

**SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**  
New Delhi

Ref. No. SECI/C&P/IPP/15/0015/25-26/Clarifications-01

Date: 23/01/2026

**Clarifications to the queries on the RfS for setting up of Projects of 125 MW/ 500 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems in Odisha under Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding with Viability Gap Funding supported through PSDF  
(RfS No. SECI/C&P/IPP/15/0015/25-26 dated 18.12.2025)**

S. No.	Documents	Clause No.	Existing Clause	Proposed Modifications	Rationale/Remarks	SECI's response																																									
1	RfS	4.4	<p>Project Configuration: The Projects shall be set up inside the identified Substations, as per the distribution matrix as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sl. No.</th> <th>Cluster Number</th> <th>Project ID</th> <th>Name of the Grid Sub-Station/Project</th> <th>Connectivity</th> <th>BESS Capacity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Cluster-1</td> <td>Project-1</td> <td>132/33 kV GSS Pipli</td> <td>Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays</td> <td>20 MW/80 MWh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>Project-2</td> <td>220/132/33 kV GSS New Bolangir</td> <td>Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays</td> <td>20 MW/80 MW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Cluster-2</td> <td>Project-3</td> <td>132/33 kV GSS Jharsuti</td> <td>Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays</td> <td>20 MW/80 MWh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td>Project-4</td> <td>132/33 kV GSS Basta</td> <td>Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays</td> <td>20 MW/80 MW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Cluster-3</td> <td>Project-5</td> <td>220/132/33 kV GSS Narendrapur</td> <td>Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays</td> <td>25 MW/100 MWh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> <td>Project-6</td> <td>132/33 kV GSS Temul Khunti</td> <td>Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays</td> <td>20 MW/80 MWh</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sl. No.	Cluster Number	Project ID	Name of the Grid Sub-Station/Project	Connectivity	BESS Capacity	1	Cluster-1	Project-1	132/33 kV GSS Pipli	Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays	20 MW/80 MWh	2		Project-2	220/132/33 kV GSS New Bolangir	Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays	20 MW/80 MW	3	Cluster-2	Project-3	132/33 kV GSS Jharsuti	Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays	20 MW/80 MWh	4		Project-4	132/33 kV GSS Basta	Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays	20 MW/80 MW	5	Cluster-3	Project-5	220/132/33 kV GSS Narendrapur	Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays	25 MW/100 MWh	6		Project-6	132/33 kV GSS Temul Khunti	Space available for 2 nos. of 33 kV Bays	20 MW/80 MWh	<p>As per Tender document, it is Mentioned that two Bays are Available at the identified Locations. However the required Power delivery at a single location is 20MW and 25MW, Which can technically be evacuated through a single Bay. In this regard, Kindly Clarify whether:</p> <p>1. Utilization of both available bays is Mandatory. 2. Single Bay can be utilized provided the complete 20MW or 25MW Power is delivered in compliance with the technical and grid requirements specified in the tender</p>	<p>The Project shall include construction of two (2) nos. of 33 kV Bays. The provision for construction of 2 nos of Bays has been mandated for each Project, keeping in view of the n-1 contingency. The Operational engagement of both the bays shall be as per real time necessity.</p>
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2	RfS	18	EMD General Query	Please Clarify whether the EMD is required to be submitted separately for each project/Location, or Whether EMD can be clubbed for Multiple Projects/capacities bid by the same bidder under this Tender.		EMD may be submitted either separately for each Project/Location or as a consolidated (clubbed) EMD for multiple Projects/capacities bid by the same bidder under this Tender.																																									
3	RfS	6.2	<p>“.....If the land area provided proves to be inadequate for the Project, the BESSD shall be responsible for acquiring additional land required, until commissioning of the first part capacity of the Project. For avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that there is no merchant capacity allowed to be set up with Projects to be set up under this RfS.”</p>	<p>i. Kindly clarify the meaning and scope of the term “first part capacity of the Project” as used in the tender document. ii. The timelines stipulated in the tender document are highly stringent. It is submitted that in the event the land available within the selected grid substation is inadequate for commissioning the contracted BESS capacity, the project timelines may be adversely affected, as acquisition of additional land is a time-consuming process. Further, any delay in land acquisition may result in non-achievement of commissioning milestones, thereby jeopardizing the availability of VGF benefits to the GRIDCO/ BESSD. In this regard, it is requested to clarify whether, in case of inadequacy of land within the grid substation: • GRIDCO shall be responsible for facilitating acquisition of additional land; or • The contracted commissioning capacity shall be allowed to be proportionately reduced without any adverse consequences to the BESSD.</p>	<p>The Clause has been suitably amended. Kindly refer amendments. As mentioned in the RfS, bidders are required to visit the concerned Grid Substations for assessment of feasibility of the proposed BESS capacity in the available land area in the respective GSS.</p>																																										
4	RfS	12.5	<p>“GRIDCO shall disburse the tranche wise VGF to BESSD only after receipt of the same from the Govt. of India and Submission of BG by BESSD as per Clause 12.6.”</p>	<p>i. It is submitted that development of a BESS project entails significant upfront capital expenditure. Any delay in receipt of eligible VGF amounts would adversely impact the project cash flows and financial viability. Further, as GRIDCO shall be coordinating with CEA and/or other central agencies for disbursement of VGF, it is suggested that GRIDCO may consider to disburse the applicable VGF amounts directly to the BESSD upon achievement of prescribed milestones, in accordance with the VGF disbursement schedule pending receipt of the VGF amount from the central authorities. Subsequently, GRIDCO may seek reimbursement of the aforesaid VGF amount from the concerned central agencies. ii. The VGF amount specified in the tender document is a critical input for determination of the financial bid. Any downward revision of the VGF at a later stage would materially impact the financial assumptions of the BESSD. In view of the above, and to encourage wider participation, it is requested that GRIDCO shall guarantee the VGF amount of Rs. 18,00,000/- per MWh to the BESSD, irrespective of any subsequent downward revision by the central authorities.</p>	<p>The disbursement of VGF shall be strictly in accordance to the "Guidelines for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) supported through Power System Development Fund (PSDF)" dated 09.06.2025, including subsequent amendments and clarifications thereof. VGF Scheme Guidelines, including its amendments, are enclosed as Annexure-I.</p>																																										
5	RfS	12.6	<p>BESS Developer is required to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG) or Insurance Surety Bond (ISB) to GRIDCO of value equal to the VGF to be disbursed, prior to its release to BESSD by GRIDCO (i.e. BG/ISB shall be submitted in three parts as per the disbursement of VGF amount). This BG shall be liable for encashment to recover the VGF amount in the event of non-fulfilment of scheme conditions specified in the RfS and BESPA documents. The BG/ISB for the VGF sanctioned up to COD will be released 01 year subsequent to the Commercial Operational Date (COD), after taking into account recovery of VGF, if any.</p>	<p>i. Kindly clarify whether three or two separate Bank Guarantees are required to be submitted by the BESSD corresponding to the stages of VGF disbursement, as per the VGF disbursement schedule outlined in the tender document.</p>	<p>Clause has been suitably modified. Kindly refer amendments.</p>																																										

			Further, no BG/ISB is required against the disbursement of the last tranche of VGF post completion of one year of operation, after taking into account recovery of VGF, if any. It is clarified that; this BG is in addition to the Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) provided by the BESSD as per Clause 19 of this RfS.		
6	RfS	17	<p>The BESSDs are required to obtain all necessary clearances and permits as required for setting up the Projects, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No Objection (NOC)/Environmental clearance (if applicable) for the Project.</li> <li>b. Forest Clearance (if applicable) for the land for the Project.</li> <li>c. Approval for water from the concerned authority (if applicable) required for the Project.</li> <li>d. Any other clearances as may be legally required, in order to establish and operate the Project.</li> </ul> <p>The above clearances, as applicable for the Project, will be required to be submitted to GRIDCO prior to commissioning of the Project, if sought by GRIDCO. In case of any of the clearances as indicated above being not applicable for the said Project, the BESSD shall submit an undertaking in this regard, and it shall be deemed that the BESSD has obtained/applied for all the necessary clearances for establishing and operating the Project.</p>	<p>i. As the BESS project is required to be developed within the switchyard premises of OPTCL, it is presumed that all requisite statutory clearances, including Environmental Clearance, Forest Clearance and other related approvals, are available with OPTCL. The same may be shared with the BESSD.</p>	<p>The bidders are requested to visit the Grid Substations prior to bid submission to acquaint themselves with the site conditions.</p>
7	RfS	17	<p>The BESSD shall be required to follow the applicable rules regarding project registration with the State Nodal Agency in line with the provisions of the applicable policies/regulations of the State where the Projects are being located. It shall be the responsibility of the BESSD to remain updated about the applicable charges payable to the SNA under the applicable State policies.</p>	<p>i. Kindly provide the details of the State Nodal Agency referred to in the relevant clause of the tender document. Further, it is requested to clarify the presently applicable charges payable to the State Nodal Agency and the specific head(s) under which such charges are to be deposited.</p>	<p>GRIDCO is designated as Renewable Energy Nodal Agency for implementation of the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy 2022. The present facilitation charges are payable by developers is Rs.1,00,000 excluding GST. The developer will be entitled for the applicable incentives as per the OREP 2022. The account details for depositing the facilitation fee through "Green invest Odisha" portal will be communicated at the time of issue of LoA.</p>
8	RfS	8.1(iii)	<p>The BESSD shall take separate, metered connection for the Auxiliary Power load of BESS. OR The BESSD can draw auxiliary power from Interconnection Point. In both the cases, separate meter would be arranged by the BESSD to measure Auxiliary consumption as per the OERC regulation and that would be billed by DISCOM.</p>	<p>i. It may kindly be clarified that the cost of auxiliary power shall only be applicable during the hours other than the charging and discharging hours. Further, it is suggested that the cost of the auxiliary power may be borne by GRIDCO as being done in case of other power generating stations. The reason being that the BESSD shall ultimately build-in the cost of auxiliary power in its financial bid. Therefore, to discover attractive rates it is submitted that a mechanism may be put in place so that the cost of auxiliary power is borne by GRIDCO.</p>	<p>The Auxiliary supply shall be taken through a separate metering arrangement from the concerned DISCOMs. All cost towards the said connection and consumption shall be borne by the BESSD.</p>
9				<p>Please clarify the number of cycles considered for charging and discharging, i.e., whether it is 1 cycle or 2 cycles.</p>	<p>The BESSD shall make the BESS available for minimum 1 operational cycle per day, i.e. 1 complete charge-discharge cycle per day, and maximum 2 operational cycles per day, subject to 420 Operational Cycles in a contract Year. GRIDCO/SLDC, at its discretion, may utilise the BESS for 2 Operational cycles per day subject to the maximum of 420 Operational Cycles in a Contract Year</p>
10				<p>Please clarify: the Land Rent sheet shows rent on a per annum basis, whereas the RFP mentioned Rs. 1 per MW.</p>	<p>Land area to be provided on Right-to-Use basis, at a rent of INR 1 per project for entire tenure of the project. However, the BESSD shall pay the Land rent, cess and other applicable charges (statutory charges) towards the allotted land, the present rent, cess, other charges have already been annexed to the Tender Documents.</p>
11				<p>Please specify the number of days for which testing is to be done for this tender along with per unit rate of power to be used for the testing.</p>	<p>Kindly refer amendments to Clause 25 of the RfS.</p>
12				<p>Please specify What will be the cost of auxiliary power per unit?</p>	<p>Refer to the RST order for the respective DISCOMs, the current year RST order is available on OERC website for reference.</p>
13				<p>Please provide us What will be the rate per/KVARH for calculating reactive power charges.</p>	<p>During normal operation of the BESS, unity power factor operation is desirable. However, BESS shall have the provision to operate within a power factor range of 0.95 lagging to 0.95 leading, as per the instructions of the SLDC during exceptional circumstances in the interest of system security and reliability.</p>

14	RfS	8.1 , c	The BESSD shall make the BESS available for minimum 1 operational cycle per day, i.e. 1 complete charge-discharge cycle per day, and maximum 2 operational cycles per day, subject to 420 Operational Cycles in a contract Year. GRIDCO/SLDC, at its discretion, may utilise the BESS for 2 Operational cycles per day subject to the maximum of 420 Operational Cycles in a Contract Year	Define BESS minimum life, cycle requirement, end-of-life capacity and augmentation rules.		The BESS shall be made available for 420 operational cycles in a contract year.
15	RfS	8.1 , c, iii	The BESSD shall take separate, metered connection for the Auxiliary Power load of BESS.	Clarify auxiliary supply voltage, tariff category, and surcharge applicability which would be charged to BESSD?		HT category consumer in the RST order for the respective DISCOMs, the current year RST order is available on OERC website for reference
16	RfS	8.1 , c, ix	It shall be the responsibility of the BESSD to make periodic replacements/replenishments of system capacities (to ensure annual guaranteed system ratings), if and when required, up to the Term of the Contract. Outage time as a result of replacement will also be counted as an "Accountable BESS Outage" for the purpose of computing BESS Availability.	Will partial augmentation of cells/modules be allowed during the overall BESPA		The BESSD shall arrange for any augmentation of the Battery capacity to meet the capacity criteria mentioned at the time of SCD (i.e. dispatchable capacity as on SCD shall be 100% of the Contracted Capacity) and to maintain the capacity at the end of every year as indicated in Clause 8.1.c. iv. of the RfS.
17	RfS	14	Cost of RfS Document & Bid Processing Fees: Amount: INR 20,000/MW + applicable GST corresponding to the quoted capacity, subject to a maximum amount of INR 15,00,000 + applicable GST for the response to RfS.	Since GST is applicable, we will require a GST-compliant invoice to meet statutory requirements and to enable GST input tax credit (ITC) claims. Kindly suggest how we will get the same?		Invoices for Cost of RfS document and Bid Processing Fees will be shared subsequent to bid opening.
18			General Query	Please provide credit rating certificate of GRIDCO		Credit Rating of GRIDCO is enclosed as Annexure-II for reference.
19			General Query	Specify SCADA/SLDC real-time refresh interval in seconds and required protocols.		Specifications as per IEC 104 Protocol. SCADA/SLDC real-time refresh interval rate is minimum 2 second.
20			General Query	Request usable land map, topo survey, contour, soil report; identify non-developable areas.		The sketch map of the identified spare land inside the area has already been provided. The Bidders are requested to visit the Grid Substations prior to bid submission deadline and ascertain feasibility of the BESS Project. Further, the topo survey, contour, soil investigation, etc., wherever required, shall be conducted by the BESSD at their own cost.
21	RfS	6.2	“.....If the land area provided proves to be inadequate for the Project, the BESSD shall be responsible for acquiring additional land required, until commissioning of the first part capacity of the Project. For avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that there is no merchant capacity allowed to be set up with Projects to be set up under this RfS.”	i.Kindly clarify the meaning and scope of the term “first part capacity of the Project” as used in the tender document. ii.The timelines stipulated in the tender document are highly stringent. It is submitted that if the land available within the selected grid substation is inadequate for commissioning the contracted BESS capacity, the project timelines may be adversely affected, as acquisition of additional land is a time-consuming process. Further, any delay in land acquisition may result in non-achievement of commissioning milestones, thereby jeopardizing the availability of VGF benefits to the GRIDCO/ BESSD. In this regard, it is requested to clarify whether, in case of inadequacy of land within the grid substation: •GRIDCO shall be responsible for facilitating acquisition of additional land; or •The contracted commissioning capacity shall be allowed to be proportionately reduced without any adverse consequences to the BESSD.		Clause has been suitably modified. Kindly refer amendments. The bidders are requested to visit the Grid Substations prior to bid submission for assessment of feasibility of the proposed BESS capacity in the available land area in the respective GSS.
22	RfS	12.5	“GRIDCO shall disburse the tranche wise VGF to BESSD only after receipt of the same from the Govt. of India and Submission of BG by BESSD as per Clause 12.6.”	i.It is submitted that development of a BESS project entails significant upfront capital expenditure. Any delay in receipt of eligible VGF amounts would adversely impact the project cash flows and financial viability. Further, as GRIDCO shall be coordinating with CEA and/or other central agencies for disbursement of VGF, it is suggested that GRIDCO may consider to disburse the applicable VGF amounts directly to the BESSD upon achievement of prescribed milestones, in accordance with the VGF disbursement schedule pending receipt of the VGF amount from the central authorities. Subsequently, GRIDCO may seek reimbursement of the aforesaid VGF amount from the concerned central agencies. ii.The VGF amount specified in the tender document is a critical input for determination of the financial bid. Any downward revision of the VGF at a later stage would materially impact the financial assumptions of the BESSD. In view of the above, and to encourage wider participation, it is requested that GRIDCO shall guarantee the VGF amount of Rs. 18,00,000/- per MWh to the BESSD, irrespective of any subsequent downward revision by the central authorities.		The disbursement of VGF is strictly in accordance to the "Guidelines for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) supported through Power System Development Fund (PSDF)" dated 09.06.2025, including subsequent amendments and clarifications thereof. VGF Scheme Guidelines, including its amendments, are enclosed as Annexure-I.

23	RfS	12.6	<p>BESS Developer is required to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG) or Insurance Surety Bond (ISB) to GRIDCO of value equal to the VGF to be disbursed, prior to its release to BESSD by GRIDCO (i.e. BG/ISB shall be submitted in three parts as per the disbursement of VGF amount). This BG shall be liable for encashment to recover the VGF amount in the event of non-fulfilment of scheme conditions specified in the RfS and BESPA documents. The BG/ISB for the VGF sanctioned up to COD will be released 01 year subsequent to the Commercial Operational Date (COD), after taking into account recovery of VGF, if any.</p> <p>Further, no BG/ISB is required against the disbursement of the last tranche of VGF post completion of one year of operation, after taking into account recovery of VGF, if any. It is clarified that; this BG is in addition to the Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) provided by the BESSD as per Clause 19 of this RfS.</p>	<p>i. Kindly clarify whether three or two separate Bank Guarantees are required to be submitted by the BESSD corresponding to the stages of VGF disbursement, as per the VGF disbursement schedule outlined in the tender document.</p>	<p>Two separate Bank Guarantees are required to be submitted by the BESSD corresponding to the stages of VGF disbursement, as per the VGF disbursement schedule outlined in the tender document. Clause has been suitably modified. Kindly refer amendments.</p>
24	RfS	17	<p>The BESSDs are required to obtain all necessary clearances and permits as required for setting up the Projects, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. No Objection (NOC)/Environmental clearance (if applicable) for the Project.</li> <li>b. Forest Clearance (if applicable) for the land for the Project.</li> <li>c. Approval for water from the concerned authority (if applicable) required for the Project.</li> <li>d. Any other clearances as may be legally required, in order to establish and operate the Project.</li> </ul> <p>The above clearances, as applicable for the Project, will be required to be submitted to GRIDCO prior to commissioning of the Project, if sought by GRIDCO. In case of any of the clearances as indicated above being not applicable for the said Project, the BESSD shall submit an undertaking in this regard, and it shall be deemed that the BESSD has obtained/applied for all the necessary clearances for establishing and operating the Project.</p>	<p>i. As the BESS project is required to be developed within the switchyard premises of OPTCL, it is presumed that all requisite statutory clearances, including Environmental Clearance, Forest Clearance and other related approvals, are available with OPTCL. The same may be shared with the BESSD.</p>	<p>The bidders are requested to visit the Grid Substations prior to bid submission for assessment of feasibility of the proposed BESS capacity.</p>
25	RfS	17	<p>The BESS shall be required to follow the applicable rules regarding project registration with the State Nodal Agency in line with the provisions of the applicable policies/regulations of the State where the Projects are being located. It shall be the responsibility of the BESSD to remain updated about the applicable charges payable to the SNA under the applicable State policies.</p>	<p>i. Kindly provide the details of the State Nodal Agency referred to in the relevant clause of the tender document. Further, it is requested to clarify the presently applicable charges payable to the State Nodal Agency and the specific head(s) under which such charges are to be deposited.</p>	<p>GRIDCO is designated as Renewable Energy Nodal Agency for implementation of the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy 2022. The present facilitation charges are payable by developers is Rs.1.00,000 excluding GST. The developer will be entitled for the applicable incentives as per the OREP 2022. The account details for depositing the facilitation fee through "Green invest Odisha" portal will be communicated at the time of issue of LoA.</p>
26	RfS	8.1(iii)	<p>The BESSD shall take separate, metered connection for the Auxiliary Power load of BESS. OR The BESSD can draw auxiliary power from Interconnection Point. In both the cases, separate meter would be arranged by the BESSD to measure Auxiliary consumption as per the OERC regulation and that would be billed by DISCOM.</p>	<p>i. It may kindly be clarified that the cost of auxiliary power shall only be applicable during the hours other than the charging and discharging hours. Further, it is suggested that the cost of the auxiliary power may be borne by GRIDCO as being done in case of other power generating stations. The reason being that the BESSD shall ultimately build-in the cost of auxiliary power in its financial bid. Therefore, to discover attractive rates it is submitted that a mechanism may be put in place so that the cost of auxiliary power is borne by GRIDCO.</p>	<p>The Auxiliary supply shall be taken through a separate metering arrangement from the concerned DISCOMs. All cost towards the said connection and consumption shall be borne by the BESSD.</p>
27	RfS	Clause 3.3 & 8.1.a.	Grid Charging Loss Accounting	Please confirm whether charging energy losses beyond guaranteed RtE are fully recoverable through tariff or penalized separately.	As per Clause 8 (Performance Criteria of the Project) of the RfS. An illustration in this regard has been provided in Annexure-D of the RfS.
28	RfS	Clause 3.2 & 7.3.	33 kV Bay Construction Responsibility	Please confirm whether protection relays, CT/PT, meters, SCADA IEDs inside 33 kV bay are fully under BESSD scope.	Yes.
29	RfS		UG Cable Route & ROW	Please clarify whether ROW inside substation premises is pre-approved or additional approvals are required from OPTCL.	No ROW issues as such inside the Sub-station. However, the Bidders are requested to visit the Grid Substations prior to the bid submission deadline and get clarified accordingly.
30	RfS	Clause 7.9.	Reactive Power Operation	Please clarify reactive power operating range and whether mandatory VAR support is expected during idle state	<p>The desirable power factor during normal operation is unity power factor. During exceptional cases, the firm shall comply to operate the BESS at the power factor (any where between 0.95 lag to 0.95 lead) as instructed by the system operator (SLDC) in view of the power system security or reliability.</p> <p>During idle periods, the BESS shall have the provision to operate within a power factor range of 0.9 lagging to 0.9 leading, as per the instructions of the SLDC. Such operation shall be carried out without any additional cost being chargeable.</p>

31	RfS	Clause 8.1.c.	420 Cycle Limitation	Please clarify whether partial cycles are counted proportionally or as full cycles toward the 420 annual limit.		As per Clause 8 (Performance Criteria of the Project) of the RfS. An illustration in this regard has been provided in Annexure-D of the RfS.
32	RfS	Clause 8.1.c.ii.	Availability Computation	Please confirm if grid outage / SLDC non-scheduling periods are excluded from availability calculation.		As per Clause 8 (Performance Criteria of the Project) of the RfS.
33	RfS	Clause 8.1.c.ii.	Two Cycles Per Day Operation	In case SLDC schedules 2 cycles per day frequently, will additional degradation compensation be considered?		Scheduling 2 cycles per day is subject to maximum utilization of the BESS to the tune of 420 Cycles in a year.
34	RfS	Clause 6.2.	Land Handover Delay	Please confirm whether LD and performance timelines will be fully waived for delays attributable to land handover.		As per Clause 6.2 of the RfS.
35	RfS	Clause 3.7.	Fire Wall / Fire Safety Norms	Please specify applicable CEA / NFPA / TAC standards for fire barriers and whether third-party fire audit is mandatory.		Clause has been suitably modified. Kindly refer amendments.
36	RfS	Clause 3.8.	Decommissioning Responsibility	Please clarify whether battery disposal & recycling costs are fully BESSD responsibility and applicable regulatory framework.		Yes, all cost towards battery disposal and recycling, etc are in the scope of the BESSD.
37	RfS	Clause 7.5.	Energy Accounting Point	Please confirm whether all billing energy will be considered only at interconnection meter, irrespective of internal losses.		As per Article 7 of the BESPA.
38	RfS		SCADA Integration	Please confirm communication protocol (IEC-104 / IEC-61850) and whether OPTCL SCADA integration cost is under BESSD scope.		Communication Protocol shall be IEC - 104. All cost towards SCADA integration shall be borne by BESSD.
39	RfS	7.1	The BESSDs will be required to apply for connectivity at the identified substation of OPTCL within 30 days of LoAs, and shall furnish copies of the application as well as granted connectivity, to GRIDCO at the earliest.	We request that the requirement for submission of the connectivity application (post award of capacity) be linked to the signing of the BESPA rather than to the issuance of the LoA.		Tender conditions remains unchanged.
40	RfS	23.1	The Projects shall achieve Financial Closure within the date as on 6 months after the Effective Date of the BESPA.	We request that the timeline for achieving financial closure be extended to at least nine (9) months from the date of signing of the BESPA.		As per the MoP guidelines. VGF Scheme Guidelines, including its amendments, are enclosed as Annexure-I.
41	RfS	6	Project land details are enclosed at Annexure-E.	Kindly provide the distance between the project location and the interconnection point for each identified substation. Also note Annexure-E is missing in the RfS.		The sketch map of the identified spare land inside the area (Annexure-E) has already been provided. The Bidders are requested to visit the Grid Substations prior to the bid submission deadline and acquaint themselves with the site conditions.
42	RfS	3.2	The constructed Bay shall be handed over to OPTCL and OPTCL shall bear the cost of maintenance of the bays, for the complete Term of the BESPA.	Kindly clarify whether OPTCL shall charge any fee or amount to the bidder for maintenance of the constructed bay during the entire term of the BESPA.		As per Clause 3.2 of the RfS.
43	RfS	1.7	The bidders will be free to avail fiscal incentives like Accelerated Depreciation, Concessional Customs and Excise Duties, Tax holidays etc. available if any for such projects.	The fiscal incentives which are applicable for the subject project as on date of RfS floating should be clearly mentioned.	This will avoid ambiguity in understanding what will be available for the project and what might not.	Tender conditions remains unchanged.
44	RfS	12	12.6 BESS Developer is required to submit a Bank Guarantee (BG) or Insurance Surety Bond (ISB) to GRIDCO of value equal to the VGF to be disbursed, prior to its release to BESSD by GRIDCO (i.e. BG/ISB shall be submitted in three parts as per the disbursement of VGF amount). This BG shall be liable for encashment to recover the VGF amount in the event of non-fulfilment of scheme conditions specified in the RfS and BESPA documents. The BG/ISB for the VGF sanctioned up to COD will be released 01 year subsequent to the Commercial Operational Date (COD), after taking into account recovery of VGF, if any.	Please confirm the exact timeline and conditions under which the BG equivalent to the 30% VGF tranche (disbursed upon completion of the 1st year from COD) will be released to the BESSD: 1. Is the BG released immediately upon verification of the 1st-year milestone? 2. What documentation or performance reports are required to trigger the release of this BG? 3. If verification is delayed due to GRIDCO, will the BG validity period be extended without additional cost to the BESSD?	Avoids overexposure by matching BG to outstanding VGF. For better clarity and risk assessment.	The disbursement of VGF is strictly in accordance to the "Guidelines for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) supported through Power System Development Fund (PSDF)" and subsequent amendments. VGF Scheme Guidelines, including its amendments, are enclosed as Annexure-I.
45	RfS	7.2	The responsibility of getting connectivity with the transmission system of the STU shall entirely be of the BESSD and shall be at the cost of the BESSD, in line with applicable regulations. With such availability of transmission system being dynamic in nature, the Bidder has to ensure actual availability of power injection/evacuation capacity at STU substation. The transmission of power up to the point of interconnection where metering is done for energy accounting, shall be the responsibility of the BESSD at its own cost. The maintenance of Transmission system excluding the 33 kV Bays up to the interconnection point shall be responsibility of the BESSD, to be undertaken entirely at its risk and cost.	Kindly specify the Regulatory Commissions connectivity rules and regulations which needs to be followed by the BESSD and what will be the connectivity charges.	Clarifies full scope of grid approvals to avoid disputes.	The SoP for Transmission Connectivity of RE Project vide Order No.-98/CMD, Dated 21.08.2024 is enclosed as Annexure-III for reference.
46	RfS	8.1.c.ii	"Availability" of the Project shall mean the ability of the BESS to execute a function i.e. charging or discharging, when called upon to do so, as per the schedule or signal provided by the off-taker, subject to the minimum system ratings specified herein.	Please clarify the details of the schedule/signal, how will it be given, what will be the time period to decide on the schedule?	To clearly understand the working of the availability.	An illustration in this regard has been provided at Annexure D of the RfS.

47	RfS	8.1.c.iii.a	<p>(a)For Rte &lt;70%, there shall be a liquidated damage @ 1.5 times the APPC tariff, levied upon the excess conversion losses, considering system Rte = 85% and tariff payment for the corresponding month shall not be made to the BESSD;</p> <p>1.It is understood that APPPC is Average Power Purchase Cost of Odisha. Kindly confirm.</p> <p>2.Kindly provide the applicable escalation rate of the Average Power Purchase Cost (APPC) of Odisha Discoms for the duration of the BESPA agreement.</p> <p>3.In case of any substantial variation in APPC during the tenure of the agreement, the same should be considered under the ambit of "Change in Law," and BESSD should be allowed to recover additional capacity charges as such changes may significantly impact the financial viability of the project, particularly in scenarios where the system Rte falls below 85%.</p>	For better clarity in risk assessment and bid preparation.	Tender conditions remains unchanged.
48	RfS	22.4	<p>The BESPA shall be valid for a period of 15 years from the SCD of the Project or the date of full commissioning of the Project, whichever is later. Any extension of the BESPA period beyond the term of the BESPA shall be through mutual agreement between the BESSD and GRIDCO. .</p> <p>The details of various performance parameters (e.g. availability, Rte etc.) must be specified that if remain within the range, the BESPA will be extended.</p> <p>Please specify the period for which BESPA will be extended.</p> <p>The tariff for the extended period should remain the same provided the performance parameters are met.</p> <p>As bidders may interpret the extension clause differently, leading to non-uniform tariff assumptions, we request GRIDCO to clearly specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The percentage of battery cycles that are expected to be utilized during the initial 15-year BESPA period.</li> <li>•The standard assumption for the number of unutilized cycles that may be considered for the extension period.</li> <li>•The maximum duration (in years) for which the BESPA may be extended based on these unutilized cycles.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure a level playing field, we request GRIDCO to provide a uniform methodology or assumption model that all bidders must follow while estimating the impact of the extension period on their tariff.</p>	For better clarity in risk assessment and bid preparation.	The Extension will be mutually agreed by the BESSD and GRIDCO.
49	RfS	46.44	<p>It is clarified that BESS charged using a source other than RE power would not qualify as RE power.</p> <p>How will it be determined if the BESS is charged using RE or non- RE sources.</p> <p>What are the implications of the if BESS is charged using other than RE power sources?</p> <p>The Capacity charges recoverable by BESSD should be unaffected by the proposal and charging to be done by the utility.</p>	For better clarity in risk assessment and bid preparation.	Capacity charges shall remain unaffected irrespective of the BESS being charged through RE or non-RE sources.
50	RfS	Annexure-A Clause 8.(a)	<p>The BESSD must install necessary equipment to continuously measure BESS operating parameters (including but not limited to voltage, current, ambient conditions etc.) as well as energy input into and energy output from the BESS along with Metering arrangement in accordance with extant regulations. They will be required to submit this data to SECI on line and/or through a report on regular basis every month for the entire duration of contract.</p> <p>The term continuously measure is vague and unclear. Please clarify the time interval that will be needed when the operating parameters are to be fetched and shared. A monthly report format may be given.</p>	For better clarity in risk assessment and bid preparation.	Tender conditions remain unchanged.
51	BESPA	10.8.1	<p>In line with the Order for "Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) supported through Power System Development Fund (PSDF)", issued by the Ministry of Power dated 09.06.2025, Projects selected under this RfS will be eligible for grant of VGF support through PSDF by the Government for development of BESS, and the same will be disbursed through the GRIDCO.</p> <p>The payment security mechanism for VGF between GRIDCO and BESSD is not clear. Within how many days of achieving milestone and disbursement of nodal agency to GRIDCO is GRIDCO obliged to credit VGF to BESSD? Please give a flowchart and list of pre-requisites clearly so that the modalities/terms &amp; conditions of VGF disbursement are clear. Payment security mechanism of monthly charges??</p>	For better clarity in risk assessment and bid preparation.	<p>The disbursement of VGF is strictly in accordance to the "Guidelines for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) supported through Power System Development Fund (PSDF)" and subsequent amendments. VGF Scheme Guidelines, including its amendments, are enclosed as Annexure-I.</p>
52	BESPA	9.1	<p>For each KVARH drawn from the grid, the BESSD shall pay at the rate determined by SERC to GRIDCO/OPTCL from time to time.</p> <p>1.Kindly provide the applicable escalation rate on the rate determined by SERC for KVARH drawn from the grid for the duration of the BESPA agreement.</p> <p>2.In case of any substantial variation in rate determined by SERC for KVARH during the tenure of the agreement, the same should be considered under the ambit of "Change in Law," and BESSD should be allowed to recover additional KVARH charges as such changes may significantly impact the financial viability of the project.</p>		Tender conditions remains unchanged.

53	BESPA	9.1	For each KVARH drawn from the grid, the BESSD shall pay at the rate determined by SERC to GRIDCO/OPTCL from time to time.	Since charging/discharging operations are managed by Regulators, and the BESSD is only providing the storage infrastructure, we request that KVARH charges not be levied on the BESSD		Tender conditions remains unchanged.
54	BESPA	11.10.(a)	If, prior to the completion of the 180 (one hundred and eighty) Day period (or any extended period) for a Force Majeure Events commencing from the date of issuance of the Force Majeure Notice, the Parties are of the reasonable view that a Force Majeure Event is likely to continue beyond such 180 (one hundred and eighty) Day period or any extended period agreed in pursuance of Article 11.5 (Performance Excused); or that it is uneconomic or impractical to restore the affected Unit, then the Parties may mutually decide to terminate the BESPA, and the termination shall take effect from the date on which such decision is taken.	<p>During Construction Phase, Force Majeure events—being beyond the reasonable control of the BESSD—can result in significant disruption to project execution, BESSD needs to be protected from such unforeseen situation and be entitled to recover the capital already invested (land acquisition, equipment procurement, civil works), IEDC &amp; IDC incurred.</p> <p>Accordingly, there needs to be provision of compensation to recover the cost incurred by the developer of BESS during construction and operational phase of project.</p>	<p>If, prior to the completion of the 180 (one hundred and eighty) Day period (or any extended period) for a Force Majeure Event commencing from the date of issuance of the Force Majeure Notice, the Parties are of the reasonable view that a Force Majeure Event is likely to continue beyond such 180 (one hundred and eighty) Day period or any extended period agreed in pursuance of Article 11.5 (Performance Excused); or that it is uneconomic or impractical to restore the affected Unit, then the Parties may mutually decide to terminate the BESPA, and the termination shall take effect from the date on which such decision is taken. If Agreement is terminated on account of Force Majeure Events, the TSP shall be entitled for Termination Payment equivalent to valuation of Project Assets. Upon payment, RVUNL shall take over the Project Assets.</p>	Tender conditions remains unchanged.
55	BESPA	11.10.(d). (ii)	In case of termination at the instance of the BESSD, on account of an event listed as Force Majeure as per Article 11.2 (e) and (f) above, the Procurer will have the option to (but will not be obliged to) take- over the Project Assets by paying Debt Due. In case the Procurer chooses not to exercise the aforementioned option, and the same is not agreed to by the BESSD, it will result in a dispute as per the BESPA and will be resolved as per the Dispute Resolution mechanism under the BESPA	Clause 11.10 (d) (ii) covers the loss on debt amount which includes, due to only Article 11.2 e & (f) affecting the BESSD, BESSD is entitled for payment for debt due which is due under the Financing Agreements. However, any loss on the equity is not covered in the above clause. In order to compensate for the loss due to all Force Majeure Event affecting the GRIDCO /BESSD, compensation to both equity as well as debt to be covered as per clause 11.10 (d) (ii).	For better clarity in risk assessment and bid preparation.	Tender conditions remains unchanged.
56	RfS	8	The BESSD shall take separate, metered connection for the Auxiliary Power load of BESS. OR The BESSD can draw auxiliary power from Interconnection Point. In both the cases, separate meter would be arranged by the BESSD to measure Auxiliary consumption as per the OERC regulation and that would be billed by DISCOM.	In line with Draft CERC regulations of Integrated Energy Storage Systems, the Auxiliary Energy Charges may be limited to the 5% of the input energy supply to the BESS, and cost in this regard may be borne by OPTCL/GRIDCO. Further, the auxiliary energy consumption beyond 5% may be levied as per prevailing DISCOM tariff. This shall encourage competitive price discovery.	If Power is to be sourced from DISCOM, clarification is requested for category of tariff. Further, it may be clarified that whether Demand Charges (per KVA) shall also be payable along with the Energy (per kWh) charges.	HT category consumer in the RST order for the respective DISCOMs, the current year RST order is available on OERC website for reference.
57	RfS	3.2	Setting up of the BESS and interconnection of the BESS with the STU network, as per the details at Clause 7, including the construction of the new bay and safety of the equipment/ personnel will be under the scope of the BESSD. The entire cost of construction of infrastructure from the Project up to the Interconnection Point, including but not limited to the transmission line, construction of new Bay, Bus bar extension/augmentation & protection relay augmentation with installation of protection and control panel, & other cost up to the interconnection point shall be borne by the BESSD. The work shall be carried out under supervision work by OPTCL. The constructed Bay shall be handed over to OPTCL and OPTCL shall bear the cost of maintenance of the bays, for the complete Term of the BESPA.	<p>Clarification required The fiscal incentives which are applicable for the subject project as on date of RfS floating should be clearly mentioned.</p> <p>Please confirm the exact timeline and conditions under which the BG equivalent to the 30% VGF tranche (disbursed upon completion of the 1st year from COD) will be released to the BESSD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the BG released immediately upon verification of the 1st-year milestone?</li> <li>2. What documentation or performance reports are required to trigger the release of this BG?</li> <li>3. If verification is delayed due to GRIDCO, will the BG validity period be extended without additional cost to the BESSD?</li> </ol>	<p>During discussion of Pre-Bid Meeting held on 02-01-2026, GRIDCO indicated the possibility of executing the bay construction works as deposit works. Further, in case of construction of bays by BESSD certain supervisory charges shall be payable as per the discussion, however same is not mentioned in RfS.</p>	<p>The tentative estimated cost of one number of 33kV Bay extension at existing GSS is Rs.1.2Cr (Approximately) including supervision charges. Hence, for two number of bays for one project (i.e. two no. of bays) shall be 2.4 Crores (Approx.)</p> <p>As per OPTCL standard practice 33 kV Bay extension works within existing Switch Yard are carried out by OPTCL on 16% Supervision Basis.</p>
58	RfS	5	The maximum cumulative Clusters to be allocated to a Bidder including its Parent, Affiliate or Ultimate Parent or any Group Company shall be limited to 02 (Two) Clusters.	The maximum cumulative Clusters to be allocated to a Bidder including its Parent, Affiliate or Ultimate Parent or any Group Company shall be limited to 03 (Three) Clusters.	Economy of scope would provide better pricing and O&M. Thus, Bidder should be allowed to participate in all 03 clusters.	Tender conditions remain unchanged
59	RfS	6	The above land area will be handed over to the BESSD within 60 days from Effective Date of the BESPA. In case of any delay in providing clear possession of the identified land to the BESSD, the Financial Closure and Commissioning milestones will be suitably extended. If the land area provided proves to be inadequate for the Project, the BESSD shall be responsible for acquiring additional land required, until commissioning of the first part capacity of the Project. For avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that there is no merchant capacity allowed to be set up with Projects to be set up under this RfS.	<p>To ensure proper design and flood mitigation, we request you to kindly share:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The maximum water level recorded during monsoon in the last 10 years at the proposed BESS site.</li> <li>2. Any available historical flood data or contour survey reports for the location.</li> <li>3. Details of existing or planned drainage/flood protection measures.</li> <li>4. Soil Investigation Report</li> </ol>	Without this data, it will be challenging for BESSD to assess flood vulnerability and design an appropriate foundation and elevation strategy, which could impact system reliability in the future.	The bidders are requested to visit the Grid Substations prior to bid submission deadline to acquaint themselves with the site conditions.
60	RfS		Please specify the minimum local content to be ensured in the Project?			Kindly refer amended Clause 3.9 of the RfS as per Amendments-01.
61	RfS	Section-II	The above land area will be handed over to the BESSD within 60 days from Effective Date of the BESPA. In case of any delay in providing clear possession of the identified land to the BESSD, the Financial Closure and Commissioning milestones will be suitably extended.	Kindly specify whether the extension of commissioning milestones in such cases will be on day-to-day basis?	For better clarity in risk assessment and bid preparation.	Tender conditions remain unchanged
62	RfS	8.1.c.(ii)	The BESSD shall take separate, metered connection for the Auxiliary Power load of BESS. OR The BESSD can draw auxiliary power from Interconnection Point. In both the cases, separate meter would be arranged by the BESSD to measure Auxiliary consumption as per the OERC regulation and that would be billed by DISCOM.	Kindly provide the tariff rate for auxiliary consumption along with the category of connection.	For better clarity in risk assessment and bid preparation.	HT category consumer in the RST order for the respective DISCOMs, the current year RST order is available on OERC website for reference.

63	RfS	Kindly provide details of Payment Security Mechanism if any?	Kindly provide details of Payment Security Mechanism if any?	Kindly refer Article 10 of the BESPA.
<b>Note: All the queries received from various prospective bidders have been scrutinized and have been tried to be answered comprehensively. In case of any query not published here and is not covered under the Amendments issued to the RfS, it shall be construed in such cases, tender conditions shall prevail.</b>				