

SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED					
New Delhi					
SECI/C&P/EOI/17/0004/26-27/Clarification-01					Dated: 05.10.2026
Request for Empanelment of Experienced CERT-In Empanelled Auditors for RE Sector: Clarifications to the queries on the RfE (RfE No. SECI/C&P/EOI/17/0004/26-27 dated 28.08.2026)					
S. No.	Clause No.	Existing Clause	Proposed Modifications	Rationale/Remarks	SECI's response
1	17.1 Documents to be Submitted Offline	The Bidder will be required to submit the Offline Bid, either in person or through post, at the office of SECI until the date as on 2 working days after the closing date of Online bid submission. The 2-day duration will be counted from the date of Online bid submission.	Request to clarify if the complete bid document is to be provided in hard copy or only the two documents mentioned are to be provided offline in hard copy: i. Copy of valid Cert-In empanelment Certificate. ii. Proof of payment of Bid Processing Fee.	The response shall provided clarity for bid submission.	The documents to be submitted offline are clearly indicated in Cl. 17.1
2	General	-	We have not observed any clause or point where the maximum numbers of empanelled shall be taken for the opportunity. We request to clarify if any maximum number of empaneled agencies have been considered for this opportunity.	The limitation on the maximum number of empanelled agencies provides better clarity in the assignment of work order and control over the assessments conducted.	The RfE does not prescribe a cap on the number of empanelled agencies
3	General	-	We have not observed any clause or point regarding the bifurcation of Tier-1 or Tier-2 agencies basis the size and complexity of the plants or zones. We request if any bifurcation can be done on basis the size and complexity for better coverage and outcome of the project.	The bifurcation provides better control on the criticality and integrity of the assessments conducted.	Tender conditions remains unchanged
4	(F) BID PROCESSING FEE	INR 5,000 (Indian Rupees Five Thousand Only) + applicable GST, to be submitted either through NEFT/RTGS transfer in the account of SECI, or in the form of DD/Pay order along with the response to RfE in favour of “Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited”, payable at New Delhi.	We request you to confirm the applicable GST rate and amount to be considered for the submission of the Bid Processing Fee through Demand Draft (DD) / Pay Order.	The clarification may avoid any last minute confusion for the rate of GST applicable.	The current GST rate is 18%, subject to any changes until the bid submission deadline
5	3.2	Every empanelled Auditor must possess end-to-end technical competency to perform a full-stack cybersecurity audit for a power plant.	Please provide an exhaustive definition of “full-stack cybersecurity audit” and confirm activities such as, source-code review, red teaming, social engineering, cloud review, wireless assessment, forensics and incident response apply only when expressly included in the Stage-II RFQ.	Scope Boundaries: The phrase is broad and may create unpriced obligations.	"Full-stack" in Clause 3.2 refers to the empanelled organization's overall technical capability to competently assess the entirety of a plant's IT and OT environment as defined in Annexure-B and the PEF's Annexure-I/II asset categories (network, endpoints, applications/APIs, wireless, public attack surface, and OT/ICS assets). Activities such as social-engineering campaigns, physical red-teaming, source-code review of custom/proprietary applications, dedicated cloud-security review, or formal digital forensics/incident-response engagement are not part of the default Annexure-B scope and shall apply to a specific assignment only where expressly included in that assignment's PEF by RE entities
6	24, C6	Two assignments counted under C3 must be from specified sectors.	Clarify a multi-site Work Order with separate plant-level completion evidence will be counted as multiple completed audits.	Evaluation: Material impact on marks.	If a single Work Order covers more than one Project, then each Project covered under such Work Order may be counted separately for the purpose of demonstrating the requisite experience (The work order should clearly establish the number of projects covered)
7	24.1 (C4) Certifications for Recognized Standards	Valid certificates from accredited certification bodies. ISO 27001 is mandatory. ISO 9001, ISO 20000, ISO 27006 etc. certificates to be submitted where held	We request to review and remove the requirement of ISO/IEC 17021 or ISO/IEC 27006 as both the certifications does not align with the scope of the project and the bidder may not be a certification agency for the scope mentioned.	ISO 27006 or ISO 17021 are for agencies who provide certification services. As per the scope of work, bidder may deliver the project without the requirement of the certification.	Tender conditions remains unchanged

8	11	Empanelment Fees 11.1 Each empanelled Auditor shall pay a non-refundable Empanelment Fee of INR 20,000 (Indian Rupees Twenty Thousand only) plus 18% GST per Zone for an empanelment period of 2 years to SECI.	We understand that the payment shall be made only after the successful empanelment by the bidder. We kindly request you to provide the details of the payment method for remittance of the empanelment fee to SECI. Additionally, we request that payment through Demand Draft (DD) or Pay Order be permitted.	Payment method if predefined may expedite the process post empanelment for each successful bidder and SECI.	Tender conditions remains unchanged
9	4 Mandatory Execution Milestones & Deliverables	Phase B: Asset Discovery	Request to clarify whether any existing asset list / register or asset management tool present in the organization for each zone mentioned in the RFE.	The response shall provide better clarity for effort estimation.	Asset list shall be provided by the RPD in the PEF
10	4 Mandatory Execution Milestones & Deliverables	Phase B: Asset Discovery • Verify zone diagrams, asset-to-zone mapping tables, and the physical/logical isolation between IT and OT systems.	Request to clarify whether the bidder has to review and update the asset register for the clause. We understand that the bidder shall only review and report the discrepancies or gaps in the asset inventory. Please confirm.	The response shall provide better clarity for effort estimation.	Agreed. The Auditor's role at Phase B (Asset Discovery) is to independently map and verify the plant's IT/OT assets, compare this against assets shared in PEF, furnished by the Developer, and report discrepancies or gaps as an audit finding.
11	5 Geographic Zones	5.1 The Assignments will be executed across five distinct geographic zones:	We understand that the work order or assignment of work given to successful empanelled agency shall be for the whole zone at a time. Please clarify if our understanding is correct or work orders shall be applicable as per each State.	The response shall provide better clarity for effort estimation.	Each Work Order corresponds to a plant's PEF-triggered assignment, not to an entire Zone or an individual State .
12	5 Geographic Zones	5.1 The Assignments will be executed across five distinct geographic zones:	We understand that location details and address for each plant or office shall be provided at the time of RFQ to the empanelled agencies. Please confirm.	The response shall provide better clarity for effort estimation.	Yes
13	5 Geographic Zones	iv. Zone 4 (Eastern): Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim, Northeastern States	We understand that for Northeastern States, the asset list and cost proposal from empanelled agency shall be identified separately for individual States. Please confirm.	The response shall provide better clarity for effort estimation.	Yes
14	ANNEXURE-I: IT ASSETS ANNEXURE-II: OT / ICS ASSETS	State the total number of each asset type deployed at all locations forming part of the audit scope.	We understand that the total number of assets shall be provided by the respective zone / location. The cost of assessment shall be proposed by the empanelled agency only after the receipt of the asset list from SECI.	-	Plant-specific PEF-declared asset counts for the particular plant covered by a given RFQ shall be furnished to Zone-empanelled Auditors in Stage II
15	11 Empanelment Fees	11.3 The Empanelment Fees will be payable in full within 15 days of issuance of NoE. In case of non-submission of the above-mentioned fees, the NoE issued shall be cancelled and the bidder shall be removed from the list of empanelled Auditors along with debarment from participation from any of the future tenders issued by SECI.	Request to provide at least 15 working days for the payment of empanelment fees for the empanelled agencies for ease of payment.	Due to internal processes and approvals request to provide at least 15 working days for payment of empanelment fees.	Tender conditions remain unchanged
16	22.3 Indemnification and Liability	Liability Cap: Except in cases of fraud, willful misconduct, gross negligence, or breach of strict data confidentiality, the total aggregate liability of the Empanelled Auditor to RPD—arising out of or in connection with any specific audit assignment—shall not exceed 100% of the total Work Order value issued for that	Request to modify the clause and propose: Liability Cap: Except in cases of fraud, willful misconduct, gross negligence, or breach of strict data confidentiality, the total aggregate liability of the Empanelled Auditor to RPD—arising out of or in connection with any specific audit assignment— shall not exceed 10% of the total Work Order value issued for that specific assignment.		Tender conditions remains unchanged

17	8.3(iii)	Selected Auditor must accept and mobilise within the specified period.	Make acceptance subject to competence, conflict clearance, personnel availability, safe access and mutual agreement on scope and commercials.	Empanelment/Resources: Mandatory acceptance creates disproportionate risk.	Tender conditions remain unchanged
18	Clause 3.3 Page 9	"Must be conducted once in every financial year."	May we request SECI to provide an estimate of the expected annual number of Periodic Mandatory Cybersecurity Audits across all Zones?	This will help auditors plan resources and evaluate participation.	RfE does not prescribe a cap.
19	Clause 3.4, Page 9	"The audit methodology and deliverables shall conform strictly to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF), IEC 62443, ISO/IEC 27001"	May we request SECI to clarify whether audit reports are expected to provide separate control mapping against each applicable framework?	Reporting requirements may affect the overall audit effort.	No, a single report is required as per audit checklist at Annexure B
20	Clause 3.5, Page 9	"Auditors must review, physically verify, and sign off on documentation and deployment architectures across the Audit Parameters mentioned in Annexure-B."	May we request SECI to clarify whether physical verification is mandatory for all assignments, or if remote verification may be permitted in special cases?	Frequent site visits may require significant travel and manpower.	Physical verification is mandatory for first milestone phases , and subsequent retest can be done in physical/remote verification
21	Clause 13.2, Pages 19-20	"Team composition, strength, and resource allocation must be appropriately scaled based on the complexity of the specific Plant's IT/OT environment, scale of operations, and specific risk factors."	May we request SECI to provide indicative team composition and qualification requirements for each assignment?	Clear expectations will help bidders plan suitable resources.	Auditing organization must demonstrate technical accuracy and structured methodology by deploying minimum one full-time professional expert who hold valid, internationally recognized cybersecurity certifications as required under QBS Criteria.
22	Vendor Cybersecurity Requirements, Page 2	"Provide Software and Hardware Bill of Materials (SBOM) as per CERT-In guidelines."	May we request SECI to clarify the auditor's responsibility for validating SBOM information where OEMs are unable to provide complete details?	Availability of SBOM information may depend on the OEM.	The obligation to furnish the Software/Hardware Bill of Materials (SBOM) rests with the RPD, if required.
23	VAPT, Page 2	"Penetration Testing (PT) – The scope for the PT comprises all IT Infrastructure and Lateral Movement from IT to OT."	May we request SECI to clarify the detailed VAPT scope, including infrastructure, applications, APIs, and other asset categories to be covered?	A clear scope is required for proper effort and cost estimation.	Refer Audit checklist for both FTC and periodic audit
24	Operations & Maintenance Security Practices, Page 2	"Closure based on inspection visit"	May we request SECI to indicate the expected duration of site visits and the minimum number of auditors to be deployed per site?	This information is needed for resource planning and costing.	Auditor has to take this decision based on audit scope on case to case basis, provided that entire audit assignment under a Work Order comprising both Milestone 1 and Milestone 2 shall be completed within a maximum period of three (3) months (90 days) from the date of issuance of the Work Order.
25	7, 6.3	Payment & mobilization	Kindly clarify whether travel, boarding, lodging, local conveyance and OEM coordination costs are to be included in the quote or reimbursed separately.	Remote RE sites may significantly impact cost.	Price submitted by the auditor in Stage II shall be inclusive of all costs/expenses envisaged to be incurred by the auditor for that specific assignment. No separate reimbursement shall be provided to auditor other than the scenario of Change Request(CR).
26	VAPT Requirements	VA/PT required	Kindly clarify whether the empanelled auditor is expected to independently perform Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing activities or only review and validate existing VAPT reports submitted by the auditee.	Major scope determination.	Refer Audit checklist for both FTC and periodic audit
27	VAPT Requirements	VAPT methodology	Kindly clarify whether Vulnerability Assessments are expected to be credentialed, non-credentialed, or both, and whether SECI has a prescribed methodology or standard to be followed.	Ensures uniform audit methodology.	Refer Audit checklist for both FTC and periodic audit
28	VAPT Scope	Asset lists defined	Kindly clarify whether all assets declared under Annexure-I and Annexure-II require assessment or whether the published sampling methodology shall apply for VAPT activities as well.	Significant impact on effort and pricing.	Ref Annexure -I and Annexure-II of PEF, they cover asset type

29	VAPT Scope	Applications, APIs and IPs	Kindly clarify whether Web Application Testing, API Testing, Mobile Application Testing, Wireless Security Assessment and Public Attack Surface Assessment are mandatory wherever such assets exist.	Detailed scope clarification.	Public-facing IP addresses, web/ERP applications, mobile applications and APIs are each assigned a 100% sampling rate under Annexure-I and shall be tested in full wherever such assets are declared to exist. Wireless Access Points/Controllers are assessed on a 25% sampling basis.
30	VAPT Scope	IT-to-OT assessment	Kindly clarify whether IT-to-OT lateral movement validation should be performed through active exploitation techniques or through architecture review, firewall review and segmentation testing.	Operational safety and scope control.	Refer Audit checklist for both FTC and periodic audit
31	OT Security Requirements	OT assets in scope	Kindly clarify whether active security testing is expected on live OT environments and provide a detailed list of permitted and prohibited activities.	Required to protect production environments.	Refer Audit checklist for both FTC and periodic audit
32	OT Assets	SCADA, PLC, RTU, IED, Relay, PPC	Kindly clarify the expected methodology for assessment of SCADA systems, PLCs, RTUs, Protection Relays, IEDs, PPC systems and other critical OT assets.	Ensures consistency among auditors.	Refer Audit checklist for both FTC and periodic audit
33	OT Assets	Field devices and industrial assets	Kindly clarify whether assessment of Inverters, Tracker Controllers, BMS, PCS, Weather Stations and similar field devices is expected through active testing, configuration review or sample validation.	Large-scale deployment concern.	These devices fall within category of the PEF sampling table (10% sampling rate). Assessment is via Audit checklist for both FTC and periodic audit.
34	Vendor Verification	OEM dependencies	Kindly clarify whether OEM approvals, OEM support and access to proprietary systems will be arranged by the developer or the empanelled auditor.	Execution dependency.	Arranging OEM coordination to proprietary/OEM-controlled systems is the Plant Developer's responsibility.
35	Network Architecture	Physical verification	Kindly clarify minimum evidence requirements for verification of network diagrams, segmentation controls, firewall policies and OT isolation controls.	Avoids interpretation differences.	The Auditor's role is to assess as per checklist for both FTC and periodic audit.
36	Remote Access	Remote access verification	Kindly confirm whether screenshots, exported configurations and system-generated reports are acceptable evidence where direct administrative access is unavailable.	Practical audit execution.	CISO-certified screenshots, exported configuration files and system-generated reports may be acceptable evidentiary substitutes where direct administrative access cannot be granted, subject to the Auditor recording the basis of reliance in its working papers/report.
37	FTC & Relaxed Controls	Controls with compliance window	Kindly clarify whether FTC audits can be considered compliant where controls categorized as Relaxed Within One Year have not been implemented but formal implementation plans exist.	Consistent FTC assessment.	Such are recorded as an open observation with a defined closure timeline.
38	ISO 27001 / NCIIPC	Compliance timelines	Annexure-B specifies that certain requirements such as ISO/IEC 27001 Certification, NCIIPC/CII declaration, Cyber Crisis Management Plan vetting and Cyber Security Audit are categorized as "Relaxed (Within One Year)" from the date of plant commissioning. Kindly clarify the expected audit treatment of projects that are still within the prescribed one-year compliance period and have not yet completed these requirements. Specifically, please clarify whether such items should be reported as observations, conditional compliances, non-conformities, or deemed compliant until expiry of the prescribed timeline.	Uniform compliance interpretation.	Such are recorded as an open observation with a defined closure timeline.
39	ISO/IEC 27001 Certification	Compliance with and obtain ISO/IEC 27001 certification or an equivalent Technical Criteria Certificate covering all critical systems within one year from the date of plant commissioning.	Kindly clarify whether we need to only identify the gaps with respect to ISO 27001 or get the certification acquired by the plant	Uniform compliance interpretation.	The Auditor's role is to assess as per checklist for both FTC and periodic audit (only gap identification)
40	Cyber Crisis Management	CCMP and incident readiness	Kindly clarify whether auditors are expected to independently assess effectiveness of incident response plans and CCMPs or merely verify implementation evidence.	Scope boundary.	The Auditor's role is to assess as per checklist for both FTC and periodic audit.

41	SOC Monitoring	24x7 monitoring	Annexure-B requires continuous monitoring of IT and OT environments through SIEM and Security Operations Centre (SOC) capabilities. Kindly clarify whether the requirement can be fulfilled through an outsourced Managed Security Service Provider (MSSP) or third-party SOC arrangement. Further, please clarify whether establishment of a dedicated in-house SOC is mandatory or whether centralized/shared SOC monitoring models operated by qualified MSSPs will be considered compliant.	Industry standard implementation model.	A dedicated in-house SOC is not mandatory. The Auditor's role is to assess as per audit checklist for both FTC and periodic audit.
42	Asset Register	Inventory validation	Kindly clarify whether auditors may rely on asset inventories provided by the developer and perform sample verification instead of validating every asset.	Effort optimization.	The Auditor may rely on the asset register as the base declaration and perform sample-based verification per the PEF sampling percentages.
43	Data Security & Time Synchronization	Operational controls	Kindly clarify acceptable evidence for time synchronization, log retention, backup verification and data localization compliance.	Standardized assessment criteria.	Most recent evidence (or as per CERT-In recommendation), all certified by the CISO.
44	22.3 & 8.1	Future incidents and delays	Kindly confirm that auditors shall not be liable for cyber incidents occurring after acceptance of deliverables and that delays caused by developer non-cooperation will not be treated as auditor defaults.	Risk allocation clarity.	Please refer Clause 22.3.b. (Nature of Assurance) in this regard.
45		Resource Management	Kindly confirm whether a resource possessing multiple certifications across both IT and OT domains can be considered under both evaluation criteria, or if separate resources are required for each domain.		Both will be considered separately under the evaluation criteria.
46	Clause 3.3		The RfE restricts the same auditor from conducting more than three consecutive audits of a plant. Kindly clarify whether FTC audits are also included in this count.		FTC Audit is included in the count.
47	Clauses 6.1–6.2, Pages 11–12	Stage-II assignments will be initiated based on PEFs submitted by Plant Developers.	We kindly request SECI to provide, if available, an indicative estimate of the number of FTC and Periodic Mandatory Cybersecurity Audit assignments expected in each Geographic Zone during the two-year empanelment period.	This will enable bidders to assess the expected business opportunity and plan adequate resources for the empanelment period.	This data cannot be committed or estimated in advance.
48	Clauses 6.1–6.2, Pages 11–12	Assignments will be issued as and when PEFs are received.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether any indicative/minimum expected annual volume of cybersecurity audit assignments, or an estimated number of plants likely to be covered during the empanelment period, can be provided.	An indicative assignment volume would help auditors plan manpower, travel resources and operational capacity.	This data cannot be committed or estimated in advance.
49	Clause 6.2, Page 12	Stage-II RFQ will be circulated exclusively to empanelled auditors in the specific Geographic Zone.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether each Stage-II RFQ will be circulated to all empanelled auditors in the respective Geographic Zone or to a shortlisted/subset of empanelled auditors.	Clarification is required to understand the actual competitive structure and frequency of participation in Stage-II RFQs.	The RfQ will be circulated to all empanelled auditors in a particular Geographic Zone, subject to Clause 8.5 as modified.
50	Clause 6.2, Page 12	RFQ will be issued based on plant parameters provided through the PEF.	We kindly request SECI to confirm whether the Stage-II RFQ will provide sufficient plant-wise information, including IT/OT asset count, technology mix, number of locations, VAPT requirements, onsite requirements and expected completion timeline, prior to submission of the financial quotation.	Complete scope information is essential for auditors to submit accurate and commercially sustainable lump-sum quotations.	The plant-level details shall be provided in PEF format by the RPD .
51	Clauses 6.2 & 7.1, Pages 12–13	Auditors will submit lump-sum financial quotes and the audit fee will be discovered through competitive bidding.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether a standard BOQ/rate structure or predefined pricing parameters will be provided for Stage-II RFQs, or whether empanelled auditors will be required to independently determine the complete lump-sum price based on the PEF/RFQ.	A standard pricing framework, if available, would ensure consistency and transparency in financial quotations.	Price bid format shall be decided by SECI on case-to-case basis, in due consultation with the respective RPD.

52	Clause 4 / Scope of Work, Pages 9–10	The audit involves physical inspection, asset discovery, IT/OT mapping, VAPT, reporting, ATR review and re-testing, including onsite activities.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether the Stage-II RFQ/Work Order will specify the minimum expected onsite duration/man-days for each assignment and whether certain audit activities may be performed remotely.	This will help auditors accurately estimate manpower and travel requirements before submitting a lump-sum quote.	Physical verification is mandatory for first milestone phases , and subsequent retest can be done in physical/remote verification. Decisions regarding on-site deployment of personnel shall be under the scope of the Auditor, with routine consultations with the RPD and/or SECI, wherever required.
53	Annexure-D, Pages 56 onwards	PEF captures plant location, nearest airport/railway station and site logistics details.	We kindly request SECI to clarify how inter-city/inter-state travel and mobilisation requirements between multiple plants will be considered while determining the Stage-II assignment fee.	Clear treatment of travel between geographically dispersed plants is important for accurate commercial estimation.	Price submitted by the auditor in Stage II shall be inclusive of all costs/expenses envisaged to be incurred by the auditor for that specific assignment. No separate reimbursement shall be provided to auditor other than the scenario of Change Request(CR) as per clause..
54	Clause 6.2, Page 12	Auditors will be given a “strict, short-turnaround window” to submit lump-sum financial quotations.	We kindly request SECI to clarify the minimum/indicative time period that will normally be provided to empanelled auditors for submission of Stage-II financial quotations.	Adequate quotation preparation time is required to evaluate asset counts, travel, manpower and technical requirements.	The minimum time period for submission of quotations will likely be 5 days from issuance of the RfQ.
55	Clause 6.3, Page 13	Work Order will be issued to the LI auditor after realization of the Plant Developer's advance payment.	We kindly request SECI to clarify the minimum mobilisation period that will normally be provided between issuance of the Work Order and commencement of onsite audit activities.	A reasonable mobilisation period is required for resource allocation, travel arrangements and plant access formalities.	The entire audit assignment under a Work Order comprising both Milestone 1 and Milestone 2 shall be completed within a maximum period of three (3) months (90 days) from the date of issuance of the Work Order. Mobilization strategy is to be determined by the Auditor keeping in mind the overall deadline as above.
56	Clause 22.3, Page 24	Except for specified exclusions, aggregate auditor liability for a specific audit assignment shall not exceed 100% of the Work Order value.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether the 100% liability cap will apply separately to each individual Work Order/assignment or cumulatively across all assignments performed by the auditor under the empanelment.	Clarification is required to understand the overall contractual risk exposure of an empanelled auditor.	100% liability cap will apply to individual Work Order/assignment
57	Clause 22.3, Page 24	Liability exclusions include fraud, willful misconduct, gross negligence and breach of strict data confidentiality.	We kindly request SECI to clarify the intended scope and interpretation of the terms “ gross negligence ” and “ strict data confidentiality breach ” for determining liability outside the contractual cap.	Clear definitions will reduce ambiguity in determining liability and contractual risk.	Tender conditions remain unchanged
58	Clause 22.3, Page 24	Auditor may be liable for physical/operational damage caused by gross negligence, willful misconduct or unauthorized active/intrusive testing.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether the auditor shall have any liability where an incident/disruption arises from a pre-existing vulnerability, plant configuration, OEM/third-party system, legacy technology or any other condition not caused by the auditor.	This clarification is important because plant IT/OT environments contain multiple third-party and legacy dependencies outside the auditor's control.	The Auditor's liability will be limited to the events attributable to the Auditor's actions.
59	Clause 3.3 / Scope of Work, Pages 8–10	Active OT scanning/intrusive testing on live SCADA networks requires written approval from the Plant Head and CISO.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether timely approval from the Plant Head/CISO for authorised active OT scanning will be facilitated and whether the audit timeline will be suitably extended in case such approval is delayed or not provided.	Plant-level approval may be a dependency for completing certain testing activities within the scheduled timeline.	Such scenarios will be considered on case-to-case basis.
60	Scope of Work, Pages 9–10	The RfE restricts unauthorized active OT scanning or intrusive testing on live SCADA networks without written approval.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether, where the Plant/OEM does not permit active OT testing due to operational or safety restrictions, passive assessment, configuration review and other non-intrusive testing methods will be accepted without adversely affecting the auditor's performance evaluation.	Operational continuity and safety may prevent intrusive testing in certain critical OT environments.	Audit checklist to be followed for both FTC and periodic audit in non intrusive manner. Any intrusive testing or activity that may impact plant/OT operations shall be undertaken only with prior written approval of the Plant Head and CISO.
61	Clause 13.2, Pages 19–20	Audit teams must include technical experts with proven OT-domain experience, including SCADA, DCS and SAS.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether one suitably qualified OT/ICS specialist having demonstrated hands-on expertise across multiple OT technologies such as SCADA, DCS and SAS may fulfil the requirement for multiple specialized OT competencies.	This would enable efficient deployment of appropriately qualified resources while maintaining the required technical competency.	Yes
62	Clause 13.2, Pages 19–20	Team composition and resource allocation are required to be appropriately scaled according to the plant's complexity and risk factors.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether an auditor may replace a proposed resource during the empanelment/assignment period with another resource having equal or higher qualifications and experience, subject to SECI's prior approval.	This will provide operational flexibility in case of resource transition, unavailability or unforeseen circumstances while maintaining competency requirements.	Yes, however, such replacements shall be carried out at the sole risk and cost of the Auditor.

63	PQ-3, Page 27	The bidder is required to demonstrate completed IT security audit and OT/ICS security assessment experience with supporting documentary evidence.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether relevant experience of a Parent Company, Subsidiary, Affiliate or Group Company may be considered for meeting the prescribed experience requirement where the same technical resources/expertise are available with the bidding entity.	Group-level experience may provide relevant technical capability, particularly where resources and expertise are demonstrably available with the bidding entity.	No, the experience has to be that of the entity bidding in the RfE.
64	PQ-3, Page 27	Technical experience is to be demonstrated through completed assignments supported by Work Order/PO/LoA and Performance/Completion Certificate/Successful Order Execution confirmation.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether, where a single Work Order covers multiple plants/sites and the completion certificate confirms successful completion of the overall engagement, such experience may be considered on a plant/site-wise basis for demonstrating multi-site audit experience.	A single multi-site engagement may demonstrate substantial experience across multiple facilities even where one consolidated completion certificate is issued.	If a single Work Order covers more than one Project, then each Project covered under such Work Order may be counted separately for the purpose of demonstrating the requisite experience (The work order should clearly establish the number of projects covered)
65	PQ-3, Page 27	Documentary proof includes Work Order/PO/LoA along with Performance Certificate/Completion Certificate/Successful Order Execution confirmation from the client.	We kindly request SECI to confirm whether a Work Order/SOW clearly establishing the audit scope, along with a completion/performance certificate, will be accepted where the completion certificate does not separately enumerate each technical activity but the corresponding Work Order/SOW establishes the required IT/OT security audit scope.	Client completion certificates often confirm successful completion of the overall engagement without reproducing the detailed technical scope.	Agreed , as completion/performance certificate confirms successful completion of the engagement and the associated Work Order/SOW independently establishes that the engagement's scope included IT and/or OT security audit activities, this combination is acceptable evidence
66	Clauses 3.3, 6.2 & 8.3 / Geographic Zones	Auditors may be empanelled in selected Geographic Zones; normal Stage-II RFQs are circulated to auditors in the relevant zone. SECI may also engage auditors from any other zone under specified exigency circumstances.	We kindly request SECI to clarify whether an auditor empanelled in multiple Geographic Zones will ordinarily be eligible to participate in Stage-II RFQs issued in all such selected zones, and whether any restrictions or conditions will apply to participation across multiple zones.	Clarification is required for effective manpower, travel and commercial planning for multi-zone empanelment.	No such restrictions shall apply in participation in the RfQs for multiple zones by a single Auditor, subject to the condition as per Clause 3.3(ii) (Lifecycle limits)
Note: All the queries received from various prospective bidders have been scrutinized and have been tried to be answered comprehensively. In case any query is 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.					