



आयुर्विज्ञान में राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा बोर्ड, नई दिल्ली
National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences
New Delhi

Dated: 26/10/2023

शुद्धिपत्र - III / Corrigendum - III

Sub: Response to the Pre-Bid Queries of Expression of Interest for subscription of e-Journals and e-Books in various Medical Specialties

Ref: 1. CPPP Tender ID: 2023_NBE_727165_1
2. Corrigendum Notice dated 05/10/2023
3. Corrigendum Notice dated 19/10/2023

With reference to the above-mentioned Expression of Interest (EOI) for subscription of e-Journals and e-Books in various Medical Specialties, the reply to queries received during Pre-Bid meeting held on 27/09/2023 is as follows:

i. How many users shall be utilizing the e-Library Platform, from where they would be accessing the resources and mode of access?

Answer: The details of the tentative numbers of users is indicated in the tender document. The users of the e-Library are the NBEMS Students and Faculty Members. NBEMS has approx. 1300 Accredited Hospitals where approx. 14000 Students are enrolled each year. Considering 3-year course, tentative candidates count comes out roughly to 35000 candidates.

ii. The license required are per candidate based (centric) or the institution (centric) based? Whether, e-resources are required subject wise for respective institution/hospital or full access is required for all licenses?

Answer:

Option I - It is candidate centric not institution-centric – there should be no restriction across the subjects.

Option II - The license should be both candidate and institution based.

iii. Who shall be pay for the subscription, NBEMS or the Hospital/Institution/Student? In which currency?

Answer: NBEMS shall pay as per the Payment Terms Mentioned in the Tender in Indian Rupees only.

iv. What would be the delivery mechanism (platform) for the e-Resources?

Answer:

the delivery mechanism is – remote access technology of – providing ID and Password to each NBE e-library platform.

- v. The e-Books and e-Journals are different in characteristics. The e-Books can be subscription based or perpetual based, whereas e-Journals are subscription based only. What would be the period for which subscription is required?
Answer: Currently NBEMS is inviting the bids for 1-year subscription.
- vi. In the EOI document, the term e-Books and e-textbooks is used. These are technically not same. Please confirm the exact requirements of the NBEMS?
Answer: NBEMS requires e-textbooks. The term e-book should be read as 'e-textbook'.
- vii. With reference to the clause no. 5(v) at page 8 of the EOI Document, the e-resources are not intended to give rights to the end-users to store in PLMS. Hence, requested to delete the clause?
Answer: Agreed. The revised clause may be read as:
"Rights for Inter-Library-Loan (online delivery), permission to walk-in users, text/data mining for research purpose, downloading rights by end-users, rights to maintain the downloaded content in a personal library management system, etc. should to be Provided in the license agreement."
- viii. We need the list of e-textbooks and e-journals which are required by the NBEMS? What are the criteria for selection of the e-textbook or e-journal?
Answer: The vendor shall be required to submit a list of e-textbooks and e-journals available with them based on the Medical Specialty specified in the EOI document. This list shall be placed before an expert committee, who will select the desired e-textbooks and e-journals out of the options shared by the bidders. The final list shall be released with the Second Stage of the Bidding Document for further process.
- ix. Can we quote for our own publishing as well as other publishers?
Answer: Yes
- x. Will the contract be awarded to one bidder or to multiple bidders?
Answer: Only 1 bidder shall be awarded the Contract.
- xi. Whether, MSE Exemptions are available in this tender process?
Answer: Exemptions are available as per the Government of India norms.
- xii. We would like to seek clarification on the applicable foreign exchange rate at the time of submitting the Financial Bid. Is it based on the Good Offices Committee (GOC) rate or the bank's conversion rate?
Answer:
Bank rate as on invoice date not GOC rate.

- xiii. The payment terms stipulated in your tender proposal suggest quarterly payments from your end, while most publishers typically require a 100% advance payment before commencing the subscription. We kindly request your guidance on this matter.
Answer: Payment Terms shall be as per Tender Terms & Conditions.
- xiv. Payment terms for E Content will be within 30 days of execution of order or 100% Advance in case of journals/ Or as per publisher.
Answer: No Changes considered in the EOI document.
- xv. To ensure accurate pricing from the relevant publisher, we need a list of institutions along with their respective Static IP addresses. Could you please provide us with this information as required?
Answer: The list of institutions is available on the NBEMS Website. Other details shall be shared to the successful bidder after award of the contract.
- xvi. Number of Hospitals/Colleges where access will be provided? Because pricing will be based on number of sites not on number of users.
Answer: The list is available on the NBEMS Website.
- xvii. Regarding the security deposit, is it mandatory to submit it in the form of a Demand Draft, or is a Bank Guarantee an acceptable alternative? Clarification on this matter would be greatly appreciated.
Answer: Bidder may submit EMD/Security Deposit in the form specified under Rule 170 of the GFR 2017.
- xviii. Could you please specify the estimated budget for the aforementioned project as outlined in your EOI?
Answer: The Budget Estimation is not available at this stage.
- xix. Approx Budget for purchase?
Answer: The Budget Estimation is not available at this stage.
- xx. Individual licenses with each publisher are to be signed by your authority.
Answer: The NBEMS will enter into an agreement only with the shortlisted vendor.
- xxi. You are also requested to clarify if a single platform is required to access all the e-Resources.
Answer:
Single Platform ... Landing page of the Remote access technology.

- xxii. What will be the Mode of access? Username & Password OR IP Range.
Answer:
it is user ID and Password
- xxiii. Do you require Perpetual Access or 1-year Subscription for E-Books?
Answer:
Perpetual access for ebooks—some publishers does not provide perpetual and not for aggregators of the journals
- xxiv. Inter Library loan won't be applicable in case of E-Library.
Answer:
yes – provision be made --- it will be very less usage
- xxv. Terms and conditions of E-Books and E-Journals will be as per publisher policy.
Answer: The terms and conditions shall be as per the Tender Document.
- xxvi. Do you require back volumes with E-Journals? And how many years of content?
Answer:
In case of aggregators – back volumes come along with the subscription.
- xxvii. Will you provide access via remote server to your hospitals?
Answer:
it is user ID and Password based.
- xxviii. As per meeting only technical documents need to be submitted against this EOI
Answer: The bidder shall be required to submit Technical Documents, Project Implementation Plan/Synopsis, List of E-Resources (e-Textbooks and e-Journals) available with the bidder and other documents mentioned in the EOI Document.
- xxix. Should we also mention Base price/List price along with E-Books/E-Journals without discount along with terms and conditions?
Answer: The Prices are not to be quoted at this stage. The bid prices shall be invited in Stage-2 in response to a revised set of terms and conditions and the conditional offers will not be acceptable.
- xxx. Request to include the following in "B. Eligibility Criteria"
"Preference will be given to Government Organisations, Teaching Institutions who have experience of providing the E-Learning platform."
Answer: The vendor will be shortlisted based on terms and conditions given in the tender document.

