

Queries in the bidding.
NIT NO: Tender Notice No MERC/AG Study/2019-20.

Sr. No.	Bid document Ref (Section No, page No)	Content of bid document requiring clarification	Claiification Sought/query	Replies
a. Queries Submitted By WAPCOS Limited, Nagpur				
1	Page No.6,NIT S.No 3 cost of the tender	Rs 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand)	Is it including GST?	Amount to be paid as prompted in online tender portal. It is inclusive of all charges
2	Page No.8,S.No.4(b)	Compatible mobile sets to be provided by S.A	If Specification of Mobile is provided,the bidding shall be realistic.	Mobile set with Android platform, with Camera, GPS capability, with memory more than 1 GB
3	Page No.8,S.No.4(c)	Technical support w.r to mobile shall be provided to Nodal person.	Atlest one person for each zone of SA team may be trained to start the survey as soon as possible. The work is to be done in interior areas of Maharashtra , therefore solution to Connectivity issues may have to be considered for uploading the data.	Orientation about mobile app & survey requirement shall be provided to nodal person of SA. Nodal Person of SA to train its staff to be deployed.
4	Page No.9,S.No.5(d)	Monthly Progress Report & Submission	Format for MPR may be provided so as to have uniformity of all the zones.	Shall be provided prior to inception meeting. (Report shall be based on Questionnaire parameters & survey progress)
5	Page No.9,S.No.5 (e)	Final Report	Format for Final Report may be provided so as to have uniformity of all the zones.	Shall be provided as guided by Working Group as survey progresses (Report shall be based on Questionnaire parameters & survey progress)
6	Page No.12,S.No.8.7	Amendment to Bid document.	The Prebid meeting is on 8th July & Tender Submission date is 11 th July. Atleast 5 days are required for Tender submission as per this clause. Kindly consider.	Bid submission date modified to 15-Jul-2019. Corrigendum is issued accordingly.
7	Page NO. 12,S.No 8.9	Site Visit /Field Visit(The letter for extending co operation to the successful bidder shall be issued by MERC to the MSEDCL)	The Co operation from MSEDCL is essential for carrying out the survey.Therefore mere letter may not serve the purpose.From Each Zone a Nodal Officer from MSEDCL may be nominated for cooperation & coordination.This will be appropriate because in questionnaire Template MSEDCL authority details also required to be filled up. Not only their cooperation but their timely cooperation and activeparticipation is required.	The letter from MERC to MSEDCL shall carry necessary instructions, as required
8	Page No 16,S.No.8.88	Award criteria	If more than four zones survey work is allotted to one agency can the time limit be extended or additional time is given for execution of entire contract?	NO
9	Page No 16,S.No.8.88	Payment Terms stages of payment Serial No 5 is 10%	Submission of report covering activities carried out in compliance of scope of work to be increased to 15%	NO
10	Page No 18,S.No.9.3	Payment Terms stages of payment Serial No 6 is 10%	Acceptance of report 5%	NO
11	Page No 29 Asnnex F (a) Serial No 4	Number of Survey Assignments completed during last 3 years	Experience of survey assignments is older than 3 years	Experience of las 5 years will be considered. Corrigendum is issued accordingly.
12	Page No 29 Asnnex F (a) Serial No 5	Number of similar survey assignment (Agriculture Survey) during last 3 years	Experience of similar survey assignment (Agriculture Survey) is older than 3 years	Experience of las 5 years will be considered. Corrigendum is issued accordingly.
13	Page No 38,Annex k sr.no 2	E.M.D of Rs.100000/-	EMD is exemption for MSME companies	As Per Rules

b. Queries submitted by Gokhale Institute				
1	2- Background of Survey, Page No.7	The sample size and the spread of the sample across 14 Distribution Zones	Whether zone covers more than one district, if yes, then provide district wise list of feeders and number of agriconsumers on the same. We are afraid that it will have severe effect on the costing.	Updated table of Annexure-A : with Zone-wise/Circle-wise figures of sample size is provided. Figures provided are only indicated and could vary +/-15%.
2	Objective of Survey, Page No.7	Provide continuous support to the working group in finalization of appropriate	We assume that after submission of our work/ report assigned to us as an individual Survey Agency (SA) we need not to extend our support to working group.	Refer Clause 4 (j) of RFP (page 8) which list down additional support required: <i>j) Other Support:</i> <i>a. Provide Clarification to the Working Group on the Survey Data while undertaking detailed analysis.</i> <i>b. Support in extrapolation of the findings from sample to region to state with highlighting limitations (if any).</i> <i>c. Support in preparation and finalization of the Report of the Working Group</i>
3	Scope of Work of Survey Agency, Page No. 8			
	a) Survey Area & Sample Size:	Survey Agency may opt for carrying out survey in more than one zone.	Whether zone covers more than one district, if yes, then provide district wise list of feeders and number of agriconsumers on the same. We are afraid that it will have severe effect on the costing	Refer Reply to Query 1 above
	b) Data Entry	Carry out mobile application based survey, where.....	As we faced the problem at the time of pilot survey there were several issues with the app. We hope that this time SA would not face the similar problem. If it happens, then extension of time line need to be considered with due consideration for financial burden on the SAs.	Issues with APP to be resolved through Nodal Persons of Survey Agency. No time extension or additional cost on this count shall be allowed.
	c) Technical Support	Necessary technical support on issues w.r.t mobile application shall be provided to the nodal person of the SA by MERC.	As we faced the problem at the time of pilot survey there were several issues with the app. We hope that this time SA would not face the similar problem. No technical assistance was available on holidays and excluding office hours. It hampered our work severely. Further, we feel that the technical support need to be extended to district coordinators or supervisors as they would be person working in the deep interior area of the field and it is almost impossible to go back and collect/ correct the information about the respondents. If it happens, then extension of time line need to be considered with due consideration for financial burden on the SAs.	Issues with Survey to be resolved through Nodal Persons of Survey Agency. No time extension or additional cost on this count shall be allowed.
	e) Meeting timelines	Survey agency shall Complete the survey within stipulated timelines. (September to November, 2019)	There are three long holidays, like Ganesh Utsav, Dasera and Diwali are falling during the mentioned time period specified in the bid. This need to be taken into consideration.	Timeline for survey has considered this aspect. Survey Agency to plan its activities.

	f) Quality Control	The Survey Agency should ensure complete coverage of the consumers in the sample unit and also ensure completeness.....	As we faced the problem at the time of piolet survey there were several issues with the app. We hope that this time SA would not face the similar problem. No technical assistance was available on holidays and excluding office hours. <u>Please let us know what checks you have incorporated in the App to check the data quality and consistency.</u> Please extend access to the data sent by individual SA on daily basis. In absence of the same it would be impossible to check the data. As we have faced of rejecting the sample information sent through the app without making us aware of the basis. <u>Please list out on what ground/ basis quality would be checked.</u>	Mobile App is being updated
	g) Nodal Person for co-ordination with MERC	SA should identify one nodal person for interacting with MERC during the course of survey for correspondence.....	We feel that the technical support need to be extended to district coordinators or supervisors as they would be the person working in the deep interior area of the field and it is almost impossible to go back and collect/ correct the information about the respondents.	Training to be provided to nodal person of SA. Nodal Person of SA to intrun train its staff to be deployed.
	h) Progress Review	Survey Agency shall present its findings during Monthly progress review meetings of Working Group.....	Please list out the findings you desire to be presented by SA. Please list out the types of irregularity you wish to enforce on SA.	Shall be provided during inception meeting. (Report shall be based on Questionnaire parameters & survey progress)
	j) Survey Report	SA shall prepare the survey report.....	Please provide format of the report you need from SA.	Shall be provided during inception meeting. (Report shall be based on Questionnaire parameters & survey progress)
	a) Other Support	a. Undertaking detailed analysis. b. Support in extrapolation of the findings..... c. Support in preparation and finalization	Please list out the point of analysis desire to be presented by SA. Please explain in detail the points mentioned in other support required from SA.	Support as required by the Working Group needs to be provided by Survey Agency. Survey Agency should budget for LOE on this count.
	k) Meeting timelines	Any other activity(s) which is incidental to	Please list out probable issues may arise during the field work.	Survey Agency to anticipate based on its experience
5	Deliverable, Page No 9 and 10			
	c) Deliverable	Report of primary data for select area and presentation during Working Group meetings	Please provide format of the report you need from SA.	Shall be provided during inception meeting. (Report shall be based on Questionnaire parameters & survey progress)
	d) Deliverable	Monthly Progress Report & submission:	We assume that all the presentation will take place in Mumbai only in your office as per the time line mentioned in bid document.	Yes
	f) Deliverable	Providing inputs and support for finalization of Working Group report	Please specify how many meeting you expect during survey consumer under the mentioned DTC. We tried to locate the consumers for hours which obviously could not be traced. In the above mentioned scenario our report on non-availability of the consumer under the mentioned DTC should be considered and payment should be made accordingly.	Payment would be on 'per consumer' basis. Hence tracking consumer is necessary

6 Time Line, Page no 9 and 10				
	Point 3 and 4	Monthly Progress Report and Monthly Progress Review	There can be one single report covering both the issues on fifth of every month.	Monthly progress report would be separate report for each month
	Point 5, (Page no 10)	Summary of primary data	Please provide format of the analysis you need from SA.	No analysis involved in summary of primary data
	Point 7, (Page no 10)	Support to Working Group for finalization of its Report and recommendations	Please specify the types of support you need from SA.	Support limited to parameters surveyed & allocated zones envisaged; Support in terms of clarification, brief notes on specific matters like issues faced during survey- to be included as part of final report, etc.
8.2	Cost of Bid Document (Page no 10)	The Cost of tender document is INR 10,000/- (Ten Thousand only) which shall be paid online.	As per the DES guideline the institute who are in category A 2 need not to pay for Tender document. Please let us know as we are Empaneled as A 2 category Institute.	No change. Tender Cost needs to be paid.
8.9	Site Visit/ Field Visit (Page no 12)	The letter for extending co-operation to the successful bidder/s shall be issued by MERC to the MSEDCL.	As we had faced the problem in regards to availability of the line man on the ground on time and unawareness of the officials about the survey being implemented. We request you to please call a meeting of official concerned at a suitable place and exchange the idea about the work being implemented. Specially, field staff should be invited as they are the people who really have better idea about the field problem.	The letter from MERC to MSEDCL shall carry necessary instructions, as required
8.17	Evaluation Process (Page no16)	.... each bidder to make a power point presentation	Please provide sufficient period (Minimum 7 days)	To be informed upon bid submission. Timeline to be decided by Commission
8.18	Award Criteria (Page no 16)	.... Survey of minimum of four Zones and around 30,000 Agriculture Consumers for the Zones....	Whether zone covers more than one district, if yes, then provide district wise list of feeders and number of agri-consumers on the same. We are afraid that it will have severe effect on the costing.	Details of Districts in which each zones are spread could be provided which would enable to estimate the spread
	Award Criteria (Page no. 17)	....The decision of allotment of Zones and Number of Agriculture Consumers for Survey by MERC shall be final and bidding on the selected Survey Agency....	We have faced problems related to non-availability of a consumer under the mentioned DTC. We tried to locate the consumers for hours which obviously could not be traced. In the above mentioned scenario our report on non-availability of the consumer under the mentioned DTC should be considered and payment should be made accordingly.	Payment would be on 'per consumer' basis. Hence tracking consumer is necessary
9.3	Payment Terms (Page no 18)	No advance payment will be made at any stage	Since this is a survey assignment to be conducted by the SA and it is not a work contract (to be done by the contractor). It is necessary to have mobilization advance which is usually paid on all government assignment to the consultant. This amount should not be less 30 percent of the total cost of the project.	No Advance
9.3	Payment Terms (Page no 18)	TDS will be deducted as applicable at source	Being an Educational Institution, TDS is not applicable on us. We would submit the document of the Income Tax Department regarding the same.	Applicability of TDS shall be as per Rules. Any relaxation shall be subject to verification of documents furnished
9.4	Penalty	.... penalty of Rs.10000/- per week or part thereof	We hope that it should be binding and applicable for both the sides.	Penalty shall be applicable on Survey Agency for default as per Clause 9.4. Ceiling of penalty value modified from 25% of contract value to 10% of contract value. Corrigendum is issued accordingly.

Others				
1	GST rate		Please clarify the GST applicability. Please let us know on the changes in the GST rates during the survey period.	GST as per applicable rate. Bidder to provide Price bid as per Annexure-G.
2	Number of the meetings to be attend		Please specify the number of meeting we would be asked to attend apart from the scheduled (Time line) that is monthly	Meetings with Working Group (if necessary) shall be intimated by Working Group. It is envisaged that around 2 to 3 meetings with Working Group before finalisation of Report by Working Group
3	Training of the App		Training on the App should be conducted by MERC well in advance at least 10 days preferably at the location of selected and awarded distribution zones. We accept that training date will not be overlapping in different zones.	Orientation Meeting for Mobile App and Survey requirement for Nodal Personal of SA shall be arranged at MERC and no zone-wise training is envisaged
4	Time available after the pre bid meeting		We will have hardly two working days to finalize the bid document after the pre bid meeting. It is insufficient to make the changes, if any, after the pre bid meeting. Please provide at least one week for the same. As per our understanding, the word bank norms says that there would be 15 days gape between pre bid meeting and last date of submission of bid documents.	Bid submission date modified to 15-Jul-2019. Corrigendum is issued accordingly.
c. Queries Submitted by NABARD Consultancy Services Private Limited				
1	Clause 9.4 of Penalty, page no. 19-20	Any delay beyond 15 days shall attract penalty of Rs.10000/- per week or part thereof. MERC reserves the right to waive off penalty considering prevailing circumstances and the reasons for delay.	MERC is requested to either relax the penalty criteria of and increase the duration of the project which is 3 months for data collection and final report submission as per point 6 related to timeline on page no. 9	Penalty shall be applicable on Survey Agency for default as per Clause 9.4. Ceiling of penalty value modified from 25% of contract value to 10% of contract value. Corrigendum is issued accordingly.
2	Clause 8.18 Award Criteria, page 16	The bidder with lowest Commercial Bid would be considered for award of contract.	MERC is requested to follow Quality cum Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method instead of CBS method so that only capable agencies / agency having a proven track record will be shortlisted for evaluation of financial bid in order to have a quality report of the survey and to meet the research objectives. To ensure participation of technically capable bidders, we request MERC to add in minimum eligibility criteria that bidders should have reasonable turnover in last 3 FYs from large scale surveys in state of Maharashtra only and bidders should have fully functional regional office in Maharashtra	No change.