

03/2/2017

National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)

Expression of Interest for empanelment of exploration entities

Queries & responses on the EOI

	Reference of EOI Request Page No. and Clause No.	Query	Response
1.	Pg.No.5, Clause No. 1.4 “ Empanelment Fee ” means a one-time non-refundable fee of INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh Only) Payable to NMET along with the Letter of Acceptance, in accordance with Clause 19.1.1 by such Interested Explorers whose names have been published by NMET as qualified Interested Explorers;	We consider that this one- time fee is per empanelled bidder and irrespective of number of Categories where they have been empanelled.	Yes.
2.	Pg. No. 6, Clause No. 1.16 “Mineral Category/ Mineral Categories” means the following groups of minerals for which the Empaneled Explorers are sought to be empaneled by NMET for providing Exploration Services for Proposed Exploration Projects:	As per the table given in Pg. No. 6, under each mineral category there are number of minerals. Suppose an Interested Explorer has project experience in two minerals out of three under any one mineral category (e.g., say Iron and Manganese under Metallic Minerals category) and for which the Interested Explorer can furnish the required documents in support of project experience. Whereas, for the third mineral i.e., Bauxite in this case, the Explorer does not have any past project experience. In such cases, if selected, whether the Explorer will be empaneled for all the three minerals under the said mineral category i.e., Iron, Manganese & Bauxite) or will be empaneled only for Iron and Manganese.	Explorer will be empaneled for a mineral category as per clause 1.16. of Eoi request.

3.	Pg.No.6, Clause No. 1.12 Lead Member ” means, such Member of the Consortium which is an entity engaged in exploration and/ or mining activities, designated as the lead member by other consortium agreement;	Can it be assumed that an Organisation who are imparting geological and mining consulting services to exploration agencies or a mining company is also eligible to bid individually or as Leader in a consortium	Eligibility conditions to be met as per EoI Request.
4.	Pg.No.6, Clause No. 1.16 “Mineral Category/ Mineral Categories” means the following groups of minerals for which the Empaneled Explorers are sought to be empaneled by NMET for providing Exploration Services for Proposed Exploration Projects:	We are assuming that organization interested to bid and qualify in more than one category need to submit one proposal only , with matching technical qualification details for each category as separate section in a single bid.	Yes, as per clause 5.2 of EoI Request.
5.	Pg. No. 6, Clause No. 1.16	Under this, all categories may be included such that EOI can be filed covering all mineral categories.	As per EoI Request.
6.	Pg.No.7, Clause No. 1.20 (& Pg. No.18 and Clause No. 5.3)	Under the definition Parent, 50% equity restriction may be removed.	As per EoI Request and kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
7.	Pg. No.8, Clause No. 2.4	This is lacking in 1.11 the word with “the assistance of exploration contractors” shall also find place in 1.11 under the definition interested explorer.	As per EoI Request.
8.	Pg. No. 8 Clause No. 2.5 The relevant State Governments shall notify areas where NEAs shall be undertaking Proposed Exploration Projects with the assistance of Explorers. And, in this regard and based on the Mineral Category of the Proposed Exploration Project,	We consider that this NIT is for the empanelling of Explorers with NEA/NMET. Further the State Govt. bodies, State or Central PSU organization will use the said empanelled list for selection of their Explorer by a short listed bidding process.	Yes, as per EoI Request.

9.	Pg. No. 8, Clause No. 2.5 Wherein the Explorer will be eligible to receive incentive on establishing mineral resources	We consider that this incentive is over and above the fee of the Explorer's services.	Yes, as per EoI Request.
10.	Pg. No. 10, Clause No. 4.1b.iii Ensuring official intimation and necessary clearances from the local administration, police, forest officials, village/panchayat heads etc. and other stakeholders before commencement of work in the area	These jobs may be difficult to execute by the private Explorer alone without the assistance/ intervention & assistance of State Governments/ NEAs. State Governments/ NEAs must facilitate and assist, especially in obtaining the necessary clearances required from respective agencies for commencement of work. Additionally, whether the aforementioned activities could be sub-contracted by the Explorer to any facilitating agency/ Contractor? In such case, whether the sub-contractor has to be incorporated as Consortium member during the empanelment process itself.	Obtaining necessary mandatory clearances will be the responsibility of the NEA. Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
11.	Pg.No. 10, Clause No. 4.1b(iii) Ensure official intimation and necessary clearances from the local administration, police, forest officials, village/ Panchayat heads etc. and other stakeholders before commencement of work in the area.	We Consider that the role of the Explorer will be restricted to providing necessary technical and secretarial support to the NEA for obtaining Forest and other clearances.	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
12.	Pg. No. 10, Clause No.4.1	(b) (iii) this might be only by the State Government/ Forest department in case of forest lands	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017

13.	Pg.No.12, Clause No. 4.1 (e) Assistance in Selection of Exploration Contractors for various Exploration Contracts	An empaneled explorer participates in the tender for a project but fails to get it. Will the Agency be eligible to participate in the tender process as a Contractor for one or more segments of the Work?	Yes
14.	Pg.No 14 to 16 Clause No. 4.2 (e) to (i) Roles & Responsibilities Field activities	Many of the Explorers wishing to get empanelled are themselves qualified exploration contractors and their main revenue generation come from these activities listed from (e) to (i) The role of explorer in EOI documents is to assist NEA to find and Coordinate/Supervise with exploration contractor for executing the work What if explorer himself wants to act as exploration contractor too in executing the activities listed in (e) Topographic Survey (f) Geochemical Survey & Sampling (g) Geophysical Surveys (h) Drilling (i) Other relevant Studies What will be the modus operandi?	The Explorer is not allowed to participate in the bidding process for contractors in the same project. However, an Empaneled Explorer can undertake work as contractor for a different project.
15.	Pg.No.14-16 Clause 4.2 (e) to (i) On field activities–Exploration Contractors	If the explorer possesses the required infrastructure why can't he utilize the same? For example if he has a team of geologists and geophysicists with instruments he should be allowed to deploy the same in the block he is allotted as per the prevailing rates fixed by NEA. If should be the same even is the case of drilling.	The Explorer is not allowed to participate in the bidding process for contractors in the same project. However, an Empaneled Explorer can undertake work as contractor for a different project.

16.	Pg. No. 15, Clause No. 4.2 f. vi Use its own or hired tools such as hand held XRF and other equipment for quick assessment	Hand held XRF many a times does not give the true analytical values of samples especially while measuring the in-situ/ hand specimen samples, unless they are powdered at required size fraction of the pulp and the instrument is calibrated with the range of samples from the specific project area, hence the XRF results should be read more as quantitative, but not qualitative. Hence use of hand held XRF for quick assessment may not be always advisable. The option of laboratory instrumental analysis thus should also be included under this clause.	The scope of work of Explorer for a project will be as per the tender document issued by relevant NEA.
17.	Pg. No. 16, Clause No. 4.2.i <u>Other relevant Studies</u> The Explorer Shall be required to: Carry out relevant Studies, as applicable, on: A. Hydrological Investigation (ground water): B. Geotechnical Investigation (rock characteristics): C. Beneficiation Studies D. Environmental Setting: details about local infrastructure, host population, historical sites, forests, sanctuaries, national parks and baseline information on environment setting of the area E. Other activities as may be relevant.	Whether it is mandatory to carry out the mentioned studies by the Explorer on their own or the explorer can get these studies done through some appointed Consultant (s) /Exploration Contractor (s), if the Explorer does not have the requisite in –house capabilities for undertaking such studies. Such studies are very specific and bases on the need the consultant could be employed for such assignment at the time of requirement. Under this circumstance, whether the Explorer can participate in the empanelment process independently or has to indicate the partnership for such services with others during the empanelment process itself and participate as Consortium.	As per EoI request clause 4, NEA to appoint exploration contractors for these activities.

18.	Pg. No. 18, Clause No. 5.1.3.2 Member of a Consortium shall not be permitted to participate in the empanelment process independently or as part of another Consortium:	Can the member of a Consortium or the Explorer himself can offer their services as Contractor to other Explorers.	The Explorer is not allowed to participate in the bidding process for contractors in the same project. However, an Empaneled Explorer can undertake work as contractor for a different project.
19.	Pg. No 19, clause No 5.8 Failure by an Empaneled Explorer to submit its bid for 2 (two) consecutive proposed Exploration Projects for which it is eligible during its Period of Empanelment, will entitle NMET to revoke such Empaneled Explorer's empanelment after giving it a reasonable opportunity of being heard.	Does this mean if the Explorer is empaneled under sub group E 2: Metallic Minerals (Iron ore, Manganese, Bauxite) for only in Iron ore and if he fails to submit his bid for proposed exploration Projects in Bauxite for two consecutive terms, whether he shall be revoked for that commodity or for the entire sub group E 2?	As per clause 5.8 of EoI request.
20.	Pg.No.19, Clause No. 5.8, Failure by an Empaneled Explorer to Submit its bid for 2 (two) consecutive Proposed Exploration Projects for which it is eligible during its Period of Empanelment, will entitle NMET to revoke such Empaneled Explorer's empanelment after giving it a reasonable opportunity of being heard.	This is like forcing companies for bidding projects which they were not interested. It is suggested to remove such clause	As per clause 5.8 of EoI Request.

21.	Pg. No. 22, Clause No. 10.2.2, Pt. No. iii Work Order detailing the scope of work of an exploration project pertaining to below mentioned activities.	This question is in the context where the Explorer has played the role for their own Company's Exploration Project. If the Work Orders are not available for some exploration activities for any past/ very old exploration project and where some of the activities have been carried out by the Explorer on their own- What could be the other supportive documents, which may be furnished for such cases?	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
22.	Pg. No. 22, Clause No. 10.2.2, Pt. no. iii Work Order detailing the scope of work of an exploration project pertaining to below mentioned activities: • Geological mapping ; • Topographical Survey • Geophysical Survey: • Geochemical Survey • Drilling & Geological core logging • Geophysical logging • Sampling and sample analysis • Process Technology Testing (beneficiation studies) • 2D and 3 D modeling • Resource estimation report	The Studies listed out are generic and is not applicable for all mineral commodities. For example- In Iron ore exploration particularly in Hematite, no Geophysical technique is directly useful in detection of anomalies' consequently the need for Geophysical logging in drilling does not arise. Hence, marks under this sub section for Iron ore are Zero. However these techniques are applicable in Magnetite type of deposit. Hence, while giving marks for Iron ore, the distinction of marking has to be made between Magnetite and Hematite type for deposit accordingly. The Explorer should be asked to be very specific in iron ore.	Evaluation to be done as per EoI submitted by Interested Explorers.

23.	Pg. No. 22, Clause No. 10.2.2, Pt. No. iv Completion Certificate from the client certifying the completion of the exploration project by the Interested Explorer as per the Work Order mentioned in sub clause (iii) above.	Where the Projects completed by the Explorer are Company's own exploration project and not for any external Client, in such cases, the Completion Certificate from the Client would not be available What other supportive document evidencing project experience could be provided in lieu of this?	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
24.	Pg. No.23 Clause No. 10.2.2 (iii) & (iv) Documents to be submitted by the explorer towards technical qualifications	As discussed in the pre-empanelment meeting it is suggested to add "Mineral Category wise Best Projects" can be either from Company side or from the key individuals who are working in the company and headed such mineral exploration projects in the past. Self-Certification will be accepted but complete project details has to be provided for verification in case of enquiry" in the EOI request	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
25.	Pg.No.23, Clause No. 10.2.3 Documents to be submitted by the Interested Explorer in the EOI for financial qualification	In Consortium bidding whether these document are to be submitted by all members or only the member who is providing the financial qualification and not necessarily the Lead Member	The financial qualification of one of the members of the Consortium can be submitted.
26.	Pg.No.23, Clause No. 10.2.2	In order to project the experience of officers who have worked in departments like GSI/State DMG's/ Corporations there may not be any work order. Their experience by way of self-certification and synopsis of work done in various exploration Projects listed therein may be considered for this purpose. It is not possible to get any certification from the departments for such experienced Geologists.	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
27.	Pg.No.27, Clause No. 17.1.1	It is construed that the turnover of interested explorer in any fields of business shall be considered.	As per clause 17 of the Eoi Request.

28.	Pg.No.27 Clause No. 17.1.1 The financial criteria at Sr. No. 17.1.1 is minimum average gross annual turnover of INR 1,00,00,000 (Rupees One Crore only) for 2 financial years.	The Net Worth of our Company is about 3 crores. Whether a Company incorporated under Company Act. 1956, conform consortiums with a proprietary firm Registered in Income Tax.	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
29.	Pg. No.28, Clause No. 17.2.3 Completion Certificate from the client certifying the completion of the exploration project by the Interested Explorer as per the Work Order mentioned in sub clause (iii) above.	Under a given mineral category say Metallic Minerals, Whether documents of 2 (two) Projects to be provided for each individual mineral i.e., 2 Projects for Iron, 2 Projects for Manganese and 2 Projects for Bauxite separately or total 2 (two) Projects from any of these minerals under the mineral category can be cited in support of project experience, that may be either 1 project for Iron & 1 Project for Manganese or 2 Projects for Iron or 2 Projects for Manganese or 1 project for Manganese & 1 Project for Bauxite ... Like that.	Two projects per category as per EoI Request clause 17.2.3.
30.	Pg.No. 28, Clause No.17.2.3	If one of the Partners of the Company is having long experience of all the ten themes in one of the projects he worked for/ led before forming the Consulting company, will it be accepted as one of the projects for evaluation of the agency's project experience?	As per EoI Request clause 18.2.3 and 18.3.6
31.	Pg.No.28, Clause No. 17.1.4 Financial qualification	Whether an Indian Venture Capitalist or any established company in existence over 2 years and fulfilling all the criteria of turnover and net worth can be included in consortium as one of the member and his financial qualification can be considered as a part of bidder's qualification subject to that the Venture Capitalist/The Company takes 50% financial responsibility of project for which the Consortium/Lead member is awarded with one or more than exploration project.	As per EoI Request.
32.	Pg.No.28 Clause 17.2.2	Whether the experience of employees & associates will be considered as experience of the company.	As per clause 18.3.6 of the EoI Request.

33.	Pg. No.28 Clause 17.2.3	Ten activities have been listed for evaluation of the past experience. The interested Explorers are asked to provide documents of the 2 Projects only to cover all 10 activities. It is quite likely that all the listed activities may not be covered in 2 Projects. Hence more than 2 Projects may be allowed. However each activity to be considered only for 1 Project.	Maximum two projects per category as per EoI Request.
34.	Pg.No.30, Clause No. 18.3.6 For the purpose of meeting the technical criteria, projects executed by the Lead Members of the Consortium or projects of key employees (one who has led an exploration project) of the Interested Explorer (Lead Member in case of Consortiums) as presented at the time of submission of EOI may be considered. Appropriate Documentary evidence in this regard needs to be provided while submitting the EOI.	We are assuming that for the purpose of technical criteria of project executed by Bidder/ Lead bidder in consortium or member in consortium, the reference project that has been executed by an individual team member as key lead explore (individual persons attached with the bidder as an employee, partner, consultant or associates) will also be acceptable. We further consider that in case the past project competed by team members while working in GSI, the said project references, viz. Field season/ Interim/Final Report details of GSI, will be acceptable as the documentary evidence for the said technical qualification	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
35.	Pg. No.30 Clause 18.3.2	During RP i.e.G-4 stage hardly any party would have carried out all the listed 10 activities. It is not clear why higher weightage has been given to RP as per this clause. This Clause need to be looked into. Further PL work (Preliminary to detailed exploration i.e. G3-G1 Stage) has been given weightage of 1.5 but projects of general detailed exploration have been given weightage of 1 which is contradictory. This point to be reframed to “general exploration” rather than “general detailed exploration”.	As per EoI Request and Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.

36.	Pg. No 41, Annexure 3 We, do hereby confirm that Mr. (Name (s), position held and address) is/are authorized to represent us fully and finally in connection with the EOI Request for the purpose of empanelment of Empaneled Explorers for providing Exploration Services in relation to Proposed Exploration Projects inter alia to sign and submit the EOI and all related documents and provide information/response to the NMET, represent us in all matters before NMET, use digital signature on our behalf and generally deal with NMET in all matters in connection with our EOI.	The empanelment is for 5 years. There is a possibility that the person authorized initially by the company due to various reasons is transferred / retired/ leaves the company, under these circumstances, whether bases on the authorization of Power of attorney of the company, the replacement of persons will be acceptable to NMET for the continuation of activity?	Empanelment will be for an entity. Person authorized by the empaneled explorer would be acceptable on submission of duly executed Power of Attorney.
37.	Pg. No. 51, Annexure 7 Schedule of Present Commitment and Past Experience	If a Private Company has played the role of Explorer by engaging Contractors for some of the exploration activities like Survey, Drilling, Analysis etc. in their own exploration project within their granted mineral block/ concession area –How to represent such cases for the points against Column No. 2, 3, & 6?	Annexure to be filled as per Eoi Request.

	General queries	Query	Response
38.		Clarification on the issue of Conflict of Interest and participation of Explorer in subsequent Auction of Mineral Concession was sought on 15 th and 21 st November meeting on Contractual Frame work for Exploration, however there is no official response on this issue. For Tata Steel, the active participation as on date is only for four minerals Commodity viz, Iron, Manganese, Chromite and Coal in view of our strength in	This issue is being actively considered and a final view will be taken before allotment of exploration blocks to the Explorer by the NEA.

		understanding the value chain of these commodities and value addition of the commodity, hence participating in the role of Explorer is not only to showcase our capability to discover, but also to actively participate when the block is put up for auction. Hence clarification is required to give comfort to our Management that participation in the role of Explorer should not debar us later to participate in the auctioning process.	
39.		Whether there is exit clause for the empaneled explorer to come out in between (i.e., any time within the empanelment period) from list of empaneled explorer.	There is no Exit Clause as per EOI request.
40.		The Pre Empanelment meeting was held on 11.01.2017 and the last date for response by NMET to the queries is 23.01.2017, the time remaining till the deadline of submission of EOI on 30.01.2017 may be insufficient to prepare the EOI as per the guidelines provided. It is requested that an extension of at least 15 days for submission of EOI be given.	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 23.01.2017
41.		Absence of information about explorer bidding eligibility to the block he explored in the EOI request It is a key component and requested to add explorer eligibility for bidding in case of discovery	This issue is being actively considered and a final view will be taken before allotment of exploration blocks to the Explorer by the NEA.
42.		Whether this type of EOI is repetitive & if repeated then when & at what interval?	As per EOI Request.
43.		Empaneled Exploration will have the right of participating in Auction of Mineral Concession of the same area or not? Over which he has done himself the supervision of Exploration work as an Explorer.	This issue is being actively considered and a final view will be taken before allotment of exploration blocks to the Explorer by the NEA.
44.		Empaneled Explorer can perform the different exploration like Drilling etc. If yes, then at what rate he will reimburse the expenses. What is the criterion?	The Explorer is not allowed to participate in the bidding process for contractors in the same project. However, an Empaneled Explorer can undertake work as contractor for a different project.

45.		We are a sole proprietorship firms. Are we eligible to participate for Empanelment of Entities for Providing Exploration Services for proposed Exploration Projects in India. If we are eligible which annexures we have to submit to participate. (If any revised annexure to be submitted)	Kindly refer to Corrigendum dated 03.02.2017.
46.		Please clarify if Annexure 2, Annexure 3, Annexure 6, Annexure 7, Annexure 8 and audited Financials shall have to be submitted in one copy only and the supporting documents for each mineral category shall be separate for each mineral group. The supporting documents shall include Final reports of RP or PL, as the case may be, for each mineral category and executed RP deed and PL deed and ML deed. The above original set in one envelope + four copies of this in separate envelope are to be submitted in a single envelope.	As per clause 10 and 12 of EoI Request.