Director and Project Manager ('must be a permanent staff of the Sole bidder or Lead Bidder of the consortium')	Flexibility to source Project Director / Project Manager from a Consortium Partner	We acknowledge and support GFGNL's intent of ensuring PSU-level accountability for these key roles. However, specialised technical domain expertise for an assignment of this nature typically resides with the Lead Bidder's technical/consortium partner. We request GFGNL to consider permitting the Project Director and/or Project Manager to be sourced from a Consortium Partner as well, with the Lead Bidder continuing to bear full contractual responsibility and accountability, so as to enable deployment of the deepest available domain expertise within the consortium.	As per RFP
10	Section-6, SLA/KPI	Cl. 6.3(e)/(f) (LD capped at 12% of Award Cost) and 'Discrepancy penalty' table note ('...over and above the cap limit of LD/penalties')	Uncapped exposure under Discrepancy Penalty, outside the overall LD cap	Cl. 6.3(f) caps overall Liquidated Damages at a maximum of 12% of the Award Cost. However, the Discrepancy Penalty table note explicitly states that discrepancy penalties (0.1% of order value for the first incidence, 0.5% for second and subsequent incidences) are levied 'over and above the cap limit of LD/penalties' — i.e., outside and in addition to the 12% cap, with no stated ceiling. We request GFGNL to either bring the Discrepancy	As per RFP

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				Penalty within the overall 12% LD cap, or to specify a distinct maximum cap applicable to cumulative discrepancy penalties, so as to provide bidders financial predictability while pricing this risk into the commercial bid.	
11	Section-3, Scope of Work	Cl. 3.1, Note below Item 1.3 ('figures provided above are for indicative purposes only... may vary')	Mechanism for scope/contract value adjustment on material variance in GP/Sub-Block count	The RFP states that the Sub-Block and GP quantities at Cl. 3.1 (on which the Financial Bid and manpower deployment are based) are indicative and may vary due to changes in geopolitical boundaries, field counts or other factors. We request GFGNL to specify a defined variance threshold (e.g. $\pm 10\%$) beyond which the Contract Value and corresponding manpower deployment (Cl. 3.4) shall be proportionately adjusted, to avoid open-ended scope risk to the IE.	As per RFP
12	Section 3	Manpower / Scope of Work	Additional Manpower	The RFP prescribes minimum manpower and also provides that the IE may increase manpower to meet timelines. Kindly clarify whether additional manpower required due to increase in project locations, work volume, inspection requirements or accelerated timelines shall be reimbursed separately. It is requested that manpower deployed beyond the prescribed minimum be paid separately at mutually agreed rates.	Pls refer Clause no 3.4--> i. The Manpower requirement is the minimum. In case the Manpower requirement may increase, Rate discovered in this RFP shall be considered for respective manpower.

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13	Section 3	Manpower Deployment	Deployment Requirement	Kindly clarify whether the prescribed manpower is required to be deployed continuously throughout the complete 3-year contract period irrespective of actual work volume, or whether deployment can be optimized based on project requirements. It is requested that manpower deployment be reviewed periodically based on actual workload and mutually agreed requirements.	Pls see revision clause 3.4--> K. Any reduction or redeployment of manpower shall be undertaken only with prior approval/intimation of GFGNL. The IE shall maintain adequate resources to meet the required timelines for inspection, verification, monitoring and reporting activities whenever called upon by GFGNL.
14	Section 7	Price / Contract Period	Price Escalation	The contract period is 3 years and prices are stated to be firm/non-adjustable. In view of statutory wage revisions, inflation and increase in operational costs during the contract period, kindly clarify whether escalation is permissible.	As per RFP
15	Section 3 / Section 7	Scope / Financial Bid	Increase in Project Scope / Quantity/Timeline	In case the number of GPs/sites/routes or project activities increases substantially from the quantities considered at the bidding stage. Also whole work timeline is dependent on PIA, in case PIA default or take time beyond stipulated timeline of 3 years. Then, kindly clarify the mechanism for revision of IE fees and manpower for extended timeline & extra project scope. It is requested that if project workload or timeline increases beyond a defined threshold, the IE fee/manpower	Pls refer revised clause no 5.46.

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				requirement may be reviewed and revised proportionately.	
16	Section 2 / Contract Duration	Contract Duration / Extension	Contract Extension at Revised Rates	The contract is for 3 years and may be extended on mutual consent. Since manpower and operational costs may increase substantially during/after the initial term, kindly clarify whether the discovered price will remain unchanged during extension. It is requested that any extension be considered at mutually agreed/revised rates taking into account prevailing manpower costs, inflation and statutory revisions.	Pls refer preceding response.
17	Section 7	Taxes / GST	Change in Statutory Taxes and Levies	Kindly clarify the treatment of any increase/decrease in statutory taxes, levies, cess or government-mandated contributions during the contract period. It is requested that any change in statutory taxes or government levies after the bid submission date be reimbursed/adjusted separately, as applicable.	Pls refer Clause No 5.49
18	Section 3	3.3 – Item 1, Handover/Takeover	Dispute between Existing PIA/O&M Agency and New PIA during Phase-I & Phase-II Handover	The RFP requires the IE to scrutinize/verify the handed-over network details and address issues between the existing PIA/O&M agencies and the new PIA, including cases of material mismatch. Kindly clarify the procedure for resolution where the existing PIA/O&M agency and the new PIA disagree on asset inventory, condition of assets,	As per RFP

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				missing materials, pre-existing defects, restoration status or responsibility for such defects. It is requested that a jointly recorded handover/takeover inventory and condition report, acknowledged by GFGNL and the concerned parties, be treated as the baseline. The IE should not be held responsible for pre-existing defects, shortages or disputes attributable to the existing network prior to formal handover.	
19	Section 3 / Section 8	Clause: 3.3 – Item 1 & Item 15 / 8.19	Responsibility and Liability during Transition / Dispute Resolution	During transition of the existing Phase-I & Phase-II network from the existing PIA/O&M agency to the new PIA, disputes may arise regarding O&M responsibility, network outages, pending faults, SLA breaches, penalties and restoration of legacy assets. Kindly clarify the demarcation of responsibility and liability during the transition period. It is requested that responsibility for pre-handover faults, historical SLA performance and legacy deficiencies remain with the existing PIA/O&M agency, while the new PIA assumes responsibility only from the formally agreed handover date. Any unresolved matter may be referred to the prescribed DRC/DAB mechanism and should not result in adverse liability on the IE.	As per RFP

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20	-	7 of Fact Sheet / Pg. 11	Pre-Bid Conference – Video Conference Participation//The RFP specifies the date, time and venue of the pre-bid conference.	Kindly permit participation through video conference for bidders unable to attend physically and share the VC link and joining instructions in advance.	No clarification expected
21	-	13 of Fact Sheet / Pg. 12; Clause 1.3 / Section-1 / Pg. 16	Physical submission of EMD / Tender Fee / Integrity Pact / Authorization//The RFP contains requirements for original/physical documents at different stages.	For uniform compliance, kindly confirm the exact date and time by which the original EMD/bid security and other physically required documents must reach GFGNL, and clarify which provision will prevail in case of inconsistency.	Pls refer Factsheet Sr No 13

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22	3	Sl. 4 of Clause 3.3 / Pg. 35	Inspection of materials by the IE//The IE scope includes inspection/acceptance activities, while QA/factory testing appears to be separately addressed.	Kindly confirm whether IE responsibility is limited to site-level verification/SAT after prescribed QA and factory testing by the agency designated by GFGNL, and clarify the extent of any duplicate testing expected from the IE.	As per Cl 3.3 Detailed scope of work--> Material inspection clause-->IE shall be responsible for all material inspection at factory and field including all active and passive infrastructure, radio, etc.)materials, before supply at site.
23	3	Sl. 16 of Clause 3.3 / Pg. 35	Quality Assurance and acceptance testing//The RFP refers to QA, FAT and acceptance activities at different stages.	Kindly clarify the division of responsibility between the QA/testing agency and IE for factory tests, constructed-work tests and final/site acceptance tests, so that the same activity is not assessed twice.	Pls refer preceding response.

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24	3	Relevant timeline clauses / Section 3	Computation of timelines//IE activities are linked to specified turnaround periods and project milestones.	Kindly clarify that the date of submission of a proposal/request is not counted as Day-1. Also confirm whether Sundays, notified public holidays and days when GFGNL offices are officially closed are excluded where the timeline depends on GFGNL action/approval.	As per the RFP, it is clearly stated working days so Sunday or holiday shall not be considered.
25	3	Relevant inspection/audit provisions	Inspection and audit through Central NOC / S-NOC//The RFP envisages network inspection and audit activities.	Kindly clarify whether these activities are to be performed centrally from the S-NOC/C-NOC environment or whether routine physical field inspection is also mandatory for each activity, and specify the responsibility split.	Pls see revision for inspection from S-NOC instead of C-NOC. However Field manpower shall perform the inspection and audit activities of field as per Scope of work.

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26	4	Resource requirement / Key Personnel	Requirement that Project Director and Project Manager be permanent employees//The RFP uses the expression "permanent staff" for key personnel.	We request deletion of the word "permanent" and permission for qualified personnel available on the bidder's payroll/engagement at deployment, subject to prescribed qualifications and experience. This would improve competition without reducing technical safeguards.	As per RFP
27	4	Company Turnover / MSE provisions	Applicability of turnover relaxation to consortium members//The RFP prescribes turnover thresholds for consortium members in addition to the lead member.	Kindly clarify whether applicable Government/MSME turnover and eligibility relaxations are available to an eligible MSE consortium member and expressly incorporate the position in the eligibility table.	Pls see revision for Eligibility criteria no 2 Company Turnover.

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28	4	Technical Qualification Criteria	Key personnel eligibility and employment condition//The technical criteria prescribe specific deployment arrangements for key personnel.	Kindly reconsider the requirement that specified personnel must be “permanent” employees and permit suitably qualified and experienced professionals engaged/available with the bidder for deployment. Relevant IE, audit, acceptance testing and project-management experience should remain the principal consideration.	Pls see preceding response
29	3	Scope of Work – Last Mile Connectivity	IE responsibility for last-mile connectivity//The underlying PIA scope appears to contemplate last-mile connectivity, while the IE RFP does not separately identify corresponding IE deliverables, KPIs, payment mechanism and penalties.	Kindly clarify whether last-mile connectivity forms part of the IE contractual scope. If yes, please specify activities, measurable deliverables/KPIs, inspection/acceptance methodology, timelines, payment basis and applicable penalty/liquidated-damages provisions.	As per RFP

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30	5	Financial Bid / Price Schedule	Pricing of complete IE services//The IE scope covers manpower, project management, inspection, audit, reporting and other professional activities over the contract period.	Kindly revise the financial schedule to enable bidders to quote for the complete IE scope and associated activities, rather than pricing only the manpower component, and provide a comprehensive price schedule.	As per RFP
31	4	Clause 4.2(V), Item 2 – Company Turnover / Pg. 66	Removal of separate INR 25 Crore annual turnover requirement for Consortium Partner//The RFP requires cumulative consortium turnover of INR 100 Crore, with INR 50 Crore average annual turnover for the Lead Member and INR 25 Crore average annual turnover for the Consortium Partner for FY 2023-24, FY	We respectfully request deletion of the separate INR 25 Crore minimum average annual turnover condition for the Consortium Partner. IE assignments are professional/technical services and are materially different from the underlying network implementation contract. Many IE/consultancy assignments may be approximately INR 15–20 Crore and may run for four years or more; hence a specialist IE organisation may have strong relevant experience without annual turnover of INR 25 Crore. Since the Lead Member already demonstrates INR 50 Crore average annual turnover and the consortium is required to meet INR 100 Crore cumulatively, we request that the Consortium Partner be assessed through relevant experience, technical capability, positive net worth and other applicable credentials rather than a separate INR 25 Crore turnover threshold. We	Pls see revision for Eligibility criteria no 2 Company Turnover.

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			2024-25 and FY 2025-26.	further request alignment with the approach adopted in comparable IE procurements, including the ABP IE tender and the recently floated APSFL tender, to avoid unnecessarily restricting participation by experienced specialist IE organisations.	
32	NIL	S.N.13 of fact sheet / Pg. 12	Submission of Integrity Pact, EMD, RFP Document Fee and Letter of Authorization - //Submission of Integrity Pact, EMD, RFP Document Fee and Letter of Authorization -	As per Clause 1.3 / 4 of Section-1 (Pg. 16), the "Bid Security must be delivered to the office of Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited on or before the last date and time of submission of the bid." Thus, these two conditions are contradicting each other. Kindly clarify, when the physical copy of the bid security / EMD and other documents are to be submitted to GFGNL.	Pls see revision Clause 1.3 / 4 of Section-1

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33	3	Cl.3.3 / Pg 35	Material Inspection// (a) IE shall be responsible for all material inspection at factory and field including all active and passive infrastructure, radio, etc.)/ materials, before supply at site and shall update the same in PM tool. (b) IE will counter-sign on the material receipt form/ Delivery Challan for material and shall update the same in PM tool (c) In case material delivered by PIA is found to be faulty, IE shall immediately notify GFGNL & PIA about rejection of the partial/ complete delivery of material by PIA	We understand that the scope of IE is limited to Site Acceptance Testing (SAT) of material after QA / factory testing is done by Separate Agency onboarded by GFGNL separately for QA Testing / factory testing. Please refer to clause 5.2 XII(d) at pg 131 of Revised RFP for selection of PIA. Kindly clarify.	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
34	3	Cl.3.3 / Pg 49	Tests for Quality Assurance/(a) For determining the conformity of Development Works and/ or the Upgradation Works and/ or the O&M works to the Agreement and Specifications and Standards, the Independent Engineer shall require the PIA to carry out or cause to be carried out tests, at such time and frequency as may be specified by the Independent Engineer from time to time in accordance with Good Industry Practice for quality assurance. The Independent	We understand Test for Quality Assurance will be done in the Factory and the quality of constructed work is covered under Acceptance Testing. Which is covered at Sl. 8 of this clause. Kindly clarify.	As per RFP

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			Engineer shall prepare the test report and shall submit same to GFGNL. (b) In the event that results of any tests conducted, establish any defects or deficiencies in the Development Works and/or the Upgradation Works and/or the O&M works, the PIA shall carry out remedial measures within 30 days and furnish a report to the Independent engineer in this regard. The Independent Engineer shall verify that such remedial measures have brought the development works and/or the		

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			upgradation works and/or O&M works into compliance with specifications and standards and the procedure shall be repeated until such development Works and/or the upgradation works and/or O&M works conform to the specifications.		
35	3	Cl.3.3 / Pages 29 to 54	Timelines under Scope of work for completion of activities//Timelines under Scope of work for completion of activities	a) We request GFGNL to exclude the day of submission of proposal by PIA for counting the timelines period , as the information may be submitted by PIA/ GFGNL even after closing hours. b) We understand that working will exclude weekly off and Holidays as observed by GFGNL. Please clarify.	Pls see preceding response

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36	3	Cl.3.3 / Pg 51	Inspection and Audit from Central NOC (C-NOC)/(a) IE shall leverage C-NOC applications to review and assess applicable penalties for non-compliance to Service Level Agreement (SLAs) and Quality of Service (QoS) parameters for PIA. (b) IE shall be responsible to validate Key performance Indicator (KPIs) as per agreement between PIA and GFGNL and evaluate the applicable penalties at C-NOC. (c) IE shall be responsible to validate accurate details of PIAs activities such as	We understand that the inspection/ Audit will be done by IE from S-NOC only. Kindly clarify.	Pls see preceding response

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			installation, integration, acceptance of GPs and completion of blocks(sub-blocks, master blocks) and upload relevant document at C-NOC. (d) IE shall validate the uploaded video recording and snapshot with measurement book by PIA during the implementation of OFC and installation of equipments at GPs and blocks(Sub-Blocks, Master Blocks). (e) IE shall verify/ validate Measurement Book of PIA for all activities getting updated at C-NOC. After verification of measurement book at C-NOC. (f) IE shall		

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			be responsible to upload OTDR & LSPM reports of OFC which is completed during Acceptance Testing. (g) IE shall validate the project progress using the Project Monitoring (PM) tool to authenticate invoices for PIA work. (h) IE shall be required to collaborate with PIA to ensure the block-wise updation of GIS data (as and when required) at C-NOC.		

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37	3	Cl 3.4 / Pg 60 / Sl.No.1 & 2	Resource requirement table //Project Director must be a permanent staff of the Sole bidder or Lead Bidder of the consortium and should be deployed within 15 days of Appointed Date. Project Manager must be a permanent staff of the Sole bidder or Lead Bidder of the consortium and should be deployed within 15 days of Appointed Date.	As per Sl. No. 1 & 2 of table (in page 60), Project Director and Project manager must be a permanent staff of the Sole bidder or Lead Bidder of the consortium and the Sole Bidder or Lead member of the Consortium. As per RFP the Sole bidder or Lead bidder should be a CPSE or State PSU. But, as per instruction of Govt. , there is a ban on recruitment of permanent staff by CPSEs. We therefore request GFGNL to delete the word " permanent" from this clause and the clause may please be reframed as below: "Project Director and Project manager must be a staff of the Sole bidder or Lead Bidder of the consortium as mentioned in Clause 3.4 of Section 3 and the staff must be on company payroll for 1+ year before Sept. 2026"	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
38	4	Cl.4.2 / Pg 66 / S.N.2	Company Turnover//For Consortium Bidders: Cumulative turnover of Rs 100Cr (The Lead Member of the Consortium shall have an average annual turnover of minimum INR 50 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. And Consortium Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 25 Crore during the same period.	GFGNL has not given any relaxation for Micro and Small Enterprises or Startup. In this regard, we would like to bring to your kind notice that as per Policy Circular No. 1(2)(1)/2016-MA dated 10.03.2016 (copy enclosed) from Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, relaxation of condition of prior turnover in all public procurements is admissible for Micro and Small Enterprises. In view of the above, we request GFGNL to relax the turnover criteria for MSE Consortium Partner.	Pls see revision for Eligibility criteria no 2 Company Turnover.
39	4	Cl.4.3/ Pg 72/S.N.4	Technical Qualification Criteria//Average number of permanent staff	a) We request GFGNL delete the word "Permanent" from this clause. b) PD and PM from Lead Bidder & NE from Consortium Partner. We request GFGNL to delete this clause inline with	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
				BSNL's latest Tender Enquiry No. MM/BN-OPN/IE/T-877/2026 issued on 20.04.2026.	
40	3 & 6	Cl. Nos.3.2,3.3, 6.3 & 5.52	Last mile connectivity//Scope of work, KPI and Penalty Payment pertaining to LMC	From the RFP of PIA, it appears that the work related to Last mile connected is also in the Scope of the IE. But, there is no mention of last mile connected work in the RFP of IE, particularly under Scope of Work, KPI, penalty , Payment etc. In view of this, kindly clarify, the Scope of Work, KPI, penalty , Payment etc. pertaining to the Last Mile connectivity.	As per RFP
41	7	Page no.126	Financial Bid//Financial Bid	The scope of work includes provision of manpower, Project management activities, inspection, audit and all other activities as per the RFP for a period of 3 years. GFGNL has also asked to post one senior officer in its office for co-ordination activities. But the Financial Bid Format has provision to quoted for manpower only. GFGNL is request to modify the format appropriately by asking a quotation for entire services / activities inline with BSNL RFP for IE.	As per RFP
42	Pre-Bid Conference	-	Participation through Video Conferencing	Kindly confirm whether bidders who are unable to attend the pre-bid meeting physically at Gandhinagar will be permitted to participate through an online/video-conferencing facility. If	No clarification expected

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
				available, kindly share the meeting link and joining instructions.	
43	Instructions to Bidders / Submission Requirements	-	Clarification regarding physical submission of EMD, Integrity Pact, Tender Fee and Authorisation Documents	Certain provisions appear to require physical submission of documents/instruments, whereas the bid is otherwise being processed electronically. Kindly clarify the exact documents that are required to be submitted physically, the prescribed mode of submission, the deadline applicable for such documents, and whether scanned copies uploaded with the online bid will be sufficient wherever specifically permitted.	Pls see preceding response
44	Inspection / Testing / Acceptance	-	Material Inspection after completion of Factory/QA Testing	Where the relevant equipment/material has already undergone prescribed QA, factory testing or FAT at the manufacturer's premises, kindly clarify whether a separate inspection by the IE at the time of material receipt/site delivery is envisaged. If so, please specify the scope, extent and responsibility of such inspection and whether it is intended to constitute an additional acceptance test.	Pls refer detailed Scope of work 3.3 --> Material inspection
45	Testing & Acceptance	-	Delineation of IE responsibility for QA, FAT, SAT and final acceptance	Kindly provide a clear demarcation of responsibilities between the IE, implementing agency/contractor and GFGNL for QA inspection, FAT, site acceptance testing, commissioning verification and final acceptance. This will help avoid duplication of testing activities and ensure that the IE's role remains limited to independent	Pls refer preceding response.

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
				verification and certification as envisaged under the contract.	
46	Project Schedule / Contract Period	-	Basis for calculation of timelines	Kindly clarify the method to be adopted for computation of the various timelines specified in the RFP/contract. In particular, please confirm whether the date of receipt of a document/instruction is excluded while calculating the response period. It is also requested that weekly holidays and notified public holidays may be excluded wherever the stipulated period relates to activities requiring action by the IE/GFGNL/contractor.	Pls refer preceding response.
47	Inspection & Monitoring	-	Inspection through Central NOC / State NOC	Kindly clarify whether the IE will be permitted to carry out monitoring, inspection and verification activities using data, alerts, logs and other information available through the Central NOC and/or State NOC. Such a mechanism would enable remote monitoring and help reduce unnecessary physical visits while maintaining effective oversight of the project.	Pls refer preceding response.
48	Resource Requirement	-	Rationalisation of mandatory permanent employment condition for Project	The RFP specifies stringent manpower conditions for key positions, including the requirement relating to permanent employment. Considering the specialised nature of the IE assignment, kindly consider permitting suitably qualified and experienced professionals who are formally	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
			Director / Project Manager	engaged/associated with the bidder and are available for deployment on the project. This would provide greater flexibility without compromising the required expertise or accountability.	
49	Financial Eligibility / Consortium	-	Relaxation of turnover requirement for MSE Consortium Partner	Kindly clarify whether the prescribed turnover requirement for a consortium partner can be relaxed in case the consortium partner is a registered Micro or Small Enterprise (MSE). Considering the Government's objective of encouraging participation of MSEs in public procurement, suitable relaxation may kindly be incorporated for eligible MSE consortium partners.	Pls see revision for Eligibility criteria no 2 Company Turnover.
50	Technical Qualification / Key Personnel	-	Removal of "Permanent Employee" restriction for proposed personnel	The eligibility requirements relating to key personnel may kindly be revised so that qualification and relevant experience remain the principal criteria rather than the employment status of the individual. A suitably qualified professional engaged/associated with the bidder and committed to the project should be considered eligible, subject to fulfilment of all technical requirements. This will broaden participation without affecting the quality of the IE team.	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
51	Last Mile Connectivity / Scope of IE	-	Clarification of last-mile connectivity scope, KPIs and commercial consequences	Kindly provide detailed clarification on the extent of the IE's responsibility in relation to last-mile connectivity. In particular, please clarify the applicable KPIs, measurable deliverables, inspection/certification mechanism, payment linkage and circumstances under which any penalty or deduction may become applicable to the IE. The responsibilities of the IE should be clearly distinguished from those of the implementing agency/contractor.	As per RFP
52	Financial Bid	-	Quotation for complete IE scope of services	Kindly clarify that the financial bid is required to cover the entire scope of Independent Engineer services specified in the RFP, including all associated professional, inspection, monitoring, reporting and certification activities, rather than being limited merely to the cost of deployment of manpower. A clear financial bid format covering the complete IE assignment would avoid ambiguity during commercial evaluation and contract execution.	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
53	Consortium Eligibility / Financial Qualification	-	Deletion of minimum ₹25 Crore turnover criterion for Consortium Partner	The RFP requires the Lead Member to have an average annual turnover of 50 Crore and also specifies a cumulative consortium turnover requirement of 100 Crore. In addition, a separate minimum average annual turnover of 25 Crore has been prescribed for the Consortium Partner. We request that this additional condition be deleted. Independent Engineer assignments are specialised professional engagements, and individual IE contracts can often have values in the range of 15–20 Crore while extending over four years or more. Consequently, a specialised IE organisation may possess substantial relevant experience and technical capability but may not satisfy a 25 Crore annual turnover threshold. Since the Lead Member already demonstrates the required financial strength and the consortium is subject to an overall turnover criterion, the additional turnover condition for the partner may unnecessarily restrict participation by experienced specialist IE firms. We therefore request GFGNL to permit consortium partners to qualify on the basis of relevant IE experience, technical capability and manpower, without insisting upon the separate 25 Crore turnover threshold.	Pls see revision for Eligibility criteria no 2 Company Turnover.

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
54	Resource Requirement / Key Personnel	-	Removal of mandatory "Permanent Employee" requirement to facilitate wider CPSU participation	The requirement that key personnel must be permanent employees of the Sole/Lead Bidder may adversely affect participation by Central Public Sector Undertakings and other government-sector organisations. Such organisations may be operating under prevailing manpower policies, recruitment restrictions and prescribed administrative approval mechanisms and may therefore not be in a position to recruit additional personnel specifically for this assignment. A strict permanent-employee condition could consequently exclude capable CPSUs despite their ability to deploy experienced and appropriately qualified professionals. We request that the condition be suitably relaxed and that personnel who are duly engaged/associated with the bidder and meet the prescribed qualification and experience criteria be permitted. This will encourage wider participation while allowing GFGNL to retain appropriate requirements relating to availability, deployment and continuity of key personnel.	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
55	SECTION-4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4.2 PRE- QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/ S.no. III/ Page no. 65	In case of Consortium, the number of bidders including Lead Bidder can be maximum two .	In this regard, we respectfully submit that, considering the substantial volume and pan-India nature of the assignment, the project envisages deployment of a large and diversified manpower pool across multiple specialised domains, including NOC, GIS, NDE, NE and FT. As per the provisions of the RFP, the total manpower requirement is approximately 350 personnel, which involves significant mobilisation, coordination and continuous management throughout the project duration. Given the diverse nature of expertise and the extensive geographical spread involved, managing such a large and multidisciplinary workforce through a single Consortium Partner may pose considerable operational and resource mobilisation challenges. Further, since the Lead Partner is mandatorily required to be a PSU, it may not necessarily have the requisite availability of specialised manpower across all the identified domains and locations. Consequently, a substantial proportion of the manpower mobilisation and field-level execution responsibilities would be required to be undertaken by the Consortium Partner. It may also be appreciated that, for similar IE	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
				services under comparable pan-India projects, BSNL/DoT has permitted participation through a Consortium comprising up to three members, recognising the need for adequate technical capability, geographical reach and manpower mobilisation capacity. In view of the above, and with the objective of ensuring adequate resource availability, effective field-level implementation, continuity of services and wider participation of capable agencies, it is requested that the Consortium composition criteria may kindly be suitably amended as follows: In case of Consortium, the number of bidders including Lead Bidder can be maximum three. The proposed amendment would enable participation of technically competent and financially capable organizations with complementary expertise and geographical presence, thereby enhancing competition, strengthening execution capacity and reducing the risk of resource constraints during project implementation. This would ultimately support the larger objective of smooth, timely and effective implementation of the project across the state.	

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
56	SECTION-4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4.2 PRE- QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/ Table/ S.no. 2/Company Turnover/ Page no. 66	For Sole Bidder: The Sole Bidder shall have an average annual turnover of at least INR 100 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. For Consortium Bidders: Cumulative turnover of Rs 100 Cr (The Lead Member of the Consortium shall have an average annual turnover of minimum INR 50 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. And Consortium	In this regard, it is submitted that the Financial Year 2025–26 has concluded only recently, and the books of accounts for the said financial year are presently under final compilation stage and audit for most firms. Accordingly, it may not be feasible for participating firms to furnish audited financial statements for FY 2025–26 at this stage. In view of the above, it is requested that the eligibility criteria may kindly be amended to consider the financial years FY 2022–23, FY 2023–24, and FY 2024–25 as follows: For Sole Bidder: The Sole Bidder shall have an average annual turnover of at least INR 100 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26 or FY 2022–23, FY 2023–24, and FY 2024–25. For Consortium Bidders: Cumulative turnover of Rs 100 Cr (The Lead Member of the Consortium shall have an average annual turnover of minimum INR 50 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26 or FY 2022–23, FY 2023–24, and FY 2024–25.	Pls see revision for Eligibility criteria no 2 Company Turnover.

Sr. No .	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
			Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 25 Crore during the same period.	And Consortium Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 25 Crore during the same period.	

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
57	SECTION-4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4.2 PRE- QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/ Table/ S.no. 2/Company Turnover/ Page no. 66	For Sole Bidder: The Sole Bidder shall have an average annual turnover of at least INR 100 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. For Consortium Bidders: Cumulative turnover of Rs 100 Cr (The Lead Member of the Consortium shall have an average annual turnover of minimum INR 50 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. And Consortium	In this regard, we would respectfully like to submit that, based on our experience of implementing similar IE assignments on a pan-India basis for comparable projects, the financial strength of each Consortium Member plays an important role in ensuring sustained and effective delivery of the assignment throughout the project duration. Considering the extensive geographical spread, substantial manpower requirement and operational complexities involved in the present assignment, it is important that all members of the Consortium possess adequate financial capacity to discharge their respective responsibilities. We have observed in certain large-scale projects that Consortium arrangements involving entities with relatively limited financial capacity have faced challenges in maintaining the requisite manpower and resources after award of the work, which had ultimately affected the timely and effective implementation of the project. We appreciate that the Department has already incorporated a minimum turnover requirement for Consortium Members, which is a prudent measure to ensure the participation of financially capable and stable entities. In order to further strengthen the financial robustness of participating	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
			Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 25 Crore during the same period.	Consortiums and safeguard the interests of the Department and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), GoI, it is requested that the prescribed minimum turnover may kindly be enhanced from Rs. 25 Crore to Rs. 30–35 Crore for each Consortium Member. Such a requirement would help ensure that the selected Consortium has adequate financial standing and resource mobilisation capacity to meet its contractual obligations throughout the assignment, thereby minimising the risk of manpower/resource discontinuity, performance-related challenges and consequential delays, and supporting smooth implementation of the project across the country. In view of the above, it is requested that the Department may kindly consider suitably amending the eligibility criterion as follows: For Consortium Bidders: And Consortium Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 35 Crore during the same period.	

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
58	SECTION-4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4.2 PRE- QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/ Table/ S.no. 6/Software Experience/ Page no. 67-68	The bidder should have experience in execution/consultancy/independent engineering/project management /third party audit of at least one telecom/network infrastructure project during the last seven (7) years involving Network Management System (NMS/OSS) and GIS-based network mapping/asset management systems. The scope should include testing, verification, monitoring, integration, acceptance testing, or audit of such systems. Work Order/	In this regard, we respectfully submit that we are currently engaged in several similar assignments on a PAN-India basis, wherein development and maintenance of IT tools/portals for effective project monitoring and management forms an integral part of the scope of work. However, since such assignments primarily involve ongoing monitoring and supervision activities and are presently under execution, obtaining a separate experience certificate from the client specifically confirming the IT/portal-related scope at this stage may be practically difficult. Further, we have developed and are maintaining the BSNL Pragati Portal for the Amended BharatNet Project / BharatNet Phase-III, being implemented on a PAN-India basis for BSNL/Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India. The said portal is being actively utilised by DoT and BSNL for day-to-day monitoring and management of the project across the country. In view of the above, it is requested that, in addition to the client-issued experience certificate, the Department may kindly permit submission of live portal snapshots, system/portal credentials, or other suitable documentary evidence	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
			Agreement along with Completion Certificate or Client Certificate mentioning relevant scope.	demonstrating the development, implementation and maintenance of the IT solution and the corresponding scope of work. Acceptance of such supplementary documentary evidence would enable prospective bidders to substantiate their relevant experience even in respect of ongoing assignments, while providing the Department with adequate means to verify the claimed scope and credentials. Accordingly, it is requested that the eligibility criterion may kindly be amended as follows: Work Order/ Agreement along with Completion Certificate or Client Certificate mentioning relevant scope or live portal/system snapshots, or any other verifiable credentials establishing the relevant scope of work, subject to verification by the Department.	

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
59	SECTION-3 SCOPE OF WORK	Clause no. 3.1/ Project Background/ S.no.- i/ Page no. 27	The scope of work for the Project Implementation Agency (PIA) shall cover across the state of Gujarat and it is to be noted that number of Gram Panchayats (GPs) as indicative in below table, and PIA shall undertake the Scope of Work across all Gram Panchayats (GPs) identified post survey and approved by GFGNL.	It is respectfully submitted that, as per the Scope of Work provided in the RFP, the details of the existing BharatNet network under Phase-I and Phase-II, in terms of route kilometres (RKM), as well as the proposed new network to be created under the project, in RKM, have not been specified. It is requested that the Department may kindly provide the existing network details (Phase-I & Phase-II) and the proposed new network length in RKM, which would enable prospective bidders to accurately assess the scope of work and appropriately estimate the resource and financial requirements for the assignment.	Details of the existing BharatNet network and the proposed network to be created under the Amended BharatNet Program are available in the corresponding BharatNet Phase-III RFP(GFGNL/GFG/e - file/263/2026/0070/Phase-III). Bidders may refer SOR sections of the BharatNet Phase-III RFP for indicative details of the existing infrastructure and proposed network rollout. The Independent Engineer shall be required to provide services for verification, monitoring, inspection, testing and certification of the network infrastructure implemented under the project in accordance with the provisions of this RFP. No additional change is envisaged in the scope of work.

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
60	SECTION-3 SCOPE OF WORK	Clause no. 3.4/ Manpower Deployment/ 11 Work Breakdown Structure for Independent Engineer:/Page no. 57		It is submitted that, as per the structure outlined in Section 3, Clause 3.4-Manpower deployment of the tender document, the positions of Team Lead along with Project Director and Project Manager are required to be provided by the lead member of the consortium. In this regard, it is respectfully requested that consortium members may also be permitted to provide manpower for the key position namely Team Lead. As per the tender conditions, the assignment is to be executed collectively by all consortium members, and there is no explicit restriction concerning the allocation of work among them specifically for monitoring day to day activities and overall coordination with field teams. In line with this principle, imposing a restriction that only the lead member can provide personnel for the aforementioned position appears inconsistent with the broader framework of shared responsibilities among consortium members. Therefore, it is requested that any member of the consortium be allowed to nominate and provide suitable personnel for the role of Team Lead as is being allowed for Technical Team i.e. SNOC Expert, Network Design Expert and GIS & PM Tool Expert.	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
61	SECTION-6 Service Level Agreement (SLA)	6.3 KPI, Timeline and Penalty/ S.no. 12/ Absence of field staff/ Page no. 124		In this regard, based on the provisions of the RFP, we understand that the said penalty is applicable specifically to the field-level personnel, i.e., NE and FT personnel proposed to be deployed under the project. We request the Department to kindly confirm the above understanding. Further, we would like to respectfully submit that the existing penalty provisions appear to be quite stringent, particularly considering that approximately 352 personnel are proposed to be deployed at the field level under the project. Managing and maintaining such a large field-level workforce throughout the project duration is, in itself, a significant operational challenge for any organisation. It may also be appreciated that field-level personnel are generally more susceptible to attrition, including instances where personnel may leave the assignment without adequate notice, particularly after receipt of their salary, and may not serve the stipulated notice period. Such situations may arise despite the best efforts of the organisation and may be beyond its reasonable control. Consequently, imposing a significant penalty for every instance of field-level attrition/replacement may create considerable	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
				operational and financial challenges for the organisation and may adversely impact the smooth and sustained deployment of manpower throughout the project duration. In view of the above, we request the Department to kindly reconsider and suitably rationalise the penalty provisions, keeping in view the practical challenges associated with managing a large field-level workforce. It is further requested that the relevant provision may kindly be amended in line with the similar IE tender provisions issued by BSNL for comparable assignments across India, as proposed below:	

Sr. No .	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification				
62	SECTION-6 Service Level Agreement (SLA)	6.3 KPI, Timeline and Penalty/ S.no.- 11/ Replacement of manpower / Page no. 124		It is requested that the Department may kindly relax floated by BSNL for providing IE services for compai <table><tr><td>Replacement of Manpower</td><td>within 7 days</td><td>INR 500 per person per day of delay</td><td>CV of proposed resources</td></tr></table>	Replacement of Manpower	within 7 days	INR 500 per person per day of delay	CV of proposed resources	As per RFP
Replacement of Manpower	within 7 days	INR 500 per person per day of delay	CV of proposed resources						

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Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
63	-	Fact sheet Point- 12 Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount Payable/ Page no. 12	Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount Payable Rs.66,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty six lacs only) Details of the Bank: Name of the Beneficiary: Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited Bank details: Bank Name: State Bank of India Bank Account Number: 36242993620 IFSC Code: SBIN0060228 Branch Name: Udyog Bhavan Branch, Gandhinagar	It is requested to kindly consider permitting submission of the Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the form of a Bank Guarantee (BG). In such case, the prescribed BG format may kindly be provided, along with details regarding the name and designation of the beneficiary/authority in whose favour the BG is to be issued, required validity period, and any other applicable terms and conditions to be incorporated therein, so as to ensure compliance with the RFP requirements.	Pls refer Clause no 5.6

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
64	-	Fact sheet Point- 9 Page no. 11	Last date for submission of Bid/proposal 16/09/2026 at 06:10 pm	The subject tender entails substantial information gathering, technical assessment, preparation of supporting documentation and coordination with various stakeholders for submission of a comprehensive and competitive proposal. However, the time presently available for bid preparation is limited. Further, in view of the pre-bid queries submitted and the clarifications/addendum yet to be issued by the Department, prospective bidders would require reasonable additional time to carefully examine the clarifications, assess their implications and suitably incorporate the same in their proposals. Adequate time would also be required thereafter for finalisation, compilation and internal review of the technical and financial submissions. In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Proposal Due Date (PDD) may kindly be extended by at least 20 working days from the date of publication of the pre-bid clarifications/addendum. The proposed extension would provide prospective bidders with adequate time to incorporate the Department's clarifications, compile the requisite documents and submit	Pls refer RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
				technically robust, comprehensive and competitive proposals. Such an extension would also facilitate wider and meaningful participation of competent bidders, thereby promoting healthy competition, ensuring a more robust procurement process and enabling the Authority to receive better-quality and competitive proposals in the larger interest of the project.	
65		Fact sheet Point- 10 Page no. 11	Last date for submission of Bid/proposal (Physical copy excluding financial bid only if asked based on nature of RFP) 06:10 pm (Date of submission of online bid + 4 working Days)	It is requested that the Department may kindly allow at least 7 working days from the last date of online bid submission for submission of the physical copies of the Technical Bid, EMD, Integrity Pact and other requisite documents, excluding the Financial Bid. The additional time would facilitate timely submission of the required physical documents and avoid any inadvertent delay arising due to	As per RFP

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
				logistical, documentation and dispatch-related constraints.	
66	SECTION-4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4.2 PRE- QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/ S.no. III/ Page no. 65	In case of Consortium, the number of bidders including Lead Bidder can be maximum two.	In this regard, we respectfully submit that, the project has substantial volume and the project envisages deployment of a large and diversified manpower pool across multiple domains, including NOC, GIS, NDE, NE and FT. As per the provisions of the RFP, the total manpower requirement is approximately 350 personnel, involving significant mobilisation, coordination and continuous management throughout the project duration. Managing such a large and multidisciplinary workforce through a single Consortium Partner is likely to pose considerable operational and resource-mobilisation challenges. Further, since the Lead Partner is mandatorily required to be a PSU, it may not necessarily possess ready availability of specialised manpower across all identified domains and locations. Consequently, a	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
				substantial proportion of the manpower mobilisation and field-level execution responsibilities would devolve upon the Consortium Partner. For similar Independent Engineer (IE) services under comparable pan-India projects, BSNL/DoT has permitted participation through a Consortium comprising up to three members, recognising the need for adequate technical capability, geographical reach and manpower mobilisation capacity. In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the Consortium composition criteria may kindly be amended as under: “In case of a Consortium, the number of members, including the Lead Bidder, shall not exceed three.”	

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
67	SECTION-4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4.2 PRE- QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/ Table/ S.no. 2/Company Turnover/ Page no. 66	For Sole Bidder: The Sole Bidder shall have an average annual turnover of at least INR 100 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. For Consortium Bidders: Cumulative turnover of Rs 100 Cr (The Lead Member of the Consortium shall have an average annual turnover of minimum INR 50 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. And Consortium	In this regard, it is submitted that the Financial Year 2025–26 has concluded only recently, and the books of accounts for the said financial year are presently under final audit. It is therefore requested that the eligibility criteria may kindly be amended to consider the financial years FY 2022–23, FY 2023–24, and FY 2024–25 as follows: For Sole Bidder: The Sole Bidder shall have an average annual turnover of at least INR 100 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26 or FY 2022–23, FY 2023–24, and FY 2024–25. For Consortium Bidders: Cumulative turnover of Rs 100 Cr (The Lead Member of the Consortium shall have an average annual turnover of minimum INR 50 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26 or FY 2022–23, FY 2023–24, and FY 2024–25. And Consortium Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 25 Crore during the same period	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
			Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 25 Crore during the same period.		

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
68	SECTION-4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4.2 PRE- QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/ Table/ S.no. 2/Company Turnover/ Page no. 66	For Sole Bidder: The Sole Bidder shall have an average annual turnover of at least INR 100 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. For Consortium Bidders: Cumulative turnover of Rs 100 Cr (The Lead Member of the Consortium shall have an average annual turnover of minimum INR 50 Crore during the last three audited financial years, namely FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25, and FY 2025-26. And Consortium	In this regard, we would respectfully like to submit that, based on our experience of implementing similar IE assignments on a pan-India basis for comparable projects, the financial strength of each Consortium Member plays an important role in ensuring sustained and effective delivery of the assignment throughout the project duration. In order to further strengthen the financial robustness of participating Consortiums and safeguard the interests of the Department and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), GoI, it is requested that the prescribed minimum turnover may kindly be enhanced from Rs. 25 Crore to Rs. 40–45 Crore for each Consortium Member. In view of the above, it is requested that the Department may kindly consider suitably amending the eligibility criterion as follows: For Consortium Bidders: And Consortium Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 35 Crore during the same period.	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
			Partner shall have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 25 Crore during the same period.		

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
69	SECTION-4 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4.2 PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA/ Table/ S.no. 6/Software Experience/ Page no. 67-68	The bidder should have experience in execution/consultancy/independent engineering/project management /third party audit of at least one telecom/network infrastructure project during the last seven (7) years involving Network Management System (NMS/OSS) and GIS-based network mapping/asset management systems. The scope should include testing, verification, monitoring, integration, acceptance testing, or audit of such systems. Work Order/	In this regard, we respectfully submit that we are currently executing several similar assignments on a PAN-India basis, wherein development and maintenance of IT tools/portals for project monitoring and management forms an integral part of the scope. However, as these assignments are ongoing, obtaining a separate client certificate specifically confirming the IT/portal-related scope may be practically difficult. Further, we have developed and are maintaining the BSNL Pragati Portal for the Amended BharatNet Project/BharatNet Phase-III, being implemented PAN-India for BSNL/DoT. The portal is actively used for project monitoring and management. Accordingly, it is requested that, in addition to client-issued certificates, the Department may permit live portal snapshots, system credentials, or other verifiable documentary evidence to establish the relevant IT/portal experience, subject to verification by the Department. The eligibility criterion may therefore be amended as follows: Work Order/Agreement along with Completion Certificate or Client Certificate mentioning the relevant scope, or live portal/system snapshots or	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
			Agreement along with Completion Certificate or Client Certificate mentioning relevant scope.	any other verifiable credentials establishing the relevant scope of work, subject to verification by the Department	

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
70	SECTION-3 SCOPE OF WORK	Clause no. 3.1/ Project Background/ S.no.- i/ Page no. 27	The scope of work for the Project Implementation Agency (PIA) shall cover across the state of Gujarat and it is to be noted that number of Gram Panchayats (GPs) as indicative in below table, and PIA shall undertake the Scope of Work across all Gram Panchayats (GPs) identified post survey and approved by GFGNL.	It is requested that the Department may kindly provide the existing network details (Phase-I & Phase-II) and the proposed new network length in RKM , which would enable prospective bidders to accurately assess the scope of work and appropriately estimate the resource and financial requirements for the assignment.	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
71	SECTION-3 SCOPE OF WORK	Clause no. 3.4/ Manpower Deployment/ 11 Work Breakdown Structure for Independent Engineer:/Page no. 57		It is submitted that, as per Section 3, Clause 3.4 – Manpower Deployment, the positions of Team Lead, Project Director and Project Manager are required to be provided by the lead consortium member. It is respectfully requested that any consortium member may also be permitted to nominate suitable personnel for the Team Lead position, as is permitted for the Technical Team, including SNOC Expert, Network Design Expert and GIS & PM Tool Expert. Since the assignment is to be executed collectively by all consortium members, restricting the Team Lead position exclusively to the lead member may not align with the principle of shared responsibilities. Accordingly, it is requested that any consortium member be allowed to provide suitable personnel for the Team Lead position.	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
72	SECTION-6 Service Level Agreement (SLA)	6.3 KPI, Timeline and Penalty/ S.no. 12/ Absence of field staff/ Page no. 124		In this regard, based on the RFP provisions, we understand that the penalty is applicable specifically to field-level personnel, i.e., NE and FT personnel proposed under the project. We request the Department to kindly confirm the same. Further, the existing penalty provisions appear stringent, particularly considering the deployment of approximately 352 field-level personnel. Attrition at the field level, including cases where personnel leave without adequate notice or fail to serve the stipulated notice period, may occur despite the organisation's best efforts and may be beyond its reasonable control. Accordingly, imposing a significant penalty for each replacement may create substantial operational and financial challenges and may affect sustained manpower deployment. In view of the above, the Department is requested to reconsider and rationalise the penalty provisions, keeping in view the practical challenges of managing a large field workforce, and align the same with similar IE tenders issued by BSNL for comparable assignments across India, as proposed below:	Pls see preceeding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
73	SECTION-6 Service Level Agreement (SLA)	6.3 KPI, Timeline and Penalty/ S.no.- 11/ Replacement of manpower / Page no. 124		It is requested that the Department may kindly relax the aforesaid clause in line with the provisions of similar RFPs floated by BSNL for providing IE services for comparable projects on a pan-India basis , as proposed below:	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
74	-	Fact sheet Point- 12 Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount Payable/ Page no. 12	Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount Payable Rs.66,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty six lacs only) Details of the Bank: Name of the Beneficiary: Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited Bank details: Bank Name: State Bank of India Bank Account Number: 36242993620 IFSC Code: SBIN0060228 Branch Name: Udyog Bhavan Branch, Gandhinagar	It is requested to kindly consider permitting submission of the Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the form of a Bank Guarantee (BG). In such case, the prescribed BG format may kindly be provided, along with details regarding the name and designation of the beneficiary/authority in whose favour the BG is to be issued, required validity period, and any other applicable terms and conditions to be incorporated therein, so as to ensure compliance with the RFP requirements.	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
75	-	Fact sheet Point- 9 Page no. 11	Last date for submission of Bid/proposal 16/09/2026 at 06:10 pm	The subject tender involves substantial information gathering, technical assessment, documentation and stakeholder coordination for preparation of a comprehensive proposal. However, the time presently available for bid preparation is limited. Further, as pre-bid clarifications/addendum are yet to be issued, bidders would require adequate time to assess their implications and suitably incorporate the same in their technical and financial proposals. In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Proposal Due Date (PDD) may kindly be extended by at least 20 working days from the date of publication of the pre-bid clarifications/addendum. The proposed extension would enable bidders to submit comprehensive, technically robust and competitive proposals, while facilitating wider participation and healthy competition in the interest of the project.	Pls see preceding response

Sr. No.	Section No.	Clause No.	Reference / Subject	Clarification Sought	GFGNL Clarification
76		Fact sheet Point- 10 Page no. 11	Last date for submission of Bid/proposal (Physical copy excluding financial bid only if asked based on nature of RFP) 06:10 pm (Date of submission of online bid + 4 working Days)	It is requested that the Department may kindly allow at least 10 working days from the last date of online bid submission for submission of the physical copies of the Technical Bid, EMD, Integrity Pact and other requisite documents , excluding the Financial Bid.	Pls see preceding response