

Dated : 17.03.2017

MINUTES OF THE VENDORS MEET

Integrity Pact Programme has been implemented in TCIL since February, 2009 and TCIL is regularly organizing "Vendors Meet" almost during 1st quarter of every year. Vendors meet is used as a platform to widely publicize among vendors that IP programme is being followed in TCIL. Also, it creates an opportunity for vendors to interact directly with Independent External Monitors (IEMs), Transparency International India (TII) and TCIL Management to clarify their queries, if any, in respect of Integrity pact and other issues.

This year, Vendors meet was organized on 17.02.2017. The Meet was attended by both the Independent External Monitors (IEMs) of TCIL, a representative of Transparency International India (TII), vendors from different companies and senior management level officers of TCIL.

At the outset, CVO welcomed the participants and introduced the IEMs and TII representative to all the vendors. IEMs and TII representative addressed the participants and

shared valuable views and experiences regarding implementation of integrity pact and vigilance activities.

CMD chaired the meeting and explained the commitment in following transparency in all of its procurement and successful implementation of integrity pact in TCIL for the past 8 years. CMD assured vendors if they have any problem, they may report the same to any of the concerned senior officers of TCIL including Board of Directors and can have an interaction with the IEMs of TCIL.

Subsequently, GM(Vigilance) gave a presentation on implementation of IP programme in TCIL and explained the salient features of integrity pact and benefits of adopting Integrity Pact. He described that Integrity pact is a tool to fight against the corruption and it creates the confidence among the vendors in respect of the transparent procurement procedure followed in TCIL. It was also informed that initially, the threshold value was kept as Rs. 10 crores and over the last 8 years, on review, the threshold value has been reduced and increased in steps and present threshold value is Rs. 1crore w.e.f. 01.08.2016.

Both IEMs and TII representative also addressed the meet and clarified the queries of vendors.

An introduction was given by all the participants. Then, CMD asked the vendors if they have any queries regarding Integrity pact or its implementation in TCIL and other issues so that the same could be clarified. The queries asked by the vendors and the replies given by TCIL are as follows :

Needs in Couple

- 1) Ms. Sharmistha Baig from M/s. Nielsen pointed out the following issues regarding baseline survey project of ORGI :
 - a) Taking laptops from client (ORGI/TCIL) should not have been mandatory and the vendors should be allowed to use their own laptops, as some of the laptop taken by M/s. Nielsen from TCIL, though after inspection, were found to be faulty / in non working condition later.
 - b) Release of their PBG as the work was completed by them about a year back and also release of their outstanding dues.

D(T) clarified that laptops were actually taken from ORGI (main client), and distributed to vendors by TCIL after due inspection. Also it was not compulsory for the vendors to necessarily take the laptops from ORGI / TCIL. However, if taken, then they have to be returned back in working condition since ORGI uses the same laptops for other projects. Shri Sanjay Bharti, GM(NW), later provided further clarifications to each of the points raised :

- a) M/s. Nielsen could have used their own laptops as some other vendors did. In case laptops are not returned back in working condition, payment as per contractual terms could be deducted.
- b) Though the work of survey got completed in March, 2016 and also final invoices raised, but the last payment is under process at ORGI after the quality of survey was done by them. Since the project is on back to back terms and conditions, TCIL will release the last payment only after getting the last payment from M/s. ORGI. It was informed that TCIL has submitted extended PBG to ORGI as the last payment is still pending with them and hence, the vendors would also have to extend their PBG to TCIL till their last payment is released.

2) Mr. Manjit Singh from Planet Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. raised issue regarding non-release of EMD of Rs. 1 lakh. The company participated in one of the OPGW Tender but could not qualify in which EMD of Rs. One lac deposited by the Planet Infrastructure is yet to be received by them. D(P) spoke to Mr. Sunil Kumar, GM(OPGW) on his mobile in the meeting itself and confirmed about non-release of EMD to the company. He advised GM(OPGW) to take immediate action and assured Mr. Manjit that needful will be done shortly.

3) Karuneesh Bagga & Mr. Deepak Gupta from Vayam Tech mentioned that they have executed the e-Gov. projects which are at concluding stages. They requested to release payment of PBGs which are delayed. Shri Sanjeev Kaseri, GGM (e-Gov.) who is presently handling e-Gov. project mentioned that since the payment terms are back to back, we cannot release the PBG unless the same is released by the client. CMD explained that it is our responsibility to get the PBG from the client once project is over and assured for immediate action by the concerned Division.

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- 4) Mr. Vijay Kumar from Silicon Valley International - The vendor expressed concern over slow progress of work in OPGW project due to various strikes in valley and number of additional expenditure incurred paid by them. He is having concern about imposition of LD for slow progress of work. D(P) explained that we will not impose LD on our own. However, if client do so, the same could be levied since the payment terms are back to back. CMD explained that a proper hindrance register should be maintained by the company and reason for delay in work noted which may be signed by representative of both client and TCIL in order to justify the reasons for delay, if required to be known at later stage.

Shri N.P. Gupta, IEM was of the opinion that a system should be devised in which senior officers of TCIL would be accessible to the vendors. However, he make clear that, IEMs are always open to resolve the genuine problems raised by the vendors to them through CVO, TCIL.

There were few general queries by vendors and TCIL officers with regard to IP which was responded well to them by Ms. Jot Prakash Kaur, representative of TII. In order to have more clarity about the integrity pact, she suggested to have a half day workshop which may conducted by TII at TCIL premises.

The meet ended with the vote of thanks by CVO.

Neelam Gupta
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TCIL