Pre-Bid Queries and Official Clarifications (Meeting held on 12.11.2026) – Tender for Design, Development, Implementation, Operation, Maintenance and Support of Unified Digital Portal under Mission for Cotton Productivity (Kapas Kranti) [GeM Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/8204902]

Sl. No.	Query Raised by Prospective Bidders	CCI Response / Clarification
1	Clarification was sought on whether subsidiaries of BSE and NSE are permitted to participate in the bidding process.	Refer Corrigendum.
2	Clarification was sought on whether owning a data center is a mandatory requirement.	No
3	Clarification was sought regarding whether the bid submission deadline will be extended in the event of a corrigendum being issued	Yes, as per GeM Provisions.
4	Clarification was sought on whether ongoing projects can also be considered for furnishing experience certificates	No
5	Clarification was sought regarding a potential reduction in the 99.80% uptime requirement to be maintained by the selected vendor	The 99.80% uptime SLA is required as per the tender terms.
6	Clarification was sought on the Tender Evaluation Criteria QCBS, requesting to remove the Point Number-3 i.e. (The bidder should have their own data center empanelled by MeitY operating in India at one or multiple locations) from Annexure-I of 15 marks.	Refer Corrigendum.
7	Whether private-sector IT companies, including eligible Private Limited Companies, Public Limited Companies and LLPs with relevant Government/PSU project experience, requisite certifications and financial capacity, may be permitted to participate, notwithstanding the eligibility restriction to Government organisations, PSUs and specified domain-expert organisations.	The bidder should be a domain-expert organisations/agency such as National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) functioning under a regulatory framework in the country, or any other State/Central Government organization or Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).
8	Whether consortium/joint venture (JV) bids are permitted under the RFP and, if permitted, how the eligibility and technical/financial credentials of consortium/JV members will be assessed.	Not Allowed
9	Whether subcontracting of implementation, development, hosting, or other project activities is permitted under the RFP and, if so, what conditions or restrictions will apply.	Sub-contracting is Not Allowed; However Bidder can appoint System Integrator (SI) for the project.
10	Whether the credentials and relevant project experience of consortium members, associate companies, or subcontractors may be considered for meeting the eligibility criteria and/or technical evaluation requirements.	No
11	Whether the technical evaluation criterion for experience in relevant business activities may be revised so that bidders with five or more years of relevant experience can receive the maximum 15 marks, instead of requiring more than 15 years for the maximum score.	As per the terms of the tender.
12	Whether the technical evaluation parameter awarding marks based on the bidder's ownership of one, two, or three or more MeitY-empanelled data-centre locations may be removed or revised, as data-centre ownership is not the primary deliverable under the RFP.	Refer Corrigendum.

13	Whether relevant agricultural e-marketplace experience and the credentials of a specialised associate/subsidiary company may be considered when assessing eligibility, particularly where the parent company operates under a regulatory framework and the specialised entity undertakes digital marketplace opportunities.	Refer Corrigendum.
14	Whether association with or use of a MeitY-empanelled data centre/cloud service provider (including hosting on an approved GCC/NIC/MeghRaj cloud) will be treated as equivalent to owning a MeitY-empanelled data centre for technical evaluation, and whether marks may be awarded on this basis.	Refer Corrigendum.
15	Whether a successfully completed similar Government/PSU project that is already Go-Live and operational will be accepted for meeting the similar-project experience eligibility criterion.	As per the terms of the tender.
16	Clarification is requested whether existing applications supporting beneficiary management, payment processing, financial accounting, or project monitoring are available and need to be integrated, or whether all modules are required to be developed afresh.	New Development to be done.
17	Clarification is requested for the complete list of third-party systems and APIs with which the proposed portal is required to integrate.	APIs shall be provided after onboarding to the successful bidder.
18	Kindly clarify which APIs and integration interfaces for the Certification Integration Module will be provided or facilitated by CCI.	APIs shall be provided after onboarding to the successful bidder.
19	Kindly clarify whether the Accounting Module requires full-fledged ERP accounting functionality or only the accounting functions specifically described in the RFP.	As per the terms of the tender.
20	Kindly confirm whether CCI will facilitate the required APIs, interface specifications, test environments, credentials, documentation and support from third-party agencies for PFMS integration.	APIs shall be provided after onboarding to the successful bidder.
21	Kindly confirm whether CCI will facilitate the required PFMS certifications, onboarding approvals and testing support for PFMS/DBT integration.	Details will be provided after onboarding to the successful bidder.
22	Kindly provide the expected number of beneficiaries, concurrent users, transactions per day, document-storage requirements and anticipated growth projections for sizing the solution and infrastructure.	Bidder has to validate based on the scope of work mentioned in the terms of the tender.
23	Kindly clarify whether cloud infrastructure, software licences, SMS credits, email services, SSL certificates, security-audit licences and associated subscriptions will be provided by CCI or are to be included in the Systems Integrator's scope and cost.	Entire cost has to be borne by the bidder.
24	Kindly clarify whether CCI will identify/facilitate empanelled security auditors and certification requirements, and whether the cost of external security audits/certifications is to be borne by the Systems Integrator.	Entire cost has to be borne by the bidder.
25	Kindly confirm the list of eligible/approved MeitY-empanelled Government Community Cloud/NIC Cloud (MeghRaj) service providers permitted for hosting the application under the RFP.	List is available on the MeitY website.

26	Kindly confirm whether downtime attributable to third-party systems, cloud service-provider outages, PFMS downtime, scheduled maintenance windows, force-majeure events and delays attributable to CCI will be excluded from SLA uptime calculations.	As per the terms of the tender.
27	Kindly provide the detailed payment milestone-wise breakup, including the deliverables or acceptance criteria linked to each payment.	As per the terms of the tender.
28	Kindly clarify the duration of warranty support and whether the warranty period overlaps with the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) period.	As per the terms of the tender.
29	Kindly clarify whether a phased rollout of the application/modules will be permitted instead of making the entire application live within the stipulated 90-day project schedule.	Project has to be completed and made live in one phase. No second phase is permitted.
30	Kindly confirm whether any new requirement, regulatory change, integration change, workflow modification or report/dashboard enhancement beyond the approved scope during O&M will be handled through a mutually agreed Change Request process.	Mutually agreed change request process, if required. The project has to be completed as per the scope of work of tender document.
31	Kindly consider extending the current bid-submission deadline by two weeks to enable the bidder to obtain the necessary internal approvals before submission.	After corrigendum, as per the GeM provisions bid shall be extended.