

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
		the same of suitable substrate and supply the final product along with operating system	products are distinctly different. Contactless inlay production is intended to ensure the required product quality, compatibility with subsequent ePP booklet and personalization processes, and overall performance of the finished inlay. In particular, a contactless inlay is a complete functional product in itself, whereas a Dual Interface Inlay is essentially an antenna assembly integrated onto a specified media. Accordingly, the manufacturing processes and test procedures applicable to contactless inlays are different from those applicable to Dual Interface Inlays.	
3)	Section II: Eligibility Criteria Clause 1 (b)	Capability, equipment and manufacturing facilities Note (iii)	Kindly confirm whether the dummy inlays are required to be evaluated for physical properties, compatibility with the ePP booklet and personalization processes, and relevant electrical/electronic properties. Further, kindly clarify whether the ePP contactless manufacturer is required to provide the dummy II/lay with a contactless chip having electrical characteristics similar to those of the proposed ePP contactless chip, or whether dummy inlay samples incorporating any suitable contactless chip would be acceptable.	As per tender condition.
4)	Section II: Eligibility Criteria Clause 9 (a) to (f)		Kindly confirm whether, at this stage, the manufacturer is required to provide provisional compliance against all clauses under this section, considering that the new contactless ePP chip is still under development. We understand that the final solution will subsequently be required to undergo the applicable testing and certification processes, including the 'Composite Certificate' and NIC certification. Kindly	Bidder shall submit all the declaration/ undertakings along with the offer/ bid document duly sealed and signed by the authorized signatory of bidders as well as Principal Manufacturer (if any).

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5)	Additional		confirm. Kindly advise whether the tender will provide for a Price Variance Clause for the duration of the project, particularly to address significant fluctuations in the USD/INR exchange rate affecting the cost of imported inputs.	Please refer Broad and Common point no.8.

13. Thales DIS India Private Limited - Noida (vide e-mail dt:31.08.2026 04.21 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: Clause 1(a): Experience and Past Performance Pg. No.: 5	The Bidder firm should meet following eligibility criteria to qualify in the prequalification bid: Experience and past performance: The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'anyone member, in case of consortium/JV') 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).	The terms "1-up" and "2-up" are not globally standard manufacturing formats. There are examples of 3-up / 4-up as well. These terms are therefore not captured in the completion/experience certificates issued by the customers worldwide. The quantity supplied is important. We therefore request for an amendment in the clause to remove these references. In the interest of uniformity & complete clarity and to comprehensively assessment of the experience and past performance of the consortium, please allow the below amended clause: Experience and Past performance: The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'anyone member, in case of consortium/JV') should have manufactured and supplied at least "8.213 Million sheets of 'Electronic Contactless Smart Cards' or 'Electronic Contactless Inlays' or ePassport booklets with Electronic Contactless Inlays or eCovers	Please refer Broad and Common Point no.1.

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2)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: Clause 1(a): Experience and Past Performance Pg. No.: 5	The Bidder firm should meet following eligibility criteria to qualify in the prequalification bid: Experience and past performance: The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'anyone member, in case of consortium/JV') 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).	This condition permits the Indian lead bidder that does not have the required experience and past performance to bid as a consortium with the foreign global player that is able to meet the requisite qualification requirements. Such foreign global players operate in different countries through their local legal entities and also enter into contractual arrangements with customers / consortium arrangements through these local legal entities. We request you to allow the references of group entities to be submitted. In the interest of uniformity & complete clarity and to comprehensively assessment of the experience and past performance of the consortium, please allow the below amended clause: Experience and Past performance: The bidder ('sole bidder' or 'anyone member, in case of consortium/JV') should have manufactured and supplied at least "8.213 Million sheets of 'Electronic Contactless Smart Cards' or 'Electronic Contactless Inlays' or ePassport booklets with Electronic Contactless Inlays or eCovers for ePassports with Electronic Contactless Inlays or their any combination, in any one of the last five years	Please refer Broad and Common Point no.1.

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			ending on "31st March 2025" (Bidders who follow calendar year as financial year the date will be 31st December 2024). In case of global players participating as a consortium partner the references of their group entities are acceptable. Please confirm	
3)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: Clause 1(a): Experience and Past Performance Pg. No.: 5	Note: i) Copies of PO's and completion/experience certificates issued by customers to be provided in support of above.	The contracts with various Governments across the world are protected under NDA hence the copies of purchase orders cannot be furnished. Only the completion certification / experience letters can be furnished as evidence of compliance to the Experience and Past Performance Requirements. We therefore request that the mandatory requirement of furnishing the copies of PO and completion/experience certificate should be removed. This clause may please be amended as below: Note: i) Copies of PO's or completion certificates or experience certificates issued by customers to be provided in support of above. Please confirm.	Bidder shall submit copy of PO & contract along with completion certificate/ experience letters / Tax invoices and other relevant documents. However, Financial values may be blackened.
4)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: Clause 1(a): Experience and Past Performance	ii) Manufacturer of 'Electronic Contactless smart Inlays' or 'Electronic contactless smart cards' is defined as the firm who has manufacturing facilities and technologies to manufacture ICAO Compliant Electronic	Reference is invited to the clause text highlighted in BOLD. We understand that the reference is to ICAO compliant electronic contactless Inlays in 2- ups OR electronic contactless smart cards as is the case in the earlier clauses of PQB.	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	Pg. No.: 5	Contactless Inlays in 2 ups by assembling the chip, antenna and seamless integration of the same on suitable substrate on same plane and supply the final product along with operating system	In the interest of complete clarity, we request you to amend the clause as under: ii] 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 or Electronic contactless smart cards by assembling the chip, antenna and seamless integration of the same on suitable substrate on same plane and supply the final product along with operating system. Please confirm.	
5)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB Tender No:16/2026-27, page 8/3	Following 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)	As the detailed technical specification will be given only at Techno-commercial tender, feasibility to meet these requirement 9(a) to 9(f) can be confirmed only when the full and final technical specifications are available. So we request this declaration requirement to be removed from PQB process and moved to the Techno-commercial tender stage. Please confirm.	As per tender condition.
6)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (a) Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB	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+.	We understand that this Common Criteria certificate (for Chip plus OS) is required to be submitted before submitting pre-production sample delivery of Inlays. Please confirm and also provide the timeline for submission of the EAL5+ Certificate. Please confirm	Bidder shall submit all the declaration/ undertakings along with the offer/ bid document duly sealed and signed by the authorized signatory of bidders as well as Principal Manufacturer (if any).

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	Tender No.:16/2026-27, page 8/3			
7)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (a) Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB Tender No.:16/2026-27, page 8/3	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 EAL	It is our understanding that the individual components that will be evaluated by Common Criteria are below components: 1. Chip 2. Composite products operating system. Please confirm.	Please refer Broad and Common Point no.6.
8)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (a) Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB Tender No.:16/2026-27, page 8/3	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+.	Please confirm, the number of months that are available for bidder / their OS provider, after the award to develop the OS and get the common criteria certification completed: Please take note that the OS development before the award does not look feasible at this stage as: 1. Indian standards to be complied are not finalized & released. 2. Other detailed technical Chip & OS related parameters only available after techno-commercial tender is submitted. Typically, development can take around 6 months followed by CC certification process of 12 to 14 months. Further, the review by STQC will also be done. This implies that a minimum of 18 months are required to submit the preproduction sample after the	It is part of Techno-Commercial Bid.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
9)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (b) Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB Tender No:16/2026-27, page 8/3	The bidder shall confirm that all the 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	award based on the PQB conditions. This clause does not allow majority of OS Developers / Bidders to meet the compliance requirement. Please confirm that the CC certificate, Security Target Document, CC certification report only will be required by IC3s for review. Please note that we have checked with CC certification laboratory, they confirmed any additional information beyond this is confidential and cannot be shared, thereby directly impacting the validity of CC EA	Shall be as per tender condition.
10)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (b) Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB Tender No:16/2026-27, page 8/3	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.	This clause in the current form will not allow majority of OS Developers / Bidders to meet the compliance requirement and hence not acceptable In order to be in compliance with CC certification scheme and still meet this requirement OS developers maximum can agree for STQC or prescribed Software Auditing Agency of India to visit OS developer's site, where the OS developer will show the source code in OS Developer's system as per IT security policy of the OS Developer in a secure environment for auditor review. Please confirm.	Shall be as per tender condition.
11)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (c) Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB	The integrated chip & operating system of the proposed Inlay product shall comply to following standards: i. ICAO Doc 9303 Standards (Eighth Edition, 2021 or latest) ii. IS 14202/ISO/IEC 7816 (All applicable	It is a strong recommendation for India ePassport projects India to proceed with only global ICAO and ISO compliance for OS and remove requirement of compliance to IS 16695 and IS 14202, for the below reasons: A. IS16695 and IS14202 do not bring any value addition in security or interoperability to the	Shall be as per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	Tender No:16/2026-27, page 8/3	parts) iii.IS 16695 (latest Edition of all applicable parts) iv.ICAQ MRTD durability Ver 3.2 or latest v.IS/ISO/IEC 10373 (Relevant Parts) vi.IS/ISO/IEC 18745 (Relevant Parts) vii.IS/ISO/IEC 14443 (All Parts) viii.IS/ISO 27001:2022 or latest ix.IS/ISO 9001:2015 QMS or latest" x.IS/ISO 14001:2015 EMS or latest	ePassport compared to already clearly defined ISO and ICAO standards. B. ePassport and its functional requirement from OS are standardized and this allows to countries to buy off-the shelf product that fully meet the needs of customers without customization. The benefits are as below: 1. Products will be available with CC certification immediately after award or in very less time so that purchaser does not need to rely on the long process of OS development and CC certification time and uncertainty of when product will be available. 2. Today, cybersecurity is a critical & never ending story; going with globally available product also means to benefit naturally from recurrent development evolutions whenever a new chip/ OS is released. 3. It is also a way to benefit from Multisourcing (Multiple supplier). A very valuable thing as it comes to securing supplies and removing dependancy on any one chip/ operating system. 4. CC certification validity is also time bound and requires regular security updates and CC monitoring. Going with an off the shelf product also means India can benefit from readily available products with globally proven experience of deployment, cybersecurity and up-to-date CC certification.	

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12)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (c) Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB Tender No:16/2026-27, page 8/3	The integrated chip & operating system of the proposed Inlay product shall comply to following standards: i. ICAO Doc 9303 Standards (Eighth Edition, 2021 or latest) ii. IS 14202/ISO/IEC 7816 (All applicable parts) iii. IS 16695 (Latest Edition of all applicable parts) iv. ICAO MRTD durability Ver 3.2 or latest v. IS/ISO/IEC 10373 (Relevant Parts) vi. IS/ISO/IEC 18745 (Relevant Parts) vii. IS/ISO/IEC 14443 (All Parts) viii. IS/ISO 27001:2022 or latest ix. IS/ISO 9001:2015 QMS or latest" x. IS/ISO 14001:2015 EMS or latest	Please confirm if the above recommendation for a global OS is acceptable. Please note that this clause mandates that the chip and OS shall comply with the stated India specific IS Standards. (BIS standards). The ePassport is a sensitive international travel document. It is of paramount importance that this document is seamlessly acceptable to ensure interoperability at all Immigration / border check points world wide. In this context the adherence to global standards i.e. ICAO and ISO standards becomes absolute necessity. Please confirm, that in case there is any deviation/ conflict between requirement of IS 16695 (all applicable parts) and IS 14202 (all applicable parts) with ICAO specifications and ISO 7816 specifications, then the corresponding ICAO specifications and ISO 7816 specifications shall prevail and will override the IS16695 and IS 14202 requirements. So we request to make the compliance to IS16995 and IS14202 as optional. Please confirm.	Shall be as per tender condition.
13)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (c)	c. The integrated chip & operating system of the proposed Inlay product shall comply to following standards: ...	Which parts of IS 16695 composite product to be compliant? As per the draft IS 16695 available for reading none of its 4 parts are finalized yet. IS 16695 part1 and part2	Shall be as per tender condition. However, the details shall be provided in Techno-Commercial bid.

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	Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB Tender No:16/2026-27, page 8/3	iii. IS 16695 (latest Edition of all applicable parts)	are under draft version and IS 16695 Part 3 and Part 4 still under specification development. 1. What will happen if IS 16695 standard all applicable parts are not released by techno-commercial tender for this project? 2. In view of the above, we therefore recommend that the requirement of compliance to the IS16695 standards should be removed for this tender, ISP may instead make it optional or choose to adopt it for a future tender when these standards would be finalized and products tested by NIC / STQC.	
14)	Tender Section: II Clause No.: 9 (f) Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27, page 9 of 39. Domestic PQB Tender No:16/2026-27, page 8/3	The bidder shall confirm that they will provide proprietary / Custodian /Escrow right to ISP & MEA of audited & running complied source code of OS.	Please confirm. This clause in the current form will not allow majority of OS Developers / Bidders to meet the compliance requirement. Kindly confirm if OS developer sets up ESCROW account in OS Developer's country is acceptable to ISP / MEA? Further the source code of ePassport booklet OS is a sensitive, critical, specialized software & is an Intellectual Property of the OS developer. Globally no other ePassport project ask for such requirement on ePassport project. Due to these reasons if awarded and OS developer sets up ESCROW account to meet this requirement, on completion of contract & expiry of escrow account source code stays with OS developer. The source code shall be accessible to ISP only in the event that OS	Please refer Broad and Common Point no 7.

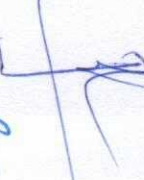
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			Developer goes bankrupt and is unable to be taken over by a new owner / entity within the 12 months from the date of declaration of bankruptcy. The access to source code will be granted / processed only by the Notary appointed by OS Developer in the country of OS Developer.	
15)	Tender Section: Annexure IV: Consortium Agreement Format Clause No.: Clause 2: Consortium Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No.:17/2026-27 Page 35 of 39	Last 03 lines of the clause "The parties undertake that they will not act as supplier for whole or any part of the Project to other sole bidders or consortium members in case their bid is successful and contract is awarded to them.	As per the clause the consortium members are prohibited to supply to other sole bidder or consortium member if their bid is awarded, Does it mean that during the Bid phase a party may act as supplier to multiple bids? Please confirm the understanding.	Please refer Broad and Common Point no 5.
16)	Tender Section: Annexure IV: Consortium Agreement Format Clause No.: Clause 3: Role of the Parties Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No.:17/2026-27 Page 35 of 39	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 Bidder" of the Consortium and shall have the power of attorney.....	Under the section II "Eligibility Criteria", the conditions that the lead bidder only is required to fulfill are mentioned. Similarly, the conditions that either the lead bidder or the consortium member should fulfill are also clearly mentioned. However, this clause in the Consortium Agreement appears to be in contradiction with the eligibility conditions set out in Section II. Please clarify.	Shall be as per Tender Condition.
17)	Tender Section: Annexure IV:	There is no litigation pending or to the best of such party's knowledge ,	Affiliate is a very wider term which normally covers all the entities having common control, therefore, it is	Shall be as per Tender Condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	Consortium Agreement Format Clause No.: Clause 5(d): Representation of the Parties Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27 Page 36 of 39	threatened to which it or any of its Affiliate is a party.....	suggested to delete the word "Affiliate" and limit clause to the contracting parties only. Please amend the clause and help confirm	
18)	Tender Section: Annexure IV: Consortium Agreement Format Clause No.: 9 Assignment Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-27 Page 37 of 39	The rights and obligations of the First and Second Consortium member under this agreement shall not be assigned to any third party	It is suggested to modify the clause and make it applicable for all the contracting parties " The rights and obligations of any of the contracting parties shall not be assigned to any third party	Necessary amendment shall be issued.
19)	Tender Section: V: General Instructions for Bidders Clause No.: Clause 5: Verification of local content and violation Pg. No.: Global PQB Notice No:17/2026-	a. 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 and provide self-certification that the item offered meets the local content requirement for 'Class-I local supplier' / 'ClassII local supplier', as the case may be. They shall also give details of the location(s) at which the local value addition is made.	As per clause 5.a. bidder are required to submit a self-declaration that the item offered meets the local content requirement for Class-I / Class II supplier, at the time of bid submission, even though the bid value is in excess of Rs.10 crores. It is our understanding that only the successful bidder(s) who is awarded is / are required to provide a certificate from statutory auditor or cost auditor of the company giving the percentage of local contents as per clause 5.b.	Please refer Broad and Common Point no 9. Necessary amendment may be issued, if required.





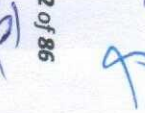










Page 52 of 86

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
	27 Page 15 of 39	b. In cases of procurement for a value in excess of Rs 10 crores, the 'Class-I local supplier' / 'Class-II local supplier' shall be required to provide a certificate from the statutory auditor or cost auditor of the company (in the case of companies) or from a practicing cost accountant or practicing chartered accountant (in respect of suppliers other than companies) giving the percentage of local content.	Please confirm.	

14. Manipal Payment and Identity Solutions Ltd (MPI) - Manipal (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 05.04 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	Page No.: 15 Clause: 4.ii	ii. If L1 bid is not a 'Class-I local supplier', 50% of the order quantity shall be awarded to L1. Thereafter, the lowest bidder among the 'Class-1 local supplier' will be invited to match the L1 price for the remaining 50% quantity subject to the Class-I local supplier's quoted price falling within the margin of purchase preference, and contract for that quantity shall be awarded to such 'Class-I local supplier' subject to matching the L1 price. In case such lowest eligible 'Class-1 local supplier' fails to match the L1 price or accepts less than the offered quantity, the next higher 'Class-I local supplier' within the margin of	Considering the Department's strong emphasis on the "Make in India" initiative, we humbly request the Department to kindly consider restricting participation in this PQB to Class-I Local Suppliers and Class-II Local Suppliers. This would help ensure that a meaningful portion of the manufacturing and related activities is undertaken within India, thereby strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities, promoting local value addition, and further supporting the Government's Make in India initiative.	This clause is standard terminology as per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, (DPIIT - Public Procurement Section) has issued order No. P-45021/2/2017-PP (BE-II) dated 19 July 2024, (or any further amendment thereof), revising its "Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017" (PPI-MII) inline with the GFR rules.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
		purchase preference shall be invited to match the L1 price for remaining quantity and so on, and contract shall be awarded accordingly. In case some quantity is still left uncovered on Class-1 local suppliers, then such balance quantity may also be ordered on the L1 bidder.		
2)	Page No.: 14 Clause: 3.c	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 4.7.11(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 - 1 local supplier for this project. Hence, we request department to kindly remove consideration of IC Chip Module in the calculation of Class 1 Local supplier/Make in India preference. Most of the manufacturers are converting the imported IC Chip Modules to functional inlays where assembly and packaging is done abroad.	Shall be as per tender condition.
3)	Page No.: 9 Clause: 9.f	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 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	Please refer Broad and Common Point no 7.

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4)	Page No.: 5 Clause: 1.b	(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.	As per the clarification provided by the Department during the previous PQB pre-bid meeting, our understanding is that a bidder having experience in the manufacturing/development of products incorporating CC-certified chips, irrespective of the industry or application for which such products were developed, would be considered eligible under this clause.	Please refer Broad and Common Point no 3.
5)	-	General	We kindly request the Department to confirm whether our understanding is correct. 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 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.	Shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial Bid.
6)	Page No.: 8 Clause: 11.9.a	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:	We kindly request the department to share the specifications of the chip and/or OS, as this will help us better understand and accordingly 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	Bidder shall submit the declaration/undertaking as per tender condition. Please refer Broad and Common Point no 6. Shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial Bid.
7)	Page No.: 3	Quantity with unit - 30.8 million sheets (in	As per our understanding, the total individual inlays	One Sheet of Inlay in 2 ups shall be utilized to

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	Clause: 1	2 ups)	will be 61.6 million inlays (i.e. 30.8 million x 2). Request department to kindly confirm.	manufacture two e-Passport. Therefore, 30.8 Million sheet of Inlays in 2 ups shall be for 61.6 Million e-Passport.
8)	Page No.: 6 Clause: Note-7	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, 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.
9)	Page No.: 5 Clause: 1.b.ii	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.	Shall be as per tender condition.
10)	Page No.: 3 Clause: --	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	As per standard practice, closing date shall be 21 days, from the date of issue of corrigendum.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
11)	-	General	corrigendum. Multiple government departments across the globe mandate ISO 14298 Intergraf certification for passport, ID cards, and related projects, considering the high-security nature of the product. Since this is a large-volume project requiring high security and the PQB emphasizes the need for security clearance, we request the department to kindly consider bidders with ISO 14298 Intergraf certification, IBA/RBI certification, etc.	ISO 14298 Intergraf Certification is an international standard specifying requirements for managing security printing processes to ensure the integrity, authenticity, and protection of sensitive printed materials, is required for Security Printing Management System (SPMS) and any of the manufacturing process to manufacture or develop ICAO Compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays in 2 ups with its OS, does not involve any kind of security printing process, therefore such certification is not required as PQC.
12)	-		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.	Shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial bid.
13)	-	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 requirements, quality standards, and functional requirements specified in the tender.	This PQB meeting is not a forum for such proposal.
14)	-	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 annexure III, bidder shall provide the details of manufacturing technology/ process for manufacturing/developing of tendered item.
15)	-	General/Technical	Kindly clarify whether the Department has specified a	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
16)	-	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.	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 - 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 - Suitable substrate shall be used to sustain above test as well as performance trial in-line with the standard e-Passport Manufacturing operations. - Suitable gluing/ or alternative technology can be used on suitable substrate for proper lamination or sealing mechanism to form a permanent package. - Standard e-Passport Laminator shall be used for booklet lamination, that shall apply the temperature up to 180°C under standard lamination pressure. 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
17)	-		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.	Following test shall be carried along with performance trial in-line with the standard e-Passport Manufacturing operations at ISP, Nashik i. Peel Test, ii. High Temperature Life Test, iii. Lamination Test, iv. Damp Heat Test, v. Temperature Cycle Test, vi. Resistance Against Chemical and other details shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial Bid.
18)	-	General/Technical	Kindly clarify whether the Department has defined or standardized the 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.	1. Suitable substrate shall be used to sustain above test as well as performance trial in-line with the standard e-Passport Manufacturing operations. 2. Suitable gluing/ or alternative technology can be used on suitable substrate for proper lamination or sealing mechanism to form a permanent package. 3. Standard e-Passport laminator shall be used for booklet lamination, that shall apply the temperature up to 180°C under standard lamination pressure. and other details shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial Bid.
19)	-	General/Technical	Kindly clarify whether bidders will be permitted to optimize or modify the inlay construction, adhesive system, or lamination parameters during the contract	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
20)	-		period, subject to Department approval and successful qualification testing. Kindly clarify whether the Department has specified any mandatory requirements or guidelines regarding 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 be followed.	Shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial Bid.
21)	-	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. Request department to kindly mention the period of contract for the tender.	Shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial Bid.
22)	-	General	Request department to kindly allocate provision to incorporated revision of the contracted prices during the contract period through mutual discussion and agreement, particularly in the event of significant	Shall be elaborated in Techno-commercial Bid. However, the tendered quantity is calculated for three year requirement.
23)	-	General	Request the Department to kindly allocate provision to incorporated revision of the contracted prices during the contract period through mutual discussion and agreement, particularly in the event of significant	Please refer Broad and common point no. 8.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			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.	

15. APK IDENTIFICATION - Noida (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 05.05 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	-	-	What percentage of quantity is reserved for MSME Units?	This is PQB and such details shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial tender, if required.
2)	-	-	If MSME is L1, what quantity will it get?	

16. Coloplast Systems Private Limited - Noida (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 05.08 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
1)	Section II – Clause 1(c), Note-5 (Existing Successful Past Suppliers – Security Item Disapplication);	ISP has itself recorded, at Clause 1(c), Note-5, that the qualification route otherwise available to Existing Successful Past Suppliers is "not applicable for Security Items as notified by Government of India	We respectfully submit that Clause 1(c), Note-5 confirms ISP's own recognition that relaxations ordinarily available to bidders – including the qualification route for Existing Successful Past Suppliers – cannot be extended where the underlying procurement	1. Clause 1(c), Note-5 of the Global PQB itself (Security Item disapplication). 2. ISP PQB Tender No. 61/2016-17 dated 15.06.2016. 3. Global PQB Tender No.	Shall be as per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
	Clause 1(a), Note (iv) – Experience & Past Performance Exemption for MSEs/Start-ups Pg. No.5-6	from time to time," and confirms that, "since this tender falls under Security item," that clause "will not be applicable." Notwithstanding this, Clause 1(a), Note (iv) presently exempts MSEs and Start-ups registered for the tendered item from the Experience & Past Performance criterion altogether.	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 applicable uniformly to every bidder without exception, and that the subsequently cancelled Global PQB Tender No. 01/2026-27 dated 04.04.2026 (of which the present Global PQB is a successor) likewise prescribed a mandatory quantified experience criterion and expressly disappplied MSE/Start-up relaxation clauses under the General Instructions to Tenderers and General Conditions of Contract. We respectfully submit that this same principle — that a Security item does not admit of relaxations otherwise available to bidders — should apply with equal force to the exemption presently available under Clause 1(a), Note (iv). We accordingly request that ISP reconsider and withdraw the exemption from the Experience & Past Performance criterion presently available to MSEs and Start-ups, and confirm that this criterion will apply uniformly to all bidders without exception, consistent with ISP's own Note-5 principle and its own past practice for this product category. For the avoidance of doubt, this request is	01/2026-27 dated 04.04.2026 (cancelled) – of which the present Global PQB is a successor. 4. 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.	

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
2)	Section II – Clause 1(a), Note (iv): Experience & Past Performance – Extension to Medium Enterprises (in the alternative) Pg. No.5	Without prejudice to G-1 above (that the exemption be withdrawn entirely for this Security item), this point addresses, in the alternative, the position if ISP/the Government is firm on retaining the exemption presently available to MSEs and Start-ups under Clause 1(a), Note (iv).	confined specifically to the Experience & Past Performance criterion. We do not raise any objection to relaxation of the financial/turnover criteria presently available to MSEs and Start-ups under Note-2, which may continue to be extended. In the event ISP/the Government is firm on retaining the exemption presently available to MSEs and Start-ups from the Experience & Past Performance criterion, we respectfully request that the same exemption be extended, in like manner, to eligible MSME (Medium Enterprise) bidders as well. Medium Enterprises, being the third and largest-scale limb of the MSME family under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, would allow wider and more competitive participation in this large-value procurement, and generally possess superior financial standing, manufacturing infrastructure, technological capability and process maturity as compared to Micro and Small Enterprises, making them well placed to reliably deliver a project of this scale and criticality. We respectfully submit that excluding Medium Enterprises from a relaxation extended to Micro and Small Enterprises, while both fall within the same statutory MSME family, would be difficult to justify.	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, Section 7 (statutory definition of Medium Enterprise as part of the MSME family); Office Memorandum No. F.20/2/2014-PPD(Pt.) dated 20.09.2016, read with Department of Public Enterprises O.M. No. DPE/7(4)/2017-Fin. dated 08.11.2016 (bearing the subject heading "Relaxation of Norms for Startups Medium Enterprises in Public Procurement...").	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 2.
3)	Section II – Note-3: Applicability to	Note-3 provides that a bidder manufacturing in India under	We respectfully request ISP to clarify whether Note-3 requires that the entity	Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017, as	This shall not be applicable for meeting the experience and past

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
	Pg. No.6 Make in India	license from a foreign IP-holder, with a technology collaboration/transfer-of-technology agreement for indigenous manufacture and "clear phased increase in local content," may be considered qualified for Experience and Past Performance criteria even without independently meeting them, provided the foreign manufacturer meets all criteria without exemption and the bidder furnishes a joint enforceable undertaking. The clause does not clarify whether the bidder/vendor entering into contract with ISP is required to be, or to include, an Indian manufacturing entity.	ultimately contracting with and supplying to ISP be an Indian-incorporated manufacturing entity (whether independently or as lead/consortium member), or whether a wholly foreign manufacturer may itself qualify and be awarded the contract directly, on the strength of its own undertaking to establish local manufacturing in India with a phased increase in local content over time, without any Indian consortium/JV partner. In particular, we seek clarification on: (a) whether Note-3 contemplates or requires a consortium/joint-venture structure between the foreign IP-holder/manufacturer and an Indian entity, or whether a foreign bidder may rely on Note-3 solely on its own credentials and a unilateral undertaking; (b) if no Indian entity is required, how compliance with the "clear phased increase in local content" commitment will be monitored, verified and enforced over the contract period, and what specific percentage/timeline escalation schedule will be mandated and made binding on the bidder, rather than left as a general and undefined commitment; and (c) whether a bidder qualifying under Note-3 would be classified as a Class-I/Class-II Local Supplier for purchase-preference purposes under Section IV, Clause 1.4, and if so, from what point in the phased local-content escalation.	amended (latest revision dated 19.07.2024); Note-3 of the Global PQB itself.	performance criteria.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
4)	Section IV – Clause 1.4(3)(c): Meity Local Content Pg. No. 14	The clause refers to Meity F. No. W/43/4/2019-IPWH-Meity dated 07.09.2020, Point No. 4.7.11(B), and states that the “subsequent amendment order shall be followed”.	We request that the applicable DPIIT guideline underlying Note-3 be identified precisely, and that the above ambiguities be clarified by way of corrigendum, so that Indian manufacturers can assess the actual competitive framework applicable to this tender. We respectfully request ISP to clarify the expression “subsequent amendment order shall be followed” by specifically identifying the latest amendment / notification / order applicable to the present Global 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 the amendment specifically modifies Point No. 4.7.11(B) relating to calculation of local content for Contactless Smart Cards; and (d) the exact local-content calculation methodology and certification/documentation requirements to be followed by bidders. We request that the applicable latest order and methodology may kindly be expressly identified through clarification/corrigendum	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. 9.
					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
5)	Price Variation / Price Adjustment Clause – requested for subsequent Global tender/contract, per Government of India mandate.	The present Global 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.	to ensure a uniform basis of local-content calculation and declaration for all bidders. 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 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: $NPA = NPo \times [(F + a(M1/M0) + b(L1/L0)) / 100]$ where NPo is the contract price on the base	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. Manual for Procurement of Goods, Second Edition 2024 – formula-based price variation guidance. 4. ISP Nashik 2026 Cotton Fabric Based Passport Cover Material (Buckram) procurement – ISP's own Price Variation Clause precedent. 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%.	Please refer Broad and Common point no. 8.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			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 MO/M1 and LO/L1 are the base and current material-price and labour-wage indices respectively. 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 (EO/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		

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			Manual for Procurement of Goods, and to specify the exact percentage weightages (F, a and b) proposed to 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 Global 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 2026 procurement of Cotton Fabric Based Passport Cover Material (Buckram), and request ISP to kindly confirm and disclose the		

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			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 clause may also kindly specify the treatment of price variation beyond the original delivery period where extension is attributable to Force Majeure or Purchaser/SPMCL-related reasons rather than supplier default.		
6)	Project Implementation / Completion Timeline	The PQB does not define the complete indicative project timeline from PQB qualification through subsequent tendering, development/approval, commercial production and completion of supplies.	We request that ISP expressly and definitively specify — rather than merely indicate in general terms — an end-to-end project timeline for the proposed Global procurement, with defined milestone dates/durations for: completion of PQB evaluation, security clearance, issue of the subsequent tender/RFP, technical evaluation, development/sample approval, testing/qualification, placement of Purchase Order, commencement of commercial production, and completion of the contracted quantity.	Requested as a project-governance / subsequent contract clarification to establish measurable milestones, purchaser support obligations and corresponding time/commercial 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
			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 available to the successful bidder if the project exceeds the defined timeline due to activities or approvals dependent upon ISP/SPMCL, including technical inputs, sample approvals, testing, inspection/PDI, security 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. Where the overall project is materially extended beyond the originally defined timeline, kindly also clarify the mechanism for addressing associated commercial implications, including applicable		















Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
7)	Section II – Clause 1(a) ("anyone member") and Clause 1(b)(i) ("lead member") vs. Annexure-IV, Clause 3: Role of the Parties Pg. No.: 5 and 35-36	Clause 1(a) (Experience and Past Performance) permits the criterion to be met by the "sole bidder" or "anyone member, in case of consortium/JV" – i.e., any member of a consortium may independently satisfy the Experience & Past Performance criterion. Clause 1(b)(i) (Capability, equipment and manufacturing facilities), by contrast, requires the annual manufacturing capacity of 4.107 million sheets to be held by the "sole bidder" or "lead member, in case of consortium/JV" – i.e., specifically the Lead Member. However, Annexure-IV (Consortium Agreement format), Clause 3 ("Role of the Parties"), provides that the Party of the First Part shall be the Lead Member only if it is "fulfilling the prequalification criteria as per the requirement of Tender in all respects" – i.e., seemingly all criteria collectively, rather than the Capability/capacity criterion specifically, as contemplated in Clause 1(b)(i).	Price Variation. We respectfully submit that there is an internal inconsistency between (a) Clause 1(b)(i), which defines the "Lead Member" of a consortium by reference to the entity holding the requisite manufacturing capacity (4.107 million sheets/year), consistent with Clause 1(a)'s separate allowance for "anyone member" of a consortium to independently satisfy the Experience & Past Performance criterion; and (b) Annexure-IV, Clause 3, which requires the Lead Member to independently fulfil the prequalification criteria "in all respects," seemingly requiring the Lead Member to also independently hold Experience & Past Performance credentials. We respectfully request ISP to clarify and confirm that, consistent with ISP's own definition at Clause 1(b)(i), the Lead Member of a consortium/JV is the entity satisfying the manufacturing capacity criterion under Clause 1(b), and that the Experience & Past Performance criterion under Clause 1(a) may continue to be satisfied by any member of the consortium (not necessarily the Lead Member), and that Annexure-IV, Clause 3 be correspondingly amended/clarified by way of corrigendum to remove the requirement that the Lead Member independently fulfil all prequalification criteria "in all respects."	Global PQB, Clause 1(a), Clause 1(b)(i) [page 5], and Annexure-IV, Clause 3 "Role of the Parties" [page 35-36] – internal cross-reference within the PQB itself.	Necessary amendment shall be issued, if required.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
8)	Section IV – Clause 1.4(3)(c): Meity Local Content Mechanism – Treatment of Integrated Circuit (IC)/Chip Pg. No.: 14	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. 4.7.11(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.	This clarification is of material significance to Indian manufacturers who hold the requisite manufacturing capacity but may seek to supplement Experience & Past Performance credentials through a consortium partner, and who would otherwise be unable to retain the Lead Member role — and consequently the Class-I Local Supplier status and associated purchase-preference benefits under Section IV, Clause 1.4 — necessary to compete effectively.	Meity Notification No. W/43/4/2019-IPHW-Meity dated 07.09.2020, Point No. 4.7.11(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. 9. At the time of submission of Local Content Certificate, the latest order or subsequent amendment to existing order shall be followed.
		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. 4.7.11(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 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		

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
9)	Cross-reference to Domestic PQB, Note-7(ii): Clause - Price Matching	Note-7(ii) of the parallel Domestic PQB (No. 16/2026-27) provides that where a bidder participates in and is awarded contracts under both the Global PQB and the Domestic PQB, the fall clause shall apply, requiring supply at the lower of the two offered prices. Neither PQB otherwise clarifies whether, or how, pricing under the Global PQB will be matched, benchmarked or reconciled with pricing under the Domestic PQB more generally.	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. We respectfully request ISP to clarify whether, and by what mechanism, the price discovered/finalised under the present Global PQB Tender No. 17/2026-27 will be matched, benchmarked, or otherwise made to correspond with the price discovered/finalised under the parallel Domestic PQB Tender No. 16/2026-27 (or vice versa), independent of the fall clause under Note-7(ii) of the Domestic PQB (which applies only where the same bidder is awarded both contracts).	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.
10)	Section II, Point 9 - Source Code Handover / OS Escrow-Custodian Rights	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	In particular, we request clarification on whether a Global-tender price — which may be influenced by international/import-linked cost structures — could be required, expected, or compared to match a domestic supplier's price under the parallel Domestic PQB, and if so, the basis and mechanism for any such price matching or benchmarking. 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	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	As per tender condition and please refer Broad and Common point no 7.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
Pg. No.: 8-9		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 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.	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. 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, 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 obligation	wherever asked by ISP/MEA, for Audit/ certification/ evaluation etc."; Common Criteria certification requirements (EAL5+) under the same clause.	

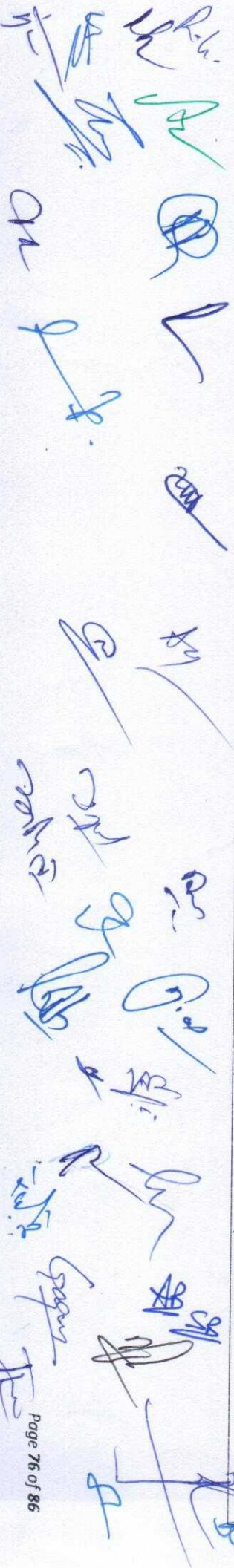
Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Supporting Government / ISP Reference	Reply
			applies to the full compiled source code, or only to specific modules/interfaces relevant to security certification; and (d) the consequences, if any, where a bidder's 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 and the PQB should clarify the standard expected of all bidders in this regard.		

17. APK IDENTIFICATION - Noida (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 03.05 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	5	1 b (iii) (iii)	The manufactured 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. Please provide Product (Inlay) Specifications for	Shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial bid.

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Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
2)	5	1 b (iii) (iii)	Samples Creation during ISP's CVT visit. The manufactured 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. Testing of Inlays produced - please suggest which all tests would be conducted.	As per tender condition. In view of Tender Terms & Conditions, following standards shall be consider as reference for manufacturing of sample Inlays in 2 ups i. ICAO Doc 9303 guidelines, ii. ICAO MRTD Durability V 3.2, iii. ISO/IEC 10373 iv. 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 i. Peel Test, ii. High Temperature Life Test, iii. Lamination Test, iv. Damp Heat Test, v. Temperature Cycle Test, vi. Resistance Against Chemical
				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.



Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
3)	5	1 b (iii) (iii)	The manufactured 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. Support of LDS1 is mandatory and LDS2 is optional. Please provide clarity on below mentioned optional points from LDS2: a- Is storage of Travel Records being considered at application layer? b- What about Visa and Biometric records? This will largely impact the implementation in all aspects, hence, please clarify.	Shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial bid, if required.
4)	5	1 b (iii) (iii)	The manufactured 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. CLA for Chaining APDU for PACE(0x10) is not available in 16695_1_2022. a- How is it going to be managed? b- Will 16695_1_2022 specification adapt this for PACE Chaining?	Shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial bid, if required.
5)	5	1 b (iii) (iii)	The manufactured 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. PACE supports many algorithms which is managed using "PACE OID" a- Please provide clarity on supported PACE OIDs required at application layer.	Shall be elaborated in Techno-Commercial bid, if required.
6)	5	1 b (iii) (iii)	The manufactured Inlays (Samples with minimum 125 pcs in 2 ups) shall be carried to ISP-Nashik for machine	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
			trial and lab testing to check its suitability. Below mentioned details are needed in CRYPTOGRAPHY section: a- RSA with which key size? b- Which ECC Curves to be implemented? c- Please suggest about AES with Key size and modes? d- Details related to SHA algorithms, which to support?	
7)	3, 4, 6, 8 and 14	Point 5 on Page 3, Point 10 on Page 4, Point Note-7 ii on Page 6, Point 2 on Page 8 and Point 1.2 on Page 14.	Drafts as per PQB. These Declarations are to be signed by Lead Member only or Consortium Partner also, if any. If it is to be signed by Consortium Partner also, can Lead Member and Consortium Partner sign on a same document?	As per tender condition.
8)	5	9a to 9f	Drafts as per PQB. Declarations 9a to 9f are to be submitted individually for each point or the points can be clubbed in 1 Declaration, please clarify. Also, if it is to be signed by Lead Member only or Consortium Partner also, if any. If it is to be signed by Consortium Partner also, can Lead Member and Consortium Partner sign on a same document?	As per tender condition.
9)	10 & 11	10a to 10u	Drafts as per PQB. Declarations 10a to 10u are to be submitted individually for each point or the points can be	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			clubbed in 1 Declaration, please clarify. Also, if it is to be signed by Lead Member only or Consortium Partner also, if any. If it is to be signed by Consortium Partner also, can Lead Member and Consortium Partner sign on a same document?	
10)	14	1.4, 3 c	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). Referring to the stages given in Table II (B) on Page 16 of 30 of the said Gol Circular, we will factor the stages relevant to the Product - Electronic Contactless Inlays. Please confirm if our approach is correct?	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).
11)	25	Section VIII - Vendor Details	Section VIII - Vendor Details Is it to be filled by Lead Member or Consortium Partner also, if any?	Sole Bidder /All the members of consortium/JV.
12)	28	Section 2 (1) f	Bidder /Contractor who have signed the Integrity Pact shall not approach the Courts while representing the matter to IEMs and shall wait for their decision in the matter. We recommend clarifying that the restriction on approaching the Courts shall not prevent the Bidder / Contractor from exercising its statutory or legal rights before any court or competent authority under applicable laws.	As per tender condition.

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Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
13)	28	Section 3	If the 'Bidder/Contractor', before award or during execution has committed a transgression through a violation of Section 2, above or in any other form such as to put their reliability or credibility in question, the Principal is entitled to disqualify the 'Bidder/Contractor' from the tender process or take action as per the procedure mentioned in the "Guidelines on Banning of business dealings". We recommend deleting "or in any other form such as to put their reliability or credibility in question", as the same is vague and subjective. Any disqualification should ideally be linked to a specific violation of the Integrity Pact or applicable guidelines.	As per tender condition.
14)	28	Section 4 (2)	If the Principal has terminated the contract according to Section 3, or if the Principal is entitled to terminate the contract according to Section 3, the Principal shall be entitled to demand and recover from the Contractor liquidated damages of the Contract value or the amount equivalent to Performance Bank Guarantee. We request that the damages shall be recoverable only to the extent of the actual loss suffered by ISP and that such recovery shall not exceed the amount of the Performance Bank Guarantee.	As per tender condition.
15)	31	Annexure III, Point No. 4	Capacity of manufacturing of ICAO Compliant Electronic Contactless Inlays for e-Passports in 2 ups by assembling the chip, antenna and seamless integration of the same on suitable substrate on same plane. Manufacturing of the same should be demonstrated, with producing of Dummy Inlays in 2	As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
			ups by assembling the chip, antenna and seamless integration of the same on suitable substrate on same plane/sheet i.e. Fusing of Antenna on suitable substrate and permanent bonding of the Chip & Antenna by means of resistance welding/ arc welding etc. on same substrate as well as further lamination/ sealing mechanism of the suitable substrate to form a permanent packaging. An inlay can be manufactured using two different approaches. The first approach uses a semiconductor packaged in industrial packaging, which is commonly used for most citizen ID cards and passports. The second approach involves directly placing the semiconductor die onto the antenna, which is standard practice for RFID tags, this approach is also used in a few passport projects. Would you also accept the bare-die-on-antenna manufacturing process for this tender? All consortium members of this agreement shall fully indemnify, hold harmless and defend ISP and its officers etc., from and against all claims, liabilities, suits, damages including any criminal liability due to false declaration by the consortium members with regard to this Agreement (or) Tender transaction (or) Project (or) contract etc., caused due to negligence/commission/omission of the any of the consortium members (or) its employees and agents including representatives (or) sub-contractors (or) any	
16)	37	14, Indemnification		As per tender condition.

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
17)	35-39	Annexure IV	other person claiming (or) any other person claiming under this tender (or) under the applicable laws of India. We suggest that the indemnity obligations of each Consortium Member be limited to claims, losses and liabilities arising from or relating to its respective scope of work and responsibilities under the Consortium Agreement and the Contract. We further suggest that an appropriate cap on liability be included, with the liability of the Consortium Members being capped at the value of the Contract. We further recommend that indirect, incidental, consequential, special and exemplary damages be excluded from the scope of liability. Consortium Agreement. Signing of Consortium Agreement as per Annexure IV - is it to be Notarized & submitted in Original.	Notarized & submitted in Original.

18. ID Smart Cards Creations Pvt. Ltd. – Bengaluru (vide e-mail dt.31.08.2026 06.08 PM)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
1)	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. 9.
2)	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	With respect to this notification we understand that only those processes are to be considered that are needed to manufacture the ICAO compliant 2 up Inlays. Request ISP to clarify	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)

Sr. No.	Tender Section & Clause No. & Pg. No., if any	Tender Clause / Topic	Query of the firm	Reply
3)	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.	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.
4)	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	1. Available at the time of bid submission. 2. Compliance shall be ensured by relevant audit report and ISO as well as other certifications.