GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
MEGHALAYA STATE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
MSSDS
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No. MSSDS/700/ADB-RFQ/2025/949 **Dated: 30th October, 2026**

RESPONSE TO QUERIES

Project Name : Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya (SHCDM-II)

Package No and Name : NC-PIU2-4.3 - Selection of training Service Provider (TSP) for Imparting Skills Training to 300 trainees in Embedded Full Stack IoT Analyst Course in Electronics Sector.

RFQ No & Date : MSSDS/700/ADB-RFQ/2025/942 5th October, 2026

Pre-Bid Date : 13th October, 2026 @3.00 PM

With reference to the Request for Quotations (RFQs) indicated above, the following are the response to the queries:

SN	Clause	Query	Response
Training scope, duration and implementation			
1	Confirmation of total training hours. Reference: Appendix A – Course and Curriculum.	The RFQ specifies 570 hours for the NSQF Level 5 qualification, including 150 hours of OJT. Kindly confirm whether the 570 hours include OJT and employability skills, or whether any additional hours are required for these components.	The total duration shall be 570 hours as prescribed under NSQF Level-5 for Embedded Full Stack IoT Analyst. The 570 hours include domain training, employability skills and the mandatory 150 hours of OJT. No additional hours are mandated.
2	Batch formation and training calendar Reference: Appendix A – Targeted Beneficiaries.	For 300 trainees and a maximum batch size of 30, kindly clarify whether the programme must be conducted through 10 batches, whether batches may run concurrently, and whether MSSDS will prescribe the batch-wise training calendar.	Maximum batch size shall be 30 trainees. However, larger batches may be permitted, provided that the trainer-to-trainee ratio of 1:30 is maintained. Multiple batches may be conducted concurrently subject to the suitability of infrastructure, availability of trainers and MSSDS approval. The detailed training calendar shall be finalized by the selected TSP and shared with MSSDS.
3	Overall project duration versus training completion period Reference: Appendix A – Project Duration.	The RFQ indicates a three-year engagement period. Kindly clarify the expected commencement date, deadline for training all 300 candidates, and whether the three-year period covers only the initial target or also includes subsequent training targets.	The contract duration shall be 3 years. Training is expected to commence within one month of contract signing. The selected TSP shall propose a detailed implementation schedule. Additional targets may be awarded during the contract period based on performance.
4	Centre location and allocation Reference: Appendix A – Location and Infrastructure Readiness.	Kindly confirm whether the bidder may propose training centres anywhere in India, subject to compliance with the RFQ, or whether MSSDS will prescribe specific districts or locations in Meghalaya for delivery of the training.	As specified in the RFQ, the training location may be anywhere in India, subject to compliance with all RFQ requirements.

OJT, assessment and certification			
5	Arrangement for 150 hours of OJT	Kindly clarify whether MSSDS will facilitate industry linkages for the prescribed 150 hours of OJT or whether the TSP must independently identify host organisations, arrange industry placements, execute necessary agreements and bear any associated expenses.	MSSDS shall not be responsible for arranging OJT. The responsibility for identification of OJT partners, providing mandatory OJT for trainees, execution of arrangements and associated costs rests with the TSP.
6	Assessment and certification reimbursement Reference: Appendix A – Assessment and Certification.	The RFQ states that assessment costs are initially paid by the TSP and reimbursed against invoices. Kindly clarify the applicable reimbursement ceiling per trainee, the admissible supporting documents, and the expected reimbursement timeline. reimbursable.	Assessment and certification costs shall form part of the competitive bidding process under the Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method. The TSP is required to quote separately for each cost component, including assessment and certification, in its financial proposal. The quoted costs shall be evaluated as part of the overall financial bid. The selected TSP shall initially bear these costs, which shall be reimbursed on actuals against valid invoices and supporting documents, in accordance with the provisions specified in the RFQ at pages 32–33, Point 11(a).
7	Assessment failures and reassessment	Kindly clarify who will bear the cost of reassessment for candidates who fail the first assessment, miss an assessment for a valid reason, or require reassessment because of an administrative or technical issue. Please also confirm whether reassessment costs are reimbursable	Any reassessment requirement and associated costs shall be borne by the TSP. Reimbursement will be limited to assessment and certification costs as per actual eligible expenditure supported by documentary evidence
8	Assessment agency and certification charges	Kindly confirm whether MSSDS will provide a list of approved assessment agencies and certification bodies, and whether the TSP may select from the approved list, subject to prior approval and compliance with the applicable qualification-pack requirements.	Assessment shall be conducted through SSC-empanelled assessment agencies or equivalent recognised certifying bodies, subject to compliance with the applicable Qualification Pack requirements and approval by MSSDS, as specified on Pages 41–42 of the RFQ. TSPs are free to identify and propose any recognised certifying body for conducting the assessment, subject to the requisite approval by MSSDS and compliance with the applicable requirements.
Placement commitments and candidate outcomes			
9	Definition and calculation of the 75% outcome target	Kindly confirm whether the minimum 75% outcome target will be calculated against the total number of successfully certified candidates or another approved denominator, and whether wage employment, self-employment and enrolment in higher NSQF-level training will each qualify as a successful outcome	The minimum 75% outcome requirement shall be calculated on successfully certified candidates. Wage employment, self-employment and enrolment in higher NSQF level training shall qualify as successful outcomes subject to documentary evidence acceptable to MSSDS. However, the number of successful candidates shall be at least 75% of the total target.

10	Self-employment and upskilling evidence	Kindly specify the documentary evidence required to recognise self-employment and higher-level upskilling as successful outcomes, including any requirements for business registration, revenue, enterprise activity, enrolment or continuation in further training.	Documentary evidence may include business registration, GST/Udyam registration, loan sanction letters, evidence of market linkages, income records along with a declaration from the candidate confirming engagement in enterprise activity. For upskilling, evidence may include admission receipts, attendance records or any other documentary proof acceptable to MSSDS.
11	Placement tracking and candidate attrition	Kindly clarify how the six-month employment-tracking requirement will be evaluated where a candidate leaves employment, changes employers, or experiences a gap in employment despite the TSP having arranged a qualifying placement. Please also specify the evidence and reporting frequency required.	The TSP shall track all placed candidates for a period of six months from the date of placement and maintain appropriate documentary evidence of their employment status throughout the tracking period. In the event of a candidate changing employers, the TSP shall furnish valid documentary evidence of continued employment with the new employer. In cases of employment discontinuation or a gap in employment, the TSP shall document the candidate's employment status and submit a formal communication from the candidate to MSSDS stating the reasons for such discontinuation or gap. The TSP shall submit monthly employment-tracking reports through the Project Management Information System (PMIS), supported by salary slips, employer certificates, appointment letters, bank statements reflecting salary credits, or other valid documentary evidence, as applicable. "For the purpose of assessing placement outcomes, the initial placement shall be evaluated based on fulfilment of the prescribed placement criteria. Subsequent changes in employment status during the six-month tracking period shall be documented and reported through PMIS, supported by verifiable evidence. Any assessment of compliance with the employment-tracking requirement shall take into account the documented employment status of the candidate and the TSP's adherence to the prescribed reporting and documentation requirements."

Commercial, payment and contractual clarifications			
12	Payment milestones and release conditions	Kindly provide the detailed payment schedule, including the proportion payable against enrolment, training completion, assessment, certification and achievement of placement or other approved outcomes. Please confirm the applicable deductions, withholding conditions and supporting documents for each payment milestone.	The payment schedule shall be governed by the provisions contained in the RFQ and Contract Terms & Conditions. Payments shall be released as follows: 1.45% of the contract value shall be released upon commencement of training after successful mobilization and enrolment of trainees in approved batches, subject to submission of training commencement records and related documents. 2.35% of the contract value shall be released upon successful completion of training, assessment and certification of trainees, subject to submission of training completion reports, attendance records, assessment reports, certification details and other supporting documents as required by MSSDS. 3.20% of the contract value shall be released upon achievement of the prescribed outcome targets, including placement, self-employment, entrepreneurship, higher education/progression to higher NSQF level courses or other outcomes approved by MSSDS, supported by documentary evidence acceptable to MSSDS. Payments shall be made only upon verification and acceptance of the deliverables by MSSDS. MSSDS reserves the right to withhold, deduct or proportionately reduce payments in case of shortfall in trainee attendance, training delivery, certification, outcome achievement, non-submission of required documents, or non-compliance with contractual obligations. Applicable statutory deductions shall be made as per Government rules. The selected Training Service Provider shall submit all supporting documents as prescribed by MSSDS from time to time, including but not limited to enrolment records, attendance records, assessment reports, certificates, placement/self-employment evidence, progression records and invoices for processing of payments. No separate payment milestone is envisaged for assessment or certification beyond the payment structure specified above. Assessment and certification activities form part of the second payment milestone.

13	Additional training targets during the three-year period	Kindly clarify the procedure for assigning additional training targets, including whether such targets will be issued through a separate work order or contract amendment and whether the existing contracted rates and commercial terms will apply.	Any requirement for additional training targets beyond the initial target of 300 trainees shall be communicated by MSSDS based on project requirements, availability of funds and satisfactory performance of the selected Training Service Provider (TSP). Additional targets, if approved by MSSDS, shall be assigned through appropriate written communication, Work Order and/or contract amendment, as deemed necessary by MSSDS. Unless otherwise specifically notified by MSSDS, the same scope of work, rates, terms and conditions, payment provisions, performance obligations and other contractual requirements as stipulated in the original contract shall apply to such additional targets. The TSP shall not be entitled to any revision in unit rates or commercial terms solely on account of the allocation of additional training targets. MSSDS reserves the right to determine the quantum, timing and location of any additional targets and shall not be under any obligation to assign additional training targets during the contract period
14	Eligibility Criteria Page No. 03 Sl. No. 03 The bidder should have successfully completed at least 2 (two) projects/training programmes with similar nature of work with minimum 200 nos. of trainees each during three (3) financial years (i.e., FY 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026).	The bidder should have successfully completed at least 2 (two) projects/training programmes with similar nature of work with minimum 50 **nos.** of trainees each during three (3) financial years (i.e., FY 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026).	**Not Accepted.** All bidders are required to comply with the eligibility criteria as published in the bidding document.
15	Eligibility Criteria Page No. 03 Sl. No. 05 The Bidder should have formal association (s) with at least 1 (one) reputed organization in software development/ technology training/ digital skill domain for placement of candidates.	We request the Department to kindly allow bidders to submit a **self-certification / undertaking** on their company letterhead confirming their association and placement facilitation capabilities, in lieu of mandatory MoUs, Partnership Agreements, or Authorization Letters. This relaxation would simplify the documentation requirements while ensuring that the bidder remains accountable for the	**Accepted.** **Included in Corrigendum**

	MoUs/ Partnership Agreements/ Authorization letters from the reputed organization	authenticity of the declaration.	
16	Eligibility Criteria Page No. 02 Sl. No. 01 The bidder must be a legal entity registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956, or a partnership firm registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act of 2008, or a firm registered under relevant law of India, having registered office in India and should have minimum 5 (five) years' of experience in Training, Skilling or Capacity building as on 31st March 2025.	The bidder must be a legal entity registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956, or a partnership firm registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act of 2008, or a firm registered under relevant law of India, having registered office in India and should have minimum **3 (three) years** of experience in Training, Skilling or Capacity building as on 31st March 2025.	**Accepted.** **Included in Corrigendum**
17	Evaluation Criteria Page No. 06 Sl. no. 01 The bidder should have experience in conducting training in Full Stack Development/ Software development/ IT Digital Skilling program preferably under Government/ PSU/ CSR/ Academic/ Self-Funded projects/programmes Years of Experience Marks More than 10 20 8-10 15 5-7 10	The bidder should have experience in conducting training in Full Stack Development / Software Development / IT Digital Skilling program preferably under Government/ PSU/ CSR/ Academic / Self-Funded projects / programmes **Years of Experience Marks** **More than 5 20** **4-5 15** **3-4 10**	**Accepted.** In order to encourage wider participation of competent Training Service Providers while maintaining the quality requirements of the assignment, the Technical Evaluation Criteria shall be revised as follows: **Years of Experience Marks** **More than 5 20** **4-5 15** **3-4 10** **Included in Corrigendum**
18	Evaluation Criteria Page No. 06 Sl. no. 03 Training experience: Number of candidates trained in the last 3 Financial years i.e., 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26) in Full Stack	Training experience: Number of candidates trained in the last 3 Financial years i.e., 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26) in Full Stack Development/ Software Development/ IT Digital Skilling Program **No. of Trainees Marks** **More than 100 20** **51-100 15**	**Not Accepted.** The evaluation criterion stipulated in the RFQ shall remain unchanged

	Development/ Software Development/ IT Digital Skilling Program No. of Trainees Marks More than 300 20 201-300 15 Up to 200 10	**Up to 50 10**	
19	Evaluation Criteria Page No. 07 Sl. no. 05 Tie up: Number of tie ups with reputed organization in software development/ technology training/ digital skill domain for placement of candidates No. of Tie up with reputed organization Marks More than 5 15 3-5 12 1-2 10	Tie up: Number of tie ups with reputed organization in software development/ technology training/ digital skill domain for placement of candidates **No. of Tie up with reputed organization Marks** **More than 3 15** **2-3 12** **1-2 10**	To provide a more graduated and objective assessment of industry linkages and placement facilitation capability of the bidder, the scoring criteria relating to tie-ups with reputed organizations shall be revised as follows: **No. of Tie up with reputed organization Marks** **More than 4 15** **3-4 12** **1-2 08** **Self-Certification / Undertaking only 05** **Included in Corrigendum**
20	Technical Proposal & Quotation submission instructions, procedures and terms and conditions of the Contract. Preparation of Technical Proposal & Quotations Page No. 03 Sl. No. 5.a	Tender Fee/ Bid Security Exemption: As we are a Sector Skill Council, we request an exemption from the tender fee and Bid Security (Bank Guarantee).	No exemption for the bidders, All the bidders who want to submit the quotation shall submit the requisite tender fee amounting to INR 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft (DD) from any Scheduled/Nationalized bank in favor of **Executive Director**, **Meghalaya State Skill Development Society**, Payable at Shillong in original. The quotation submitted without the requisite fee shall be rejected at the time of opening of the bids and will not be considered for further evaluation and shall be returned to the bidder.
21	Indicative Specification of Self-Practice Kit Page. 53 & 54	Toolkit Cost and Configuration: Relevant toolkits are available in the market at varying price points (approx. ₹20,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000) based on configuration and functionality. We would like to know if the prescribed specifications and costing can be revisited to allow for cost-effective, updated alternatives or it is necessary to provide all	All self-practice items listed in Annexure 4 are required to support the prescribed training and practical learning outcomes. Bidders may propose cost-effective, updated alternatives with equivalent specifications and functionality, subject to technical scrutiny and approval by MSSDS. Any proposed alternative shall include an item-wise comparison with the prescribed specifications and shall not reduce the required quantities, quality or learning outcomes.

		self-practice items listed in Annexure 4	A lower-priced toolkit shall not, by itself, justify omission of any required item.
22	Scope of Services Training Equipment & Infrastructure Self-Practice Kits Page 41 Sl. No. 2.b.VII	Post-Training Toolkit Ownership: Could you please clarify if the Self Practice toolkits are to be retained by the Training Service Provider (TSP) or handed over to the trained candidates upon completion	The self-practice kit shall remain the property of the trainee and shall not be returned to the TSP.

Sd/-
(Shri. Jagdish Chelani, IAS)
Executive Director
Meghalaya State Skill Development Society.