

RW/NH-24036/28/2025-BP&SP (Computer No. 248457)
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
(Highway Section)
Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Date: 29th April, 2025

To

1. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, G-5 7 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075
2. The Managing Director, NHIDCL, PTI Building, New Delhi-110001
3. Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of all States/UTs Public Works Department/ Road Construction Department/ Highways Department (dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes)
4. All Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Department/ Road Construction Department/ Highways Department (dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes)
5. The Director General Border Roads, Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi-110010
6. All CE-ROs, ROs and ELOs of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Subject: Modification in Qualification Criteria for EPC Projects - reg.

Ref: Standard RFP for EPC Projects issued by Ministry's Letter No.RW/NH-37010/4/2010/EAP (Printing) Vol.-IV dated 05.03.2019 and its subsequent Amendments.

Sir,

The Ministry vide letter No.RW/NH-37010/4/2010/EAP (Printing) Vol.-IV dated 05.03.2019 and its subsequent amendments has specified the qualification criteria for contractors for EPC Projects. Numerous relaxation in the qualification criteria for eligibility in case of EPC contracts were given in 2019 to promote competition.

2. However, now it has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that the said relaxation in the qualification criteria has had a detrimental effect on the quality of construction.

3. In view of the above, the Ministry has revised/modified the qualification criteria of contractors for EPC contracts. The modifications made, inter-alia, include the minimum requirements for both standard highway construction projects as well as stand alone specialized projects such as tunnels, major bridges, ROBs, flyovers etc; a higher requirement for EPC projects with bid price over Rs 100 crore; checks on sub-contracting experience and modification of the highways and core sector definition to tighten the eligibility criteria. The modifications in detail are enclosed as **Annexure**.

4. Relevant provisions of the standard RFP of EPC Projects stand modified to this effect. All the executing agencies of the Ministry are directed to implement the aforesaid changes with immediate effect.

5. This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister (RT&H).

Yours faithfully,


(Mayank Tyagi)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary (RT&H)
2. PSO to DG(RD)&SS
3. AS&FA/AS(H)/AS(T), MoRTH
4. All Joint Secretaries in the MoRTH
5. All ADGs/CEs in the MoRTH
6. Director (NIC), MoRTH for uploading on the Ministry's website and e-office

MODIFICATION IN THE CLAUSES OF RFP DOCUMENTS OF RFP OF EPC PROJECTS

Sr. No.	Particulars	Existing Provision	Modified Provision
1.	Net Worth at the close of the preceding financial year	Footnote: This amount should be 5% (five percent) of the Estimated Project Cost of the Project for which bids are being invited.	Footnote: For projects upto Rs 100 crore No Change For projects more than Rs 100 crore : This amount should be 10% (Ten percent) of the Estimated Cost of the Project for which bids are being invited.
2.	Average Annual Turnover of last 5 Financial Years	Footnote: This amount should be 15% (fifteen percent) of the Estimated Project Cost of the Project for which bids are being invited.	Footnote: This amount should be 20% (twenty percent) of the Estimated Project Cost of the Project for which bids are being invited.
3.	Single Work Criteria (Similar work executed)	Provided that at least one similar work of 20% of Estimated Project Cost [Rs.***crore (Rs.****)] shall have been completed from the Eligible Projects in Category 1 and/or Category 3 specified in Clause 2.2.2.5. For this purpose, a project shall be considered to be completed, if more than 90% of the value of work has been completed and such completed value of work is equal to or more than 20% of the estimated project cost. Eligible project costs shall include the following: (a) Widening/ reconstruction/ up-gradation works on NH/SH/Expressway or on any category of road taken up under CRF, ISC/EI, SARDP, LWE (b) Widening/ reconstruction/ up-gradation works on MDRs with loan assistance from multilateral agencies or on BOT basis. (c) Widening/ reconstruction/ up-gradation works of roads in Municipal Corporation limits, construction of Bypasses. (d) Construction of Stand-alone bridges, ROB, tunnels. (e) Construction/ reconstruction of linear projects like airport runways,	Provided that at least either of the following: <u>i. two similar completed works costing not less than amount equal to 25% each of estimated cost.</u> <u>Or</u> <u>ii. one similar completed work costing not less than amount equals to 35% each of estimated cost</u> shall have been completed from the Eligible Projects in Category 1 and/or Category 3 specified in Clause 2.2.2.5. <u>Certificate(s) from the concerned client(s) shall be required for the same. In case the claimed project / (s) are subcontracting/ JV project in such a case Approval from Govt. Authority / Client is required(restricted to allowable subcontracting limit/ JV share in original contract). [D1]</u> For this purpose, a project shall be considered to be completed, if more than 90% of the value of work has been completed and such completed value of work is equal to or more than <u>the above mentioned criteria in the last 5 (five) financial years preceding the Bid Due Date or till the Bid Due Date.</u> Eligible project

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		railways, (construction/ reconstruction of railway tracks, yards for keeping containers etc.) metro rail and ports (including construction/re-construction of Jetties).	costs shall include the following: (a) Widening/ reconstruction/ up-gradation works on NH/SH/Expressway or on any category of road taken up under CRF, ISC/EI, SARDP, LWE (b) Widening/ reconstruction/ up-gradation works on MDRs with loan assistance from multilateral agencies or on BOT basis. (c) Widening/ reconstruction/ up-gradation works of roads in Municipal Corporation limits, construction of Bypasses. (d) Construction of Stand-alone bridges, ROB, tunnels. (e) Construction/ reconstruction of linear projects like airport runways. (f) Viaducts of Railways/ Metro g) Container yard of ports
4.	Additional Work Criteria (Bridge & Tunnel)	If any Major Bridge/ROB/Flyover/Tunnel is (are) part of the project, then the sole Bidder or in case the Bidder being a Joint Venture, any member of Joint Venture shall necessarily demonstrate additional experience in construction of Major Bridge/ROBs/Flyovers/Tunnel in the last 10 (ten) financial years preceding the Bid Due Date i.e. shall have completed at least one similar Major Bridge/ROB/Flyover having span equal to or greater than: (a) In case, longest span of Bridge/ROB/flyover is less than or equal to 60 m, no additional qualification is required. (b) when longest span is more than 60 m :50% of the longest span or 100 m, whichever is less, of the structure proposed in this project.	If any Major Bridge/ROB/Flyover/Tunnel is (are) part of the project, then the sole Bidder or in case the Bidder being a Joint Venture, any member of Joint Venture shall necessarily demonstrate additional experience in construction of Major Bridge/ROBs/Flyovers/Tunnel in the last <u>7 (seven)</u> financial years preceding the Bid Due Date <u>or till the Bid Due Date</u> i.e. shall have completed at least one similar Major Bridge/ROB/Flyover having length equal to or greater than: (a) In case, longest span of Bridge/ROB/flyover is less than or equal to 60 m, no additional qualification is required. (b) when longest span is more than 60 m :<u>80% of the longest span or 100 m, whichever is less, of the structure proposed in this project and 40% of the length Major Bridge/ROB/Flyover or 2 km, whichever is less, of the structure proposed in this project.</u>

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		and in case of tunnel, if any, shall have completed construction of atleast one tunnel consisting of single or twin tubes (including tunnel(s) for roads/Railway/Metro rail/irrigation/hydro-electric projects etc.) having atleast (a) In case Tunnel is a part of project having length less than or equal to 200 m, then no additional qualification is required. (b) When length of tunnel more than 200m : 50% of the cross sectional area of proposed tunnel or two lane highway tunnel cross-sectional area, whichever is less and 20% length of the tunnel to be constructed in this project or 2km, whichever is less.	And in case of tunnel, if any, shall have completed construction of atleast one tunnel consisting of single or twin tubes (including tunnel(s) for roads/Railway/Metro rail/irrigation/hydro-electric projects etc.) having at least (a) In case Tunnel is a part of project having length less than or equal to 200 m, then no additional qualification is required. (b) When length of tunnel more than 200m: <u>80%</u> of the cross sectional area of proposed tunnel or two lane highway tunnel cross-sectional area, whichever is less and 40% length of the tunnel to be <u>constructed (other than cut and cover method)</u> in this project or 2km, whichever is less.
5.	Stand-alone specialized projects	(iii)For Stand-alone specialized projects: (a)Major Bridges/ROB/Flyovers projects: (a1) In case the cost of specialized project is less than or equal to Rs. 1,000 Cr: The sole Bidder or in case the Bidder being a Joint Venture, any member of Joint Venture shall have completed atleast one similar Major Bridge/ROB/Flyover project in the last 10 (ten) financial years preceding the Bid Due Date, having span equal to or greater than 50% of the longest span or 100m, whichever is less of the structure proposed in this project and also the cost of such similar project shall be atleast 20% of the Estimated Project Cost. For this purpose, a project shall be considered to be completed, if more than 90% of the value of work has been completed and such completed value of work is equal to or more than 20% of the Estimated Project Cost.	(iii)For Stand-alone specialized projects: (a)Major Bridges/ROB/Flyovers projects: The sole Bidder or in case the Bidder being a Joint Venture, Lead member of Joint Venture shall have completed atleast one similar Major Bridge/ROB/Flyover project in the last <u>7 (seven)</u> financial years preceding the Bid Due Date <u>or till the Bid Due Date</u>, having span equal to or greater than <u>80%</u> of the longest span or 100m, whichever is less of the structure proposed in this project and 40% of the length Major Bridge/ RoB/ flyover or 2 km, whichever is less and also the cost of such similar project shall be atleast <u>i. two similar completed works length not less than or equals to 25% each of cost of the Major Bridges/ROB/Flyovers.</u> <u>or</u> <u>ii. one similar completed work</u>

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		(a2) In case the cost of specialized project is more than Rs. 1,000 Cr: The sole Bidder or in case the Bidder being a Joint Venture, any member of Joint Venture shall have completed at least one similar Major Bridge/ ROB/ Flyover project in the last 10 (ten) financial years preceding the Bid Due Date, having span equal to or greater than 50% of the longest span of the structure proposed in this project or 100m, whichever is less, and also the cost of such similar project shall be atleast 20% of the Estimated Project Cost or Rs. 1000Cr. whichever is less. For this purpose, a project shall be considered to be completed, if more than 90% of the value of work has been completed and such completed value of work is equal to or more than 20% of the Estimated Project Cost or Rs. 1000 Cr., whichever is less.	<u>length not less than equals to 35% of cost of the Major Bridges/ROB/Flyovers.</u> For this purpose, a project shall be considered to be completed, if more than 90% of the value of work has been completed and such completed value of work is equal to or more than <u>the above mentioned criteria. Certificate(s) from the concerned client(s) shall be required for the same. In case the claimed project / (s) are subcontracting/ JV project in such a case Approval from Govt. Authority / Client is required (restricted to allowable sub-contracting limit/ JV share in original contract).</u>[D2]
6.	Tunnel project	(b) Tunnel project: The sole Bidder or in case the Bidder being a Joint Venture, any member of Joint Venture shall have completed atleast one tunnel project in the last 10 (ten) financial years preceding the Bid Due Date, consisting of single or twin tubes (including tunnel(s) for roads/Railway/Metro rail/irrigation/hydro-electric projects etc.) having atleast 50% of the cross-sectional area of the tunnel to be constructed or cross sectional area of 2 lane highway tunnel, whichever is less, and 20% length of the tunnel to be constructed in this project or 2 km, whichever is less and the cost of such project shall be atleast 20% of the Estimated Project Cost or Rs. 1000 Cr., whichever is less. For this purpose, a project shall be considered to be completed, if more than 90% of the value of work has been completed and such completed value of work is equal	(b) Tunnel project: The sole Bidder or in case the Bidder being a Joint Venture, Lead member of Joint Venture shall have completed atleast one tunnel project in the last 7 (seven) financial years preceding the Bid Due Date <u>or till the Bid Due Date</u>, consisting of single or twin tubes (including tunnel(s) for roads/Railway/Metro rail/irrigation/hydro-electric projects etc.) having atleast 80% of the cross-sectional area of the tunnel to be constructed <u>other than Cut & Cover method</u> or cross sectional area of 2 lane highway tunnel, whichever is less, and 40% length of the tunnel. to be constructed in this project or 2 km, whichever is less and the cost of such project shall be atleast

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		to or more than 20% of the Estimated Project Cost or Rs. 1000 Cr., whichever is less.	<u>i. two similar completed works length not less than equals to 25% each of estimated cost of the tunnel.</u> <u>or</u> <u>ii. one similar completed work length not less than equals to 35% of estimated cost of the tunnel.</u> For this purpose, a project shall be considered to be completed, if more than 90% of the value of work has been completed and such completed value of work is equal to or more than <u>the above mentioned criteria.</u> <u>Certificate(s) from the concerned client(s) shall be required for the same. In case the claimed project / (s) are subcontracting/ JV project in such a case Approval from Govt. Authority / Concessionaire is required (restricted to allowable subcontracting limit/ JV share in original contract).</u>
7.	Highways sector & Core Sector definition	(a) highways sector would be deemed to include highways, expressways, bridges, tunnels, runways, railways (construction/re-construction of railway tracks, yards for keeping containers etc.) metro rail and ports (including construction/re-construction cost of Jetties, any other linear infrastructure including bridges etc.); and (b) core sector would be deemed to include civil construction cost of power sector, commercial setups (SEZs etc.), airports, industrial parks/ estates, logistic parks, pipelines, irrigation, water supply, sewerage, stadium, hospitals, hotel, smart city, warehouses/ Silos, oil and gas and real estate development. Core sector will also include the projects with the title of RIDF, PMGSY road, link road, city roads, rural road, sector/	(a) highways sector would be deemed to include highways, expressways, bridges, tunnels, runways, (Viaducts of Railways/ Metro, Container yard of ports <u>and</u> (b) core sector would be deemed to include civil construction cost of power sector, commercial setups (SEZs etc.), airports, industrial parks/ estates, logistic parks, pipelines, irrigation, water supply, sewerage, stadium, hospitals, hotel, smart city, warehouses/ Silos, oil and gas and real estate development. Core sector will also include the projects with the title of RIDF, PMGSY road, link road, city roads, rural road, sector/ municipality road, real estate projects which demonstrate road

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		municipality road, real estate projects which demonstrate road development/ construction bridges or culverts.	development/ construction bridges or culverts, <u>Performance-Based Maintenance Contracting work (PBMC), O&M work, Short Term Maintenance Contract (STMC), railways (construction/re-construction of railway tracks, etc.) metro rail and ports (including construction/re-construction cost of Jetties, any other linear infrastructure including bridges etc.).</u>
8.	Technical Capacity – Min Value of works to be considered	the capital cost of the project should be more than 5% of the amount specified as the Estimated Project Cost; and receipts of less than 5% of the Estimated Project Cost	For projects upto Rs 100 crore No Change For projects more than Rs 100 crore : the capital cost ¹ of the project should be more than <u>10%</u> of the amount specified as the Estimated Project Cost; and receipts ² of less than <u>10%</u> of the Estimated Project Cost
9.	Original Documents of	The Lowest Bidder shall be required to submit original of documents listed below (before issuance of Letter of Acceptance (LOA) by the Authority: (a) Original Power of Attorney for signing the BID as per format at Appendix-III; (b) if applicable, Original Power of Attorney for Lead Member of Joint Venture as per the format at Appendix-IV; (c) (c) if applicable, Original Joint Bidding Agreement for Joint Venture as per the format at Appendix-V; (d) (d) Bid Security of Rs. Xx Crore (Rupees only) in the form of Insurance Surety Bond (in the format at Appendix- X issued by Insurance Company authorized by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) or Account Payee Demand Draft or Fixed Deposit Receipt or Banker's Cheque or Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee) in the	The Lowest Bidder shall be required to submit original of documents listed below (before issuance of Letter of Acceptance (LOA) by the Authority: (a) <u>Appendix-IA (Letter comprising the Technical Bid).</u> (b) <u>Appendix-IB (Letter comprising the Financial BID)</u> (c) <u>Annex-V Statement of Legal Capacity</u> (d) Original Power of Attorney for signing the BID as per format at Appendix-III; (e) if applicable, Original Power of Attorney for Lead Member of Joint Venture as per the format at Appendix-IV; (f) if applicable, Original Joint Bidding Agreement for Joint Venture as per the format at Appendix-V; (g) Bid Security of Rs. Xx Crore (Rupees only) in the form of Insurance Surety Bond (in the format at Appendix- X issued by Insurance Company authorized by Insurance Regulatory and

¹ The actual capital cost of the project (i.e. without escalation) shall be considered for the evaluation.

² The actual payment receipt (i.e. without escalation) shall be considered for the evaluation.

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		format at Appendix-II from a Scheduled bank; (e) Deleted; (f) Deleted; (g) Bidder shall comply with the provisions of NHAI/Policy Guidelines/Vigilance/2020 Policy Circular No. 5. 8 dated 29th December 2020 issued by NHAI and its subsequent amendments if any, issued by NHAI/MoRT&H (Appendix-VI) regarding Integrity Pact (IP) and the Integrity Pact (IP) duly signed by Authorised signatory shall be submitted by the Bidder with the RFP Bid & shall be part of the Contract Agreement; and (h) An undertaking from the person having PoA referred to in Sub. Clause-(a) above that they agree and abide by the Bid documents uploaded by NHAI and amendments uploaded, if any (i) Copy of experience certificates apostille at foreign origin, if any (j) Certificate regarding Compliance with Restrictions under Rule 144 (xi) of the General Financial Rules (GFRs) as per format given in Appendix-XI shall be submitted by the Bidder with the RFP Bid duly signed by Authorised signatory & shall be part of the Contract Agreement; and (k) Proof of Registration with the Competent Authority as defined in Public Procurement Order No. F. No. 6/18/2019-PPD dated 23rd July 2020, if applicable (to be submitted by the "Bidder from a country which shares a land border with India").	Development Authority of India) or Account Payee Demand Draft or Fixed Deposit Receipt or Banker's Cheque or Bank Guarantee (including e-Bank Guarantee) in the format at Appendix-II from a Scheduled bank; (h) Bidder shall comply with the provisions of NHAI/Policy Guidelines/Vigilance/2020 Policy Circular No. 5. 8 dated 29th December 2020 issued by NHAI and its subsequent amendments if any, issued by NHAI/MoRT&H (Appendix-VI) regarding Integrity Pact (IP) and the Integrity Pact (IP) duly signed by Authorised signatory shall be submitted by the Bidder with the RFP Bid & shall be part of the Contract Agreement; and (i) An undertaking from the person having PoA referred to in Sub. Clause-(a) above that they agree and abide by the Bid documents uploaded by NHAI and amendments uploaded, if any (j) Copy of experience certificates apostille at foreign origin, if any (k) Certificate regarding Compliance with Restrictions under Rule 144 (xi) of the General Financial Rules (GFRs) as per format given in Appendix-XI shall be submitted by the Bidder with the RFP Bid duly signed by Authorised signatory & shall be part of the Contract Agreement; and (l) Proof of Registration with the Competent Authority as defined in Public Procurement Order No. F. No. 6/18/2019-PPD dated 23rd July 2020, if applicable (to be submitted by the "Bidder from a country which shares a land border with India").
10.	Clause 2.1.11 (c) of RFP	Members of the Joint Venture shall nominate one member as the lead member (the "Lead Member"). Lead Member shall met at least 60% requirement of Bid Capacity, Technical and Financial Capacity, required as per	Members of the Joint Venture shall nominate one member as the lead member (the "Lead Member"). Lead Member shall met at least 60% requirement of Bid Capacity, Technical and Financial Capacity, required as per

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		Clause 2.2.2.1, 2.2.2.2(i) & 2.2.2.3. The nomination(s) shall be supported by a Power of Attorney, as per the format at Appendix-III, signed by all the other Members of the Joint Venture. Other Member(s) shall meet at least 20% requirement of Bid Capacity, Technical and Financial Capacity required as per Clause 2.2.2.1, 2.2.2.2(i) & 2.2.2.3 and the JV as a whole shall cumulatively/collectively fulfil the 100% requirement;	Clause 2.2.2.1, 2.2.2.2(i) & 2.2.2.3. The nomination(s) shall be supported by a Power of Attorney, as per the format at Appendix-III, signed by all the other Members of the Joint Venture. Other Member(s) shall meet at least 20% requirement of Bid Capacity, Technical and Financial Capacity required as per Clause 2.2.2.1, 2.2.2.2(i) & 2.2.2.3 (except otherwise specified in RFP) and the JV as a whole shall cumulatively/collectively fulfil the 100% requirement; Provided further that, <u>In the case of a Joint Venture (JV), each member is required to hold a minimum of 26% (twenty six percent) in the JV.</u>