

Corrigendum III

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))

06th October 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 05/10/2026 15/10/2026 at 06:10 pm
10.	Submission of Integrity Pact, EMD, RFP Document Fee and Letter of Authorization	Within 4 working days 2 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	Query Response
1	SECTION-5 INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS	5.52 Proposed timelines & Payment terms/ S.no.12/ Page no. 117- 118		In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that, based on our experience in executing similar Independent Engineer (IE) assignments under the Amended BharatNet (ABP) Scheme for BSNL, the payment milestones and deliverables prescribed for the PIA and IE are distinct and operate independently, and there is no corresponding linkage between the PIA's equipment-related payment milestone and completion of Cable AT.	As Per RFP
	SECTION-5 INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS	5.52 Proposed timelines & Payment terms/ S.no.13/ Page no. 118		Under the PIA payment mechanism, the PIA is eligible to claim up to 75% of the equipment cost upon successful completion of Equipment AT at the Block/GP level, even where Cable AT of the corresponding Block has not yet been completed. Thus, completion of Cable AT is not prescribed as a mandatory pre-condition for the PIA to realise the equipment-related payment. The PIA payment structure accordingly recognises Equipment AT and Cable AT as separate and independent milestones. However, under the proposed IE payment terms, although separate milestones have been prescribed for Cable AT and Equipment AT, submission of ABDs, GIS Mapping and EMS Integration with NMS has been made a mandatory deliverable for certification of both milestones. This creates an unintended and technically avoidable linkage between independent activities and may substantially delay certification and payment to the IE. The proposed amendment is therefore technically justified on the following grounds: 1. Distinct nature of the deliverables	

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				The activities associated with Equipment AT, Cable AT, ABD/GIS and EMS–NMS integration serve different technical purposes: • Equipment AT establishes that the installed equipment has been correctly installed, powered, configured and is functioning in accordance with the approved technical specifications. • Cable AT establishes the integrity, continuity, attenuation, performance and acceptance of the installed OFC/cable network. • ABD/GIS Mapping is primarily an as-built documentation, asset-recording and spatial-data activity. • EMS–NMS Integration is a network-management and operational-visibility activity involving integration of network elements with the central/state NMS. Accordingly, these activities have different technical objectives, dependencies and acceptance parameters and should not be made mutually dependent for certification of an individual payment milestone. 2. ABD preparation is a progressive activity As per the ABP implementation methodology, ABD is prepared progressively during implementation, from Block to GPs, based on the actual network constructed and field data captured. Consequently, finalisation of the complete ABD of a Block may depend upon completion of the entire physical network and resolution of pending field issues. It would therefore be technically inappropriate to make complete ABD submission a pre-condition for Equipment AT, particularly where Equipment AT can independently establish the readiness and functionality of the equipment installed at the concerned GPs.	

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				3. Equipment AT can technically precede completion of Cable AT The PIA payment structure itself recognises Equipment AT and Cable AT as separate milestones. Equipment installed at a GP can be powered, configured, commissioned and subjected to prescribed equipment-level tests notwithstanding that certain portions of the associated OFC route may remain pending acceptance. Accordingly, the IE's Equipment AT certification should similarly be based upon successful verification and acceptance of the equipment, rather than being contingent upon completion of all cable-related activities or finalisation of the corresponding ABD/GIS records. 4. Field constraints can prevent completion of Cable AT without affecting equipment readiness In pan-India ABP implementation, completion of Cable AT for an entire Block may be delayed due to circumstances such as: • Right of Way (RoW) constraints; • forest/environmental clearances; • utility crossings and other statutory permissions; • local site/access constraints; • pending restoration or rectification of isolated cable stretches; and • other location-specific issues. Such issues may affect a limited portion of the cable network while equipment at otherwise completed GPs is fully installed and technically ready for Equipment AT. Making complete ABD/GIS submission a mandatory condition for Equipment AT would consequently result in	

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				payment being withheld for an otherwise completed equipment-related activity due to an unrelated or partially pending cable/network activity. 5. Progressive ABD cannot always be finalised where cable works remain pending Since ABD is an as-built record of the actual constructed network, its finalisation for a Block may require incorporation of the final cable route, assets, joints, coordinates and associated network details. Where portions of cable work remain pending due to RoW, forest clearance or similar constraints, the ABD may necessarily remain subject to subsequent updating/reconciliation. Therefore, requiring a complete and final ABD as a pre-condition for Equipment AT may not be consistent with the progressive nature of ABD preparation under ABP. 6. GIS Mapping is not an Equipment AT parameter GIS Mapping essentially records the geographical/spatial attributes of the constructed network and associated assets. It does not, by itself, establish whether GP-level equipment has passed the prescribed functional and performance tests. Consequently, any delay in GIS data validation, correction, reconciliation or approval should not prevent certification of Equipment AT where the equipment has independently satisfied the prescribed acceptance criteria. 7. EMS–NMS integration involves system-level dependencies EMS–NMS integration is an operational/network-management activity and may depend upon several system-level factors, including:	

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				• readiness and availability of the central/state NMS; • API/interface availability; • NMS/EMS configuration; • OEM support; • communication/interface parameters; • credentials and access; • NOC readiness; • integration testing; and • validation/acceptance by the concerned BSNL/NOC/IE teams. Several of these dependencies may not be directly attributable to the IE or the PIA. Linking IE payment for Equipment AT to completion of such system-level integration could therefore expose the IE to delays arising from factors beyond its reasonable control. 8. Unintended coupling of independent milestones The present provision effectively converts the Equipment AT milestone into a composite milestone comprising: Equipment AT + Cable/network completion + ABD + GIS Mapping + EMS–NMS Integration. This is inconsistent with the stated nature of the milestone and creates a dependency whereby failure or delay in any one of these independent activities can prevent certification of the entire Equipment AT milestone. A milestone should preferably be certified against the specific technical achievement for which the milestone has been established. 9. Disproportionate impact on IE cash flow The above linkage has a particularly significant impact on the cash flow of the IE. Since the PIA's commercial incentive	

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				is naturally towards achieving the equipment-related milestone and availing the corresponding equipment payment, Cable AT for the entire Block may continue to remain pending where isolated stretches are affected by RoW, forest clearance or other field constraints. The IE, however, is required to continue deployment of manpower and resources for inspection, verification, monitoring and acceptance activities. If its Equipment AT payment is simultaneously withheld until complete ABD, GIS Mapping and EMS–NMS integration are achieved, the IE may face a substantial mismatch between services already rendered and corresponding payment realisation. This may become particularly significant in a geographically extensive, pan-India project involving a large number of Blocks and GPs. 10. Separate milestones should have separate acceptance criteria Where the RFP has already provided separate payment milestones for Cable AT and Equipment AT, the respective payment conditions should logically be aligned with the achievement associated with each milestone. ABD, GIS Mapping and EMS–NMS Integration may continue to remain mandatory contractual deliverables, but their submission/final acceptance may appropriately be linked to the relevant network commissioning, documentation/closure or NMS integration milestone, rather than being made a mandatory pre-condition for both Cable AT and Equipment AT.	

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				It is therefore requested that the requirement of submission of “ABDs, GIS Mapping & EMS Integration with NMS of the built network” may kindly be removed from the mandatory payment deliverables prescribed for the Equipment AT milestone.	
2	Section 4	Clause- 4.2.V.12	Relationship/Conflict Of Interest- PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA	As per this clause" The Bidder or any member of the Consortium shall not be a Project Implementation Agency (PIA) or its consortium partner for implementation of Amended BharatNet Program." Since, TCIL is selected PIA at NE-II states under Amended Bharatnet Program. Hence, kindly clarify whether TCIL will be allowed in this tender or this clause meant for PIA in Gujarat for Amended BharatNet Program. It is requested to TCIL may kindly be allowed for Gujarat state.	Pls see revision. Revised Clause : The Bidder or any member of the Consortium shall not be a Project Implementation Agency (PIA) or its consortium partner for implementation of Amended BharatNet Program in

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					Gujarat state. The Bidder or any member of the Consortium shall not have any direct or indirect relationship with PIAs concerning the implementation of Amended BharatNet Program in Gujarat state.

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3	Section 3	Clause: 3.4.11- Manpower Deployment	Roles and responsibilities Matrix	As per Manpower Ownership table for NOC Expert, GIS & PM Tool Expert, Network Design Experts, Network Engineers indicative Ownership is Consortium Partner. We request that sub-contracting also may kindly be allowed.	As Per RFP

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4	Section-4, Eligibility Criteria	4.2, Pre-Qualification Criteria	Experience, Active Equipment's, Software Experience	We kindly request the Authority to consider and include the experience of the existing Independent Engineer (IE) engaged for the ongoing Amended BharatNet Project of BSNL as an eligible experience criterion under the tender. The said project has been ongoing for the last one year, and the existing Independent Engineer has already gained relevant and practical experience in monitoring and supervision, of the project. In view of the above, we request that the experience of the existing Amended BharatNet Project Independent Engineer of BSNL may kindly be considered as relevant experience for the purpose of the present tender.	As Per RFP

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5	Section-4, Eligibility Criteria	4.2, Pre-Qualification Criteria, S. No. 6	Software Experience: 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	Since the consortium is allowed and the experience criteria can be met by any of the consortium member, therefore request to kindly modify the software experience criteria as follows: The Sole Bidder or members of the Consortium (jointly) 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	As Per RFP