Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	Pg. No.: 31 Point No.: 2	from Raw Material to Finished Product: 2a. Technology used	understanding.	technology/ process incorporated for Inlay manufacturing at manufacturers end.
63)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 30 Point No.: A.5.	Technical Capability Bidder Firm shall provide at-least 125 Inlays in 2 ups (with Dummy Chip & Antenna) developed during demonstration to the CVT. It will be tested at ISP lab for assessing the suitability and durability while performing the Peel, High Temperature Life Test, Lamination Test, Damp Heat, Temperature Cycle, Resistance Against Chemical as per ICAO MRTD Durability V 3.2, ISO/IEC 10373 & ISO/IEC 18745 as well as performance trial on e- Passport Manufacturing System at ISP, Nashik by manufacturing of e-Passport Booklets.	We request the Tendering Authority to make us a part of the testing process of the Inlays at ISP's Lab as well as Performance trial on ePassport Manufacturing System at ISP to observe the performance of the 125 Inlays provided in 2 Ups. We request you to provide us the information on the below. - Adhesive(s) Details, Application Pressure & Temperature Implemented during the Inlay Embedding (e-Passport Booklet Manufacturing) Process. - Lamination Machine(s) and Lamination Parameter Settings.	Cold / Hotmelt PUR are used. Detailed specification are available in SPMCIL website tender section. Cotton fabric-based passport cover material. Detailed specification are available in SPMCIL website tender section. UNO/ Kugler Machine are used.
64)	Section: Annexure-IV Pg. No.: 34 Point No.: Consortium Agreement Format	1. { ...., a company incorporated under the provisions of Companies Act,1956/............ 2. { ...., a company incorporated under the provisions of Companies Act,1956/............ 3. { ...., a company incorporated under the provisions of Companies Act,1956/............	The sample format (Annexure-IV) refers only to companies incorporated in India. It appears necessary to modify this format to accommodate foreign company/companies as part of the consortium along with Indian company/companies. Kindly clarify.	Necessary amendment will be issued.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
65)	-	Foreign Currency Fluctuation	Kindly advise us with the duration of the project. As certain components of the product are to be imported, we request you to consider the impact of foreign currency fluctuations on the price of the product to be delivered, in the event that the foreign currency appreciates against the Indian Rupee by more than 5% during the tenure of the project.	The quantity of Inlays is based on the requirement as per projected indent of e-Passport for three years (tentatively). The bidders have to give/quote the price in INR.
66)	-	Bid Submission Extension	In view of the above, we request the Tendering Authority to kindly extend the Bid Submission date by 4 to 6 weeks to adequately address the requirements and submit a comprehensive and technically compliant bid upon receipt of the clarifications to the Pre-Bid queries.	Will be discussed in the Pre-bid meeting scheduled on 03.09.2026 at 11.00 AM (IST) at CRDC Nashik.

8. APK IDENTIFICATION – Noida (vide e-mail dt. 31-Aug-26 5:04 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
67)			A) What quantity MSME will get in case of L1 and fulfills Financial Criteria?	This is PQB and such details shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial tender, if required.
68)			B) If L1 is MSME and L2 is also MSME and within 15% of L1 price, what quantity will L2 get?	

9. Colorplast Systems Private Limited – Noida (vide e-mail dt. 31-Aug-26 5:12 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
69)	Section/Clause: Section II – Clause 1(c), Note-5 (Existing Successful Past Suppliers – Security Item Disapplication); read with absence of quantified Experience & Past Performance criterion Page No.: 5–6	ISP has itself recorded, at Clause 1(c), Note-5 of this Domestic PQB, that the qualification route otherwise available to Existing Successful Past Suppliers "will not be applicable" because "this tender falls under Security item." Despite this, the Domestic PQB prescribes no quantified minimum Experience & Past Performance criterion at all for any bidder.	ISP has itself recorded, at Clause 1(c), Note-5, that the qualification route otherwise available to Existing Successful Past Suppliers will not be applicable because this tender falls under Security item. We respectfully submit that this confirms ISP's own recognition that relaxations ordinarily available to bidders cannot be extended where the underlying procurement is a Security item. We further note that ISP's own earlier PQB Tender No. 61/2016-17 dated 15.06.2016, for the same product category, prescribed a mandatory, quantified Experience & Past Performance criterion (successful manufacture and supply of at least 22.50 lakh Nos. of Inlays/Electronic Contactless Smart Cards in any one of the preceding five years) applicable uniformly to every bidder, and that the subsequently cancelled Global PQB Tender No. 01/2026-27 dated 04.04.2026 (of which the present Domestic PQB and the parallel Global PQB No. 17/2026-27 are successors) likewise prescribed a mandatory quantified experience criterion (10.28 million pieces in 1-up / 5.14 million	1. Clause 1(c), Note-5 of the Domestic PQB itself (Security Item disapplication). 2. ISP PQB Tender No. 61/2016-17 dated 15.06.2016. 3. Global PQB Tender No. 01/2026-27 dated 04.04.2026 (cancelled) – of which the present Domestic and Global PQBs are successors. 4. Department of Expenditure, Manual for Procurement of Goods, Second Edition 2024, Annexure 12 – Experience & Past Performance as sample PQC. 5. Office Memorandum No. F.20/2/2014-PPD(Pt.) dated 20.09.2016 (Ministry of Finance, DoE) – recognising that prior-experience relaxation may be withheld for procurements concerning public safety/critical security operations where adequate justification exists.	Shall be as per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			pieces in 2-ups) and expressly disapplied MSE/Start-up relaxation clauses under the General Instructions to Tenderers and General Conditions of Contract. Given this consistent history, and consistent with ISP's own Note-5 principle that Security items do not admit of such relaxations, we respectfully request that a quantified minimum Experience & Past Performance eligibility criterion, proportionately scaled to the present tendered quantity of 7.7 million sheets, be incorporated in the Domestic PQB and applied uniformly to every bidder without exception — whether MSE, Start-up, Medium Enterprise (MSME) or otherwise — without any relaxation, deviation or exemption.		
70)	Section/Clause: Section II – Note-3: Applicability to Make in India; Section IV – Clause 1.4: Preference to Make in India Products Page No.: 5–6 and	The PQB contains provisions relating to Make in India, local-content classification and purchase preference for Class-I Local Suppliers.	We respectfully request ISP to clarify and, wherever permissible under the applicable Government of India procurement policies, provide appropriate preference to eligible Indian MSME/MSE manufacturers having indigenous manufacturing facilities for the tendered product.	Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017, as amended; Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) Order, 2012, as amended. Note: statutory MSE procurement benefits apply to Micro and Small Enterprises, not automatically to Medium Enterprises.	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 4. Please refer Broad and Common point no. 8. At the time of submission of Local Content Certificate, the latest order or subsequent amendment to existing

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
	13–14		In particular, kindly clarify: (a) whether an eligible MSE manufacturer which also qualifies as a Class-I Local Supplier will be entitled to the applicable benefits under the Public Procurement Policy for MSEs as well as the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, wherever both policies are applicable; (b) how purchase preference / quantity allocation will be applied where a bidder qualifies both as an eligible MSE and as a Class-I Local Supplier; (c) whether local manufacturing activities undertaken in India for chip/antenna integration, inlay manufacturing, lamination/sealing, operating-system related activities, testing, quality control and other value addition will be considered in accordance with the applicable MeitY mechanism while determining local content; and (d) whether ISP proposes any additional preference or evaluation recognition, permissible under		order shall be followed.

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Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			prevailing Government policy, for established domestic manufacturers having existing indigenous manufacturing capability for the same/similar security product. Kindly specify the applicable policy framework clearly in the PQB/subsequent tender so that eligible domestic manufacturers can determine the benefits and local-content requirements on a uniform basis.		
71)	Section/Clause: Section IV – Clause 1.4(3)(c): MeitY Local Content Page No.: 13	The clause refers to MeitY F. No. W/43/4/2019-IPWH-MeitY dated 07.09.2020, Point No. 4.7.11(B), Mechanism for calculation of local content for Contactless Smart Card, and states: "subsequent amendment order shall be followed".	We respectfully request ISP to clarify the expression "subsequent amendment order shall be followed" by specifically identifying the latest amendment / notification / order that will be applicable for the present PQB and subsequent procurement. Kindly provide: (a) the reference number and date of the applicable subsequent amendment/order; (b) the issuing Ministry/Department; (c) whether such amendment specifically modifies Point No. 4.7.11(B) relating to the mechanism	MeitY Order F. No. W/43/4/2019-IPWH-MeitY dated 07.09.2020, Point No. 4.7.11(B), as expressly referred to in the PQB.	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 8. At the time of submission of Local Content Certificate, the latest order or subsequent amendment to existing order shall be followed.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			for calculation of local content for Contactless Smart Cards; and (d) the exact local-content calculation methodology and certification/documentation requirements that bidders are required to follow for the present procurement. We request that the applicable latest order and methodology may kindly be expressly identified through clarification/corrigendum so that all bidders calculate and declare local content on the same basis.		
72)	Section/Clause: Price Variation / Price Adjustment Clause – requested for subsequent tender/contract, per Government of India mandate Page No.: --	The present PQB does not specify a Price Variation Clause (PVC), notwithstanding that General Financial Rules, 2017, Rule 30(viii)(a) mandates that a PVC be provided in long-term contracts where the delivery period extends beyond 18 months.	General Financial Rules 2017, Rule 30(viii), mandates that: (a) a PVC may be provided only in long-term contracts where the delivery period exceeds 18 months; (b) the base level (month/year) to which price is linked must be specified; (c) a formula for calculating variation between the base level and the Scheduled Delivery Date must be included, using indices published by Government/Chambers of Commerce (an illustrative formula is appended at the GFR Appendix); (d) cut-off dates for material and labour must be specified; (e) the	1. General Financial Rules, 2017, Rule 30(viii)(a)-(f). 2. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance – instruction dated 13.07.2026 on adoption of PPIs in place of WPI. 3. Department of Expenditure, Manual for Procurement of Goods, Second Edition 2024 – formula-based price variation guidance. 4. Recent ISP Nashik procurement for Cotton Fabric Based Passport Cover Material (Buckram), 2026 – ISP's own Price Variation Clause precedent, with fixed, material, labour and foreign-exchange	The bidders have to give/quote the price in INR. Foreign Exchange Hedging shall be borne by the bidder. Bidder will have to quote the price & other details like incoterms, as per the price schedule, given in 'Techno-commercial Bid'.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			clause must provide a ceiling on price variation; and (f) a minimum threshold percentage of variation must be stipulated below which no adjustment is made. For reference, the Department of Expenditure's own Manual for Procurement of Goods, Second Edition 2024, Annexure 18 ("Example of Formula for Price Variation Clause", referable to Para 6.6-5-d-x), prescribes the following illustrative formula for goods contracts: NPa = NPo x [(F + a(M1/M0) + b(L1/L0)) / 100] - NPo where NPo is the contract price on the base date (the last deadline for submission of bids); NPa is the resulting price adjustment amount; F is the fixed element (not subject to variation, and covering fixed costs and profit); a and b are the weightages of the material and labour elements respectively (with F + a + b = 100%); and M0/M1 and L0/L1 are the base and current material-price and labour-wage indices respectively.	components. 5. Department of Expenditure, Manual for Procurement of Goods, Second Edition 2024, Annexure 18 ("Example of Formula for Price Variation Clause", Para 6.6-5-d-x) - illustrative goods-contract price-adjustment formula, fixed element (F) prescribed at 10%-25%.	

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			The Manual expressly states that "...the fixed element may range from 10 to 25% (ten to twenty-five per cent)", with the material and labour elements weighted to reflect their actual proportion of input costs. The Manual further stipulates that: no price adjustment is payable if it is 2% or less of the base price; no price increase is permitted beyond the original delivery period; a maximum ceiling percentage must be specified in the tender document; and, for Global Tender Enquiries specifically, indices should preferably be drawn from the same country/currency as the bidder, failing which a currency-correction factor (E0/E1) must be applied to the material/labour index ratios. We respectfully request ISP to confirm that the Price Variation Clause to be incorporated will adopt this formula structure and fixed-element range (10%-25%) as prescribed in the Department of Expenditure's own Manual for Procurement of Goods, and to specify the exact percentage weightages (F, a and b) proposed to		

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			be applied, having regard to the semiconductor/chip, labour and foreign-exchange-linked cost structure of ICAO-compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays, together with the proposed maximum ceiling percentage and the specific indices to be used for the material (chip/semiconductor) and labour components. We respectfully request ISP to confirm the likely delivery period of the subsequent contract, and, if it exceeds 18 months, to incorporate a Price Variation Clause incorporating the above GFR-mandated elements, specifying: (i) the fixed and variable percentage components of price, and the ratio thereof; (ii) the indices/benchmarks to be used for each variable component (material/semiconductor, labour, foreign exchange); (iii) the base date; and (iv) the ceiling and minimum-threshold percentages. We further request that the fixed:variable ratio and overall PVC methodology be consistent with the Price Variation Clause recently incorporated by ISP, Nashik in its		

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			2026 procurement of Cotton Fabric Based Passport Cover Material (Buckram), and request ISP to kindly confirm and disclose the specific fixed:variable ratio applied in that clause for reference and consistency. We further request ISP to consider the Department of Expenditure instructions dated 13.07.2026 regarding adoption of Producer Price Indices (PPIs), in place of WPI, in price escalation/price adjustment clauses of future Government procurement contracts, wherever an appropriate PPI is available. The Price Variation Clause may also kindly specify treatment beyond the original delivery period where extension occurs due to Force Majeure or reasons attributable to the Purchaser/SPMCIL and not due to supplier default.		
73)	Section/Clause: Project Implementation / Completion Timeline Page No.: --	The PQB does not define the complete indicative project timeline from PQB qualification through subsequent tendering, development/approval, commercial production and	We request that ISP expressly and definitively specify — rather than merely indicate in general terms — an end-to-end project timeline for the proposed procurement, with defined milestone dates/durations for: completion of PQB evaluation,	Requested as a project-governance / subsequent contract clarification to establish measurable milestones, allocation of purchaser-dependent responsibilities and corresponding time relief.	Shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial bid.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
		completion of supplies, and does not bind ISP to any defined milestones.	security clearance, issue of the subsequent tender/RFP, technical evaluation, sample/development approval, testing/qualification, placement of Purchase Order, commencement of commercial production, and completion of the contracted quantity. Given that bidders are required to commit substantial manufacturing investment and plan production capacity on the basis of the project timeline, a general or indicative timeline alone is insufficient. We accordingly request that ISP bind itself to defined, dated milestones in the subsequent tender/contract documents, rather than leaving the timeline entirely to future discretion. We further request ISP to clarify the support and corresponding contractual relief that will be available to the successful bidder where the project timeline is extended due to activities or approvals dependent upon ISP/SPMCIL, including delay in technical inputs, sample approvals, testing, inspection/PDI, security		

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			clearance, acceptance, change in specifications, purchaser-provided inputs or other purchaser-dependent activities. Where such delay is not attributable to the supplier, kindly provide for corresponding extension of delivery/project milestones and suitable protection from delay-related contractual consequences for the affected period. If the overall project is extended materially beyond the originally defined timeline, kindly also clarify how associated commercial implications, including applicable Price Variation, will be addressed.		
74)	Section/Clause: Section IV – Clause 1.4(3)(c): MeitY Local Content Mechanism – Treatment of Integrated Circuit (IC)/Chip Page No.: 13	The PQB requires local content to be calculated per the MeitY mechanism (Notification No. W/43/4/2019-IPHW-MeitY dated 07.09.2020, Point No. 4.7.II(B)) for Contactless Smart Cards, but does not clarify whether the Integrated Circuit (IC/chip) forming part of the Inlay is required to be included within, or may be excluded from, the local value-addition computation.	We respectfully request ISP to confirm whether the Integrated Circuit (IC/chip) forming part of the ICAO-compliant Electronic Contactless Inlay is required to be treated as part of the local value-content computation under the applicable MeitY mechanism (Point No. 4.7.II(B) of Notification No. W/43/4/2019-IPHW-MeitY dated 07.09.2020), or whether the value of an imported IC/chip is treated purely as "imported content" to be excluded from local value under the	MeitY Notification No. W/43/4/2019-IPHW-MeitY dated 07.09.2020, Point No. 4.7.II(B), as cited in the PQB; DPIIT Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017, as amended, definition of "local content."	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 8. At the time of submission of Local Content Certificate, the latest order or subsequent amendment to existing order shall be followed.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			general local-content formula (Local Content % = (Total Value – Value of Imported Content, including customs duties) ÷ Total Value × 100). We further request ISP to clarify whether local assembly, integration, antenna fabrication, lamination/sealing and testing activities undertaken in India, where the IC/chip itself is imported, would be sufficient to independently qualify a bidder as a Class-I or Class-II Local Supplier, and if so, the minimum local value addition (exclusive of the IC/chip) required to achieve each classification for this specific product.		
75)	Section/Clause: Section II – Note-7(ii): Fall Clause linking Domestic and Global PQBs – Price Matching Page No.: --	Note-7(ii) of the Domestic PQB provides that where a bidder participates in and is awarded contracts under both the Global PQB (No. 17/2026-27) and the Domestic PQB (No. 16/2026-27), the fall clause shall apply, requiring supply at the lower of the two offered prices. The PQB does not otherwise clarify whether, or how, pricing under the Global	We respectfully request ISP to clarify whether, and by what mechanism, the price discovered/finalised under the Global PQB Tender No. 17/2026-27 will be matched, benchmarked, or otherwise made to correspond with the price discovered/finalised under the present Domestic PQB Tender No. 16/2026-27 (or vice versa), independent of the fall clause under Note-7(ii) (which	Domestic PQB, Note-7(ii) (fall clause); requested as a clarification of pricing-policy interplay between the two parallel PQBs issued by ISP on the same date for the same product.	As per tender condition, the offered price shall be same, for same bidder, for both the tenders i.e. Global and domestic Development. This shall be as per the fall clause condition of the Procurement Manual.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
		PQB will be matched, benchmarked or reconciled with pricing under the Domestic PQB more generally.	applies only where the same bidder is awarded both contracts). In particular, we request clarification on whether a domestic supplier's price under this Domestic PQB could be required, expected, or compared to match a materially different (and potentially lower) price discovered under the Global PQB — which may be influenced by international/import-linked cost structures not applicable to a purely domestic manufacturer — and if so, the basis and mechanism for any such price matching or benchmarking.		
76)	Section/Clause: Section II, Point 9 – Source Code Handover / OS Escrow-Custodian Rights Page No.: 8-9	Section II, point 9 of the PQB requires the bidder to confirm that the source code/compiled code of the OS shall be made available/handed over to STQC or the prescribed Software Auditing Agency, whenever and wherever asked by ISP/MEA, for audit/certification/evaluation. The PQB does not clarify whether this obligation extends to a standing Proprietary/Custodian/Escrow arrangement for the audited	We respectfully request ISP to clarify whether, beyond the existing obligation to make the OS source/compiled code available to STQC/ISP/MEA upon request, the bidder is additionally required to establish and maintain a standing Proprietary/Custodian/Escrow arrangement (e.g., a source-code escrow account with a designated escrow agent) for the audited and running compiled source code of the OS, to be held in custody and made available to ISP and MEA on a continuing basis.	Section II, point 9 (Declarations) of the PQB — "the source code/ compiled code of the OS shall be made available/ handover to the STQC or prescribed Software Auditing Agency, whenever and wherever asked by ISP/MEA, for Audit/ certification/ evaluation etc."; Common Criteria certification requirements (EAL5+) under the same clause.	As per tender condition and please refer Broad and Common point no 6.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
		and running compiled source code of the OS, nor how such an arrangement would be reconciled with the underlying chip/OS technology typically licensed from a foreign Original Equipment/IP holder..	In particular, since the underlying chip and/or OS platform for ICAO-compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays is typically supplied under license from an established foreign secure-microcontroller/OS provider (an Original IP/Component Manufacturer), whose own licensing terms may restrict disclosure of proprietary source code to third parties, we respectfully request ISP to clarify: (a) whether ISP/MEA has an existing arrangement or understanding with such foreign chip/OS IP holders regarding source-code escrow/custodian access for Government audit and certification purposes; (b) whether the bidder is expected to independently negotiate and secure such escrow/custodian rights from its chip/OS supplier as a condition of eligibility, and if so, what documentary proof of such arrangement will be required at the bid/pre-production stage; (c) whether the escrow/custodian		

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			obligation applies to the full compiled source code, or only to specific modules/interfaces relevant to security certification; and (d) the consequences, if any, where a bidder's chip/OS supplier declines to grant such escrow/custodian rights, including whether this would affect eligibility, Common Criteria certification, or contract award. We submit that this clarification is material, since the ability to secure such rights from an established, non-negotiable foreign IP holder+E12:E13 of all bidders in this regard.		

10. Manipal Payment and Identity Solutions Ltd (MPi) – Manipal (vide e-mail dt. 31-Aug-26 5:27 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
77)	Section/Clause: 9.f Pg. No.: 9	The bidder shall confirm that they will provide Proprietary/Custodian/Escrow right to ISP & MEA of audited & running compiled source code of OS.	We understand that the OS and ePassport application are required to comply with the applicable ICAO Doc 9303 requirements and undergo Common Criteria evaluation/certification. In this regard, kindly	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			clarify whether the requirement under Clause 9(f) for providing 'Proprietary/Custodian/Escrow right to ISP & MEA of audited & running compiled source code of OS' is an ICAO/CC certification requirement or a separate requirement of the Department. We request the Department to clarify whether source code access may be restricted to the extent necessary for security audit/certification through a mutually agreed secure escrow/audit mechanism, without transfer or continuing custody of the vendor's proprietary source code/IP.	
78)	-	General	As per our understanding, the job required customized Operating system for Inlays for India Passport. Generally, 18 -20 months are required for any customizations in Operating System. Considering this, we request department to kindly provide at least 20-24 months for Go Live from data of award of contract as same need to be incorporated for success of Project.	As per tender condition.
79)	Section/Clause: 1.4.3.c. Pg. No.: 13	c) In this regard the nodal ministry order as per F. No. W/43/4/2019-IPWH-Meity, GoI, MeitY (IPWH division), dated 07.09.2020, point no 4.7.II(B) Mechanism for calculation of local content for Contactless Smart Card (subsequent amendment order shall be followed).	At present, there are no manufacturers who are handling domestic assembly and packaging of IC Chip Module in India specifically for Contactless ICs. And IC Chip Module comprises one of major cost for ePassport Inlays. Due to this, there are very low chances of any bidder qualifying as Class - I local supplier for this project. Hence, we request department to kindly remove consideration of IC Chip Module in the calculation of Class I Local supplier/ Make in India	In this regard the nodal ministry order as per F. No. W/43/4/2019-IPWH-MeitY, GoI, MeitY (IPWH division), dated 07.09.2020, point no 4.7.II(B) Mechanism for calculation of local content for Contactless Smart Card (subsequent amendment order shall be followed). However, this shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial bid, if required.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			preference. Most of the manufacturers are converting the imported IC Chip Modules to functional inlays where assembly and packaging is done abroad.	
80)	Section/Clause: -- Pg. No.: 3	Closing date and time for receipt of tenders: 22.09.2026 up to 14:30 Hrs.	Considering the documentation and activities required, we request department to kindly provide at least 45 days for submission of PQB tender from the date of issuance of pre-bid clarifications and corrigendum.	Please refer broad common point no. 3.
81)	Section/Clause: Note - 7 Pg. No.: 6	ii)In case a bidder participates in both the 'Global PQB Tender (PQB Tender No.17 dated 06.08.2026) and 'Domestic Development PQB Tender (PQB Tender No.16 dated 06.08.2026)' and subsequently contracts are awarded to that bidder against both the tenders, fall clause shall be applicable (i.e. the bidder has to supply the material at the lowest offered price out of the two tenders). A declaration accepting the above, needs to be submitted along with the bid.	We kindly request department to consider that, in case the same bidder emerges as L1 in the Domestic Development PQB Tender and L2 in the Global PQB Tender and subsequently matches the L1 price of the Global PQB Tender, such matched price may kindly be applicable only to the Global PQB Tender and may not result in any revision of the L1 price discovered under the Domestic Development PQB Tender, and vice versa. Considering the different quantities/volumes and associated commercial considerations under the two tenders, we kindly request that such price matching, wherever applicable, may be restricted to the tender in which the L2 bidder matches the L1 price.	As per tender condition.
82)	Section/Clause: 7 Pg. No.: 8	**Other Eligibility requirements for the Bidders:** Names of organization(s)/ firm(s) with addresses and telephone numbers, fax numbers, email addresses to which they	Request department to kindly relax the clause as the eligibility criteria stated in this PQB refers to the capability of the bidder to manufacture and supply Inlays allowing more competition.	Please refer common point no 8. As per tender condition

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
		have manufactured and supplied such 'ICAO compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays' indicating the details and quantities supplied annually during the last five years		
83)	-	General	Request the Department to kindly clarify whether a provision can be incorporated to allow revision of the contracted prices during the contract period through mutual discussion and agreement, particularly in the event of significant fluctuations in foreign exchange rates (USD/INR), substantial and unforeseen increases in raw material/component costs, or other exceptional cost escalations beyond the bidder's reasonable control. Such a provision would help address significant market-driven cost variations during the contract period and ensure the long-term sustainability of the contract.	It will be discussed during techno-commercial tender stage.
84)	Section/Clause: 10.i Pg. No.: 10	Declaration/ Undertaking (i) Companies should effectively safeguard the production and supplies by including unique taggants, wherever feasible.	We would like to make a humble submission to department that the incorporation of taggant feature will be an additional step in the manufacturing process. Instead of the same, we kindly request the department to consider ISO 14298 Integraf certification for the bidder as it ensures the bidder is having necessary security standards.	As per tender condition.
85)	Section/Clause: II.9.a Pg. No.: 9	The bidder shall confirm that the offered Composite product (chip plus OS) as well as individual components shall be	We kindly request the department to share the specifications of the chip and/or OS, as this will help us better understand and accordingly	As per tender condition

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
		evaluated by Common Criteria licensed laboratories with a minimum assurance level of EAL5+. The protection profiles to be complied with are:	finalize the requirement from our end. In case the specifications are not yet finalized, we understand that this inlay tender can only be finalized once these details are available. Kindly clarify	
86)	Section/Clause: 1 Pg. No.: 3	Quantity with unit - 7.7 million sheets (in 2 ups)	As per our understanding, the total individual inlays will be 15.4 million inlays (i.e. 7.7 million x 2). Request department to kindly confirm.	One Sheet of Inlay in 2 ups shall be utilized to manufacture two e-Passport. Therefore, 7.7 Million sheet of Inlays in 2 ups shall be for 15.4 Million e-Passport.
87)	Section/Clause: 1.a.Note Pg. No.: 5	iii)The developed Inlays (Samples with minimum 125 pcs in 2 ups) shall be carried to ISP-Nashik for machine trial and lab testing to check its suitability. In case not found suitable, one additional chance for providing samples (Samples with minimum 125 pcs in 2 ups) shall be considered for lab testing & machine trial. In case not found suitable, the offer of the firm will not be considered for further evaluation	Our understanding is that the samples shall be produced and handed over to department only during the site visit which will be after successful submission of PQB tender.	As per tender condition & capacity/capability verification form.
88)	--	General	Kindly clarify the proposed volume allocation/share between the L1 and L2 bidders under the tender. Specifically, please confirm the percentage or proportion of the total order quantity that will be allocated to the L1 and L2 bidders, respectively.	It shall be considered at techno-commercial tender stage.
89)	--	General	Kindly clarify whether bidders are permitted to propose an alternative inlay manufacturing technology/process, such as inductive coupling, provided that the proposed process meets all the technical specifications, performance	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			requirements, quality standards, and functional requirements specified in the tender.	
90)	--	General	Kindly clarify whether the inlay is required to be manufactured exclusively using copper antennas, or whether the Department would also consider alternative antenna materials and manufacturing technologies, such as etched aluminium antennas, provided they meet the specified technical, performance, durability, and quality requirements.	As per tender condition.
91)	--	General/Technical	Kindly clarify whether the Department has specified a mandatory inlay construction/configuration to be followed, or whether bidders are permitted to propose alternative inlay constructions, such as a three-layer configuration, provided that the proposed construction meets all the prescribed technical, functional, performance, durability, and quality requirements.	As per tender condition.
92)	--	General/Technical	Kindly clarify the specified or expected final thickness of the e-Inlay, including any applicable tolerance limits, that the bidder is required to achieve.	As per tender condition.
93)	--	General/Technical	Kindly specify the internal and external quality control (QC) tests, durability tests, and other validation requirements to be performed at the e-Inlay level. Please also clarify the applicable test methods, acceptance criteria, standards, and frequency of testing, if specified.	As per tender condition.
94)	--	General/Technical	Kindly clarify whether the Department has defined or standardized the	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			lamination/conversion process for integrating the supplied e-Inlays into the final e-Cover construction. Further, please specify whether any particular adhesive type, grade, thickness, application method, or bonding specification is mandated for the inlay construction. Since the selection of adhesive is closely dependent on the final lamination/conversion process and materials used in e-Cover manufacturing, kindly confirm whether bidders are required to comply with a prescribed conversion process or may propose a suitable adhesive and construction based on the final e-Cover manufacturing process, subject to meeting the specified performance and quality requirements.	
95)	--	General/Technical	Kindly clarify whether bidders will be permitted to optimize or modify the inlay construction, adhesive system, or lamination parameters during the contract period, subject to Department approval and successful qualification testing.	As per tender condition.
96)	--	General/Technical	Kindly clarify whether the Department has specified any mandatory requirements or guidelines regarding RFID chip placement, antenna orientation, and the positioning/alignment of the e-Inlay within the final e-Cover construction. If applicable, please provide the prescribed dimensions, tolerances, reference points, or positioning specifications to	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			be followed.	
97)	--	General/Technical	Kindly clarify whether the Department has defined specific RF performance requirements and acceptance criteria for the e-Inlay before its integration into the final e-Cover, considering that the lamination process and final construction may affect antenna tuning and overall RF performance. Further, please clarify at which stage RF performance validation is required to be carried out: At the bare e-Inlay level; At the final finished e-Cover level. Please also specify the applicable RF test parameters, test methodology, test conditions, and acceptance criteria, if prescribed.	As per tender condition.
98)	--	General	Request department to kindly mention the period of contract for the tender.	Delivery schedule provided at techno-commercial tender stage.

11. Seshaasai Technologies Limited – Mumbai (vide e-mail dt. 31-Aug-26 5:49 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
99)	Section/Clause: 7a Pg. No.: 8	Names of organization(s)/ firm(s) with addresses and telephone numbers, fax numbers, email addresses to which they have manufactured and supplied such	Experience & Past Performance Criteria Points given in Domestic PQB also, should not be there since it is a Development Tender.	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
		'Electronic Contactless Inlays' indicating the details and quantities supplied annually during the last five years.	Please clarify.	
100)	Section/Clause: Point 4 Table of Section V Pg. No.: 17	Quantity of 'ICAO compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays' supplied during the last five years.	Experience & Past Performance Criteria Points given in Domestic PQB also, should not be there since it is a Development Tender. Please clarify.	As per tender condition.

12. ID Smart Cards Systems Pvt. Ltd. – Bengalore (vide e-mail dt. 31-Aug-26 6:04 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
101)	Section III-Tender Form. Point 1	Make in India Status	Change in Local Supplier Classification: At the PQB stage, a bidder may declare either Class 1 or Class II supplier based on certain assumptions. Clarity may emerge once final specifications are released. Can the bidder modify the Class of supplier at the time of RFP	Please refer Broad and common point no. 8.
102)	Section V-General Instructions Point 1.4-3c	Nodal Ministry Order F. No. W/43/4/2019-IPWH-Meity dated 07.09.2020 point 4.7 IIB- Mechanism for calculation of local content for contactless smart cards	With respect to this notification we understand that only those processes are to be considered that are needed to manufacture the ICAO complaint 2 up Inlays. It is our understanding that since there is no FAB in India the IC chip module is being imported and the domestic inlay manufacturer is domestic assembly, packing and testing of same while making the Inlay and hence this is considered as domestic component. Request ISP to clarify	In this regard the nodal ministry order as per F. No. W/43/4/2019-IPWH-MeitY, GoI, MeitY (IPWH division), dated 07.09.2020, point no 4.7.II(B) Mechanism for calculation of local content for Contactless Smart Card (subsequent amendment order shall be followed). However, this shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial bid, if required.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
103)	Section V-General Instructions Point 1.4-5a	Preference to make in India products: The Class-I local supplier/ Class II local supplier at the time of tender, bidding or solicitation shall be required to indicate percentage of local content	Declaration of Local Content: The tender requires Class-I/II Local Suppliers to indicate the percentage of local content and the location(s) where value addition takes place. Kindly clarify at which stage the following are required: (a) self-certification/declaration of local content; (b) statutory auditor/cost auditor certificate, wherever applicable; and (c) details of the location(s) where value addition is undertaken. Specifically, please confirm whether these documents /details are required at the PQB stage or only at the subsequent RFQ/bidding stage.	Please refer Broad and common point no. 8.
104)	Annexure III	Format for capacity verification	Machine Details for Capacity Verification: Kindly clarify whether the bidder is required to provide details of all manufacturing/testing machinery and equipment available as on the date of bid submission. Further, kindly confirm whether equipment proposed to be installed/commissioned before commencement of production may be considered for capacity assessment, subject to the tender requirements. Compliance Documents: Certain compliances, including site security audit, Information Technology (Electronic Service Delivery) Rules, 2011, and applicable data protection requirements, have been specified. Kindly clarify whether documentary evidence of compliance with these requirements is required to be submitted along with the PQB bid or during RFQ	1. Available at the time of bid submission. 2. Compliance shall be ensured by relevant audit report and ISO as well as other certifications.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
105)	General	Price Variation Clause	Price Variation / Escalation Mechanism: Considering that the tender is a development tender and that the period from bid submission through development, qualification, approval and final supply may extend beyond one year, we request ISP to incorporate an appropriate Price Variation Clause. During the execution period, significant variations may occur in foreign exchange rates, semiconductor/module prices, electronic components, raw materials, logistics and other critical inputs, which may materially impact the cost of the finished inlays. We therefore request that an objective and mutually acceptable price variation mechanism be incorporated, covering material changes in foreign exchange rates and the prices of key imported and domestic inputs, from an agreed base date up to the date of supply.	It shall be discussed at techno-commercial tender stage.
106)	General	Price matching between Domestic Development Tender & Global Tender	We would request ISP to confirm if there is an xx price which is LI in the Domestic Development Tender and XX+ L1 price quoted in the Global Tender. Will the global bidder have to match the L1 price of the Domestic Development Tender or vice Versa? In case the domestic bidder has the match the L1 price of the global bidder what will be the basis of calculation. We request ISP to consider the INR price be linked to the evolving USD/ Euro exchange rates during the tenure of the contract	Not related to this PQB.
107)	General	Timelines for execution of the project	We would request ISP to confirm the timelines for the procurement of the entire quantity of the	The tendered quantity of Inlays is defined for the three year requirement.

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
108)	General	Request for extension for PQB submission date	Inlays We would request ISP to kindly extended submission date of the PQB till 4th week of October	Please refer broad common point no.3.

13. RR[redacted]P Electronics Ltd. – Mumbai (vide e-mail dt. 31-Aug-26 6:09 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
109)	Page[redacted] 5–6 of 38 — Sec. II, Cl.1(a)(i)	Minimum eligibility capacity required is 1.027 million sheets/year, approximately 13.3% of the total 7.7 million sheet requirement, with no stated basis for this proportion.	Is ISP planning to qualify/develop multiple vendors under this tender (implying an eventual panel), and if so, how many?	As per tender condition.
110)	Page 5 of 38 — Sec. II, Cl. 1(a)(iii)	Clause requires "prior experience in manufacturing/developing products having CC-certified elements i.e. chip and/or OS."	Does the bidder need CC experience in both chip and OS, or is experience in either sufficient? For a sole bidder integrating a third-party CC-certified chip, does that count as qualifying experience, or must the bidder itself hold the CC certificate?	Please refer broad common point no.2.
111)	Page 30 of 38 — Anne[redacted]ure-III, Item 5	Annexure-III, Item 5 prescribes Peel Test, High Temperature Life Test, Damp Heat, Temperature Cycle and Chemical Resistance Test as pass/fail parameters.	What are the specific numeric acceptance criteria for each test (the referenced standards give methods, not always pass values)?	As per tender condition
112)	Page [redacted]6 of 38 — Note (iii)	Note (iii) states "Machine capability shall be calculated as per demonstrated finished output quantity per hour."	What working-hours/shift assumption (single/double shift, days/year) will be used to extrapolate hourly output into the 1.027 million annual capacity threshold?	As per tender condition
113)	Page 6 of 38 — Note-	Note-2 provides an MSE/Startup	What documentary proof is acceptable to	As per tender condition

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	2	financial exemption for bidders "registered for the tendered item."	establish that MSE/Startup registration specifically covers "ICAO compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays"?	
114)	Page 7 of 38 — Note-8, Cl.2(ii)	Clause states "some criteria have to be met by only Lead Member" without enumerating which.	Please provide an explicit table of which eligibility criteria (turnover, net worth, capacity, CC experience) apply only to the Lead Member vs. must be met by each member individually.	As per tender condition
115)	Page 7 of 38 — Note-8, Cl.2(ix)	Clause provides that no consortium member (including chip or OS manufacturer) may supply their product to any other bidder/consortium in this PQB.	Does this restrict only finished inlay/OS supply, or does it extend to the upstream secure-chip silicon itself, given the very limited global pool of CC EAL5+ certified chip vendors? How would this be verified/enforced?	Please refer broad common point no.2.
116)	Page 6–7 of 38 — Note-8, Cl.2(i) & (x)	Clause 2(i) requires consortium members to "be related to the relevant technology"; Cl.2(x) requires all members to hold valid MSE/Startup certificates for that exemption.	For a 3-member consortium (e.g., chip / OS / assembly), does each member need to independently prove relevance, or is it assessed at consortium level?	As per tender condition.
117)	Page 9 of 38 — Cl.9(a)	Clause requires Common Criteria evaluation at EAL5+ against specific BSI Protection Profiles.	Is a CC certificate issued by any CCRA-member scheme (not only BSI-Germany) acceptable, and can it be a certificate already held for a similar product elsewhere, or must it be product-specific to this tender's exact configuration?	As per tender condition
118)	Page 9 of 38 — Cl.9(b)	Clause requires all assessment evidence be submitted to IC3S for review "at the time of supply of pre-production."	What is the expected IC3S review turnaround, and can IC3S review run in parallel with production ramp-up, or is it a hard gate before further supply?	As per tender condition
119)	Page 9 of 38 — Cl.9(c)	Clause references 10 standards (ICAO Doc 9303 8th Ed., IS 14202, IS 16695, ICAO MRTD Durability 3.2, ISO 10373, 18745, 14443, ISO 27001/9001/14001).	Will ISP accept ongoing/in-process certification (e.g., ISO 27001 audit in progress) at PQB stage, or must all certifications be complete and held at time of bid?	As per tender condition
120)	Page 13–14 of 38 —	Clause references the MeitY order dated	Please confirm whether e-Passport inlays are	As per tender condition

Sr. No.	Tender Section / Clause No. / Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	Cl.1.4.3(c)	07.09.2020 for "Contactless Smart Card" local content, with the tender stating default 50% local content / 20% purchase-preference margin "unless otherwise specified by Nodal Ministry."	formally treated as "Contactless Smart Card" for local-content calculation purposes, and confirm the exact minimum local-content % and purchase-preference margin applicable to this specific item.	
121)	Page 7 of 38 — Note-7(ii)	Clause provides that a "fall clause" applies if a bidder wins both the Global PQB Tender No. 17 and this Domestic Tender No. 16, requiring supply at the lower of the two prices.	Are the two tenders for the same total requirement split across routes, or independent quantities? How will "lowest offered price" be reconciled given potentially different currencies, taxes, and delivery terms between a Global and a Domestic tender?	As per tender condition

Sanjay Raju

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