

INTEGRITY PACT

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) hereinafter referred to as “**The Principal**”,

And

..... hereinafter referred to as “**The Bidder/Contractor**”

Preamble

The Principal intends to award, under laid down organizational procedures, a contract for **(nature of contract, in brief)**. The Principal values full compliance with all relevant laws of the land, rules, regulations, economic use of resources, and of fairness/transparency in its relations with its Bidder(s) and /or Contractor(s).

The Principal will nominate Independent External Monitor(IEM) by name, from the panel of IEMs, at the Tender stage, for monitoring the Tender process and the execution of the contract in order to ensure compliance with the Integrity Pact by all the parties concerned.

Section 1 – Commitments of the Principal:

- (1) The Principal commits itself to take all measures necessary to prevent corruption and to observe the following principles:-
 - a. No employee of the Principal, personally or through family members, will in connection with the Tender or the execution of a contract, demand/take a promise/accept for self or for third person, any material or non material benefit which the person is not legally entitled to.
 - b. The Principal will, during the Tender process treat all Bidders with equity and reason. The Principal will in particular, before and during the Tender process, provide to all Bidders the same information and will not provide to any Bidder confidential/additional information through which the Bidder(s) could obtain an advantage in relation to the Tender process or the contract execution.
 - c. The Principal will exclude from the process all known prejudiced persons.
- (2) If the Principal obtains information on the conduct of any of its employees which is a criminal offence under the PC Act/ applicable law, or if there be a substantive suspicion in this regard, the Principal will inform the Chief Vigilance Officer of RINL and in addition can initiate disciplinary action.

Section 2 – Commitments of the Bidder(s)/contractor(s):

- (1) The Bidder/ Contractor commits to take all measures necessary to prevent corruption and commits to observe the following principles during his participation in the Tender process/during the contract execution(in case of Bidder to whom the contract has been awarded).
 - a. The Bidder/Contractor will not, directly or through any other person or firm, offer, promise or give to any of the Principal’s employees involved in the Tender process or the execution of the contract or to any third person any material or other benefit which he/she is not legally entitled to, in order to obtain, in exchange, any advantage of any kind whatsoever during the Tender process or during the execution of the contract or to vitiate the Principal’s Tender process or contract execution.
 - b. The Bidder/ Contractor will not enter with other Bidders into any undisclosed agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal. This applies in particular

to prices, specifications, certifications, subsidiary contracts, submission or non-submission of bids or any other actions to restrict competitiveness or to introduce cartelization in the bidding process or to vitiate the Principal's Tender process or execution of the contract.

- c. The Bidder/Contractor will not commit any offence under the PC Act/ Applicable law, like paying any bribes or giving illegal benefit to anyone including employees of RINL, to gain undue advantage in dealing with RINL or for any other reason etc. Further, the Bidder/Contractor will not use improperly, for purposes of competition or personal gain, or pass on to others, any information or Document provided by the Principal as part of the business relationship regarding plans, technical proposals and business details including information contained or transmitted electronically.
 - d. The Bidder/Contractor of foreign origin shall disclose the name and address of their Agent(s)/representative(s) in India, if any. Similarly the Bidder/Contractor of Indian Nationality shall furnish the name and address of the foreign supplier/contract Agency, if any. Further details, as mentioned in the Guidelines on Indian Agents of Foreign "Suppliers/contract agencies", shall be disclosed by the Bidder/Contractor, wherever applicable. Further, as mentioned in the Guidelines, all the payments made to the Indian agent(s)/representative(s) have to be in Indian Rupees only. Copy of the Guidelines on Indian Agents of Foreign "Suppliers/contract agencies" is enclosed.
 - e. The Bidder/ Contractor will, when presenting his bid, disclose any and all payments he has made or committed to or intends to make to agents, brokers or any other intermediaries in connection with the award of the contract.
 - f. The Bidder/Contractor signing IP shall not approach the Courts while representing the matters to IEMs and he/she will await their decision in the matter
- (2) The Bidder/Contractor will not instigate third persons to commit offences outlined above or be an accessory to such offences.

Section 3 – Disqualification from Tender process and exclusion from future contracts:

- (1) A transgression is considered to have occurred, if the Principal after due consideration of the available evidence, concludes that a reasonable doubt is possible.
- (2) If the Bidder/Contractor, before award of contract or after award of contract has committed a transgression through a violation of Section 2 above or in any other form such as to put his reliability or credibility in question, the Principal is entitled to disqualify the Bidder from the Tender process or to terminate the contract, if already awarded, for that reason, without prejudice to other remedies available to the Principal under the relevant GCC of the Tender/contract.
- (3) If the Bidder/Contractor has committed a transgression through a violation of any of the terms under Section 2 above or in any other form such as to put his reliability or credibility into question, the Principal is entitled also to exclude the Bidder / Contractor from future Tenders/Contract award processes. The imposition and duration of the exclusion will be determined by the Principal keeping in view the severity of the transgression. The severity will be determined by the circumstances of the case, in particular the number of transgressions, the position of the transgressors within the company hierarchy of the Bidder /Contractor and the amount of the damage.

- (4) If it is observed after payment of final bill but before the expiry of validity of Integrity pact that the Contractor has committed a transgression through a violation of any of the terms under Section 2 above during the execution of contract, the Principal is entitled to exclude the Contractor from future Tenders/Contract award processes.
- (5) The exclusion will be imposed for a Period not less than six (6) months and, up to a maximum period of three (3) years.
- (6) If the Bidder / Contractor can prove that he has restored/ recouped the damage to the Principal caused by him and has installed a suitable corruption prevention system, the Principal may revoke the exclusion before the expiry of the period of such exclusion.

Section 4 – Compensation for Damages:

- (1) If the Principal has disqualified the bidder from the Tender process prior to the award in accordance with Section 3 above, the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid security furnished, if any, along with the offer as per the terms of the Invitation to Tender (ITT) shall be forfeited. This is apart from the exclusion of the Bidder from future Tenders as may be imposed by the Principal, as brought out at Section 3 above.
- (2) If the Principal has terminated the Contract in accordance with Section 3 above, or if the Principal is entitled to terminate the Contract in accordance with Section 3 above, the Security Deposit/performance bank guarantee furnished by the Contractor, if any, as per the terms of the ITT/Contract shall be forfeited without prejudicing the rights and remedies available to the Principal under the relevant General conditions of contract. This is apart from the exclusion of the Bidder from future Tenders as may be imposed by the Principal, as brought out at Section 3 above.

Section 5 – Previous transgressions:

- (1) The Bidder declares that, to the best of his knowledge, no previous transgression occurred in the last five (05) years with any Company or Organization or Institution in any country or with any Government in any country conforming to the anticorruption approach that could justify his exclusion from the Tender process.
- (2) If the Bidder makes incorrect statement on this subject, he can be disqualified from the Tender process. The contract, if already awarded, can be terminated for such reason.

Section 6 – Equal treatment of all Bidders / Contractors / Subcontractors:

- (1) The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) undertake(s) to demand from all subcontractors, he desires to appoint, a commitment in conformity with this Integrity Pact, and to submit it to the Principal at the time of seeking permission for such subcontracting.
- (2) The Principal will enter into agreements with identical conditions as this one with all Bidders/ Contractors.
- (3) The Principal will disqualify from the Tender process all bidders who do not sign this Pact or violate its provisions.

Section 7 – Criminal charges against violating Bidder(s)/ Contractor(s)/ subcontractor(s) :

If the Principal obtains knowledge of conduct of a Bidder/Contractor/Sub-contractor or of any employee or a representative or an associate of a Bidder/Contractor/

Subcontractor which constitutes corruption, or if the Principal has substantive suspicion in this regard, the Principal will inform the same to the CVO of RINL.

Section 8 – Independent External Monitor(s)(IEM(s)):

- (1) The Principal appoints competent and credible Independent External Monitor with the approval of Central Vigilance Commission. The IEM reviews independently, the cases referred to him or written complaints with all details received directly by him to assess whether and to what extent the parties concerned complied with the obligations under this Integrity Pact,
- (2) In case of complaint/representations on compliance of the provisions of the Integrity Pact by any person/agency, the complaint/representation can be lodged by the aggrieved party with the Nodal Officer for IP of RINL or directly with the IEM. The Nodal Officer shall refer the complaint /representation so received by him to the IEM for his examination. Similarly, RINL in case of any doubt regarding compliance by any or all the bidders can lodge its complaint / make a reference to IEM through Nodal Officer. For ensuring the desired transparency and objectivity in dealing with the complaints arising out of the Tendering process, the matter should be examined by the full panel of IEMs who would look into the records, conduct an investigation and submit their joint recommendations to the Management.
- (3) The IEM is not subject to instructions by both the parties and performs his functions neutrally/independently. The IEM will submit report to the CMD, RINL.
- (4) The Bidder(s)/Contractors(s) accepts that the IEM has the right to access without restriction, to all Tender/contract Documentation of the Principal including that provided by the Bidder/Contractor. The Bidder/Contractor will also grant the IEM, upon his request and demonstration of a valid interest, unrestricted and unconditional access to his Tender/contract Documentation. The same is applicable to unrestricted and unconditional access to Tenders / contract Documentation of Subcontractors also. The IEM is under contractual obligation to treat the information and Documents of the Bidder(s)/ Contractor(s)/Subcontractor(s) with confidentiality.
- (5) IEM will have the right to attend any meeting between RINL and Counterparties in respect of the cases falling under the purview of IP.
- (6) As soon as the IEM notices, or believes to notice, a violation of this Pact, he will inform the Principal and request the Principal to discontinue or take corrective action or to take other relevant action. The IEM can, in this regard, submit non binding recommendations. Beyond this, the IEM has no right to demand from the parties that they act in a specific manner, refrain from action or tolerate action.
- (7) The IEM will submit a written report to the CMD-RINL within four (04) to six (06) weeks from the date of reference or intimation to him by the Principal/ receipt of the complaint and, should the occasion arise, submit proposals for corrective actions for the violations or the breaches of the provisions of the agreement noticed by the IEM.
- (8) IEM may also submit a report directly to the CVO of RINL and the Central Vigilance Commission, in case of suspicion of serious irregularities attracting provisions of the PC Act/ applicable Law.
- (9) Expenses of IEM shall be borne by RINL/VSP as per terms of appointment of IEMs.
- (10) The word 'Monitor' means Independent External Monitor and would include both singular and plural.

Section 9 – Duration of the Integrity Pact:

- (1) This Pact comes into force upon signing by both the Principal and the Bidder/Contractor. It expires for the Contractor twelve (12) months after the last payment under the contract, and for all unsuccessful Bidders, six (06) months after the contract has been awarded and accordingly for the Principal after the expiry of respective periods stated above.
- (2) If any claim is made/ lodged during the valid period of the IP, the same shall be binding and continue to be valid even after the lapse of this Pact as specified above, unless it is discharged/determined by CMD of RINL.

Section 10 – Other provisions:

- (1) This Pact is subject to Indian Law. Place of performance and jurisdiction is the Registered Office of the Principal, i.e. Visakhapatnam, State of Andhra Pradesh, India.
- (2) Changes and supplements as well as termination notices need to be made in writing. Side agreements to this pact have not been made.
- (3) If the Contractor is a partnership firm/ Consortium, this Pact must be signed by all partners/ Consortium members, or their Authorized Representative(s) by duly furnishing Authorization to sign Integrity Pact.
- (4) Should one or several provisions of this Pact turnout to be invalid, the remaining part of the Pact remain valid. In this case, the parties will strive to come to an agreement with regard to their original intentions.
- (5) Wherever he or his is indicated in the above sections, the same may be read as he/she or his/her, as the case may be. Similarly, wherever Counterparty or Bidder or Contractor is mentioned, the same would include both singular and plural.
- (6) In the event of any dispute between the Principal and the contractor relating to those contracts where Integrity Pact is applicable, in case, both the parties are agreeable, they may try to settle dispute through mediation before the panel of IEMs in a time bound manner. If required, the organization may adopt any mediation rules for this purpose. The fees / expenses on dispute resolution shall be equally shared by both the parties.

In case the dispute remains unsolved even after mediation by the panel of IEMs, the organization/Principal may take further action as per the terms & conditions of the contract.

(For & On behalf of the Principal)

(Office Seal)
Place -----
Date -----

Witness 1:
(Name & Address)

(For & On behalf of Bidder/
Contractor)
(Office Seal)

Witness 2:
(Name & Address)

GUIDELINES FOR INDIAN AGENTS OFFOREIGN “SUPPLIERS/CONTRACT AGENCIES”

- 1.0 There shall be compulsory registration of Indian Agents of foreign suppliers/contract Agencies with RINL in respect of all Global (Open) Tenders and Limited Tenders. An agent who is not registered with RINL shall apply for registration in the prescribed Application Form.
 - 1.1 Registered agent needs to submit before the placement of order by RINL, an Original certificate issued by his foreign supplier/ contract Agency (or an authenticated Photostat copy of the above certificate duly attested by a Notary Public) confirming the agency agreement and giving the status being enjoyed by the agent along with the details of the commission/ remuneration/ salary/ retainer being paid by them to the agent(s).
 - 1.2 Wherever the Indian representative has communicated on behalf of their foreign supplier/contract Agency and/or the foreign supplier/contract Agency have stated that they are not paying any commission to their Indian agent(s) but paying salary or retainer, a written declaration to this effect given by the foreign supplier/contract Agency should be submitted before finalizing the contract.
- 2.0 DISCLOSURE OF PARTICULARS OF AGENT(S)/REPRESENTATIVE(S) IN INDIA, IF ANY:**
- 2.1 Bidders of Foreign nationality shall furnish the following details in their quotation/bid:
 - 2.1.1 The name and address of their agent(s)/representative(s) in India, if any, and the extent of authorization and authority given to them to commit them. In case the agent(s)/representative(s) is a foreign Company, it shall be confirmed whether it is a really substantial Company and details of the company shall be furnished.
 - 2.1.2 The amount of commission/remuneration included in the quoted price(s) for such agent(s)/representative(s) in India.
 - 2.1.3 Confirmation of the Bidder that the commission/remuneration if any, payable to his agent(s)/representative(s) in India, may be paid by RINL in Indian Rupees only.
- 3.0 DISCLOSURE BY INDIAN AGENT(S) OF PARTICULARS OF THEIR FOREIGN SUPPLIER/CONTRACT AGENCY AND FURNISHING OF REQUISITE INFORMATION:**
- 3.1 Bidders of Indian Nationality shall furnish the following details/certificates in/along with their offers:
 - 3.1.1 The name and address of foreign supplier/contract agency indicating their nationality as well as their status, i.e., manufacturer or agent of manufacturer holding the Letter of Authority.
 - 3.1.2 Specific Authorization letter by the foreign supplier/contract agency authorizing the agent to make an offer in India in response to Tender either directly or through their agent(s)/representative(s).
 - 3.1.3 The amount of commission/remuneration included for bidder in the price (s) quoted.
 - 3.1.4 Confirmation of the foreign supplier/contract Agency of the Bidder, that the commission/remuneration, if any, reserved for the Bidder in the quoted price (s), may be paid by RINL in India in equivalent Indian Rupees.
 - 4.0 In either case, in the event of materialization of contract, the terms of payment will provide for payment of the commission/remuneration payable, if any, to the agent(s)/representative(s) in India in Indian Rupees, as per terms of the contract.
 - 4.1 Failure to furnish correct information in detail, as called for in para 2.0 and/or 3.0 above will render the bid concerned liable for rejection or in the event of materialization of contract; the same is liable for termination by RINL. Besides this, other actions like banning business dealings with RINL, payment of a named sum etc., may also follow.