

## **NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY**

Corrigendum to Tender Ref No- EOI/ICT/Infra/NTA/January/2022 & Tender ID: 2022\_NTA\_669511\_1

Dated 07.03.2022

**The Expression of Interest Document is Modified/Explained (Wherever Applicable) as under:**

Sr. No.	Page No./Point	EOI Content	Reasons/ Queries/ Clarification Requested	Request	Remarks
1		The NTA conducts Entrance examinations through "Computer Based Test (CBT)-Examination in online mode" in approximately 600 examination centers spread all across India.	1. Please share the existing IT infrastructure in 600 examination centers?		<b>Computers with software &amp; utilities, Laser Printers, Local Servers, CCTV Surveillance, UPS, LAN, Switches, etc.</b>
			2. We assume that there is an additional examination centers (apart from existing 600 centers) to be setup as part of this EOI/project. Please confirm and share the Qty. of examination Centers.		<b>About 600 Examination Centres Spread all across India</b>
2	5	This would inter-alia necessitate establishing a large number of examination Centres in PAN India that will be equipped with all IT requirements so that whenever there is a requirement for conducting online teaching, learning sessions and examination assessments, these Centres can be effortlessly utilized by State and Central Government Examination agencies like NTA, PSC's, SSC's etc.	1. We assume that the scope of this EOI/project is to setup examination centers in PAN India. Please confirm.		<b>YES, the Scope of this EOI for setting up examination Centres in PAN India</b>
			2. Are there any scope requirement of setting IT equipment at Centralized locations/Data Center and Disaster Recovery Site?		<b>Please Read the EOI Document</b>
			3. What are all the equipment's to be considered for 'IT Requirements'?		<b>Please Read the EOI Document</b>
			4. Who would be responsible for providing physical infrastructure (Building Space with Environment – AC, Fire Alarm, etc.)?		<b>Educational Institutes and Colleges in NTAs collaboration are responsible for Providing physical infrastructure.</b>
3	6	To achieve the objective, individual universities and other Higher Education Institutions (HEI) will be approached to offer area in their campus for the development of new IT infrastructure or to modify the existing one according to their policy.	1. With this, we understand that HEI will provide space and environment to setup 'IT Equipment's Please confirm?		<b>YES, HEI will provide space and environment to Setup 'IT Equipment'</b>
			2. Who would be responsible to modify the existing infra – HEI / Firm qualified in this project?		<b>Only minor modification will be done by HEI</b>
4	6	iii. Promote and create future-ready IT technology enabled standardized Online Examination Centres by investing in infrastructure.	Please share the list of IT technology components		<b>As mentioned at Sr. No. 1 above</b>
5	6	iv. Utilization of this infrastructure by willing HEIs to offer targeted training in low-expertise tasks for supporting the AI value chain such as data annotation, image classification, speech transcription and many others as per NEP 2020.	1. Can agency/ Bidder allowed to share infrastructure during off-periods with local colleges, universities?		<b>YES</b>
			2. Is there any approval/authorization required from NTA to share infrastructure (considering local Universities, colleges)?		<b>YES, will be part of Agreement</b>

6	6	v. Creating of more virtual ICT labs to give remotely located students access to hands-on experiential learning.	Please elaborate on 'Virtual ICT Labs'?		<b>ICT Lab using ICT/Digital Tech.</b>
7	7	The purpose of this EOI is to select a bidder for providing services w.r.t.	1. Please share the list of IT components to be considered in each examination centers.		<b>As mentioned at Sr. No. 1 above</b>
		· Infrastructure (ICT & Furniture inclusive of electrification, power backup & network cabling),	2. Is the Internet connectivity to central location is scope of Infrastructure?		<b>YES, the Internet connectivity to central location is scope of Infrastructure.</b>
		· Support Manpower to operate and maintain the centers,	3. What is the seating number per examination center?		<b>About 125 on average per lab.</b>
		· Maintenance of Infrastructure to ensure smooth functioning of online test Centre.	4. We assume the list shared in 'Annexure E' gives number of examination centers setup, please confirm.		<b>It is tentative list of cities, where such Centres are proposed.</b>
			5. What is the project duration to maintain examination centers?		<b>The Project duration to maintain examination Centres for 2 years, with extensions upto 3 more year</b>
			6. Will there be any distribution of setting up examination centers with more than one qualified bidder?		<b>Details will be given in RFP</b>
			7. What is qualification of resources/ Manpower and quantification?		<b>Will be given in RFP</b>
8	7	The infrastructure provided by agency would be in-line with the detailed Qualitative Requirements (QRs) supplied to top three ranked qualified firms evaluated as part of this EOI and their maintenance needs to be assured till the project tenure.	<b>Is there any binding of qualified firm that firm has to mandatory participate in next stages?</b>		<b>YES</b>
9	7-4-b	Under Bidders Pre-Qualification Criteria, point no b it says that Consortium, Joint-venture bids are not allowed.	We request you to kindly allow for Consortium, Joint Venture		<b>No Change</b>
10	7-4-e	Under Bidder Pre-Qualification criteria, point no e, it says The firm should have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 15 Crores during the last three financial years (FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 or FY 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21). In case of ITR, BL, PL of FY 2020-21 is not filled yet then CA certified provisional BL & PL should be submitted.	Since the requirement is for PAN India Location, We request you to kindly consider the point The firm should have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 50 Crores during the last three financial years (FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 or FY 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21). In case of ITR, BL, PL of FY 2020-21 is not filled yet then CA certified provisional BL & PL should be submitted.		<b>No Change</b>
11	4.b	Consortium, Joint-venture bids are not allowed.	Govt. of India encourages forming of consortium for MSME companies to bid for Govt. projects	We request you to kind allow joint bidding/consortium	<b>No Change</b>
12	4.f	The firm should have experience of 2 different States in India and a project value of INR 5 Crores each for IT related services (Hardware-as-a-service) into Examination related assignment for any State / PSU / Central Govt. bodies in last 5 years as on day of bidding.	As per our knowledge no Government /State/PSU/Central government body has ordered to setup IT related Infrastructure for Examination related assignment.	We request to please remove examination related assignment.	<b>No Change</b>

13	4.g	The firm should have experience of developing Integrated command control room setup for monitoring Examination assignments from a single location for minimum of 3 different State/Central Govt. bodies in last 5 years as on day of bidding	This kind of requirement specially asked for CCTV Surveillance Project only as this project there is no mention of installation of live CCTVs at Centers	We request to please remove this point	<b>Command control Room will be used to monitor the Centres. Exam monitoring needs specialization.</b>
14	4.j	The firm who have been engaged for Exam conduction activities (CBT or OMR or Type-writing or Online assessment based exam) with any State/PSU/Central Govt. bodies in India in last 7 years as on day of bidding through their own-self or any of their consortium partner would not be eligible to Dated 21st EOI ICT Infra NTA January 2022 January 2022 Page 8 of 28 participate in this bid. The firm should submit a Declaration from Firm's Owner against this point on Notary stamp paper of INR 100/	There are only handful of companies in India who are providing IT Infra for conducting of examination.	We request to allow companies who are providing IT infrastructure directly to Govt. or agencies to conduct Examination.	<b>The company should not be conducting the exam itself</b>
15	5.4	Firm's experience of carrying out the job of IT related services (Hardware as-a-service) in a single Examination order in last 5 years as on day of bidding in >= 10 Indian states (10 marks) >= 5 and < 9 Indian States (5 marks) >= 3 and < 5 Indian States (3 marks)	It is asking for same kind of project of setup of labs for conducting examination as no other govt. organization has setup IT infra specialized for Examination	we request to please remove examination service point	<b>No Change</b>
16	5.7	Approach and Methodology Understanding of Requirements (10 marks) Experience on implementation, operational excellence (10 marks) Project Management and implementation Plan (10 marks)		30 points on Presentation is very high it should be 10. We request to please see in this regard.	<b>No Change</b>
17		General Query		To consider companies with experience in Skill Development and Infrastructure Development wherein installation of CCTV and deployment of large number of computers in these Centres/infrastructure are part of these projects.	<b>If exams have been part of this deployment, it can be considered</b>
18	Page 7 Clause 4(b)	Consortium, Joint-venture bids are not allowed	We Would Request NTA to allow consortium as part of the EOI. This would allow maximum participation and obtain the best quality service with the optimize Cost	Consortium, Joint-venture bids should allow (maximum up to 2 consortium partners)	<b>No Change</b>
19	Page 7 Clause 4(e)	The firm should have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 15 Crores during the last three financial years (FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 or FY 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21). In case of ITR, BL, PL of FY 2020-21 is not filled yet then CA certified provisional BL & PL should be submitted.	Since NTA is a National Agency for undertaking almost all high-stake exams across the country, it becomes imperative that this project is taken by organization/ organizations which have the financial capability and stability to undertake such large-scale project. Hence, we recommend that NTA should invite organization/ organizations with at least 50 Cr turnover	The firm should have a minimum average annual turnover of INR 50 Crores during the last three financial years (FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 or FY 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21). In case of ITR, BL, PL of FY 2020-21 is not filled yet then	<b>No Change</b>

				CA certified provisional BL & PL should be submitted.	
20	Page 7 Clause 4(f)	The firm should have experience of 2 different States in India and a project value of INR 5 Crores each for IT related services (Hardware-as-a-service) into Examination related assignment for any State/PSU/Central Govt. bodies in last 5 years as on day of bidding.	The objective of this EOI is to build digital Infrastructure supporting multiple purpose like Online assessment & Training etc., Hence we Request/Recommend to allow Organization/Companies which are involved in IT/ICT/Infrastructure/Skill development/Training activities to participate in the EOI. Whereas existing Clause (4(f) in prequalification) in the EOI restrict NTA to evaluate companies who are involved in IT related services for Examination related assignment only, hence this Clause is very exclusive in nature and would restrict experienced and relevant participants.	The firm should have Implemented/Implementing IT/ICT/Infrastructure/Skill development/Training related activities in Examination/School Infra with project value of INR 5 Crores for any State/PSU/Central Govt. bodies in last 5 years as on day of bidding.	<b>No Change. But Skill Development Experience can be considered, if conduct of exam was part of the infrastructure provided.</b>
21	Page 7 Clause 4(g)	The firm should have experience of developing Integrated command control room setup for monitoring Examination assignments from a single location for minimum of 3 different State/Central Govt. bodies in last 5 years as on day of bidding.	The objective of this EOI is to build digital Infrastructure supporting multiple purpose like Online assessment & Training etc., Hence we Request/Recommend to allows Organization/Companies which are involved in IT/ICT/Infrastructure's setup for schools, Skill development & Training related activities to participate in the EOI. Whereas existing Clause (4(g) in prequalification) in the EOI restrict NTA to evaluate companies who are involved in examination related Command Control room setup only, hence this Clause is very exclusive in nature and would restrict experienced and relevant participants.	The bidder should have implemented or Implementing project minimum of worth 15 Cr with IT/ICT related infrastructure (e.g., Smart classes, center of excellence or skilling related work) for Govt./PSU agencies in last 5 years	<b>No Change. But Skill Development Experience can be considered, if conduct of exam was part of the infrastructure provided.</b>
22	Page 7 Clause 4(i)	Firms found eligible based on supportive documents provided along with their letter for Expression of Interest will be evaluated further based on Technical Scoring Criteria and thereby, top 3 ranked qualified firms will be supplied detailed Qualitative Requirements (QRs) and limited tender will be floated among those firms.	We Request/Recommend NTA to consider empanelment of Multiple firms to cater the requirement/Implementation on Pan India basis. Therefore, request you to Clarify will NTA Empanel all the selected top 3 ranked firms for final distribution of work, or it will be only one selected firm.	The firm which is eligible based on supportive documents provided along with their letter for Expression of Interest will be evaluated further based on Technical Scoring Criteria and thereby, top 3 ranked qualified firms will be supplied detailed Qualitative Requirements (QRs) and	<b>Empanelment can be considered after RFP</b>

				limited tender will be floated among those firms. Basis L1 & Technical Evaluation NTA will empanel all 3 firms.	
23	Page 7 Clause 4(j)	The firm who has been engaged for Exam conduction activities (CBT or OMR or Type-writing or Online assessment based exam) with any State/PSU/Central Govt. bodies in India in last 7 years as on day of bidding through their own-self or any of their consortium partner would not be eligible to participate in this bid. The firm should submit a Declaration from Firm's Owner against this point on Notary stamp paper of INR 100/-.	The Intent of this Clause is to keep digital Lab separated from companies/Firms who are involved in Examination related activities. However, Clause no. 4(f) & 4(g) in pre-qualification contradicts this clause. We Request/Recommend NTA should allow companies who are already working in this domain to leverage their expertise towards developing assessment/training digital centers and which in turn will ensure to bridge gaps if any.	The firm should have implemented or Implementing project minimum of worth 15 Cr with IT/ICT related infrastructure (e.g., Smart classes, center of excellence or skilling related work) for Govt./PSU agencies in last 7 years	<b>No Change</b>
24	Page 8 Clause 4(k)	The firm selected for this project would not be allowed to engage them self for Online assessment & Examination conduction activities with any State/Govt. department or PSC or SSC or PSU or any Autonomous body etc. of India through their own-self or any of their consortium partner during the validity of this contract. The firm should submit a Declaration from Firm's Owner against this point on Notary stamp paper of INR 100/-	The Intent of this Clause is to keep digital Lab separated from companies/Firms who are involved in Examination related activities. However, Clause no. 4(f) & 4(g) in pre-qualification contradicts this clause. We Request/Recommend NTA should allow companies who are already working in this domain to leverage their expertise towards developing Assessment/Training digital centers and which in turn will ensure to bridge gaps if any.	The firm should have experience in implementation of Digital Classroom/ICT lab-based projects with at least 350 labs of institute/college/govt. bodies/schools in last 7 years	<b>The firm with exam conduction activities are not permitted. However, IT etc. company with experience of digital lab/class is allowed provided it has not been conducting centralized exams for any party. The qualification would be decided based on, conflict of interest of infrastructure provider and exam conductor to remove chances of cheating / manipulations</b>
25	Page 7 Clause 4(b)	Consortium, Joint-venture bids are not allowed	We Would Request NTA to allow consortium as part of the EOI. This would allow maximum participation and obtain the best quality service with the optimize Cost <b>We as an Eduspark has successfully conducted MAHCET, CBT Examination through consortium model , Which has given ability to select best technology available in market and also flexibility to choose consortium partners for any future projects basis on ground strength, We would recommend NTA to have consortium and Joint - venture in the bid to have better control on prime bidder and its flexibility on selecting consortium partners to leverage best of its strength ( We can restrict it to selection of maximum 2 consortium partners).</b>	Consortium, Joint-venture bids should allow (maximum up to 2 consortium partners)	<b>No Change</b>

26	Page 7 Clause 4(j)	<p>The firm who have been engaged for Exam conduction activities (CBT or OMR or Type-writing or Online assessment based exam) with any State/PSU/Central Govt. bodies in India in last 7 years as on day of bidding through their own-self or any of their consortium partner would not be eligible to participate in this bid. The firm should submit a Declaration from Firm's Owner against this point on Notary stamp paper of INR 100/-.</p>	<p>The Intent of this Clause is to keep digital Lab separated from companies/Firms who are involved in Examination related activities. However, Clause no. 4(f) &amp; 4(g) in pre-qualification contradicts this clause. We Request/Recommend NTA should allow companies who are already working in this domain to leverage their expertise towards developing assessment/training digital centers and which in turn will ensure to bridge gaps if any.</p> <p><b>We as an "Eduspark" is part of a group which is also into running its own Schools, under the brand name of "VIBGYOR" and working with many Govt. organizations pan India for various digital infrastructure building for Education/ICT/Skill Development/Training domain. We would like to bring to your notice that conducting examination is not our core business. As a company we are align with objectives of NEP 2020 and our focus will remain same in coming years, In this regards we would like to be part of this prestigious project and would like to implement the same as per NTA's scope and vision. Further, We Request/Recommend NTA should allow companies who are already working in this domain to leverage their expertise towards developing assessment/training digital centers and which in turn will ensure to bridge gaps if any.</b></p>	<p>The firm should have implemented or Implementing project minimum of worth 15 Cr with IT/ICT related infrastructure (e.g. Smart classes, center of excellence or skilling related work) for Govt./PSU agencies in last 7 years</p>	<p><b>The firm with exam conduction activities are not permitted. However, IT etc. company with experience of digital lab/class is allowed provided it has not been conducting centralized exams for any party. The qualification would be decided based on, conflict of interest of infrastructure provider and exam conductor to remove chances of cheating / manipulations</b></p>
27	Page 8 Clause 4(k)	<p>The firm selected for this project would not be allowed to engage them self for Online assessment &amp; Examination conduction activities with any State/Govt. department or PSC or SSC or PSU or any Autonomous body etc. of India through their own-self or any of their consortium partner during the validity of this contract. The firm should submit a Declaration from Firm's Owner against this point on Notary stamp paper of INR 100/-.</p>	<p>The Intent of this Clause is to keep digital Lab separated from companies/Firms who are involved in Examination related activities. However, Clause no. 4(f) &amp; 4(g) in pre-qualification contradicts this clause. We Request/Recommend NTA should allow companies who are already working in this domain to leverage their expertise towards developing Assessment/Training digital centers and which in turn will ensure to bridge gaps if any.</p> <p><b>Based on the Reason stated above in Point No.2 , We would Request/Recommend NTA to extend relaxation towards this clause which inturn will permit companies to participate that are working towards building digital Infrastructure across India.</b></p>	<p>The firm should have experience in implementation of Digital Classroom/ICT lab-based projects with at least 350 labs of institute/college/govt. bodies/schools in last 7 years</p>	<p><b>The firm with exam conduction activities are not permitted. However, IT etc. company with experience of digital lab/class is allowed provided it has not been conducting centralized exams for any party. The qualification would be decided based on, conflict of interest of infrastructure provider and exam conductor to remove chances of cheating / manipulations</b></p>

Technical Scoring Criteria								
Sr. No.	Clause	EOI Content	Queries/ Clarification Requested	Recommended/ Proposed Alteration	Details	Marks	Maximum Marks	Remarks
1	Page 8 Clause 5(2)	Average Annual Turnover of Firm during last three (3) financial years (FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 OR FY 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21)	Since NTA is a National Agency for undertaking almost all high-stake exams across the country, it becomes imperative that this project is taken by organization/ organizations which have the financial capability and stability to undertake such large-scale project. Hence, we recommend that NTA should invite organization/ organizations with at least 50 Cr turnover	Average Annual Turnover of Firm during last three (3) financial years (FY 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 OR FY 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21)	More than 100 Crores	10 Marks	10	
					>= 50 Crores to 100 Crores	5 Marks		
					>= 50 Crores	3 Marks		
2	Page 8 Clause 5(3)	Firm's experience of developing Integrated command control room setup for monitoring Examination assignments from a single location in last 5 years as on day of bidding	The objective of this EOI to build digital Infrastructure supporting multiple purpose like Online assessment & Training etc., Hence we Request/Recommend to Incorporate/allows Organization/Companies which are involved in IT/ICT/Infrastructure/ Skill development/ Training related activities to participate in the EOI. Whereas this Clause in the EOI permits companies who are involved in examination related Command Control room setup only. This Clause is very exclusive in nature and would restrict experienced and relevant participants.	The bidder should have implemented or Implementing project minimum of worth 15 Cr with IT/ICT related Infrastructure (e.g. Smart classes, center of excellence or skilling related work) for Govt./PSU agencies in last 7 years	Project Worth 25 Cr above	20 Marks	20	No Change
					Project Worth 20 Cr to 25 Cr	10 Marks		
					Project Worth 15 Cr to 20 Cr	5 Marks		
3	Page 8 Clause 5(4)	Firm's experience of carrying out the job of IT related services (Hardware as-a-service) in a single Examination order in last 5 years as on day of bidding in	The objective of this EOI to build digital Infrastructure supporting multiple purpose like Online assessment & Training etc., Hence we Request/ Recommend to Incorporate/ allows Organization/ Companies which are involved in IT/ICT/Infrastructure/ Skill development/Training activities to participate in the EOI. Whereas this Clause in the EOI permits companies who are involved in IT related Services in examination.	The Bidder should have experience in implementation of single Digital Classroom/ICT lab based projects with highest number of schools in last 7 years	Above 1000 Class Room	10 Marks	10	
					700 - 1000 Class Room	5 Marks		
					361 - 700 Class Room	3 Marks		

			This Clause is very exclusive in nature and would restrict experienced and relevant participants.					
4	Page 9 Clause 5(5)	Firm's experience of carrying out the job of IT related services (Hardware as-a-service) in a single Examination order in last 5 years as on day of bidding in	The objective of this EOI to build digital Infrastructure supporting multiple purpose like Online assessment & Training etc., Hence we Request/ Recommend to Incorporate/ allows Organization/Companies which are involved in IT/ICT/Infrastructure/ Skill development/Training activities to participate in the EOI. Whereas this Clause in the EOI permits companies who are involved in IT related Services in examination. This Clause is very exclusive in nature and would restrict experienced and relevant participants.	The bidder should have experience in working with, central/state / PSU in the domain of Education/ Skill development/ Online teacher training/ vocational education, etc. in last 7 years	More than 10 cities	<b>10 Marks</b>	<b>10</b>	
					6 to 10 cities	<b>5 Marks</b>		
					>= 5 cities	<b>3 Marks</b>		
5	Page 5 Clause 5(5)	Approach and Methodology	Experience on implementation and operational excellence is already covered in previous clauses (kindly refer Clause 5 (2) & (3) in technical scoring Criteria). However Technical scoring Criteria parameters do not emphasize on having well qualified and experience team to ensure successful implementation. Hence, we suggest including "Resource Plan and their qualification of the PMU" should be allocated with 10 marks	Understanding of Requirements	10 Marks	10 Marks	<b>30</b>	
				Resource Plan and their qualification of the PMU	10 Marks	10 Marks		
				Project Management and implementation Plan	10 Marks	10 Marks		

Director, NTA