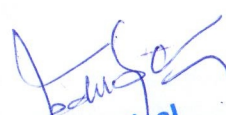


**REPONSES TO QUERIES -
PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENT FOR PROJECT TITLED
INDUCTION OF ECO-FRIENDLY BUSES IN CITIES OF PUNJAB**

1. INTRODUCTION

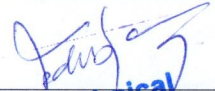
- 1.1. This "RESPONSES TO QUERIES DOCUMENT" dated February 16, 2024 (this "Document") has been prepared in relation to the prequalification document dated December, 2023 (the "Prequalification Document") issued by the "PUNJAB TRANSPORT COMPANY" (the "PTC") for the assignment titled "INDUCTION OF ECO-FRIENDLY BUSES IN CITIES OF PUNJAB" (the "Assignment").
- 1.2. This Document set out the responses in regards to the queries posed by the prospective bidders with regards to the Prequalification Document.
- 1.3. All capitalized terms used in this Document shall have the meanings assigned to them under the Prequalification Document.

2. REPONSES

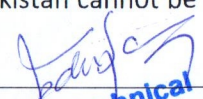
SR. NO.	QUERIES	RESPONSE
1.	<p><i>Submission date 2nd Feb, 2024 for Prequalification of Induction of Eco-Friendly Buses in Cities of Punjab Project.</i></p> <p>We are requesting to make a 15-day extension starting from 2nd Feb, 2024. As all translation needs to be attested by Notarial office & Embassy Pakistan & Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the date is getting close to Chinese New Year Holiday (will take place on 8th Feb, 2024) which results in the low efficiency in attestation and delivery right now.</p>	<p>The PTC has decided to extend the submission date of Prequalification Documents for three (3) weeks from February 02, 2024 (i.e. Friday) to February 23, 2024 (i.e. Friday) at 03:00pm (Pakistan Standard Time) and shall be opened on same date at 03:30pm (Pakistan Standard Time) as per corrigendum published in Daily Jang on January 27, 2024, in Daily Express Tribune on January 28, 2024 and in Khaleej Times on January 30, 2024.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> DGM Technical Punjab Transport Company Govt. Of Punjab</p>

	We are requesting to get permission for 15 - day extension and submitting of the color copy of original bid temporarily in case of the original delivery from China to Pakistan being late (The original one will be submitted after its arrival).	
2.	<p>"Over the last three(3)years" at Clause No. 9 Experience on Page 39.</p> <p>In our understanding, the period time of last three (3) years is Year 2020,Year 2021, Year 2022. Please kindly clarify.</p>	Kindly note that when referring to "the last three (3) years," it encompasses the calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022.
3.	<p>"be attested by Embassy/Consulate Pakistan & Ministry of Foreign Affairs ".</p> <p>As China joined the "Convention on the Abolition of the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents on 8 March,2023 , The Convention came into effect and was implemented in China on 7 November , 2023.</p> <p>And both China and Pakistan are the contracting nations (Starting from November 7, China will only require the processing of an "Apostille," as stipulated by the Convention, for official documents intended for use in other contracting countries. This means that there is no need for consular authentication from the Chinese and contracting countries' embassies or consulates in China).</p> <p>So The Attestation by Embassy /Consulate Pakistan & Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not available, instead , the Attestation will be done by the foreign affairs offices of relevant provinces in China.</p> <p>The Announcement please refer to the below link -- the website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China.</p>	<p>In accordance with the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, the Government of Pakistan has acceded to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (Apostille Convention) of 1961.</p> <p>The convention shortens the public document authentication process to a single formality i.e. issuance of an authentication certificate called as 'Apostille' by the designated authority of the country where the document was issued. Thus foreign public documents authenticated by Apostille can be directly presented to the concerned authorities without any other attestation requirement.</p> <p>In line with the obligations as contracting state of the Convention, concerned authorities of Pakistan will now accept the Foreign Apostille Certificates issued by the members/contracting States of the convention from the date of entry into force i.e. 9th March 2023, without any requirement of attestation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Pakistan Missions abroad.</p> <p>In lieu of the above, the relevant change shall be incorporated therein in the document in regards to countries that are a signatory to the convection.</p>

	https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/wjbxw_new/202310/t2023102311165858.shtml	
4.	NORINCO International Pakistan Branch, is a branch office registered by a foreign corporation in Pakistan. For being "local authorized dealer" of a Chinese Bus manufacturer, do you have any reservations on that setup? We do have NTN number and SECP registration.	<p>For clarity, a branch office means any establishment set up by a foreign company described as a "branch" of a foreign company or establishment carrying on the same or substantially the same activities as carried on by the parent foreign company.</p> <p>As per the Board of Investment, a branch office is established by a foreign company to fulfill its contractual obligations with the public or private sector in Pakistan. Their activity will be restricted to the work mentioned in the agreement/contract signed. However, the same cannot undertake any commercial/trading activities.</p> <p>In consideration of the fact that the branch office may have been set up for implementation and execution of an agreement/contract signed by the parent foreign company and taking the aforementioned factors into account, the determination is made that a branch office setup by a foreign company in Pakistan cannot serve as the "local authorized dealer".</p>
5.	The payment conditions, whether the PTC will directly issue L/C to the Bus Manufacturer, or will pay rupee to the local dealer for the import of the buses.	This is a commercial matter and the resolution of the same will be discussed and confirmed after direction from Board of Directors, prior to the issuance of the request for proposal document/bidding document.
6.	Any other specific eligibility criteria or documentation needed for participation.	Please note that participation requires no additional eligibility criteria or documentation beyond those explicitly outlined in the Prequalification Documents.


DGM Technical
Punjab Transport Company
Govt. Of Punjab

7.	Who is eligible for signing "Signature of Attorney"?	The individual duly authorized/appointed as the Power of Attorney is required to sign under the designated section titled "Signature of Attorney".
8.	In the context of the Power of Attorney submission, should the date correspond to the issuance date of the Tender or the date on which the bidder procured the Tender?	The date on which the Power of Attorney is executed shall be entered.
9.	Who is eligible to sign as the Duly Authorized Signatory?	The individual authorized by the Board of Directors of the entity to sign documents on behalf of the entity is eligible to sign under the requirement of "Duly Authorized Signatory".
10.	If a company has a branch registered by a foreign corporation in Pakistan, can it be the "local authorized dealer"?	<p>If a company has a branch registered by a foreign corporation in Pakistan, can it be the "local authorized dealer" – As per the Board of Investment, a branch office is established by a foreign company to fulfill its contractual obligations with the public or private sector in Pakistan.</p> <p>Their activity will be restricted to the work mentioned in the agreement/contract signed. However, the same cannot undertake any commercial/trading activities.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the event of a Liaison Office, the same is established by a foreign company for the promotion of the product(s), provision of technical advice and assistance, exploring the possibility of collaboration, and export promotion. However, the same cannot undertake any commercial/trading activities. Therefore, in consideration of the above, it is concluded that no branch registered by a foreign corporation in Pakistan cannot be a "local authorized dealer".</p>


DGM Technical
Punjab Transport Company
Govt. Of Punjab

11.	The payment conditions, whether the PTC will directly issue L/C to the Bus Manufacturer, or will pay rupee to the OEM/local dealer;	The payment conditions, whether the PTC will directly issue L/C to the Bus Manufacturer, or will pay rupee to the OEM/local dealer – this is a commercial matter to be undertaken and decided by the PTC.
12.	Please explain "on this ___ day of -----2024" provided therein Annexure C - Undertaking	This will be the date on which the Undertaking shall be signed/executed by the Applicant. For example, the date on which the undertaking is being signed/executed is 24 Jan 2024, this will be "on this 24th day of January 2024".
13.	With respect to the payment of fees to acquire the Prequalification Document, does the dealer paying the fees suffice, or does the foreign entity applying has to make the payment?	As the Prequalification Document is considered a public document, interested parties seeking to acquire the document can submit a cover letter specifying their intention to purchase the Prequalification Document on behalf of "XYZ" [Insert Name of the Foreign Entity purchasing/acquiring the document] through their Authorized Dealer [Insert Name of Authorized Dealer of the Foreign Entity] along with the proof of payment as specified under the Prequalification Document.
14.	During our document preparation phase, we encountered a requirement for certain documents to be attested by the Embassy of Pakistan as part of the bidding documentation. However, it has come to our attention that following China's accession to the Hague Convention since November 7th 2023, the convention has introduced a streamlined process for document authentication. Instead of embassy certification, documents are now authenticated through an Apostille, issued by an embassy-authorized team on behalf of the Hague Convention Organization. This Apostille is internationally recognized and, as we understand, the Embassy of Pakistan in China no longer accepts individual requests for embassy authentication in favor of this new procedure.	Please refer to the response in serial no. 3 above.


DGM Technical
 Punjab Transport Company
 Govt. Of Punjab

	<p>Given this significant change, we kindly request your confirmation on whether this Apostille process is acceptable for the documentation requirements of the "Induction of Eco-Friendly Buses in Cities of Punjab" project. This would greatly assist us in ensuring our bid complies with all necessary legal and procedural standards.</p>	
--	---	--


DGM Technical
Punjab Transport Company
Govt. Of Punjab