

Response to Pre-Bid Queries for RFP

RFP Ref. No.		CPCM-33/2025-26 Date: 10-Mar-2026 GEM Reference No. - GEM/2026/B/7340414			
RFP Name		Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Consultant for GST on Retainership basis at StockHolding			
Sr. No.	Page No.	RFP Clause	Clause Description	Query	StockHolding Remarks
1	16-17	Scope of Work 1.3	3. Advisory & Compliance j. ii. Training sessions – twice in a year (i.e. Post budget and in mid-November)	Request you to clarify the content/ scope of trainings sessions	The training is required to be conducted during the period September to November as well as post budget. The scope of the training includes refresher course, key amendments in the GST law and any other relevant change, applicable to StockHolding, as deemed fit.
2	17-18	1.2	All intimations, Appeals & Representation	The scope of work related to 'All intimations, Appeals & Representation' does not categorically cover assistance related to GST departmental audits, notices related to GST issued by DGGI, anti-evasion, etc. Request you to clarify whether the same would also be forming part of the scope requirement.	Please refer RFP clause 1.2 page no.17 , which covers all the existing types of notices including departmental notices amd all kinds of audits, under the GST Act on a PAN India basis.
3	25	Annexure 1 : Bidders Profile	Point No. 11 Number of clients as stated in RFP for the FY2024-25 - Number: _____ Attach self-attested document stating name of client, type of audit, year of audit, operating income (turnover) of client with documentary proof	Under the said requirement it mentions to provide type of audit and year of audit. What does the type of audit and year of audit mean	The term "audit" may be interpreted as "type of GST engagement" including audits.
4	26	Annexure 2 : Eligibility criteria	Sr. No. 5 Bidder should have experience in similar nature of work for at least – 03 (Three) works each costing not less than ₹24 lakhs. OR 02 (Two) works each costing not less than of ₹30 lakhs. OR 01 (One) work of ₹48 lakhs during the last 05 (five) years with any Central Government Authorities / Public Sector Undertakings / State Government / BFSI sector / reputed private organizations. The successful completion certificate issued by client should contain date of start, date of completion, value on completion of work etc. Please Note: "The work orders issued by one company for its multiple locations shall be treated as a single work order".	serial number 5 requires to submit completion certificate/ client satisfactory certificate which should also contain value along with the copy of Purchase Order / Work Order/MSA. While engaging with Clients we only have engagement agreement in place. Will it satisfy if we submit the extract of engagement agreement? Or it is mandatory to submit client satisfactory certificate?	Both. Copy of Purchase Order / Work Order/MSA And Completion certificate/Client Satisfactory Certificate needs to be submitted
5	41	Annexure 8	Covering Letter on bidder's Letterhead of Integrity Pact	Declaration is required on the letterhead of Bidder and the same needs to be signed by Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited. Can you please guide us as to what is the requirement on Annexure 8, please.	Bidders are requested to not fill anything on Annexure 8. Corrigendum 1 has been published regarding the same.
6	41	Annexure 8	Covering Letter on bidder's Letterhead of Integrity Pact	Whether do we have to provide 'Annexure 8 - Covering Letter on bidder's Letterhead of Integrity Pact on the bidder's letter head' at the time of submission of the bid. As in the annexure declaration is to be provided by Stockholding (signature field reflects the signature on behalf of Stockholding)	Bidders are requested to not fill anything on Annexure 8. Corrigendum 1 has been published regarding the same.
7	41	Annexure 8	Covering Letter on bidder's Letterhead of Integrity Pact	The said cover letter seems to be from point of view of Stockholding as it mentions "StockHolding has adopted Integrity Pact (IP) Program as advised by Central Vigilance Commission vide its Letter No. _____ - Dated _____ and stands committed to following the principles of transparency, equity and competitiveness in public procurement." Also, the signature line mentions for and on behalf of Stockholding. Does the bidder need to submit this annexure under the bidder letterhead? How would the signature requirement work and does the bidder to expect to sign on behalf of Stockholding?	Bidders are requested to not fill anything on Annexure 8. Corrigendum 1 has been published regarding the same.
8	24	Annexure 1	Details of Bidder's Profile	We as --- has multiple firms registered under the same brand. There may be case where the compliances are using technology registered with one specific firm and litigation support being provided by another firm. In such cases, are we required to provide details of one firm or all firms in Annexure 1.	Please refer sub-contract clause on page no 22 of the RFP document.
9	6	General		Clarifications regarding RFP Document (Page 6 of RFP) Since it is a GeM bid, would GeM terms and conditions apply or the terms provided in this RFP will only apply? Please clarify.	The bidder needs to follow the applicable terms and conditions of GeM Bid document

10	22	Indemnify	The Bidder should hereby indemnify, protect and save StockHolding against all claims, losses, costs, damages, expenses, action suits and other proceedings, resulting from infringement of any patent, trademarks, copyrights etc. or such other statutory infringements in respect of all the equipment offered by the Bidder. Any publicity by Bidder in which name of StockHolding is used should be done only with the explicit permission of StockHolding.	Please clarify if the on the liability since no liability clause is mentioned in the RFP, whether the same would be unlimited liability or limited. Can you please guide us further as to what is covered under the said clause.	The bidder should follow Indemnify clause mentioned in the RFP
11	General			Whether the bidder will also include its member firm (operating under the same brand name) in relation to the RFP for the credentials, confidentiality, liability, indemnity, etc.	Please refer sub-contract clause on page no 22
12	General			Whether the bidder will also include its affiliates in relation to the RFP for the credentials, confidentiality, liability, indemnity, etc.	Please refer sub-contract clause on page no 22
13	General			What will happen to the audits/notices received by Stockholding after the completion of the assignment, however, the notice/audit pertains to the engagement period. Illustratively: Notice for 2026 received in 2028 (when there are different consultants). Similarly for past period where notice of year 2024 is received in 2026.	The incumbent consultant would respond to all the audits, appeals and notices during the period of their engagement with StockHolding irrespective of the period to which the notices relate.
14		Scope of Work		There is no cap mentioned on the liability of the bidder. We request you to please cap the same.	The liability of the bidder would be limited to the retainership fees received during the period of engagement excluding penalties levied on the bidder if any.
15	17	Para 1.1.3	1. Monthly management compliance report/ certificate highlighting filings, reconciliations, scrutinizes, appeals and all types of pending issues.	Whether is it mandatory for the bidder to provide a signed certificate for highlighting filings, reconciliations, scrutinizes, appeals and all types of pending issues. Or whether the email update would suffice the purpose.	On a monthly basis, an e-mail confirmation from the engaging partner will suffice mentioning the word 'certification'. A signed certificate with UDIN would be required only on a half yearly basis for compliance purpose. The email or certificate needs to be provided by 25th of the subsequent month.
16	18	Para 1.2	c. Coordinating with legal counsel for higher-level litigation	In relation to coordinating with legal counsel for higher-level litigation as mentioned in the RFP, we kindly request you to please let us know whether the legal counsel shall also be required to be appointed by Bidder or Stockholding would appoint the Sr. Counsel and the bidder will carry out the briefing work. Also, we request you to please clarify the term 'higher level litigation'.	Higher level of litigation implies to the court of law and the appointment of legal counsel is as per scope of the bidder .
17	8&26	RFP – Eligibility Criteria		With respect to experience of lead partner as full-time partner as on 31.12.2025 (in years), whether the bidder's experience is required to be more than 30 years or the lead partner's experience as full-time partner should be more than 30 years in relation to scoring criteria mentioned in the technical criteria. As in the eligibility criteria for lead partner, post qualification experience of at least 10 years in full time practice out of which at least 5 years in GST and at least 3 years in Service Tax is required.	Kindly refer to relevant clauses of the RFP document.
18	General			Whether the bidder is required to provide technology services as well to StockHolding.	No
19	General			How the details/information will be shared by Stockholding to the bidder – is it through e-mail or any other specific requirements	StockHolding will provide the data via e mail or load on the interface of the bidder.
20	35	Annexure 7	Integrity Pact	Is the integrity Pact to submit by all the bidders or only the bidders who would be selected/ won bidders?	Integrity Pact is to be submitted by all bidders
21	18	1. Relevant Details		b. Place of Review The review work has to be primarily conducted at the Operations Office situated in Mahape, Navi Mumbai. The consultant may also need to visit the registered office of StockHolding situated at Centre Point, Parel, Mumbai.	In relation to place of review mentioned in RFP, we request you to please let us know whether the bidder's personnel is required to be deployed at the operations office situated in Mahape, Navi Mumbai of StockHolding. Whether all the reviews such as return review shall be required to be conducted at Stockholding office or whether such reviews could be done directly from Bidder's office.
22	26	Annexure 2 : Eligibility criteria		With respect to experience of lead partner as full-time partner as on 31.12.2025 (in years), whether the bidder's experience is required to be more than 30 years or the lead partner's experience as full-time partner should be more than 30 years in relation to scoring criteria mentioned in the technical criteria As in the eligibility criteria for lead partner, post qualification experience of at least 10 years in full time practice out of which at least 5 years in GST and at least 3 years in Service Tax is required.	It is part of technical criteria for scoring purpose

23	14	1.1	Compliance & Return Filing	<p>Under sub-clause 1.1 of 1 related to Compliance of GST Provisions, validation of Tax Liability and Monthly/Quarterly Returns, it mentions filing of GSTR-1 (outward supplies) and GSTR-3B (summary return) for all existing/ future GSTINs by EVC or DSC. Kindly note that, we are not allowed to file the returns through EVC/ DSC for any of the Clients.</p> <p>Accordingly, we propose below language/scope - Upload the final return data post approval of the Company to the GST portal through digital tool of the bidder. Post uploading of the data on GST portal from bidder end, the Company will file the return through EVC or DSC</p>	Assistance in the "Place of review" as mentioned on page no. 18 of RFP document under "Relevant Details".
24	17	1.2	All intimations, Appeals & Representation	<p>Under sub-clause 1.2 of 1. b related to All intimations, Appeals & Representation it mentions scope of uploading of responses/ final reply on GST portal by using EVC or DSC. Kindly note that, we are not allowed to file/ submit the replies through EVC/ DSC for any of the Clients.</p> <p>Accordingly, we propose below language/ scope - Save the draft reply along with the annexures post approval of the Company on the GST portal. Post uploading of the draft reply along with the annexures, the Company will submit the reply through EVC or DSC</p>	Please refer to Assistance in the "Place of review" as mentioned on page no. 18 of RFP document under "Relevant Details" in this respect for uploading responses.
25	29	Annexure 3	Technical criteria	As the RFP is for GST Retainership services and considering that the Indirect tax were introduced in 1994 and GST in 2017 which is less than a 32 year old tax , the criteria that the firm should be in existence for more than 45 years seems to be exclusionary and need to be reconsidered	Kindly refer Annexure 3A of RFP - No changes