

Subject: Queries of Prospective Bidders and reply thereof, w.r.t. The Global PQB Tender No. 17/2026-27 Dated: 06.08.2026 floated by India Security Press – Nashik (a unit of SPMCIL) for 'Pre-Qualification Bid (PQB) tender for Procurement of 30.8 million sheets of ICAO Compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays (in 2 ups) along with its operating system for Indian e-Passport Booklets'.

1. CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING (C-DAC) – Noida (vide e-mail dt.24.08.2026 09.06 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Section: II Clause: 9. Pg. No.: 9	Declaration/ undertakings shall be submitted along with the offer/ bid document duly sealed and signed by the authorized signatory of bidders as well as Principal Manufacturer (if any)	In light to the above Section, as per our understanding, since the OS works only on the underlying platform i.e integrated chip and OS cannot be separately tested / certified on already certified chip (BSI-CC-PP-0084-2014), hence the Composite product (chip plus OS) evaluation for BSI-CC-PP-0068-V2-2011 & BSI-CC-PP-0056-V2-2012 by Common Criteria licensed laboratories will inherently cover individual OS components as well and hence no separate certification for OS is required. It is requested to please confirm if our understanding is correct and guide if any deviation. This clarification is extremely important in order to take certification. For this act, we'll be grateful to you.	As per Section II: Eligibility Criteria, Point no. 9.a, Page 9, it is clearly mentioned that: "The bidder shall confirm that the offered Composite product (chip plus OS) as well as individual components shall be evaluated by Common Criteria licensed laboratories with a minimum assurance level of EAL5+. The protection profiles to be complied with are: i. BSI-CC-PP-0068-V2-2011 & BSI-CC-PP-0056-V2-2012 or latest for individual OS components as well as for composite product having integrated Chip and OS, for Electronic Machine-Readable Travel Document with PACE, AA & CA. ii. BSI-CC-PP-0084-2014 or latest for integrated chip. The Certificate should be issued by any of the internationally recognized certificate authorizing schemes that are members of Common Criteria." It means the bidder has to submit Declaration/

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				undertakings to provide following CC Certification with a minimum assurance level of EAL5+, as per required PPs: - Integrated Chip: Includes Chip along with its Bootloader, in the name of Chip Manufacturer - Operation System, in the name of OS Manufacturer/ Developer. - Composite Product (Integrated Chip + OS), in the name of Chip Manufacturer.

2. Atlanta Systems Pvt. Ltd., - New Delhi (vide e-mail dt.25.08.2026 10.55 AM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Section II: Eligibility Criteria, Point no. 1.(a).iv), Page 5		1. Purpose of this Representation We write to bring to your kind attention a matter of considerable significance to the participation of Medium Enterprises in high-technology, security-sensitive Government procurement, with specific reference to the captioned Pre-Qualification Bid ("PQB") Tender No. 17/2026-27 dated 06.08.2026 issued by India Security Press, Nashik ("ISP"), a Unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited ("SPMCL"), for procurement of 30.8 million sheets of ICAO Compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays (in 2 ups) along with the operating system for Indian e-Passport Booklets, at an estimated cost of INR 722,96,84,000/-. 2. Scope of Eligibility Relaxation Under the PQB On a careful examination of Section II (Eligibility Criteria) of the said PQB, we note that the tender extends meaningful relaxation only to "MSEs and Start-ups" — i.e., Micro and Small Enterprises —	As per Policy Circular no. 1(2)(1)/2016-MA, dated 10.03.2016, by the office of Development Commissioner (MSME), under Ministry o MSME, Gol, subjected to Relaxation of Norms for startups and Micro & Small Enterprises in Public Procurement on Prior Experience-Prior Turnover Criteria, MSEs and Start-ups (registered for the tendered item) the 'Experience and past performance' criteria shall be exempted, subject to meeting of quality and technical specifications (Quality may be ensured by capacity & capability assessment). Medium Enterprises falling under the ambit of the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises dated: 18th Oct 2022, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3 (ii) may claim the subject relaxation.

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			while conspicuously excluding Medium Enterprises from any corresponding benefit, notwithstanding that Medium Enterprises are an integral, statutorily recognized limb of the MSME family under Section 7 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.	Necessary amendment will be issued.
2)	Section: II Clause: Clause 1(a), Note (iv) Pg. No.: 5	Experience & Past Performance Exemption	3. Relevant Clauses of the PQB (a) Experience and Past Performance Exemption The "Experience and past performance" criteria — requiring proof of having manufactured and supplied at least 8.213 million sheets of Electronic Contactless Smart Cards, or 4.107 million sheets of Electronic Contactless Inlays, in any one of the last five years - stands exempted only for MSEs and Start-ups registered for the tendered item. (b) Financial Criteria Exemption All financial criteria — average annual turnover of at least INR 96,40,36,110/- (or equivalent), and a positive/non-eroded net worth — stand exempted only for MSEs and Start-ups. (c) Non-MSE & Non-Startup Bar This Note expressly clarifies that in the case of Non-MSE & Non-Startup bidders, the experience & past performance criteria and the financial criteria are not exempted, and such bidders may participate only as a Sole Bidder or through a Consortium — a category into which every Medium Enterprise, having no MSE status, is presently and squarely pushed.	Yes Already Mentioned in Section II: Eligibility Criteria, Point 1. (a). Note iv), Page 5
	Section: II Clause: Clause 1(c), Note-2 Pg. No.: 6 Section: II Clause: Clause 1(c), Note-6 Pg. No.: 6	Financial Exemption: Non-MSE & Non-Startup Bar		Yes Already Mentioned in Section II: Eligibility Criteria, Point 1. (c). (ii). Note -2, Page 6.
				This is as per Govt. of India Policy. Medium Enterprises falling under the ambit of the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises dated: 18 th Oct 2022, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3 (ii) may claim the subject relaxation.
3)	Section: II Clause: Pg. No.:		4. Effect of the Exclusion on Medium Enterprises: The cumulative effect of these three provisions is that a Medium Enterprise — though classified, regulated and promoted under the very same MSMED Act as a Micro or Small Enterprise — is, for the	Necessary amendment will be issued. As per Policy Circular no. 1(2)(1)/2016-MA, dated 10.03.2016, by the office of Development Commissioner (MSME), under Ministry o MSME, GoI, subjected to Relaxation of Norms for startups and Micro & Small

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5)	Section: II Clause: Pg. No.:		6. Government's Reiterated Commitment to MSME Growth: This concern assumes greater weight in light of the Government's own recently reiterated commitment to the MSME sector, as reflected in the following materials placed before this Department for ready reference: (a) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026: As passed by the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August 2026 and the Lok Sabha on 7th August 2026, its Statement of Objects and Reasons expressly records that the proposed amendments are intended to "incentivize the growth of the micro, small and medium enterprises, enable them to scale up and become champions of growth" and to augment Ease of Doing Business and promote compliance — a stated commitment that spans all three limbs of the statutory MSME definition, and is not confined to Micro and Small Enterprises alone. (b) Press Information Bureau Release Dated 7th August 2026: Announcing passage of the Bill, this release records that enterprises registered on the Udyam portal have grown from 1.65 crore (as on 01.04.2023) to 9.16 crore, that the sector provides employment to over 40 crore people and is considered the backbone of the Indian economy, and that the amendments are aligned with the Government's "vision of Viksit Bharat @2047", intended to enable MSMEs to "become Champions of growth."	Necessary amendment will be issued. As per Policy Circular no. 1(2)(1)/2016-MA, dated 10.03.2016, by the office of Development Commissioner (MSME), under Ministry o MSME, Gol, subjected to Relaxation of Norms for startups and Micro & Small Enterprises in Public Procurement on Prior Experience-Prior Turnover Criteria, <i>MSEs and Start-ups (registered for the tendered item) the 'Experience and past performance' criteria shall be exempted, subject to meeting of quality and technical specifications (Quality may be ensured by capacity & capability assessment).</i> Medium Enterprises falling under the ambit of the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises dated: 18th Oct 2022, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3 (ii) may claim the subject relaxation. Necessary amendment will be issued.
6)	Section: II Clause: Pg. No.:		7. Precedent for Graded Relaxation Within the Same PQB If Medium Enterprises are to be genuinely enabled to scale up and become "Champions of growth" as envisaged by the Amendment Bill and reiterated in the PIB release, it is essential that procuring	As per Policy Circular no. 1(2)(1)/2016-MA, dated 10.03.2016, by the office of Development Commissioner (MSME), under Ministry o MSME, Gol, subjected to Relaxation of Norms for startups and Micro & Small

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			statutory classification ceiling (turnover up to INR 500 crore), rather than requiring them to meet the same absolute thresholds prescribed for unclassified large bidders.	2022, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3 (ii) may claim the subject relaxation.
			(iii) Technical/Capability Relaxation: Direct that Medium Enterprises be permitted to demonstrate annual manufacturing capacity through a time-bound, verifiable capacity build-up/ramp-up plan, subject to Capacity Verification Team assessment, rather than mandating full installed capacity at the bid stage.	Necessary amendment will be issued. PQB Criteria is fixed as per SPMCIL Procurement Manual 3.0 which is adopted from the manual of Department of Expenditure.
			(iv) Quantity Relaxation: Direct that, akin to the quantity-splitting mechanism already available to Class-I local suppliers under the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017, a defined portion of the tendered quantity be earmarked/made contestable for qualifying Medium Enterprises.	As per Policy Circular no. 1(2)(1)/2016-MA, dated 10.03.2016, by the office of Development Commissioner (MSME), under Ministry o MSME, GoI, subjected to Relaxation of Norms for startups and Micro & Small Enterprises in Public Procurement on Prior Experience-Prior Turnover Criteria, <i>MSEs and Start-ups (registered for the tendered item) the 'Experience and past performance' criteria shall be exempted, subject to meeting of quality and technical specifications (Quality may be ensured by capacity & capability assessment).</i>
			(v) Standing Policy Direction: Issue a general advisory/directive to SPMCIL and other procuring PSUs, Ministries and Departments under the administrative control of the Department of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Finance, clarifying that the objective of extending genuine participation opportunities to MSMEs under Government procurement, as reiterated in the MSMED (Amendment) Act, 2026, extends to Medium Enterprises and is not to be read as confined to Micro and Small Enterprises and Start-ups alone.	Medium Enterprises falling under the ambit of the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises dated: 18 th Oct 2022, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3 (ii) may claim the subject relaxation.
			(vi) Amendment to the Captioned PQB: Since the last date for sale/receipt of the PQB (22.09.2026) has not yet elapsed, we request that a corrigendum incorporating the above relaxations be considered and issued by ISP, Nashik /	Necessary amendment will be issued. PQB Criteria is fixed as per SPMCIL Procurement Manual 3.0 which is adopted from the manual of Department of

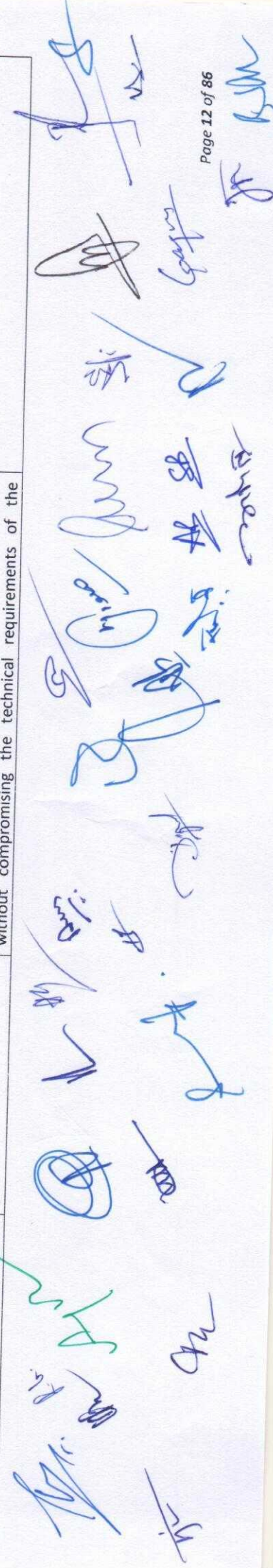
3. Prime electronics nxt (vide e-mail dt.25.08.2026 08.12 PM)

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1)	Section II: Eligibility Criteria Point 1.a (b). (iii) Page No:5	(iii) The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'anyone member, in case of consortium/JV') shall have prior experience in manufacturing/developing products having Common Criteria - certified elements i.e. chip and/or OS. The bidder shall submit copies of relevant Common Criteria Certificate as documentary evidence	Since the bidder is required to have prior experience in manufacturing/developing products incorporating Common Criteria-certified elements, such as chips and/or operating systems, kindly clarify whether the relevant Common Criteria Certificate is required to be in the name of the bidder or OEM. Further, kindly confirm which Common Criteria Certificates and/or supporting documents would be considered acceptable as documentary evidence.	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 3. As per Section II: Eligibility Criteria, Point 1. (a). Note iv), Page 5, The firm may submit following as documentary evidences: - Relevant PO / Tax- Invoice Copy of the particular product. - BOM/ Specification of the particular product consist of Common Criteria - certified elements i.e. chip and/or OS. - Following Relevant Common Criteria Certificate of Common Criteria - certified elements i.e. chip and/or OS used in the particular product. - Integrated Chip: Includes Chip along with its Bootloader, in the name of Chip Manufacturer - Operation System, in the name of OS Manufacturer/ Developer. - Composite Product (Integrated Chip + OS), in the name of chip Manufacturer.
2)	Section II: Eligibility Criteria	(g) In case the tenderer is an Indian agent quoting	We request your esteemed Department to kindly clarify, in a scenario where an Indian agent (company) participates on behalf	Shall be as per GFR-2017 section 152 and subsequent

4. ROSMERTA Technologies Limited – Gurgaon (vide e-mail dt.26.08.2026 03.18 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Section II – Eligibility Criteria, Clause 1(b)(i) – Capability, Equipment and Manufacturing Facility	The bidder (sole bidder / Lead Member in case of Consortium/JV) shall have an annual capacity to manufacture and supply at least 4.107 million sheets of Electronic Contactless Inlays in 2-ups.	We respectfully submit that the stipulated existing annual capacity of 4.107 million sheets of Electronic Contactless Inlays in 2-ups is highly specialized and may restrict participation to a limited number of existing e-Passport Inlay suppliers. Capable manufacturers may possess the requisite technology, infrastructure and expertise but may not have invested in such dedicated capacity in the absence of confirmed orders. At the PQB stage, the key consideration should therefore be whether the bidder possesses the requisite technical and manufacturing capability, rather than requiring the entire production capacity to be already installed. We therefore request that the capacity criterion may be broadened to provide for either (a) an annual capacity to manufacture and supply at least 8.213 million sheets of Electronic Contactless Inlays / Electronic Contactless Smart Cards in 1-up, OR (b) the stipulated 4.107 million sheets in 2-ups based on the combined/available capacity of the Sole Bidder or any member(s) of the Consortium/JV. Further, considering the implementation timeline available after award of the contract, the successful bidder may be permitted to furnish an undertaking to augment the required production capacity within 3 months from the date of award of the contract to meet the stipulated supply schedule. This approach would ensure that the PQB primarily assesses the bidder's underlying technical and manufacturing capability to produce ICAO-compliant e-Passport Inlays in 2-ups, while allowing the requisite production capacity to be scaled up in	Please refer Broad and Common point no 3. As per Section II – Eligibility Criteria, Point no. 1, (b). Capability, equipment and manufacturing facilities: (i) The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'lead member, in case of consortium/JV') must have an annual capacity to manufacture and supply at least "4.107 Million sheets of 'Electronic Contactless Inlays' in 2 ups". (ii) The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'Lead member, in case of consortium/JV') should provide the following information: (a) Name of the machine(s) utilized to supply the quoted product. (b) The number of machines being utilized for the production and the capacity of each machine. (c) Total Annual capacity of Manufacture. (d) Supply Orders in hand and proportionate capacity to supply the quoted amount. (iii) The bidder 'sole bidder' or 'anyone

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			accordance with the project requirements.	member, in case of consortium/JV" shall have prior experience in manufacturing/developing products having Common Criteria - certified elements i.e. chip and/or OS. The bidder shall submit copies of relevant Common Criteria Certificate as documentary evidence.
2)	Page 5 – Note (iii)	The clause specifies the required capacity and capability for manufacturing ICAO-compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays in 2-ups by the "sole bidder" or "lead member, in case of consortium/JV". During the capacity and capability assessment, the machine capability shall be calculated as per demonstrated finished output quantity per hour.	We respectfully submit that the stipulated capacity/capability for manufacturing ICAO-compliant e-Passport Inlays in 2-ups is highly specific to e-Passport applications and, consequently, most otherwise capable domestic bidders may not have such existing dedicated capacity to manufacture the Inlays in 2 Ups. However, Department may also consider existing capacity and capability for manufacturing Electronic Contactless Smart Cards in 1 ups, which involve substantially similar secure chip integration, antenna/inlay manufacturing and associated production technologies. Since the Department has also recognized experience in supply of Electronic Contactless Smart Cards as qualifying past experience, we request that corresponding manufacturing capacity and capability for Electronic Contactless Smart Cards may likewise be accepted for meeting this criterion, subject to the bidder undertaking to establish/augment the specific ICAO-compliant 2-up Inlay capacity within the stipulated timeframe. This would enable participation of capable domestic manufacturers (either as sole bidder or as consortium partner with Global manufacturers) without compromising the technical requirements of the	The Capability, equipment and manufacturing facilities shall be assessed as per actual requirement of tendered item i.e. ICAO Compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays (in 2 ups). The Capability, equipment and manufacturing facilities shall be assessed as per actual requirement of tendered item i.e. ICAO Compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays (in 2 ups).



Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
3)		The tender specifies procurement of 30.8 million sheets (in 2-ups) but does not indicate the required delivery schedule or supply period.	project. Kindly clarify the expected delivery timeline for supply of 30.8 million sheets (in 2-ups), including whether the supplies are to be completed in a single lot or in phased deliveries along with the indicative delivery schedule.	At PQB stage, delivery timelines as well as schedule cannot explained, it shall be provided in detailed in Techno-commercial bid. However, the tendered quantity i.e. 30.8 Million Sheets in 2 ups is assessed on the basis of probable indent and supplies of e-Passport in approximate three financial years. Accordingly, deliveries shall be planned over the said requirement period in staggered manner.
4)		The tender states that if a bidder participates in both the Global PQB Tender and the Domestic Development PQB Tender and is subsequently awarded both contracts, the bidder shall supply material at the lower of the two quoted prices.	We understand from the above clause that, in case the same bidder (either as a sole bidder or through the same Consortium/JV composition) is awarded both the Global PQB Tender and the Domestic Development PQB Tender, the lower of the two quoted prices shall prevail. However, where the bidder/Consortium/JV composition is different, or where the product configuration or other technical parameters of the products offered under the two tenders are different, the price-fall clause would not be applicable. We request the Authority to kindly confirm whether our understanding is correct.	As per Section II – Eligibility Criteria, Note – 7 : Applicability of other/ common provisions, point ii, page 6 "In case a bidder participates in both the Global and Domestic Development Tenders 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."
5)		Order Allocation / Split-up of	Kindly clarify the proposed order allocation methodology,	As the product and specification of the tendered item in both the bid i.e. Global PQB & Domestic Development PQB, is same, therefore price difference of the same item by same firm in both the tender can not be expected. Also please refer Broad and Common point no. 5.
				Shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial bid.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
7)	Page 3 - Closing Date for Receipt of Tenders	The closing date for receipt of tenders is 22.09.2026.	We respectfully request the Purchaser to extend the bid submission deadline by at least one month from the stipulated closing date. Participation in this strategic e-Passport Inlay procurement, particularly through a Consortium/JV with global technology partners, requires considerable time for technical and commercial discussions, due diligence, internal approvals, finalization of consortium structure, execution of agreements, and compilation of the requisite qualification and security-related documents.	manufacturer of Indian e-Passport, are eligible to have Proprietary/Custodian/Escrow right of audited & running complied source code of OS. Please refer Broad and Common point no. 7. Please refer Broad and Common point no 4.
8)	Section IX - Pre-bid / Precontract Integrity Pact	The tender document includes a format under Section IX for the Pre-bid meeting; however, no schedule or date for conducting the pre-bid meeting has been specified in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT).	We would request a Prebid meeting to be organized to provide the required clarifications considering the fact that tender requirements have significantly changed from the tender which was published earlier. Accordingly, would request to notify the date, time, venue, and mode (physical/online) of the Pre-bid Meeting to enable seek further clarifications.	Pre-bid meeting scheduled on 03.09.2026 at 11.00 AM (IST) at CRDC Nashik.

5. KL Hi-Tech Secure Print Limited – Sangareddy District – Telangana (vide e-mail dt.26.08.2026 03.22 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Section: Section-VIII Pg. No.: 25	Vendor Details	Kindly clarify whether, in the case of a consortium, submission of this section by the Lead Member is sufficient, or whether it	As per Section II, Note -8, Page 7, Participant in this bid may be sole bidder or Consortium/JV: The Bidder

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Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	Point No.:		needs to be submitted by all consortium partners.	shall be either a Single Entity or a Consortium of maximum three (03) entities.
2)	Section: Section-X Pg. No.: 27 Point No.:	Pre-Bid/ Pre-Contract Integrity Pact	Kindly clarify whether it needs to be printed and signed on plain paper or notarized/franked. Please advise us of the amount in case of franking.	Therefore, Vendor Details of either sole bidder or all members of Consortium/JV shall be mentioned. Already mentioned that Section X: Pre-Bid/ Pre-Contract Integrity Pact (To be signed on Plain Paper), Page 27. The bidder has to submit duly filled format and signed on plain paper.
3)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 31 Point No.: B.2b		Is there any SPM used? Kindly elaborate for our better understanding.	As per Annexure-III CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM, B Manufacturing Process, Point no. 2b. - Is there any SPM used? (Special Purpose equipment/machinery). If yes, details.
4)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 32 Point No.: C.3	Conditioning facility required for Laboratory test, if applicable.	Kindly clarify whether it means conditioning of the material before the test or conditioning of the laboratory/test environment.	SPM - Special Purpose Machine/ Equipment. As per ISO/ IS standards, the conditioning shall be applicable for the item under test in Standard Laboratory Environment.
5)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 32 Point No.: G.3	Is that the firm ensures to prevent supply chain risks by assessing the Software Bill of Material (SBOM)/ Bill of Material (BOM), risk assessment, country of origin check, end-to-end supply chain security, regular supplier audit and vetting and international collaboration etc., (documentary evidence to be provided).	Kindly elaborate for our better understanding.	As per Annexure-III CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM, G Material Accounting Procedures, Point no 3 "Is that the firm ensures to prevent Supply chain risks by assessing the Software Bill of Material (SBOM)/ Bill of Material (BOM), Risk Assessment, Country of Origin check, end-to-end supply chain security, regular supplier audit & vetting and international collaboration etc. (documentary evidence to be provided)." The bidder shall provide following documentary

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				evidences regarding following Material Accounting Procedures: i. Software Bill of Material (SBOM)/ Bill of Material (BOM) ii. Risk Assessment iii. Provision for Country-of-Origin check of the important raw material. iv. Provision for end-to-end supply chain security. v. Copy of supplier audit & vetting. vi. International collaboration, if any etc.
6)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 33 Point No.: I.4	Conditioning required for security items before dispatch, during transit, during storage and before application?	Kindly clarify the required conditioning parameters.	Bidder shall provide the details of provisions made at their premises for conditioning required for security items (raw material & finished product both) before dispatch, during transit, during storage and before application.
7)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 33 Point No.: I.1	Is there any special tool (like mould, die etc.) used for Manufacturing? If yes, do they have any in house making facility or is it outsourced. Details to be shared for accountability of usage of special tools till its destruction record.	Non-security punching/die-cutting tools are used in the manufacturing process. Kindly clarify whether these tools need to be accounted for and destroyed.	Bidder shall provide the details of special tool required for manufacturing of offered product/ item. If yes, do they have any in house making facility or is it outsourced. Details to be shared for accountability of usage of special tools till its destruction record. General purpose tools are not come under this category.
8)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 33 Point No.: K.3	"Source of Raw Materials (Raw Material, other additives, Specifically the security material)"	Section-I NIT, Clause No. 9 states that "Only those bidders found eligible in the PQB and Security cleared by GOI will be issued tender documents and detailed specifications." In view of the above, declaration of the source of the material is not possible without knowing the Chip and OS details.	Bidder shall provide the details of Source of Raw Materials (Raw Material, other additives, Specifically the security material) used in providing the samples for capacity verification. As per Section II, Point 1. (b), Note (iii), the sample is

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			Kindly clarify.	an ICAO Compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays for e-Passports in 2 ups with dummy chip by assembling the chip & antenna through seamless integration including arc/resistance welding or suitable methodology on same plane with suitable substrate with proper lamination or sealing mechanism to form a permanent package.
9)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 33 Point No.: K.5	Details of third-party Site Security audit, conducted by authorised agency (documentary evidence to be provided).	Kindly clarify whether the audit(s) relate to the bidder's Site Security or to the Site Security of the raw material manufacturer/supplier.	Bidder shall provide details of third-party Site Security audit, conducted by authorized agency. Documentary evidence to be provided in the name of Bidder as well as the manufacturing premises/ work sites for manufacturing of tendered item (manufacturing premises/ work site proposed for capacity & capability verification).
10)	Section: Annexure-III Pg. No.: 33 Point No.: K.8	Is that the firm follows The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA) & its Compliance to Act and Rules section which is comprehensive privacy law in India that governs the processing, storing and securing of personal data. (Documentary evidence to be provided).	As per our understanding, the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 is being implemented in phases. The Government notified the DPDP Act commencement notification and the DPDP Rules, 2025 on 13 November 2025. The main compliance provisions are scheduled to come into force 18 months after notification, i.e. 18 May 2027. Since the provisions of the Act and Rules are being implemented in phases, please clarify the specific provisions/requirements applicable to this tender and the documentary evidence required to establish such compliance.	The compliances shall be provided by the Bidder, as per Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDPA) with latest amendments.
11)	Section: Section-IV Pg. No.: 15 Point No.: 5	Verification of local content and violations: a. The 'Class-I local supplier'/'Class-II local supplier' at the	Point No. 9 on Page No. 4 (Section I: Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)) states that "Only those bidders found eligible in the PQB and Security cleared by GOI will be issued tender documents and detailed specifications".	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 9. Necessary amendment shall be issued.

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12)	Section: Section-V Pg. No.: 19 Point No.: 7	time of tender, bidding or solicitation shall be required to at which the local value addition is made. Checklist for submission of all the documents as per PQB requirement: 9. Declaration regarding Local Content as per Clause 7 (h) of Section-II.	In the absence of the details of Substrate, Adhesive, Copper Wire, Chip, OS, etc., it is not practically possible for a new entrant to arrive at the local content. Hence, we request you to waive this Clause from this Global Tender.	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 9. Necessary amendment shall be issued.

KL Hi-Tech Secure Print Limited – Sangareddy District – Telangana (Vide e-mail dated 31.08.2026 4.18 PM)

No.	Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Section No.: II Page No.: 7 Point No.: 1 (c) (ii) Note-8 2] (ix)	All members of consortium shall provide an undertaking that "any member including chip manufacturer as we all as OS manufacturer/ developer....."	Kindly elaborate the meaning for our better understanding.	As per tender condition as well as Broad and Common Points no 5.
2)	Section No.: II Page No.: 8 Point No.: 4	All the capacity/ capability related data must be certified by the authorized signatory of the bidding firm.	Authorized signatory of the bidding firm: Kindly clarify whether it refers to the Chairman/MD, any Director, or a Board-nominated Executive of the firm.	Authorized signatory refers who has the Power of Attorney to sign the bid document on the behalf of

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
				the bidder.
3)	Section No.: II Page No.: 8 Point No.: 7.(c)	The bidder shall indicate/certify that authorised signatory is competent and legally authorised to submit the tender and/or to enter into legally binding contract.	As per our understanding, this is a Self-Declaration/ Self-Certification. Kindly clarify whether any supporting document is required to be submitted to substantiate this Self-Declaration/Self-Certification.	The bidder has to submit the document certifying that the authorized signatory is competent and legally authorized to submit the tender and/or to enter into legally binding contract i.e. Power of Attorney.
4)	Section No.: II Page No.: 9 Point No.: 9 (a) (ii)	The Certificate should be issued by any of the internationally recognised certificate authorising schemes that are members of Common Criteria.	Point No. 9 on Page No. 4 (Section I: Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)) states that "Only those bidders found eligible in the PQB and Security cleared by GOI will be issued tender documents and detailed specifications". As per our understanding, the Chip & OS information is essential for obtaining Common Criteria Certification with a minimum assurance level of EAL5+ from the Common Criteria Licensed Laboratories. Hence, as stated in Clause No. 9.b (Page No.9), the Certificate can be submitted at the time of supply of pre-production. Kindly confirm.	At PQB stage only undertaking/ declaration needs to be submitted duly signed by authorised signatory.
5)	Section No.: III Page No.: 12 Point No.: Tender Form	We, the undersigned have examined the above-mentioned tender enquiry document, including amendment No. _____ dated _____ (if any), the receipt of which is hereby confirmed. We now offer to supply and deliver _____ (description of goods and services) in conformity with your	As per our understanding, this is a Pre-Qualification Bid (PQB) and hence, there is no requirement to submit the "price schedule(s)" and "delivery schedule" while submitting the tender. Kindly clarify and amend the Tender Form accordingly.	Necessary amendment will be issued.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
		above referred document for the sum shown in the price schedule(s), attached herewith and made part of this tender. If our tender is accepted, we undertake to supply the goods and perform the services as mentioned above, in accordance with the delivery schedule specified in the List of Requirements.		
6)	Section No.: IV Page No.: 15 Point No.: 5	Verification of local content and violations: a. The 'Class-I local supplier'/'Class-II local supplier' at the time of tender, bidding or solicitation shall be required to at which the local value addition is made.	Clause No. 9, Page No. 4 (Section I: Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)) states that "Only those bidders found eligible in the PQB and Security cleared by GOI will be issued tender documents and detailed specifications". In the absence of the details of Substrate, Adhesive, Copper Wire, Chip, OS, etc., it is not practically possible for a new entrant to arrive at the local content. Hence, Tendering Authority is requested to amend this Clause accordingly.	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 9. It is only a general instruction.
7)	Section No.: V Page No.: 9 Point No.: 7 (9)	Checklist for submission of all the documents as per PQB requirement: 9. Declaration regarding Local Content as per Clause 7 (h) of Section II	Clause No. 9, Page No. 4 (Section I: Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)) states that "Only those bidders found eligible in the PQB and Security cleared by GOI will be issued tender documents and detailed specifications". In the absence of the details of Substrate, Adhesive, Copper Wire, Chip, OS, etc., it is not practically possible for a new entrant to arrive at the local content.	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 9. Necessary amendment will be issued.

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Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
8)	Section Annexure-III Page No.: 31 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.	Hence, Tendering Authority is requested to amend this Clause accordingly. We request the Tendering Authority to involve us during the testing process of our Inlays at ISP's Lab as well as during the Performance trial on e-Passport Manufacturing System at ISP to observe the performance of the 125 Inlays provided in 2 Ups. We request you to provide us with the information below, which will enable us to prepare dummy inlays compatible with the passport booklet manufacturing process. - 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/ suitable cellulosic or synthetic material. Detailed specification are available in SPMCIL website tender section. • UNO/ Kugler Machine are used. • Standard e-Passport Laminator shall be used for booklet lamination, that shall apply the temperature up to 180°C under standard lamination pressure.
9)	Section Annexure-III Page No.: 31 Point No.: B. 2.	Brief Details of Manufacturing Process from Raw Material to Finished Product: 2a. Technology used	Kindly elaborate the meaning for our better understanding.	The bidder needs to provide Brief details of the technology/ process incorporated for Inlay manufacturing at manufacturers end.
10)	Section AnnexureIV Page No.: 35	1. { , a company incorporated under the provisions of Companies	The sample format (Annexure-IV) refers only to companies incorporated in India. It appears necessary to modify this format to accommodate Global company/companies as part of	Necessary amendment will be issued.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	Point Consortium Agreement Format No.:	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 consortium along with Indian company/companies. Kindly clarify.	
11)	Section Annexure IV Page No.: 35 Point No.: 3	3. Role of the Parties The Parties hereby undertake that Party of the First Part is fulfilling the prequalification criteria as per the requirement of "Tender" in all respects and shall be the "Lead Member" of the Consortium and shall have the Power of Attorney from all Parties for conducting all business for and on behalf of the Consortium during the Bidding Process and until the signing of the Contract when all the obligations of the Consortium shall become effective.	Page No. 5, Section II: Eligibility Criteria Clause No. 1.(a) Experience and past performance clearly mentioned that The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'anyone member, in case of consortium/IV') should have manufactured and supplied at least "8.213 Million sheets of 'Electronic Contactless Smart Cards' in 1 ups" OR "4.107 Million sheets of 'Electronic Contactless Inlays' in 2 ups" in any one of the last five years ending on "31st March 2025" (Bidders who follow calendar year as financial year the date will be 31st December 2024). However, 3. Role of the Parties in Annexure-IV (Page No. 35) states that "The Parties hereby undertake that Party of the First Part is fulfilling the prequalification criteria as per the requirement of "Tender" in all respects". Page No. 5, Section II: Eligibility Criteria Clause No. 1.(b).(iii) Capability, equipment and manufacturing	Necessary amendment will be issued.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			facilities clearly mentioned that The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'anyone member, in case of consortium/JV') shall have prior experience in manufacturing/ developing products having Common Criteria - certified elements i.e. chip and/or OS. The bidder shall submit copies of relevant Common Criteria Certificate as documentary evidence. However, 3. Role of the Parties in Annexure-IV (Page No. 35) states that "The Parties hereby undertake that Party of the First Part is fulfilling the prequalification criteria as per the requirement of "Tender" in all respects". Clarification Sought : 3. Role of the Parties in Annexure -IV (Page No. 35) states that "The Parties hereby undertake that Party of the First Part is fulfilling the prequalification criteria as per the requirement of "Tender" in all respects". This requirement is different from the Clause No. 1 .(a) and Clause No. 1 .(b) .(iii) of Eligibility Criteria of Section II. Hence, we request the Tendering Authority to clarify/ amend the "Role of the Parties" of Annexure -IV in accordance with Clause No. 1 .(a) and Clause No. 1 .(b) . (iii) of Section II: Eligibility Criteria .	
12)	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	The requirement is for three years (tentatively). Pleas refer Broad and Common point no. 8.

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Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
13)		Bid Submission Extension	event that the foreign currency appreciates against the Indian Rupee by more than 5% during the tenure of the project. 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. There are several varieties of Common Criteria Certificates, depending on the Chip & OS, such as ICOP 4, SCOSTA, SCE 7.0, StarCOS, etc. Therefore, we request the Tendering Authority to specify the type of Common Criteria Certificate required to be submitted.	Will be discussed in the Pre-bid meeting scheduled on 03.09.2026 at 11.00 AM (IST) at CRDC Nashik.
14)	Section No.: II Page No.: 5 Point No.: 1(a)(iii)	The bidder shall have prior experience in manufacturing/developing products having Common Criteria-certified Elements i.e. chip and/or OS. The bidder shall submit copies of relevant Common Criteria Certificate as documentary Evidence.		Please refer Broad and common point no. 3.
15)	Section Annexure-III Page No.: 31 Point No.: A.5	Bidder Firm shall provide at-least 125 Inlays in 2 ups (with Dummy Chip & Antenna) manufactured 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-	Information regarding the Lamination Test parameters is not available in the quoted ICAO/ISO/IEC Standard Documents. Hence, we request the Tendering Authority to provide the details of the Temperature and Pressure to be applied during the Lamination Test.	1. In view of Tender Terms & Conditions, following standards shall be consider as reference for manufacturing of sample Inlays in 2 ups - ICAO Doc 9303 guidelines, - ICAO MRTD Durability V 3.2, - ISO/IEC 10373 - ISO/IEC 18745 2. Following test shall be carried along with performance trial in-line with the standard e-Passport Manufacturing operations at ISP, Nashik - Peel Test, - High Temperature Life Test, - Lamination Test, - Damp Heat Test, - Temperature Cycle Test, - Resistance Against Chemical

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Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
		Passport Booklets. In case, it is not found suitable, the offer of the firm will not be considered for further evaluation.		3. Suitable substrate shall be used to sustain above test as well as performance trial in-line with the standard e-Passport Manufacturing operations. 4. Suitable gluing/ or alternative technology can be used on suitable substrate for proper lamination or sealing mechanism to form a permanent package. 5. Standard e-Passport Laminator shall be used for booklet lamination, that shall apply the temperature up to 180°C under standard lamination pressure.

6. Standard Trading Company – Mumbai (vide e-mail dt.27.08.2026 09.22 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)		Parallel Contracts against the Tender	We understand that the entire quantity of 30.8 million sheets will be awarded to the L1 bidder, if the L1 bidder is a Class-I Local Supplier. Alternatively, is there a provision for parallel contracts, if yes can you please clarify whether this is split between 2 or 3 parties and the ratio.	Shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial bid.
2)		Participation	If an Indian Company bids in the Global Tender in Consortium	

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			with a Foreign Manufacturer, can the same Indian Company bid in the Domestic tender on its own (i.e. without the Foreign Manufacturer).	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 5.

7. L&T Semiconductor Technologies Limited – Noida (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 10.56 AM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)		Class 1 Supplier	If the IP of chip hardware and OS is with Indian company and the wafer fabrication is done outside of India as there are no wafer fabs currently operational in India for the specific technology node, will the entire cost of the die / wafer including OS will be considered as local content?	Kindly refer the Section IV: General Instruction for the Bidders, Clause 1.4.3.(c) "in this regard the nodal ministry order as per F. No. W/43/4/2019-IPWH-Meity, Gol, 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)."
2)		Protection Profile for Composite / OS CC certification EAL 5+	The stated protection profile is mention in the technical specs as BSI-CC-PP-0068-V2-2011 & BSI-CC-PP-0056-V2- 2012. The protection profile should be either BSI-CC-PP-0056-V2-2012 or BSI-CC-PP-0068- V2-2011. Please clarify.	As per Section II: Eligibility Criteria, Point no. 9.a, Page 9, it is clearly mentioned that: "The bidder shall confirm that the offered Composite product (chip plus OS) as well as individual components shall be evaluated by Common Criteria licensed laboratories with a minimum assurance level of EAL5+. The protection profiles to be complied with

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
				are: i. BSI-CC-PP-0068-V2-2011 & BSI-CC-PP-0056-V2-2012 or latest for individual OS components as well as for composite product having integrated Chip and OS, for Electronic Machine-Readable Travel Document with PACE, AA & CA.

8. Veridos GmbH – Germany (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 11.59 AM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)			Is there any Pre bid-meeting planned for the Global PQB Tender No. 17/2026-27 and on which date?	Pre-bid meeting scheduled on 03.09.2026 at 11.00 AM (IST) at CRDC Nashik.
2)			Please confirm whether a global bidder, submitting a direct bid either as a sole bidder or as the leader of a consortium, can choose Euro or USD as the bidding and payment currency, as permitted in other ISP and SPMCIL global tenders. Are the Incoterms CIP or FOB acceptable to ISP?	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 8. The bidders have to give/quote the price in INR. Bidder will have to quote the price & other details like incoterms, as per the price schedule, given in 'Techno-commercial Bid'.
3)			Please clarify: If the bidding and payment currency specified by ISP for a global sole bidder or an international company as leader of a consortium is Indian Rupees, what percentage of exchange rate fluctuation will be permitted at the time of delivery compared to the quoted price? This is a critical consideration, as the Indian Rupee has significantly depreciated in recent years. Given that this is a multi-year supply contract,	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 8.

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Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
4)			we request the inclusion of an exchange rate fluctuation provision, as is standard in other Government of India tenders. Please confirm whether a consortium consisting of global and Indian companies can choose Euro or USD as the bidding and payment currency, as permitted in other ISP and SPMCIL global tenders. Are the Incoterms CIP or FOB acceptable to ISP?	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 8.
5)			Request for clarification: Participation in not more than one bid (page 7, iii) We understand that this statements should be read as "An organization, whether as sole bidder or as a member of a Consortium, cannot participate in more than one bid for this Global Tender". A sole bidder or consortium member bidding for the Global tender is still allowed to bid for the Global Tender at the same time.	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 5. For a particular tender either Global or Domestic Development Tender, an organization, whether as sole bidder or as a member of a Consortium, cannot participate in more than one bid. However, an organization, whether as sole bidder or as a member of a Consortium can participate in both the tenders as per tender terms and condition (Page 6, Note - 7, Pont ii).
6)			Request for Clarification: Common Criteria Experience (Section II: Eligibility Criteria, 1, b, iii) Please confirm which of the following will satisfy the Common Criteria (CC) experience requirement for the bidder (sole bidder or anyone member in case of consortium): a) CC Product Development/Certification: Experience in developing CC products or having obtained CC certification in their own name. b) CC-Certified Sites: Manufacturing or development sites audited and covered under the Common Criteria certification regime. c) Use of 3rd Party CC-Certified Components:	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 3. Point a & b cannot be considered for the PQB and only point c shall be considered along with the required documentary evidence."

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
7)			Experience in ONLY using any third-party Chip/OS that is CC certified in other products previously manufactured and supplied.	
			Clear guidance is requested, as this criterion directly impacts the assessment of supplier capabilities regarding product security and resilience against vulnerabilities and cyber threats.	
			Request for Clarification: Inlay Testing at ISP (Section II: Eligibility Criteria, 1, b, iii, Note iii): Please specify the following details regarding ISP's inlay production:	
			What specific adhesive(s) / glue are currently utilized in the inlay lamination process?	• Cold / Hotmelt PUR are used. Detailed specification are available in SPMCIL website tender section.
			What cover material(s) are used?	• Cotton fabric-based passport cover material/ Suitable Cellulosic and Synthetic material. Detailed specification are available in SPMCIL website tender section.
8)			Which machines will be used for the lamination process and which machine parameter settings?	• UNO/ Kugler Machine are used.
			This information is essential to ensure compatibility and accurate testing of inlays according to ISP's processes and material standards.	• Standard e-Passport Booklet Laminator.
			Request for Clarification: IS 16695 and SCOSTA CL OS Eligibility (Section II, 9, a.i & c.iii) IS 16695 Update Status: Has IS 16695, as linked to SCOSTA CL, been updated to include Card Authentication (CA) and Active Authentication (AA), in addition to PACE, compared to its previous draft version? OS Acceptance Criteria: Is ISP considering only SCOSTA CL OS, or are other operating systems (e.g., Java) also acceptable if: i. They comply with PreQ's mandated ICAO profiles, and ii. Are Common Criteria certified to BSI-CC-PP-0068-v2-2011	The guidelines available as on the date of Techno-commercial bid opening for IS 16695 will be applicable.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
9)			and BSI-CC-PP-0056-V2-2012? Clear guidance is requested, as this directly affects any bidders offering to ISP, bidder eligibility, and Common Criteria certification timelines. Request for Clarification "Supplier category / Make in India" (Section III: Tender Form, 1, page 12): Bidders need to state if their offer fall in local Class 1 or local Class 2 supplier or non local supplier category. For "Inlays Make in India", the status to be in Class 1 will be directly linked to if any "Chip Modules Make in India" will be available to be proposed to ISP at the bidding time and what will be their Make in India content. This topic impacts all bidders and during the previously held pre-bid conference of the cancelled Global PQB no 01/2026-27 on 24.04.2026, it was requested by bidders that ISP provides clarity on this subject after discussing with Nodal agency ministry to enable common understanding for all & avoid subjectivity. Clear guidance is requested, as this directly affects any bidders offering to ISP and the classification of the bidder.	Nodal ministry order No.F.No.W/43/4/2019-IPWH-Meity, GoI, Meity (IPWH division), dated 07.09.2020, Point No.4.7.II(B) (subsequent amendment order) shall be followed for calculation of local content for Contactless Smart Card. Please refer Section (IV), 1.4 (C) (Pg. No.14 of tender document).
10)			Request for Clarification: Consortium Agreement Preamble - Registration of Partners (Annexure IV): Please confirm whether it is an error that all three partners are shown as registered in India in the Preamble (Points 1, 2, & 3) of the draft consortium agreement. Ideally, only one partner needs to be an Indian company if a global company is	All consortium partners are not required to be registered in India. Necessary amendment will be issued.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			considering a consortium partnership for the Make in India initiative. As such it is unclear, why all consortium partners need to be registered in India. Clarification / guidance is requested regarding the registration requirements for consortium partners. In case this is an error in the form, please also provide a corrected form.	
11)			Request for Clarification: Consortium Agreement Global Tender Please confirm that according to Section II, Eligibility Criteria, Note 8) 2. it is tender compliant to submit with the Pre-qualification bid and Security Clearance a notary agreement that the companies' intent to establish a consortium in case they will be qualified and /or awarded and that the companies are nor requested to submit a signed consortium agreement within the PQB.	Notarized Consortium Agreement established on Indian Non-judicial Stamp Paper of appropriate value, required to be submitted along with the bid. Necessary amendment will be issued.
12)			Please confirm that in the Tender No 17/2026-27 awarded bidder are not requested to be incorporated or registered in India as provided for in the wording in the form of Annex 4 Consortium Agreement and if this is correct, kindly inform if the bidders are allowed to modify the wording in the form or if ISP will provide a revised draft.	Necessary amendment will be issued.
13)			Capacity and Capability Form / Annex III. A5. Bidder Firm shall provide at-least 125 Inlays for performance trials on e-Passport Manufacturing System at ISP, Nashik by	No. However, the outcome of 'Performance Trial' will be intimated to the bidder.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			manufacturing of e-Passport Booklets. Can the bidder be present during the test in the passport lines, as minor adjustments might be needed?	

9. Infineon Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. – Bengaluru (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 01.02 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Sec II, Consortium P7	2] Consortium / Joint Ventures:(i) A Consortium shall have maximum 3 members including lead member. Any member including Chip Manufacturer as well as OS manufacturer/developer cannot be a part of Multiple Consortium. The consortium members should be related to the relevant technology i.e. manufacturing and supply of 'Electronic Contactless Inlays / Electronic Contactless Smart Cards' as defined in para 1. (a), Note (ii).	Last time, it was discussed that chip / OS suppliers need not take part in the consortium and will be allowed to supply to any bidder. Does this understanding continue to be the same? Kindly confirm.	Yes
2)	Sec II cl.9.b, Page 9	The bidder shall confirm that all assessment evidence, testing data, and associated laboratory reports to the Indian Common Criteria Certification Scheme (IC3S) for review, against the	Could you please kindly share an indicative timeline for supply of pre-production and production readiness?	Query in not clear.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
3)	Sec II cl.1(a)/(b), P5; Sec IV cl.1.4, P13	Common Criteria certification for acceptance in India, shall be submitted at the time of supply of pre-production. Regarding: Chip operating system preferences for Make in India & Native OS	As understood from the last PQB conference, the Operating System was expected to be to a native OS and must be developed in India . Could you kindly confirm whether this understanding still holds valid, since it is not explicitly stated in the published PQB documents?	Please refer Broad and Common Point No. 7.
4)	P6, Note 7	Note-7: Applicability of other/ common provisions: i. 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.	Can a bidder participate independently in both the Domestic Development PQB Tender and the Global PQB Tender? Kindly confirm.	Please refer Broad and Common Point No. 5.

10. IRIS CORPORATION BERHAD – Malaysia (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 01.40 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Section II, Clause 1(b)(i)	Annual capacity to manufacture and supply at least 4.107 million sheets of Electronic Contactless Inlays (2-ups)	For Consortium/JV bids, must the capacity requirement be supported solely by the Lead Member or collectively by Consortium members?	Lead member
2)	Section II, Clause 1(b), Note (iii)	The bidder shall demonstrate development of ICAO compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays using a dummy chip and provide samples for testing.	Should the sample inlays for capability verification contain only a non-functional dummy chip, or a dummy chip loaded with an OS?	Non-functional dummy chip
3)	Section II, Clause 1(c)	Financial Turnover and Net Worth Requirements.	For Consortium/JV bids, can the turnover and net worth requirements be met by any one member or collectively by consortium members?	any one member
4)	Section II, Clause 1(c)(i)	Financial turnover requirement expressed in INR, EUR and USD.	Please confirm the exchange rate source and reference date used for financial evaluation?	Amount in all the three currency forms are already mentioned, therefore the exchange rate source is need not necessary to be explained.
5)	Section II, Note 3 (Applicability to Make in India)	Product manufactured in India under a license/technology collaboration agreement with phased increase in local content.	Please clarify the minimum documentary evidence required to show a technology collaboration/transfer of technology agreement and phased increase in local content?	Bidder shall submit the necessary documentary evidence for technology collaboration/transfer of technology agreement and phased increase in local content.
6)	Section II, Note 4 (Authorized Representatives)	Bids of Authorized Representatives will be considered provided the Principal Manufacturer meets all qualifying criteria.	Please confirm whether all qualification criteria, including experience, manufacturing capability, Common Criteria experience and financial requirements, shall be evaluated based solely on the Principal Manufacturer?	Yes
7)	Section II, Note 4(iii)	Authorized Representative should have been associated with the same or another Principal Manufacturer for similar services during the past three years.	Please clarify the documentary evidence required to demonstrate such association and whether supply-only references are acceptable?	Kindly refer Section II eligibility criteria, Note -4. Bidder shall submit the necessary documentary evidence to demonstrate such association.
8)	Section II, Note 8(1) Sole Bidder	Sole Bidder must be an organization which has the	For a Sole Bidder participating through an Authorized Representative, please clarify whether the capability	Kindly refer Section II eligibility criteria, Note -4.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
		capabilities to deliver the entire scope as mentioned in the tender.	requirements under Note 8(1) will be assessed based on the Principal Manufacturer or the Authorized Representative.	
9)	Section II, Note 8 (Consortium/JV)	Consortium participation permitted with a maximum of three members.	Please clarify which qualification criteria, if any, must be fulfilled exclusively by the Lead Member if a bidder participates as a Consortium?	It is already clarified in PQC criteria.
10)	Section II: Eligibility Criteria, Clause 6	Indian Bidder firm shall submit a copy of PAN and GST Registration Certificate.	In the case of an Authorized Representative/Indian Local Agent, is submission of PAN and GST Registration Certificate mandatory?	Yes
11)	Section II, Clause 9(a)	Common Criteria certification requirements for chip and OS.	Must the offered chip and OS already possess the required certifications at the PQB stage, or can certification be completed before the techno-commercial bid stage?	Please refer Broad and Common Point No. 6.
12)	Section II, Clause 9(b)	The bidder shall confirm that all assessment evidence, testing data, and associated laboratory reports to the Indian Common Criteria Certification Scheme (IC3S) for review, against the Common Criteria certification for acceptance in India shall be submitted at the time of supply of pre-production. The Bidder firm confirm, 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	Please confirm whether the declaration letter regarding the availability of the source code should be provided by the inlay manufacturer or the chip manufacturer.	Bidder shall submit the declaration/undertaking for the same.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
13)	Section II, Clause 9(c)	Compliance with ICAO, ISO and Common Criteria standards.	If a newer version of a referenced standard is released before tender award, which version will apply for compliance evaluation?	Latest.
14)	Section IV, Clause 1.3	Unless otherwise stipulated in the NIT/ SIT, joint venture / Consortium shall not be considered in this tender	Please confirm Consortium/ JV is allowed for this PQB Global tender.	Consortium/ JV is allowed for this PQB Global tender.
15)	Sec II- Note 8	Participation: Participant in this bid may be sole bidder or Consortium/JV: The Bidder shall be either a Single Entity or a Consortium of maximum three (03) entities as described below-	As stated in Section II: Eligibility Criteria, Note 8, maximum number of JV partners should be 3.	Yes
16)	Section IV, Item 8 (Page 16)	The bidder should possess adequate material security arrangements and a written security plan for storage and accounting of security features	Is a self-declaration sufficient to confirm compliance with the security plan requirement, or are supporting documents required?	Please refer Annexure -III, Point G & K.5.
17)	Annexure-III, Capacity Capability Assessment Form, B. Manufacturing Process, Item.1	Details of available SOP for manufacturing process	Is submission of the manufacturing SOP mandatory, considering it contains confidential and proprietary information?	Generic SOP may be provided.
18)	H. Spoil Management	Provision of secured storage material in the factory and SOP for material storage and transaction.		
19)		What is the method of disposal of product in case of rejection/spoil management?		

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
20)	NIT Note below Schedule No. 1	Furnish details of the method adopted at production site. Is there any SOP in place? (SOP for e-Waste and other raw material, semifinished as well as finished material disposal) Also, provide details of environment compliance, if any. Closing tender and time of receipt tender	We request a 4-week extension of the PQB submission deadline and hope this request can be considered.	May be extended by 1 week

11. Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) – Noida (vide e-mail dt. 31.08.2026 02.10 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Section 9 (Pg. 9 of Global PQB and Pg. 8-9 of Domestic PQB)	Individual OS Component Certification	Query-1: As per our understanding, since the OS works only on the underlying platform i.e. integrated chip and OS cannot be separately tested / certified on already certified chip (BSI-CC-PP-0084-2014), hence the Composite product (chip plus OS) evaluation for BSI-CC-PP-0068-V2-2011 & BSI-CC-PP-0056-V2-2012 by Common Criteria licensed laboratories will inherently cover individual OS components as well and hence no separate certification for OS is required. Please confirm if our understanding is correct. Query-2: In case, Individual OS certification is required, please confirm if the OS certification taken on OEM1 chip and composite certification on another OEM2 chip will suffice and clarify if any deviation. This	Kindly refer Broad and common Point no. 6.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
2)	Sec. 9.a: PQB doc., Sec. 9.c: PQB doc, Sec. 10.a	Indigenous OS for Inlay Vendor	clarification is extremely important in order to take certification as both certification will inherently take its own time. As stated in the PQB, ISP is looking for Product / service by the Bidder to India should be exclusive and this product / service should not be supplied by the bidders to other countries. Further, considering current geo-political situation, cyber warfare, and cyber security aspect, it is a extremely important that Government should take stock of prevailing situation and hence Government owned OS should inherently control chip and related ePassport Applications. It is paramount that ISP Nashik / MEA should take hold of the situation and mandate use of OS from CDAC under Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. Also, we are well aware that as of now chip comes from outside India because it is not available in India. However, we have Indigenous OS. CDAC, an autonomous body of MeitY, Gol, has been working in this domain since more than a decade. We have already developed Smart Card OS on multiple chip sets from multiple OEMs. In this respect, letter issued from our Ministry (MeitY) to MEA is attached for kind reference. With this background and considering current Geo	Kindly refer Broad and common Point no. 7.

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Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			Political issues around work – a. Does ISP/MEA has plan to reduce the vulnerability related to OS by mandating the Indigenous OS and too from any Government body in order to mitigate / minimize this risk. b. How will MEA ensure that the OS is not supplied to other countries with minor customization or vice versa like introducing MEA specific Command set with prescribed standards in OS so that MEA may verify subsequently.	

12. Printography Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 03.07 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Page 3 NIT Clause 1		The document does not specify any details regarding the Tender Fee or Earnest Money Deposit (EMD). Kindly clarify whether the PQB submission is required without payment of the Tender Fee and EMD.	As this is PQB, no Tender fee and EMD is applicable.
2)	Section II: Eligibility Criteria Clause 1 (b)	Capability, equipment and manufacturing facilities Note (i) : Manufacturer of 'Electronic Contactless Inlays' or 'Electronic contactless smart cards' is defined as the firm who has manufacturing facilities and technologies to manufacture ICAO Compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays for e-Passports in 2 ups by assembling the chip antennae and seamless integration of	We understand that 'Electronic Contactless Inlays' and 'Electronic Contactless Smart Cards' are considered equivalent for the purpose of this clause. Kindly confirm that the requirement specifically relates to the manufacturing process for ICAO-compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays and is distinct from the manufacturing processes for Dual Interface Inlays or Dual Interface Cards. This clarification is important as the manufacturing processes and associated quality controls for the two	Tendered item is ICAO Compliant Electronics Contactless Inlay in 2 ups, therefore it shall be contactless technology only.