

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 1 | Page 7 of 17 | D. Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) (2) | The agency should have experience of conducting e-auctions for any of the commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, stores, machinery, equipment, etc. and/or rights/ licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights, etc. in the last 5 Years (reckoned as on 31st March 2020) through e-auction platform. | Reference to this point, we request DGH to consider diverse categories and products that are auctioned through e-bidding platforms, as there are various other categories where e-auction agencies have conducted complex and high value events, taking this in to consideration this will help DGH to get more competition in the current bidding process. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 2 | Page 8 of 17 | D. Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) (3) | The agency should have the capability of hosting and managing the entire e-auction solution (either on its own or having tie-up with an e-auction Service Provider), through Central Government/State Government/PSU owned data centre cloud hosted on the servers located in India. | <p>Though we are capable to host our solution on Central Government/State Government/PSU owned data centre, we request DGH to allow agency to host auction platform in data centre of its choice i.e. owned by PSU or privately owned data centre.</p> <p>Further, we have hosted auction solution for spectrum auction for Department of Telecommunication (DoT) and it was hosted in a private data centre which was audited by STQC for functional and security compliances.</p> <p>Hence, we request DGH to allow agency for selecting the data centre for hosting auction platform.</p> | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 3 | Page 8 of 17 | D. Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) (6) | The average annual value of all e-auction/ e-bidding sales volume in the last 3 Financial years (2017-18 to 2019-2020) should be at least INR 2500 Crore per year. The value of e-auctions shall be based on the price discovered and the quantity allocated during the e-auction/ bidding. | with ref. to this point requesting DGH to confirm: Does this refer to auction with Price and Qty composition like spectrum, coal etc.? if this understanding is correct, we understand only few companies will be able to qualify this, and companies like us who have conducted auction other than coal and spectrum, oil and gas will not get fair opportunity. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

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| 4 | Page 8 of 17 | D. Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) (7) | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. | The base platform offered for conducting bidding process is audited and certified by STQC, Delhi. We understand that this will suffice the said requirement. Kindly confirm? | In case of significant functional changes done in the e-auction platform or deployed infrastructure, fresh STQC certification shall be required. For minor changes that do not significantly alter or impact the software features, then it may not be required. Therefore, it will depend upon the degree of customization done and type of change undertaken in the system. |
| 5 | Page 9 of 17 | E. Methodology of Short-listing and Selection for Empanelment (1.a): | Bidder should have independently undertaken auction of commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, stores, machinery, equipment, etc. and/or rights/ licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights, etc. in India in each of the last 3 Financial years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20) through its e-auction platform. | A. ref. to this point we request DGH to consider all categories of the product, service and works. we understand specific product or commodity being auctioned will have no effect on the capability of agency's services and platform's robustness, | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| | | | | B. further we also request DGH to reconsider the number of auction, their values too. we are suggesting below change that this will encourage many agencies for participation: Reduce the number of auctions for marking criteria as follows: More than 25 number of auctions (for 100%) Between 15 and 25 number of auctions (for 80%) Between 5 and 15 number of auctions (for 60%) | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| | | | | C. Requesting no to limit the product categories to "commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, stores, machinery, equipment, etc. and/or rights/ licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights" and allow other products to be included for marking criterion. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

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| | | | | D. We request DGH to review the criteria and bring the value of each auction down to 50 Cr. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| | | | | E. Due to prevalent COIVD situation and NDA signed with certain clients, we will submit CA Certificate to demonstrate and as a documentary evidence for the above capability. We understand that this will suffice the requirement. Kindly confirm? | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 6 | Page 10 of 17 | E. Methodology of Short-listing and Selection for Empanelment (1.b): | Total combined value of all commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, etc. and/or rights/licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights, etc. auctioned in each of the last 3 Financial years (from 2017-18 to 2019-20) in India. Value will be determined by the prices discovered and quantities allocated through the bidding process on e-bidding platform. Value of all commodities auctioned will be added. | Reference to this point, we understand the bars are set too high that many agencies will face problem collecting such compliances except few big players in the Indian market . Requesting a modification on below number by 50% on each criteria considering fair opportunities given to all 1) Reduce the total combined value of all for marking criteria as follows: 5001 to 10000 Crore (INR) (for 100%) 2501 to 5000 Crore (INR) (for 80%) 1500 to 2500 Crore (INR) (for 60%) This will encourage more agencies to participate and thus ill increase competition. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 7 | Page 2 of 17 | 2. E-auction platform or e-bidding portal | The software services should be compatible with PKI transaction certificate to ensure secure and authenticated access and transactions which are in conformity with the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000 and any further relevant amendments issued by the Government of India (GoI). | Does DGH have any preference on permitting selected usage of DSC, i.e. individual or on company name and Class 2/3? | The DSCs have to be for individuals with Class 3 Digital certificate. |

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| 8 | Page 5 of 17 | 4. Publishing of the Tender (c) | Link for all notices inviting e-bids/e-Tenders will be compulsorily provided on DGH website. The link provided on DGH website shall redirect users to the tender hosted on the agency's e-portal. | Reference to this point, we request DGH to confirm whether links for all notices inviting e-bids/e-Tenders through DGH website will be enables by DGH independently or integration between bidding portal and DGH website will be required? | DGH will facilitate to redirect the link of the e-auction portal on DGH website. |
| 9 | Page 12 of 17 | Scope of work - Point 3(c) | The e-auction platform shall facilitate electronic payment through web towards the Bidder Registration, tender fees, earnest money and security money etc. with all requisite security standards in place. The online platform must be integrated with the payment gateway and the bidder should be able to make the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & document fees payment online. Also, it should have a provision to get EMD automatically refunded via NEFT to his/her account for the unsuccessful bidders. | Reference to this point, facilitating electronic payment gateway is possible. The same can be offered as a part of the customization of the platform based on Sellers requirements and banking partner preference. Hence, request DGH to make this non mandatory requirement initially. | No change |
| 10 | Page 11 of 17 | E. Methodology of short-listing and selection for empanement. Matrix of Evaluation | ii) CERT-In Certificate. | With ref. to Deity guidelines, STQC certificate is mandatory for any Govt. authorities for conducting e-procurement. We understand submission of valid STQC certificate would suffice the requirement, kindly confirm? | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 11 | Page 1 of 17 | A. Introduction | DGH intends to empanel credible and qualified bidding agencies/Ebidding service provider (hereinafter to be referred as "agency") to independently carry out auctions (hereinafter, e-auction) for the discovery of fair market price of natural gas through their electronic auction (or e-auction) platforms for the producers of natural gas in India, hereinafter referred to as "seller" | In case the bidding agency ties up with e-bidding service provider for providing the services, kindly clarify whether the same is allowed. | Please refer revised Pre-qualification Criteria (PQC) |

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| 12 | Page 2 of 17 | C. Scope of Work: 2. E-auction platform or e-bidding portal Para 2a | a) The agency should have an integrated, time-tested, secured and robust e-auction platform. The security standards of the software solution used for e-bidding should be compliant with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) guidelines. | There are several guidelines of MeitY. It may please be clarified which guidelines of MeitY is being referred? | Guidelines for compliance to Quality requirements of eProcurement Systems dated 31-Aug-2011 http://egovstandards.gov.in/sites/default/files/Compliance%20to%20Quality%20Requirements%20of%20e-Procurement%20Systems.pdf |
| 13 | Page 3 of 17 | Scope of Work Clause 2 d | The e-auction platform should be compatible with leading web browsers like Microsoft Edge, Opera, Chrome and Firefox etc | Ensuring compatibility of e-auction platform with all leading web browsers is a cumbersome task. It is very difficult to maintain for service providers, therefore it should be revised to compatibility with at least 02 major browsers. It is requested to amend this para as follows: "e-auction platform should be compatible with at least 2(two) major web browsers" | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 14 | Page 3 of 17 | Scope of Work Clause 2 h | The agency should be a minimum of CMMi Level 3 certified organization or above | The CMMi certification is generally not taken by many service providers. We are a government organization. Any Government organization requires to follow all the Govt. procedures, and related rules and regulations. As such, insistence on CMMi Level 3 certification would restrict competition. Also ISO 27001 certification has already been asked for. It is therefore requested that the Govt organization/PSU may be exempted from this requirement. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

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| 15 | Page 3 of 17 | Para 2 m | The e-auction platform should be available online on a 24x7x365 basis and should be accessible from anywhere over public internet with uptime of 99.9 %. | <p>It is submitted that scheduled maintenance activities are required from time to time. Hence this requirement should be modified duly excluding the scheduled maintenance activities. It is therefore proposed to revise this item as follows: "The e-auction platform should be available online on a 24x7x365 basis and should be accessible from anywhere over public internet with uptime of 99.9 % excluding scheduled maintenance activities"</p> <p>Please also state two uptime values, one with Maintenance activity and another without maintenance activity..</p> | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 16 | Page 4 of 17 | Para 3 b | Once the e-auction platform is configured and provisioned as per seller's requirements, the agency shall conduct comprehensive testing of the platform including system, functional load, and security, etc. The agency shall follow test management system and submit the test cases along with report of testing conducted on the platform for User Acceptance Test (UAT). Testing report will be reviewed and a sample case will be tested for UAT. | <p>It may be clarified whether there would be a standard test management system which would be followed or whether the test management system would need to be configured based upon sellers requirement.</p> <p>Also kindly clarify the no. of sellers expected to be there.</p> <p>Kindly specify as to what is expected under the <u>Test Management System</u>?</p> | The test management system of the e-auction platform should be configured as per seller's requirement and should be demonstrated to the seller for acceptance before going live for the actual e-auction. |
| 17 | Page 7 of 17 | Para 7 d | Bid submission summary and Information regarding the final agreement reached and duration of the contract between the buyer and seller shall be hosted on the Contractor's/Operator's website under intimation to DGH. | The defination of contractor / operator may please be clarified. | Contractor/ Operator should be read as 'Seller'. Please refer to the revised NIO. |

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| 18 | Page 7 of 17 | D. PreQualification Criteria (PQC): SI No. 2 | The agency should have experience of conducting e-auctions for any of the commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, stores, machinery, equipment, etc. and/or rights/ licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights, etc. in the last 5 Years (reckoned as on 31st March 2020) through e-auction platform. | Kindly clarify that in case the bidding agency ties up with e-bidding service provider, whether the e-bidding service provider experience is acceptable. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 19 | Page 8 of 17 | D. PreQualification Criteria (PQC): SI No. 5 | The average annual turnover of the agency should be at least INR 200 Crore per year in the last three (3) Financial Years (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20). | Kindly clarify that in case the bidding agency ties up with e-bidding service provider, whether the experience of bidding agency is acceptable who will tie up with e-bidding service provider. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 20 | Page 8 of 17 | D. PreQualification Criteria (PQC): SI No. 6 | The average annual value of all e-auction/ e-bidding sales volume in the last 3 Financial years (2017-18 to 2019-2020) should be at least INR 2500 Crore per year. The value of e-auctions shall be based on the price discovered and the quantity allocated during the e-auction/ bidding. In the respect of the above, the agency should submit certificate from the respective hiring entity evidencing the value of e-auctions along with the price and quantity allocated in the e-auction or provide other documentation which clearly evidences and testifies the same. | Kindly clarify that in case the bidding agency ties up with e-bidding service provider, whether the experience of e-bidding service provider is acceptable for average annual value of all e-auction/ e-bidding sales volume in the last 3 Financial years (2017-18 to 2019-2020). | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 21 | Page 8 of 17 | D. PreQualification Criteria (PQC): SI No. 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC. | There are several guidelines of DeITY. It may please be clarified that compliance with which Standard by DeITY & STQC is being referred. Also kindly clarify what kind of documentary evidence is expected in this regard. | STQC certification for e-auction platform is required for compliance with prescribed security standards of MeITY. The guidelines that need to be adhered are "Guidelines for compliance to Quality requirements of eProcurement Systems" notified by STQC Directorate, MeITY dated 31.08.2011. |

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| 22 | Page 8 of 17 | D. PreQualification Criteria (PQC): SI No. 9 | The agency should be CMMi Level 3 certified. | The CMMi certification is generally not taken by many service providers. We are a government organization. Any Government organization requires to follow all the Govt. procedures, and related rules and regulations. As such, insistence on CMMi Level 3 certification would restrict competition. Also ISO 27001 certification has already been asked for. It is therefore requested that the Govt organization/PSU may be exempted from this requirement. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 23 | Page 10 of 17 | E. Methodology of Short-Listing and Selection for Empanelment SI No. 1.b | Total combined value of all commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, etc. and/or rights/licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights, etc. auctioned in each of the last 3 Financial years (from 2017-18 to 2019-20) in India. Value will be determined by the prices discovered and quantities allocated through the bidding process on e-bidding platform. Value of all commodities auctioned will be added. | In line with Clause a1, Stores, Machinery, equipment etc. should also be included in this description. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 24 | Page 11 of 17 | SI No. 3.a(ii) | CERT-In certificate | We are not aware about any certification issued by CERT-In. Kindly clarify which certificate is being referred to. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 25 | Page 5 of 17 | Scope of work Point 4 Publishing the tender | The agency shall publish the tender on its website at a pre-determined date in consultation with the seller. All the bid related documents and other related information shall be accessible to all the prospective bidders after successful registration on the bidding portal. | on its website' refers to the e-bidding portal created for conducting the bidding. | Yes, website of the e-auction portal of the empaneled agency. |
| 26 | Page 2 of 17 | Scope of work Point 2 | The agency should have an integrated, time-tested, secured and robust e-auction platform. The security standards of the software solution used for e-bidding should be compliant with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) guidelines. | We understand that an agency can tie up with a Service Provider owning an integrated, time-tested, secured and robust e-auction platform for this empanelment. If you can kindly confirm our understanding. | Please refer to the Pre-qualification Criteria (PQC) in the revised NIO Document. |

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| 27 | Page 8 of 17 | PQC – Point 3 | The agency should have the capability of hosting and managing the entire e-auction solution (either on its own or having tie-up with an e-auction Service Provider), through Central Government/State Government/PSU owned data centre cloud hosted on the servers located in India. | <p>May we request you to please elaborate the exact requirement here?</p> <p>Also, we request DGH to allow empaneled agencies to host auction platform in data centre of its choice i.e. owned by PSU or privately owned data centre. In the past, auctions (including those conducted for PSUs) have been hosted in a private data centre environment with requisite functional and security compliances.</p> | <p>Only MeITY empaneled Cloud Service Providers (CSP) have been allowed. Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO.</p> |
| 28 | Page 8 of 17 | PQC – Point 4 | In case of tie-up with a Service Provider, the bidder shall mention the name of the service provider and shall provide a NIO/tender specific authorization certificate from the Service Provider in the name of the bidder stating that they will provide the necessary services and support required for execution of the scope of work as defined in the NIO document. | <p>Based on this point, we understand that an agency can bid for empanelment jointly with a Service Provider who owns the e-auction software.</p> <p>Also, in case of a joint submission/tie-up – the Pre Qualification Criteria and Evaluation Matrix shall be evaluated based on the capabilities / qualifications / submissions made by entities jointly submitting the bid.</p> <p>If you can kindly confirm our understanding.</p> | <p>Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO.</p> |

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| 29 | Page 8 of 17 | PQC – Point 5 | <p>The average annual turnover of the agency should be at least INR 200 Crore per year in the last three (3) Financial Years (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20).</p> <p>In respect of total turnover, the agency should submit Audited Annual Financial Statements of last 3 Years.</p> | <p>We, CRISIL Risk & Infrastructure Solutions Limited, a 100% subsidiary of CRISIL Limited have been actively supporting market players/sellers in price discovery of natural gas/CBM over the past few years. We have also carried out price discovery for natural gas through online e-bidding platform (owned by a Service Provider).</p> <p>However, non-consideration of parent organizations' annual turnover is restrictive for entities like us who are 100% subsidiary of the parent company. Hence, we request to amend the existing clause and permit the annual turnover of the parent company, registered in India to be considered for evaluation of the bidder.</p> <p>We suggest inclusion of the following: The turnover of the parent company of the bidding entity will also be considered only if the parent company is registered in India and the bidding entity is 100% subsidiary of the parent (holding) company.</p> <p>Also, we request that in case of a joint submission</p> | No change. |
| 30 | Page 8 of 17 | PQC – Point 6 | <p>The average annual value of all eauction/ e-bidding sales volume in the last 3 Financial years (2017-18 to 20192020) should be at least INR 2500 Crore per year. The value of e-auctions shall be based on the price discovered and the quantity allocated during the eauction/ bidding.</p> <p>In the respect of the above, the agency should submit certificate from the respective hiring entity evidencing the value of e-auctions along with the price and quantity allocated in the e-auction or provide other documentation which clearly evidences and testifies the same.</p> | <p>We request that evaluation under this point takes into consideration auction value pertaining to all forward and reverse auctions under all categories of the products, services, equipments and works.</p> | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

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| 31 | Page 8 of 17 | PQC – Point 7 | <p>The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC.</p> <p>In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC.</p> | <p>As point 3 under scope of work specifies that ‘The agency shall prepare the standard bid document as per requirements of and in consultation with the seller and customize and configure the e-auction platform suitably for demonstrating the seller’s technical and functional requirements’ – We understand that in view of the various possibilities of customizations that will be needed to meet Sellers’ requirements, the base version of the e-auction software platform should be audited and certified by STQC.</p> <p>Further, customisations would be required to meet requirement of various Sellers from time to time. Therefore, fresh SQTC for each customisation should not be required.</p> <p>If you can kindly clarify the above.</p> | <p>In case of significant functional changes done in the e-auction platform or deployed infrastructure, fresh STQC certification shall be required. For minor changes that do not significantly alter or impact the software features, then it may not be required. Therefore, it will depend upon the degree of customization done and type of change undertaken in the system.</p> |
| 32 | Page 8 of 17 | PQC - Point 9 | The agency should be CMMi Level 3 certified. | <p>In case of a tie up arrangement between bidder and service provider, the certification pertaining to service provider shall be considered here.</p> <p>If you can kindly confirm our understanding.</p> | <p>Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO.</p> |
| 33 | Page 9 of 17 | PQC - Point 10 | The agency should be ISO 27001 certified. | <p>In case of a tie up arrangements between bidder and service provider, the certification pertaining to service provider shall be considered here.</p> <p>If you can kindly confirm our understanding.</p> | <p>Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO.</p> |

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| 34 | Page 7-8 of 17 | Pre – Qualification Criteria Point 2.a and 2.b | In respect of the above, the agency should submit the following: a) Copies of respective contracts for the e-auction undertaken by it; And b) Documentary evidence in respect of satisfactory execution of each of these e-auction from the hiring entity, in the form of copies of any of the documents (indicating respective contract number and type of services), such as Satisfactory completion / performance report (OR) any other documentary evidence that can substantiate the satisfactory execution of each of the contracts cited above. | In respect of documentary evidence to be furnished, the following must be considered in view of non-availability of completion certificates for completed or ongoing mandates. Bidder should submit the following " (a) copies of respective contracts, AND/OR (b) documentary evidence.... Also, in respect of point 1 (b), we would like to highlight that certificates from the respective hiring entities evidencing the value of e-auctions along with the price and quantity allocated in the e-auction cannot be supplied in many instances due to NonDisclosure Agreements (NDA) signed with the hiring agencies. Therefore, a selfauthorized undertaking by the bidding entities regarding the value, price and quantity of e-auctions should be considered for evaluation. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

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| 35 | Page 9-10 of 17 | Evaluation Matrix 1.a | <p>Bidder should have independently undertaken auction of commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, stores, machinery, equipment, etc. and/or rights/ licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights, etc. in India in each of the last 3 Financial years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20) through its e-auction platform</p> <p>Note:- In respect of 1.a, Bidder should submit the following</p> <p>(a) copies of respective contracts, and</p> <p>(b) documentary evidence in respect of satisfactory execution of each of those contracts, in the form of copies of any of the documents (indicating respective contract number and type of services), such as - (i) Satisfactory completion / performance report (OR) (ii) proof of release of Performance Security after completion of the contract</p> | <p>We request that evaluation under this point takes into consideration all forward and reverse auctions under all categories of the products, services, equipments and works.</p> <p>Further, we request revision in the required number of auctions as below to facilitate increased participation from eligible entities.</p> <p>More than 25 number of auctions (for 100%) Between 15 and 25 number of auctions (for 80%) Between 5 and 15 number of auctions (for 60%)</p> | <p>Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO.</p> |

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| 36 | Page 10 of 17 | Evaluation Matrix 1.b | Total combined value of all commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, etc. and/or rights/licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights, etc. auctioned in each of the last 3 Financial years (from 2017-18 to 2019-20) in India. Value will be determined by the prices discovered and quantities allocated through the bidding process on e-bidding platform. Value of all commodities auctioned will be added. Note:- In respect of 1.b, Bidder should submit the following (a) copies of respective contracts, and (b) certificate from the respective hiring entities evidencing the value of e-auctions along with the price and quantity allocated in the e-auction or provide other documentation which clearly | We request that evaluation under this point takes into consideration all forward and reverse auctions under all categories of the products, services, equipments and works. Further, we request revision in the required number of auctions as below to facilitate increased participation from eligible entities. 2500 to 5000 Crore (INR) (for 100%) 1500 to 2500 Crore (INR) (for 80%) 500 to 1500 Crores (INR) (for 60%) | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

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| 37 | Page 11 of 17 | Evaluation Matrix 2.a | Average annual turnover of the bidder in the last 3 Financial Years (2017-18 to 2019-20) Note: - In respect of 2.a, Bidder should submit the following (a) Audited Annual Financial Statements of last 3 Years. | <p>We, CRISIL Risk & Infrastructure Solutions Limited, a 100% subsidiary of CRISIL Limited have been actively supporting market players/sellers in price discovery of natural gas/CBM over the past few years. We have also carried out price discovery for natural gas through online e-bidding platform.</p> <p>However, non-consideration of parent organizations annual turnover is restrictive for entities like us who are 100% subsidiary of the parent company. Hence, we request to amend the existing clause and permit the annual turnover of the parent company, registered in India to be considered for evaluation of the bidder.</p> <p>We suggest inclusion of the following:</p> <p>The turnover of the parent company of the bidding entity will also be considered only if the parent company is registered in India and the bidding entity is 100% subsidiary of the parent (holding) company.</p> <p>Also, we request that in case of a joint submission</p> | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 38 | Page 11 of 17 | Evaluation Matrix 3.b | Bidder should have its own domain (including JV with Govt. Department or PSU) and the e-auction related software, which should be owned by the company, and should customize it as per the auction requirements of seller. | Can you please elaborate on this requirement? In past instances, we have procured specific domain for carrying out/host/manage bidding for natural gas for sellers in India. Also, tie-up with e-auction Service Providers is permissible as per this NIO. Therefore, we request modification of this clause as below: 3.b Bidder should have a domain (own or procured) (including JV with Govt. Department or PSU) for carrying out/hosting e-auctions in the past and the e-auction related software, which should be owned by the Agency (or the e-auction Service Provider with whom Agency has tied up), and should customize it as per the auction requirements of seller. Also please clarify which documentary evidence shall need to be provided to establish ownership of the e-auction software by agency or Service Provider. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 39 | Page 14 of 17 | Section G – Point 2 | The performance of the empaneled agencies will be monitored and reviewed periodically by an independent oversight mechanism. Complaints/grievances by the seller or bidders, if any, against any of these agencies, will be routed through this mechanism, to be separately notified for the purpose. An agency may be liable to be temporarily /permanently de-empanelled, if so determined through the aforesaid mechanism for non-performance | Request elaboration on the oversight mechanism that shall be employed for performance monitoring and review. | This is outside the purview of this NIO and shall be determined at a later stage. |
| 40 | Page 16 of 17 | Section M | LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF OFFER: 16:00 HRS (IST) OF 28.10.2020 | We request to kindly extend the submission deadline by 7 days in order to provide bidders requisite time to prepare a comprehensive proposal. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

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| 41 | Page 9 of 17 | E. Matrix for Evaluation- Experience of Bidder | Experience of the Bidder: Bidder should have experience in carrying out e-auctions of commodity, services or rights in India through its online e-bidding platform in a transparent, fair and competitive manner. | Since SBICAP will tie-up with an e-auction platform Service Provider, we understand the experience of SBICAP (as Bidder) for carrying out e-auctions need to be presented and will be evaluated jointly with the Service Provider. Please clarify. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 42 | Page 9 of 17 | E. Matrix for Evaluation- Experience of Bidder | Experience of the Bidder: Bidder should have experience in carrying out e-auctions of commodity, services or rights in India through its online e-bidding platform in a transparent, fair and competitive manner. | NIO requires the average annual value of all e-auction sales volumes handled in last 3 Financial Years should be atleast Rs 2,500 Crores. We understand that both SBICAP and platform service provider jointly need to showcase the above e-auction sale volumes. Please clarify. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 43 | Page 10-11 of 17 | E. Matrix for Evaluation- Financial Strength of Bidder | Average annual turnover of the bidder in the last 3 Financial Years (2017-18 to 2019-20) Note: - In respect of 2.a, Bidder should submit the following (a) Audited Annual Financial Statements of last 3 Years | NIO requires the average turnover of the agency to be atleast Rs 200 Crore in last 3 Financial Years. We understand that only SBICAP (as bidder) is required to have an Avg. Annual Turnover above Rs 200 Crores and not the platform Service Provider. Please clarify. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 44 | Page 14 of 17 | F. Duration of Empanelment | The agencies will be empanelled for an initial period of three (03) years from the date of notification of empanelment unless removed earlier due to non-performance. The contractor/ operator shall engage one among the empanelled agencies for e-auction/ price discovery of natural gas produced in the country. | What could be the possible separate mechanism/procedure (basis of selection - bidding/nomination and basis of pricing discovery) for Sellers to shortlist from the empaneled members for a particular auction in future. | This is outside the purview of this NIO. This shall be on the discretion of sellers. |
| 45 | Page 14 of 17 | F. Duration of Empanelment | Fees and Payments: Payment to agency is to be made by Seller of Natural Gas. Fees/service charges against conducting the e-bidding process and other assignments as per scope of work shall be fixed through a separate arrangement between the agency engaged and Seller of Natural Gas. | Whether the pricing determined through auction for particular Gas block of Seller will be applicable for entire lifetime of Gas block or the pricing auction to be carried out at certain frequency with block of years. | This shall be on the discretion of sellers. Sellers shall engage agencies to conduct auctions as per their business plans and requirements. |

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| 46 | Page 3 of 17 | C. Scope of Work – 2 (i) | The agency's e-auction platform should be duly compliant with standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. The agency would have to comply with all audit observations of STQC within 10 days of communication by STQC. | What could be the timeline by sellers for auction since STQC audit may take long time. | This is outside the purview of this NIO. STQC certification is mandatory for the e-auction platform and any major functional customisations to the offered solution. |
| 47 | Page 15 of 17 | G. Rights and Regulatory Conditions – Point (7) | The empanelled agencies and all its substantial equity holders, consortium and all its members would be jointly and severally responsible for conducting e-auction for discovery of price for natural gas produced in India. | NIO clause states that: "The empaneled agencies and all its substantial equity holders, consortium and all its members would be jointly and severally responsible for conducting e-auction for..." It may be noted that SBICAP (as bidder) is a professional board managed company, therefore such requirement from equity holders may be removed. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 48 | Page 17 of 17 | N. Submission of offer | Interested bidders meeting the pre qualification criteria as above are invited to submit their offer(s) at e-mail id: dghbid@dghindia.gov.in, mmenquiry@dghindia.gov.in within 28-10-2020 (Wednesday) up to 16:00 Hrs (IST), followed by 01 (one) set of hard copy of the same through courier/post super-scribing "NOTICE INVITING OFFER NO. DGH/MM/EMP/2020/ENQ-191 FOR EMAPANELEMENT OF AGENCIES TO INDEPENDENTLY CARRY OUT AUCTIONS FOR THE PRICE DISCOVERY OF NATURAL GAS THROUGH AN ELECTRONIC AUCTION PLATFORM to the following address: HOD (MM) DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HYDROCARBONS OIDB BHAWAN, TOWER A, PLOT NO. 2, SECTOR – 73, NOIDA-201301 Tel: 0120-2472020, Fax- 0120-2472049 | Given the coming festive holidays (Navratri/Dussehra) before the current bid submission date, it is requested to kindly extend the bid submission date further. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 49 | General Query | General Query | General Query | As the primary objective of Indian Gas Exchange Ltd. (IGX) & DGH's NIO is aligned, IGX should be deemed empanelled for hosting Natural Gas related auctions/ Bidding by DGH. | All bidders shall be required to comply with NIO provisions and criteria. |
| 50 | Page 10-11 of 17 | Section E. Clause 2 | Average annual turnover of the bidder in the last 3 Financial Years (2017-18 to 2019-20) Note: - In respect of 2.a, Bidder should submit the following (a) Audited Annual Financial Statements of last 3 Years | Financial Strength of Bidder: At present, IGX is a 100% subsidiary of Indian Energy Exchange Ltd (IEX), which a significant exposure of conducting auction of electricity/ power under the regulations of CERC. Hence, financial statements of our parent organisation, IEX, should be considered. | No change |
| 51 | Page 7-8 of 17 | Section D. Clause 2 | The agency should have experience of conducting e-auctions for any of the commodities like coal, oil and gas, minerals, ores, stores, machinery, equipment, etc. and/or rights/ licenses like spectrum, or other concession rights and advertising rights, etc. in the last 5 Years (reckoned as on 31st March 2020) through e-auction platform. In respect of the above, the agency should submit the following: a) Copies of respective contracts for the e-auction undertaken by it; And Documentary evidence in respect of satisfactory execution of each of these e-auction from the hiring entity, in the form of copies of any of the documents (indicating respective contract number and type of services), such as Satisfactory completion / performance report (OR) any other documentary evidence that can substantiate the satisfactory execution of each of the contracts cited above. | Section D. Clause 2. Experience in Electricity/power should also be considered towards Bidder's experience, due to complimentary nature of commodity. Documentary submission of each hiring agency e-Auction's Price & Quantity allocated completion certificates, agency should be allowed to submit govt. approved sector regulators publically published data for all completed trades during the review period. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 52 | Page 8-9 of 17 | Section D. Clause 9 | The agency should be CMMi Level 3 certified. | CMMi level 3 criteria agency | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 53 | General Query | General Query | General Query | In case of tie-up with of a Bidder with a service provider, if the service provider is meeting all technical certification requirements, primary bidder's application should be considered | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 54 | Page 14 of 17 | Section F. Clause 2 | Open window for future empanelment: The window for empanelling new agencies may be reopened after a duration of one-year. The window for re-empanelment of agencies may be opened after two years. | Open Window for Future Empanelment: Empanelment should be on continuous basis, as and when an agency is able to provide documentary submissions of all qualification criteria | No change |
| 55 | Page 16 of 17 | Section M | LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF OFFER: 16:00 HRS (IST) OF 28.10.2020 | LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF OFFER: 16:00 HRS (IST) OF 28.10.2020 | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 56 | General Query | General Query | General Query | A list of Sellers who will be using the services of empaneled service providers may please be provided. | Bidders are advised to make their own assessment |
| 57 | General Query | General Query | General Query | An approx. volume of Natural Gas planned to be sold through the empaneled Service providers may be provided. | Bidders are advised to make their own assessment |
| 58 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Will the empaneled Service provided be required to customize a unique e-Portal for each of the sellers or can the service provide have one portal and do seller specific customization with the same overall framework? | The service provider shall carry out seller specific customization in its e-auction platform as per seller's requirement. |
| 59 | Page 3 of 17 | Scope of Work Point 2 (i) | The agency's e-auction platform should be duly compliant with standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. The agency would have to comply with all audit observations of STQC within 10 days of communication by STQC. | Is the service provider required to use a portal already audited by STQC or other CERT in certified auditor or is the service provider required to customize an e-Portal based on requirement of sellers and then get it certified? If the service providers portal is already certified by STQC and only minor customization is needed based on requirement of seller, will be customized solution require a fresh certification? | In case of significant functional changes done in the e-auction platform or deployed infrastructure, fresh STQC certification shall be required. For minor changes that do not significantly alter or impact the software features, then it may not be required. Therefore, it will depend upon the degree of customization done and type of change undertaken in the system. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 60 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Who will be bearing the cost of such audit/certification by STQC? | The agency shall bear the cost of STQC Audit / Certification as part of its fees/ cost of solution offered to the seller. |
| 61 | Page 4 of 17 | Scope of Work Point 3. (e) | The agency shall facilitate procurement of DSC for bidders (if required by the bidder). Agency shall not charge any fee for this facilitation from the bidder. Bidders will bear the statutory charges towards the DSC procurement cost. | What kind of facilitation is expected under this clause. Controller of Certifying Authorities publishes on its website http://www.cca.gov.in/licensed_ca.html the list of all Licenses Certifying Authorities' in India along with their contact details, any user across the country can get a DSC from any Licensed CA. Since this process is not related to the Service provider in any way, it is not understood what facilitation is sought? | Agency may provide list of DSC vendors along with all necessary information i.e. contact details, requirements for acquiring DSC, etc.. |
| 62 | Page 5 of 17 | Scope of Work Point 4. (b) | The agency shall ensure that the link to its online base e-portal shall be hosted on DGH website under the caption 'Notice inviting bids for sale of Natural Gas'. | Since this website will be of DGH, the agency can only provide details to DGH, but cannot ensure that DGH website hosts the data. | DGH will facilitate to redirect the link of the e-auction portal on DGH website. |
| 63 | Page 8 of 17 | D. Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 2. (b) | Documentary evidence in respect of satisfactory execution of each of these e-auction from the hiring entity, in the form of copies of any of the documents (indicating respective contract number and type of services), such as Satisfactory completion / performance report (OR) any other documentary evidence that can substantiate the satisfactory execution of each of the contracts cited above. | Not all Govt Department/Ministries/PSUs etc issue Completion Certificates/Performance report. In this regard the service provider may please be allowed to submit copies of Bid Sheet/Result sheet of events which are completed by the Service provider along with Agreement/Contract/Work order copy from the relevant Authority. | No change |
| 64 | Page 14 of 17 | F: Duration of Empanelment Point 3 | Fees and Payments: Payment to agency is to be made by Seller of Natural Gas. Fees/service charges against conducting the e-bidding process and other assignments as per scope of work shall be fixed through a separate arrangement between the agency engaged and Seller of Natural Gas. | Since DGH plans to empanel more than 1 Agency, how will the seller identify which service provider to engage? Further how will the seller arrive at a rate for the services of the service provider, will the seller hold an eBid/e-Tender among the empaneled service providers after NIO? | This is outside the pruvieu of this NIO. Seller and Agency may agree on the commercial arrangement among themselves. |

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| 65 | Page 15 of 17 | I: Conflict of Interest Point 4 | The agency shall ensure that neither the agency nor its affiliates have any participating interest in the seller and vice versa prior carrying out an e-auction. | Is the agency allowed to have participating interest in bidders who will be bidding in the e-Auction events hosted on behalf of the seller? | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 66 | Page 16 – 17 of 17 | Clause M and N | LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF OFFER: 16:00 HRS (IST) OF 28.10.2020 | Due to the CoVid restrictions and annual holidays that fall during the submission timeline, we request DGH to extend the submission due date by at least 2 weeks. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 67 | Page 5 of 17 | Clause C – 4f | agency shall provide at least 30 days to submit bids after publishing of the tender on agency's website | This requirement of 30 days' notice appears on the high side. Is this requirement part of some guideline from the ministry. If so, the same may kindly be shared in its entirety. | No change |
| 68 | Page 3 of 17 | Clause C – 2i | The agency would have to comply with all audit observations of STQC within 10 days of communication by STQC. | It may not be possible to comply within 10 days since various audits are done sequentially and reports are also shared in that manner. Request DGH to increase this timeline to 3 weeks. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 69 | Page 4 of 17 Page 6 of 17 | Clause C – 3a Clause C – 7a | The agency shall adequately modify the allocation methodology as per the seller's instructions and discretion. The natural gas volumes shall be allocated based on pre-defined criteria and mechanism. | Please share the allocation methodology/rules. | This is outside the purview of this NIO. Allocation methodology shall be provided by Seller to Agency when the seller would engage the empaneled agency for auctioning of natural gas. |
| 70 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Request DGH to confirm the following: 1. Penalty, 2. Payment terms, 3. Point of invoicing, 4. Source of payment (for Auction Agency), 5. Expected volume of transaction, or minimum promised volume of transaction, 6. Number of auctions to be conducted annually Are these to be discussed and finalised in consultation with the Seller? | Yes |

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| 71 | Page 8 of 17 | Clause D3 | The agency should have the capability of hosting and managing the entire e-auction solution (either on its own or having tie-up with an e-auction Service Provider), through Central Government/ State Government/PSU owned data centre cloud hosted on the servers located in India | We suggest that hosting and managing through Meity empanelled public cloud operated by private company such Amazon (AWS) or Microsoft (Azure), or through own data centre, should also be acceptable Please confirm if providing a self-declaration of capability to undertake will suffice for this criteria. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 72 | Page 2 of 17 | Clause 2 | a. The agency should have an integrated, time-tested, secured and robust e-auction platform. | Request you to elaborate on integrated e-auction platform. | The e-auction platform should be able to undertake all bidding related processes. |
| 73 | Page 2 of 17 | Clause G | The e-auction platform must provide accurate information to bidders regarding the terms and conditions of e-auction. | Clarification is sought on whether this point refers to hosting of the terms and conditions document of e-auction by Agency. | Self-explanatory |
| 74 | Page 2 of 17 | Clause F | All data, information, documents, etc., received over the bidding portal shall reside within Indian geography and jurisdiction. | Please confirm this pertains only to database and the servers. (Since the eAuction application is being hosted on the web, all relevant data, information and downloadable documents can be accessed from anywhere. Clarification is sought on whether eAuction portal needs to be restricted for access within country.) | The physical servers and data base should reside within Indian geography and jurisdiction. |
| 75 | Page 4 of 17 | Clause 3 a. | The e-auction platform should be available online on a 24x7x365 basis and should be accessible from anywhere over public internet with uptime of 99.9 %. | Clarification is sought on from which date/period 24x7x365 availability is required. In case of schedule maintenance, or upgradation necessary system downtime would be required. | Availability should be from the date of empanelment. The preventive / routine maintenance activities should be preannounced and outside the window of bidding cycle. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 76 | Page 3 of 17 | Clause 3 a. | The agency shall prepare the standard bid document as per requirements of and in consultation with the seller and customize and configure the e-auction platform suitably for demonstrating the seller's technical and functional requirements. The agency shall develop the requisite algorithms to adequately allocate the quantities as per the criteria laid out by the seller and price discovery process to be undertaken by the agency. The agency shall adequately modify the allocation methodology as per the seller's instructions and discretion. The e-auction process should be able to identify the highest prices and the corresponding quoted quantities by the prospective bidders. The agency shall adequately change and customize the bidding portal and make it ready for use. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarification is sought on Bid Document to be prepared by Agency 2. Clarification is sought on whether sellers would provide the necessary information including allotment criteria based on which Agency shall develop the algorithm/methodology for eAuction. 3. Clarification is sought on whether Agency has to develop multiple allocation algorithms for sellers. 4. Clarification is sought on whether further change or updation will be required in the bidding portal once it is made ready for use as per the requirements | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 77 | Page 4 of 17 | Clause 3 e. | The agency shall facilitate procurement of DSC for bidders (if required by the bidder). Agency shall not charge any fee for this facilitation from the bidder. Bidders will bear the statutory charges towards the DSC procurement cost. | Please elaborate on what type of facilitation needs to be done by agency for DSC procurement by bidders. | Agency may provide list of DSC vendors along with all necessary information i.e. contact details, requirements for acquiring DSC, etc. |
| 78 | Page 5 of 17 | Clause 4 a. | All the bid related documents and other related information shall be accessible to all the prospective bidders after successful registration on the bidding portal. | Clarification is sought on whether bid related documents and other related information should be made available exclusively to registered bidders once they login to the system. | All the documents necessary for bidding shall be made available to all registered bidders. Basic details of offer may be provided openly in the public domain so that interested buyers may subsequently register and access all necessary information during bidding. |
| 79 | Page 5 of 17 | Clause 4 b. | The agency shall ensure that the link to its online base e-portal shall be hosted on DGH website under the caption 'Notice inviting bids for sale of Natural Gas'. | Please elaborate. Agency can only provide the link(Web address) of the eAuction portal however Agency cannot host any caption on DGH website. | DGH will facilitate to redirect the link of the e-auction portal on DGH website. |

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| 80 | Page 6 of 17 | Clause 5 a. | The agency shall provide suitable provision to upload and download documents by the prospective bidders on the e-bidding portal. | Clarification is sought on what documents (Type, volume, size retention period) will be uploaded and downloaded using the portal so that necessary provision for storage capacity can be done in advance. | This shall be provided by Seller to Agency when the seller would engage the agency for price discovery of natural gas |
| 81 | Page 5 of 17 | Clause 4 e. | A dedicated Technical Assistance /Help Desk Team of the agency should be available before and during the bidding process to resolve any portal related queries. | Clarification is sought on from which date/period Technical Assistance /Help Desk Team is to be made available by the Agency. | Technical Assistance/ Helpdesk needs to be provided by the agency to prospective buyers for the entire duration of the bidding i.e. from notification of offer till the closure of the bid. |
| 82 | Page 6 of 17 | Clause 7 a. | The natural gas volumes shall be allocated based on pre-defined criteria and mechanism. | Clarification is sought on whether the pre-defined criteria and mechanism are same as referred under Clause 3a, Pg 3 which states that " The agency shall develop the requisite algorithms to adequately allocate the quantities as per the criteria laid out by the seller" | Yes |
| 83 | Page 7 of 17 | Clause 7 d. | Bid submission summary and Information regarding the final agreement reached and duration of the contract between the buyer and seller shall be hosted on the Contractor's/Operator's website under intimation to DGH. | Request you to elaborate on this point | The seller shall publish the bid summary and information regarding contract with buyers (selected through the e-auction undertaken by the Agency) on its website under intimation to DGH |
| 84 | Page 14 of 17 | Clause F 1) | The contractor/ operator shall engage one among the empanelled agencies for e-auction/ price discovery of natural gas produced in the country. | Clarification is sought on the following points - 1. The contractor/ operator is same as referred as seller in the document? 2. Whether the seller will exclusively use the services of any agency? 3. What will be the duration of contract between seller and agency? | 1. Please read "Contractor / operator" as "Seller" 2. To be agreed between Seller and Agency (outside the purview of this NIO) 3. To be agreed between Seller and Agency (outside the purview of this NIO) |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 85 | Page 14 of 17 | Clause F(3) | Fees and Payments: Payment to agency is to be made by Seller of Natural Gas. Fees/service charges against conducting the e-bidding process and other assignments as per scope of work shall be fixed through a separate arrangement between the agency engaged and Seller of Natural Gas. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many number of Sellers of Natural Gas are there? 2. What are the names of these sellers? 3. What is the business potential seller wise in terms of volumes, transaction value, no of auctions per month, etc. 4. What will be the process of entering into arrangement with these sellers? What will be the selection criterion? 5. Will this arrangement between a seller and one particular agency be for a certain period (say x months/ years), or for certain no of auctions, or certain volume? 6. Will there be a committment that these sellers will auction/ sell Natural Gas only through the auction platforms to be offered by these empanelled agaencies, and by no other route? 7. Will there be sufficient business potential for distributing the total work to 5 empaneled agencies? | Bidders are advised to make their own assessment. |
| 86 | Page 14 of 17 | Clause F(1 and 2) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The agencies will be empanelled for an initial period of three (03) years from the date of notification of empanelment unless removed earlier due to non-performance. The contractor/ operator shall engage one among the empanelled agencies for e-auction/ price discovery of natural gas produced in the country. 2) Open window for future empanelment: The window for empanelling new agencies may be reopened after a duration of one-year. The window for re-empanelment of agencies may be opened after two years. | The agencies will be empanelled for an initial period of three (03) years. However, the window for re-empanelment of agencies may be opened after two years. The statements seem to be contradictory. Could you please clarify. | No. change. It is self-explanatory |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 87 | Page 15 of 17 | Clause I (1) | The agency (including their personnel and sub-consultants) or any of their affiliates shall not receive any remuneration from the seller engaging it, in connection with the services mentioned in this NIO except provided in the contract between the agency and seller. | This statement seems to be in contradiction with the statement in Pg. 14, Cl. F(3), which states that "Fees and Payments: Payment to agency is to be made by Seller of Natural Gas. Fees/service charges against conducting the e-bidding process and other assignments as per scope of work shall be fixed through a separate arrangement between the agency engaged and Seller of Natural Gas." Kindly clarify. | No change. It is self-explanatory |
| 88 | Page 2 of 17 | Clause C(1c) | The agency shall document the entire process of e-auction and provide all services incidental to the conduct of successful e-auction i.e. till the completion of the process and selection of the successful bidder(s) in the e-auction(s). | 1. Could you please elaborate on "all services." 2. Who will provide the names & other details of the buyers? Is market making the responsibility of the sellers or the agencies? Who are the buyers and how many buyers exist? | No change. It is self-explanatory |
| 89 | Page 4 of 17 | Clause 3a | The agency shall develop the requisite algorithms to adequately allocate the quantities as per the criteria laid out by the seller and price discovery process to be undertaken by the agency. The agency shall adequately modify the allocation methodology as per the seller's instructions and discretion. The e-auction process should be able to identify the highest prices and the corresponding quoted quantities by the prospective bidders. The agency shall adequately change and customize the bidding portal and make it ready for use. | Will the bidding portal, algorithms, allocation methodology, etc. need to be customized for each seller separately? If yes, this would lead to higher costs. Can this not be standardized across sellers? How many sellers are there? | As mentioned "The agency shall adequately modify the allocation methodology as per the seller's instructions and discretion". This may lead to customization for each auction. |
| 90 | Page 4 of 17 | Clause 3d | The agency shall provide secure registration facility to prospective bidders through authenticated login and password along with secure and encrypted DSC issued by a certifying authority in India or any other latest technology complying with Govt. of India IT Act-2000. | Will the agencies be allowed to collect bidder registration fees, and to what extent? | Please interpret inline with the provisions of the revised NIO |

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| 91 | Page 8 of 17 | Clause D5 | The average annual turnover of the agency should be at least INR 200 Crore per year in the last three (3) Financial Years (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20). In respect of total turnover, the agency should submit Audited Annual Financial Statements of last 3 Years. | We recommend that annual profit of the agency should also be additionally considered as a PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA (PQC), for determining the Financial Strength of the Bidder. The intending bidder should be a consistent profit making company for last 5 financial years. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 92 | Page 12 of 17 | Clause 4a | Robustness of the platform in the form of hosting large number of tenders simultaneously, large number of participants in a single tender, peak traffic, Reverse Auction Facility, etc. | Could you please elaborate the need of "Reverse Auction facility" for the price discovery of Natural Gas? In our opinion it should be "Forward Auction facility." | No change |
| 93 | Page 3 of 17 | Clause 2i | The agency's e-auction platform should be duly compliant with standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. The agency would have to comply with all audit observations of STQC within 10 days of communication by STQC. | Compliance with STQC audit observation within 10 days of communication from STQC may not be practically possible always. We suggest that it should be increased to atleast 3 weeks. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 94 | Page 2 of 17 | Clause 2b | The said platform should offer a superior level of security with Secure Socket Layer (SSL) encryption, strong authentication with digital certificates and high-speed to conduct real time bidding over the Internet. The platform should support creation of Administrative hierarchy, using adequately secured passwords with digital signatures. | Could you please explain the administrative hierarchy and how the hierarchy will play role in the auction platform. | The role defined administrative hierarchy of the e-auction platform will be as per the requirement of seller. |
| 95 | Page 11 of 17 | Clause 3a(ii) | Bidder will have to furnish the following: i) Information security policy documents of the organization ii) CERT-In certificate. | Kindly clarify which certificate from CERT-In auditor is being referred here. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 96 | Page 8 of 17 | Clause D(4) | In case of tie-up with a Service Provider, the bidder shall mention the name of the service provider and shall provide a NIO/tender specific authorization certificate from the Service Provider in the name of the bidder stating that they will provide the necessary services and support required for execution of the scope of work as defined in the NIO document. | We recommend that consortium or tie-ups between bidder (agency) and Service Provider are not allowed. | No change |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 97 | Page 2 of 17 | Point 2. a | The agency should have an integrated, time-tested, secured and robust e-auction platform. | Features & Types of auctions/E-Tenders looking for needs to be elaborated | Bidders are advised to make their own assessment |
| 98 | Page 3 of 17 | Point 2, h | The agency should be a minimum of CMMi Level 3 certified organization or above. | We would recommend you to remove the clause as ISO certification is asked for | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 99 | Page 3 of 17 | Point 2, l | The agency's e-auction platform should be duly compliant with standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. | Request you please allow us minimum 6 months time for the same, if there requires a customization. | No change |
| 100 | Page 3 of 17 | Point 2, m | The e-auction platform should be available online on a 24x7x365 basis and should be accessible from anywhere over public internet with uptime of 99.9 %. | Suggestion to add scheduled maintenance if any, to be added in the clause. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 101 | Page 4 of 17 | Point 3, a, | customize and configure the e-auction platform suitably for demonstrating the seller's technical and functional requirements. | What would be the scope for customization, we are having a fully fledged platform having all the basic requirements mentioned. | The agency shall be required to customize and configure the e-auction platform suitably for demonstrating the seller's technical and functional requirements. |
| 102 | Page 4 of 17 | Point 3, b | The agency shall follow test management system and submit the test cases along with report of testing conducted on the platform for User Acceptance Test (UAT). | Please specify Test management system | The test management system of the e-auction platform should be configured as per seller's requirement and should be demonstrated to the seller for acceptance before going live for the actual e-auction. |
| 103 | Page 4 of 17 | Point 3, c | The e-auction platform shall facilitate electronic payment through web | Is this a pre-requisite or a customization required after we sign an MoU. We prefer to do this after an MoU is signed up | This is a pre-requisite. |
| 104 | Page 5 of 17 | Point 4, f | The agency shall provide at least 30 days to submit bids after publishing of the tender on agency's website (and hosting the link of e-tender on DGH website). | Do you require us to publish Tender first as pre-bid, and then go for auction or, the auction open for 30 days or so? | Please interpret inline with the provisions of the revised NIO |
| 105 | Page 6 of 17 | Point No. 7, c | A recommendation report suggesting the successful bidders and the allocated quantities/ prices validated by the agency shall be submitted. | Do you require Yankee Forward auction services as well? | Please interpret inline with the provisions of the revised NIO |

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| 106 | Page 8 of 17 | Point D. 5 | The average annual turnover of the agency should be at least INR 200 Crore per year in the last three (3) Financial Years (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20). | We would request you take out the turnover requirement, as we are competent and having best in class auction solution, having an assoicytion with many of the Fortune 500 companies like Vedanta Group, Adani Group, Sterlite, ABB, ITC, LnT etc..among the few. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 107 | Page 8 of 17 | Point D. 6 | The average annual value of all e-auction/ e-bidding sales volume in the last 3 Financial years (2017-18 to 2019-2020) should be at least INR 2500 Crore per year. The value of e-auctions shall be based on the price discovered and the quantity allocated during the e-auction/ bidding. | Suggestion to make to inclusive of Both Forward & Reverse auction | Please interpret inline with the provisions of the revised NIO |
| 108 | Page 8 of 17 | Point D. 6 | In the respect of the above, the agency should submit certificate from the respective hiring entity evidencing the value of e-auctions along with the price and quantity allocated | We can provide a summary from reports, and getting certificate from all the clients is time taking and lengthy process. | No change |
| 109 | Page 8 of 17 | Point D. 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. | We would request you to allow us minimum 6 months for STQC certificate | No change |
| 110 | Page 8-9 of 17 | Point D. 9 | The agency should be CMMi Level 3 certified. | We woud request you to take out the same as ISO certification would be a valid proof to replace the same. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 111 | Page 14 of 17 | Point F. 1 | The agencies will be empanelled for an initial period of three (03) years | Please specify minimum business commitment | Bidders are advised to make their own assessment |
| 112 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Minimum Number of auction allotted to each agency/Criteria of allocation? | Bidders are advised to make their own assessment |
| 113 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Total Value of single auction event (Approx) | Bidders are advised to make their own assessment |
| 114 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Number of Natural Gas sellers and Names? | Bidders are advised to make their own assessment |
| 115 | General Query | General Query | General Query | General points to be added in Demo session and Tentative Date? | Mentioned in the NIO |
| 116 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Re-submission of commercial if any and time frame? | Outside the purview of this NIO |
| 117 | General Query | General Query | General Query | How to know the status of our application? | The bidders shall be suitably intimated. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 118 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Do you wish to be charged on Percentage of the sale Value or on Fixed charges? | Outside the purview of this NIO |
| 119 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Customization charges to be added in the commercials or should we mention it separate | Outside the purview of this NIO |
| 120 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Type of auctions services looking for? | Please refer to the revised NIO |
| 121 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Time frame of single auction event? | Outside the purview of this NIO |
| 122 | General Query | General Query | General Query | Pre-auction time frame available? | Outside the purview of this NIO |
| 123 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC | As per the Guidelines for Compliance to Quality requirements of procurement System, STQC Directorate states under Point No. 4.2 Other Requirements for Quality and Security Evaluation "The Audit for the certification of the entire e - auction solution shall be undertaken after its deployment and prior to its usage." (Refer enclosed STQC Guidelines, Highlighted) with ref. to above clause the solution is to be audited by STQC for the customized solution developed / deployed for the Government Authority. It will only benefit a certain companies which were incorporated before the STQC guidelines came i.e. 2011 Our solution is compliant with the STQC guideline but the solution is to be audited after the deployment as per the guidelines Further, We understand DGH will have to use the STQC guidelines complied product as per CVC guidelines Therefore, we Request : | No change. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 124 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC | <p>(i) Ministry of Finance, (ii) Ministry of MSME & (iii) Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprise's guidelines in their respective office memorandum (enclosed),</p> <p>they have asked for "Relaxation of condition in prior experience & prior turnover for Start-ups / MSMEs"</p> <p>Our product is audited by STQC & Certin empanelled auditor hence it proves that our product is technically qualified. As per the guidelines for start-up. Being a start-up company and technically qualified company, we should be allowed to bid for this auction and should be qualified as the mentioned clause. We request you to consider the enclosed guidelines</p> <p>a) Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GOI (Ref. No. F.20/2/2014) b) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, GOI (Ref. No. 1(2)(1)/2014-MA) c) Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprise, GOI (Ref. No. DPE/7(4)/2007-Fin.)</p> <p>& give relaxation as per attached Office Memorandum to the Start-ups & MSEs like us in the prior experience</p> | No change. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
|--------|---------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------|
| 125 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC | <p>Recently many other government organizations like (i) Northern Coalfields Ltd. (ii) Nuclear Power Corporation Ltd. (iii) MHADA, Govt of Maharashtra (iv) CIDCO Ltd., Govt of Maharashtra have invited tenders for “eAuction” & “eProcurement” & while inviting the bids, have asked the participating bidders to submit the undertaking of “Getting the proposed solution STQC certified after deployment” (if required ref. tender document can be shared).</p> <p>The same should be allowed in case of this tender as per STQC guidelines.</p> <p>We would like to bring it to your notice that our application is already audited by Cert.in & STQC empanelled auditor for the said requirement. We are willing to give an undertaking to DGH that “The proposed solution will be STQC certified after deployment & before implementation” as per STQC guidelines.</p> <p>We request DGH to also use the similar pattern so that MSMEs & Startups like us will be able to bid for the tender while assuring the solution offered to the DGH is STQC compliant as per guideline.</p> | No change. |
| 126 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC | <p>Our software is audited by STQC empanelled auditor. We request you to provide us to allow for giving undertaking for stating that “The proposed solution will be STQC certified after deployment & before implementation”.</p> | No change. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 127 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC | As per Government of India's relaxed norms of Public Procurement, office memorandum of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance / Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises / Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprise vouch for Relaxation of Norms for Startups Medium Enterprises in Public Procurement will be also considered, ? pl. find enclosed the office memorandum (Enclosed) a) Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GOI (Ref. No. F.20/2/2014) b) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, GOI (Ref. No. 1(2)(1)/2014-MA) c) Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprise, GOI (Ref. No. DPE/7(4)/2007-Fin.) As per the above circular relaxation should be granted in Pre-Qualification/Eligibility | No change. |
| 128 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC | We would like to know as per which law the proposed e-Auction Solution to DGH has to be pre-audited by STQC, We request to kindly share guidelines / circulars. | No change. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 129 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 7 | The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide all necessary documentary evidence of compliance of the standard prescribed DeITY and STQC | We draw your attention, that STQC Certificate on or before the date of start-up registration under DIPP is not possible because of following: As mentioned above a company will get contract, implement the software and will get STQC certificate. None of the existing company having STQC certificate is a startup company. Moreover, acquiring STQC certificate is not possible before getting startup company is formed. Similarly start-up company will not be able to survive without getting contract. Provided the start-up meet the technical criteria as per the guidelines, and our product is audited by STQC & Certin empanelled auditor hence it proves that our product is technically qualified. As per the guidelines for start-up. Being a start-up company and technically qualified company, we should be allowed to bid for this auction and should be qualified as the mentioned clause. | No change. |
| 130 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 5 | The average annual turnover of the agency should be at least INR 200 Crore per year in the last three (3) Financial Years (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20). In respect of total turnover, the agency should submit Audited Annual Financial Statements of last 3 Years. | We are an Startup company engaged in services providing e-Auction and e-Tendering. Generally none of the company is having such an high volume of Financial Turnover. Moreover, startup company will never have. We Request you to relax this condition to get best services at competitive prices. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 131 | Page 8-9 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 9 Point 10 | 9. The agency should be CMMi Level 3 certified. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide the requisite Certificate 10. The agency should be ISO 27001 certified. In respect of the above, the agency needs to provide the requisite Certificate. | Company having ISO 27001 is normally enough for the quality certification purpose. We request to relax the condition of CMMi Level3 certificate. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 132 | Page 8 of 17 | Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) Point 4 | In case of tie-up with a Service Provider, the bidder shall mention the name of the service provider and shall provide a NIO/tender specific authorization certificate from the Service Provider in the name of the bidder stating that they will provide the necessary services and support required for execution of the scope of work as defined in the NIO document | Kindly clarify if the joint experience of PTC and the service provider can be consider under the eligibility criteria mention in the RFP. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 133 | Page 8 of 17 | D. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA (PQC): Point 3 | The agency should have the capability of hosting and managing the entire e-auction solution (either on its own or having tie-up with an e-auction Service Provider), through Central Government/State Government/PSU owned data centre cloud hosted on the servers located in India. | Explanatory Note/ Background for the Change Requested: As per DeitY-Guidelines on e-Procurement dtd 31st August 2011, and the related communications of the CVC and Finance Ministry, STQC audits and certifies the e-Procurement software, as well as, the server and hosting infrastructure (including the data center where the server is hosted) as per the requirement of the Deity-Guidelines. Under the Testing framework for Quality and Security Characteristics, STQC verifies, validates and certifies the infrastructure/ data center of the Service Provider. Once STQC has certified a data center for two consecutive years, there should be no doubts left about its acceptability for government use. Hence the clause given in the left column is restrictive. Further, the Government of India through MeitY has specially certified and empanelled over 10 | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 134 | Page 8 of 17 | D. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA (PQC): Point 5 | The average annual turnover of the agency should be at least INR 200 Crore per year in the last three (3) Financial Years (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20). | <p>Explanatory Note/ Background for the Change Requested:</p> <p>The efficacy of the e-Auctions proposed to be conducted by empanelled 'agencies' will be based on the functionality available on their e-Tendering/e-Auction platform and has nothing to do with Rs.200 Crore or higher turnover mentioned in the NIO.</p> <p>Our platform 'Bharat-ElectronicTender' has been used by various government agencies for conducting some of the most challenging e-Tenders cum e-Auctions. In fact, various record solar/renewable energy tariffs achieved by different government agencies since November 2015, have been achieved using the cutting-edge e-Procurement software of ElectronicTender.</p> <p>There is no technical reason on why relatively simpler e-Auctions planned by DGH cannot be conducted using our platform.</p> <p>Hence, this is a highly restrictive clause without</p> | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 135 | Page 8 of 17 | D. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA (PQC): Point 6 | The average annual value of all e-auction/ e-bidding sales volume in the last 3 Financial years (2017-18 to 2019-2020) should be at least INR 2500 Crore per year. The value of e-auctions shall be based on the price discovered and the quantity allocated during the e-auction/ bidding. | <p>Clarification: We assume this includes both e-ReverseAuctions and e-ForwardAuctions. Since the e-Auction process is similar, whether it is sale or purchase doesn't make a difference.</p> | Please interpret inline with the provisions of the revised NIO |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 136 | Page 8 of 17 Page 3 of 17 | D. PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA (PQC): Point 9 C. SCOPE OF WORK Point 2(h) | 9. The agency should be CMMi Level 3 certified. h. The agency should be a minimum of CMMi Level 3 certified organization or above. | Explanatory Note/ Background for the Change Requested: Since we have a ready-to-use STQC certified software, it has nothing to do with developing customized software. Therefore, this clause is again restrictive and irrelevant. Also please note that when STQC certifies a system they comprehensively check for various required certifications which also include ISO, etc. Amendment Requested: This clause should be deleted. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 137 | Page 11 of 17 | E. METHODOLOGY OF SHORT-LISTING AND SELECTION FOR EMPANELMENT: Point 2a | Financial Strength of the Bidder Average annual turnover of the bidder in the last 3 Financial Years (2017-18 to 2019-20) Note: - In respect of 2.a, Bidder should submit the following (a) Audited Annual Financial Statements of last 3 Years | Explanatory Note/ Background for the Change Requested: Giving marks to bidders in technical evaluation on the basis of their turnover is also completely biased towards a particular vendor and therefore unfair. Instead, please note that the 'robustness and integrity of the e-procurement application software' based on which an e-Tendering/e-Platforms is built, is indicated by the compliance and certification by STQC of the application software with the national guidelines on e-Procurement, ie DeitY Guidelines dtd 31st August 2011 published by STQC (Guidelines for compliance to Quality requirements of eProcurement Systems). Amendment Requested: Hence, clause 2a on page 11/17 of the NIO should be substituted with the following: Number of years for which the software has been continuously certified by STQC for compliance to | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 138 | Page 11 of 17 | E. METHODOLOGY OF SHORT-LISTING AND SELECTION FOR EMPANELMENT: Point 3b | Bidder should have its own domain (including JV with Govt. Department or PSU) and the e-auction related software, which should be owned by the company, and should customize it as per the auction requirements of seller. | This clause is not clear. Please explain. | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |
| 139 | Page 3 of 17 Page 8 of 17 | C. SCOPE OF WORK Point 2i D: PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA (PQC) Point 7 | i. The agency's e-auction platform should be duly compliant with standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. The agency would have to comply with all audit observations of STQC within 10 days of communication by STQC. 7. The security standard of software solution to be used for e-bidding shall be duly compliant of standards prescribed by DeITY and STQC. | Please note that there is no mention specifically of the National Guidelines on e-Procurement (Deity-Guidelines). Only mentioning STQC Certification can be misleading and can be misinterpreted (Since STQC gives various types of certificates for both software and hardware). Amendment Requested: The e-Procurement 'application software' should be fully compliant with Deity-Guidelines dated 31-08-2011, and should have been certified by STQC for at least 5-years continuously prior to the date of this NOI, for compliance with Deity-Guidelines. (Attach all certificates and current valid certificate) | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |

| S. No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Page No. | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Reference | NIO (Dated 12.10.2020) Clause Description | Query | DGH Response |
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| 140 | General Query | General Query | General Query | <p>There should be no need for any customization/ modification. The required functionality should be already inbuilt in the 'Comprehensive framework' of the system. While selecting the system, DGH evaluation team should see a detailed demo of such functionalities, and satisfy themselves that these functionalities already exist in the system they are selecting. Once a proper system is selected, then from tender-to-tender, and/or auction-to-auction, configuring of individual e-tender or e-auction should not take more than a few minutes or an hour, as already stated above.</p> <p>Further, please note that once an application has been certified by STQC any major customization may invalidate the certification and jeopardize the bidding process of DGH.</p> <p>Therefore, there should be no need for customization or modification. The required functionality should be unambiguous and well defined in the technical specifications and should be already inbuilt in the 'Comprehensive framework' of the system being offered to DGH.</p> | Please refer to the corresponding changes w.r.t. the query in the revised NIO. |