Standard Bidding Document

Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)
(Non-Consultancy Services)

International

Single Stage-Two Envelope

November 24, 2026

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

PROCUREMENT OF NON-CONSULTANCY SERVICES

1. The **National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research)** has reserved Funds for the procurement planned for FY **2026-27**. The **National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research)** intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Fund to cover eligible payments under the contract for the " **Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)**" with the reference of **" P212352"**

2. The **National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research)** invites Bids through **EPADS v2.0** from eligible Bidders registered on **EPADS v2.0** for provision of Non-Consultancy Services.

3. **Single Stage-Two Envelope** Procedure of Principal Method of Procurement (i.e. Open Competitive Bidding) will be used by adopting **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)**Technique for the subject procurement, in line with the Public Procurement Rules, 2026 and any Regulations, and Instructions issued by the Authority (from time to time).

4. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security described in Bid Security Section in Bidding Document in the form of **Pay Order, Banker's Cheque, Call at Deposit, Demand Draft** or Bid Securing Declaration on the prescribed format described.

5. E-Bidding documents, containing detailed terms & conditions, specifications and requirements etc. are available on **e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS)** at **https://epads.gov.pk/opportunities/federal/procurements/212352**.

6. The e-bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the e-Bidding documents, must be submitted through **EPADS v2.0** on or before **Thursday, December 31, 2026 02:00 PM**. E-bids will be opened on the same day at

Thursday, December 31, 2026 02:30 PM. Manual submission of Bids shall not be entertained. Those vendors who have not yet registered on the new version of **EPADS v2.0,** may register themselves on **https://vendors.epads.gov.pk/**. A tutorial to explain the registration process is available at **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNW6T38v7tc**

In terms of Rules 65 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026 Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) is notified for the subject procurement and notification copy is available on the procuring agency's website and also available on **EPADS v2.0** as well as Authority's website at (**www.ppra.gov.pk**).

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Instructions to Bidders

A. Introduction

1. **Scope of Bids**

1.1. The Procuring Agency (PA), as indicated in the **Bids Data Sheet (BDS)** invites Bids through **EPADS v2.0** for the provision of Non-Consultancy Services as specified in the BDS and **in Section Evaluation Criteria, Specifications & Schedule of Requirements**. The name, identification, and number of items/deliverables are provided in the **BDS**. **Single Stage-Two Envelope** procedure of the open competitive method shall be used. The successful Bidders will be expected to provide the services within the specified period and timeline(s) as stated in the **BDS**.

2. **Source of Funds**

2.1. Source of funds is referred in Clause-1 of Procurement Notice.

3. **Fraud & Corruption**

3.1. As defined under Rule 2(1)(x) of Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

4. **Eligible Bidders**

4.1. The Eligibility of the Bidders shall be determined in accordance with the Rule 21 of the Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

5. **Qualification of the Bidder**

5.1. All Bidders shall provide Bid Forms, a preliminary description of the proposed work method and schedule, including drawings and charts, as necessary.

B. Bidding Documents

6. **Contents of Standard Bidding Document**

6.1. The Services required, bidding procedure, and terms and conditions of the contract are prescribed in the bidding document. In addition to the Invitation for Bids, the bidding document which should be read in conjunction with any addendum issued in accordance with **ITB 8.1** include:

Section I -Invitation to Bid
Section II Instructions to Bidders (ITB)
Section III Bid Data Sheet (BDS)
Section IV Evaluation Criteria, Specifications, Schedule of Requirements, and Technical Specifications.
Section V Fraud & Corruption
Section VI General Conditions of Contract (GCC)
Section VII Special Conditions of Contract (SCC)
Section VIII Contract Forms

6.2. The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, requirements, forms, terms and specifications in the bidding documents. Failure to furnish all the information required in the bidding document will be at the Service provider's risk and may result in the rejection of his bids.

7. **Clarifications**

7.1. All clarification shall be in accordance with the Rule 38 of the public Procurement Rules, 2026.

8. **Amendment of Bidding documents**

8.1. Before the deadline for submission of bids, the procuring agency for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective bidder or pre-bid meeting may modify the bidding documents by issuing addendum.

8.2. Any addendum issued including the notice of any extension of the deadline shall be part of the bidding document pursuant to **ITB 8 .1** shall be uploaded on EPADS v2.0 as well as Authority's website. The procuring agency shall promptly publish the addendum at the procuring agency's website indicated in the **BDS**:

Provided that the bidder who had either already submitted his bid, shall have the right to withdraw his already submitted bid and submit the revised bid, prior to the original or extended bid submission deadline.

8.3. To give prospective bidders reasonable time in which to take an addendum/corrigendum into account in preparing their bids, the Procuring Agency may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of bids after record reason in writing:

Provided that the Procuring Agency shall extend the deadline for submission of bids, if such an addendum is issued within last three (03) days of the bid submission deadline.

C. Preparation of Bids

9. Documents Constituting the Bids

9.1. The bids prepared by the bidders shall constitute the following components: -

9.1.1. Forms of bid and Bid Prices completed in accordance with ITB 10 and 11;

9.1.2. Documentary evidence established in accordance with ITB 10 that services to be provided by the bidder are eligible services, and conform to the bidding documents;

9.1.3. Documentary evidence established in accordance with ITB 11 that the bidder is eligible and/or qualified for the subject bidding process;

9.1.4. Documentary evidence established in accordance with ITB 11.3 that the bidder has been authorized to provide the services;

9.1.5. Bid security or Bids Securing Declaration furnished in accordance with ITB 17; and

9.1.6. Any other document required in the BDS.

10. **Documents Establishing Eligibility of the Services and Conformity to bidding documents**

10.1. To establish the conformity of the Non-Consulting Services to the Bidding document, the bidder shall furnish as part of its bid the documentary evidence that services provided conform to the requirements.

10.2. Standards for the provision of the Non-Consulting Services are intended to be descriptive only and not restrictive.

11. **Documents Establishing Eligibility and Qualification of the Bidder**

11.1. The bidder shall furnish, as part of its bid, all those documents establishing the bidder's eligibility to participate in the bidding process and/or its qualification to perform the contract if its bid is accepted.

11.2. The documentary evidence of the bidder's eligibility to bids shall establish to the satisfaction of the procuring agency that the bidder, at the time of submission of its bid, is from an eligible country.

11.3. The documentary evidence of the bidder's qualifications to perform the contract if its bid is accepted shall establish to the satisfaction of procuring agency that:

11.3.1. the bidder has the financial, technical, provisions of services and supply/production capability necessary to perform the Contract, meets the qualification criteria specified in BDS.

11.3.2. that the bidder meets the qualification criteria listed in the Bids Data Sheet.

12. **Form of Bid**

12.1. **The bidder shall fill the Form of Bid furnished in the bidding documents. The Bid Forms must be completed without any alterations to its format and no substitute shall be accepted.**

13. **Bids Prices**

13.1. The Bids Prices quoted by the bidder in the Forms of Bid and in the price schedule shall conform to the requirements specified or exclusively mentioned hereafter in the bidding document.

13.2. All items in the Schedule of Requirements must be listed and priced separately in the Price Schedules. If a Price Schedule shows items listed but not priced and neither explicitly mentioned, their prices shall be construed to be included in the prices of other items.

13.3. The Bid price to be quoted in the Forms of Bid in accordance with ITB 12 shall be the total price of the bid, excluding any discounts offered.

13.4. The bidder shall indicate on the appropriate Price Schedule, the unit prices (where applicable) and total bid price of the services, it proposes to provide under the contract.

13.5. Prices quoted by the bidder shall be fixed during the currency of the contract and not subject to variation on any account. A bid submitted with an adjustable price will be treated as non-responsive and shall be rejected pursuant to ITB 28, unless otherwise price adjustment is permissible under Conditions of the Contract.

14. **Price Adjustment**

14.1. Price adjustment shall not be applicable on the contract with less then 12 months period.

14.2. Procuring agency may increase the remuneration of the human resources involved in non-consultancy services upto maximum 15% on annual basis.

14.3. **Procuring agency shall incorporate the provisions to allow wage rate in compliance with Federal Government’s minimum wage notification, subject to the condition that clause 14.2 shall not be applicable in that case.**

15. **Bids Currencies**

15.1. Prices shall be quoted in Pakistani Rupees unless otherwise specified in the BDS.

16. **Bid Validity Period**

16.1. Bid(s) shall remain valid for the period specified in the BDS after the bid submission deadline prescribed by the Procuring Agency. A Bid valid for a shorter period shall be rejected by the Procuring Agency as non-responsive.

17. **Bid Security or Bid Securing Declaration**

17.1. Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, the bidder shall furnish as part of its bid, in the amount and currency specified in the BDS or Bid Securing Declaration on the format provided in Form 9 The scanned copy of the Bids Security shall be uploaded in the EPADS v2.0 while submitting bid, whereas the original forms of Bid Security shall be submitted to the procuring agency before the bid submission deadline. The bidder who failed to submit the original bid security before the submission deadline shall be disqualified straightaway.

17.2. The Bid Security or Bid Securing Declaration is required to protect the Procuring Agency against the risk of Bidder’s conduct which would warrant the security’s forfeiture, pursuant to ITB 17.5

17.3. The Bid Security shall be payable promptly upon written demand by the Procuring Agency in case any of the conditions listed in 17.5 are invoked.

17.4. Unsuccessful Bidders’ Bid Security will be discharged or returned as promptly as possible after the award of contract, however in no case later than thirty (30) days after the expiration of the period of Bid Validity prescribed by the Procuring Agency pursuant to ITB 16. The Procuring Agency shall make no claim to the amount of the Bid Security, and shall promptly return the Bid Security document, whichever of the following that occurs earliest:

17.4.1. the expiry of the Bid Security;

17.4.2. the entry into force of a procurement contract and the provision of a Performance Guarantee, for the performance of the contract if such a guarantee, is required by the bidding document;

17.4.3. the rejection by the Procuring Agency of all Bids;

17.4.4. the withdrawal of the Bid prior to the deadline for the submission of bids, unless the bidding document stipulate that no such withdrawal is permitted.

17.5. The Bid Security may be forfeited or the Bid Securing Declaration executed:

17.5.1. if a bidder:

17.5.1.1. withdraws its bid during the period of bid validity as specified by the Procuring Agency, and referred by the bidder in the Forms of Bid, except as provided for in the ITBs; or

17.5.1.2. does not accept the correction of errors pursuant to ITB 30; or

17.5.2. in the case of a successful bidder fails:

17.5.2.1. **to sign the contract in accordance with ITB 48; or**

17.5.2.2. **to furnish Performance Guarantee in accordance with ITB 49.**

17.6. **The bid security shall be valid for a period specified in BDS. Bids with shorter bid security validity period shall be rejected straight away.**

18. **Alternative Bids by Bidders**

18.1. Alternatives will not be considered, unless specifically allowed for in the BDS.

18.2. When alternative times for completion are explicitly invited, a statement to that effect will be included in the BDS and the method of evaluating different time schedules will be described in Section V, Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.

19. **Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Bids**

19.1. Before Bids submission deadline, any bidder may withdraw, substitute, or modify his bid after it has been submitted.

20. **Format and Signing of Bids**

20.1. The bidder shall prepare and submit his bid with due diligence after carefully reading all the terms and conditions before submission through EPADS v2.0.

D. Submission of Bids

21. **Submission of Bids through EPADS v2.0 before deadline**

21.1. The Technical and Financial Bids as the case may be, shall be submitted in the due portion of the EPADS v2.0, before bid submission deadline. The bid submission option shall be automatically disabled once the deadline is over.

21.2. The Procuring Agency may, under exceptional circumstances and at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of bids by amending the Bidding Documents in accordance with ITB 8. In such a case, all rights and obligations of the Procuring Agency and the Bidders that were previously subject to the original deadline shall thereafter be subject to the revised deadline.

E. Opening and Evaluation of Bids

22. **Establishment of Procurement Cell**

22.1. PA to establish a Procurement Cell which shall carryout procurements as per Rule 10 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

23. **Opening & Evaluation of Bids by the Bid Evaluation Committee**

23.1. As per Rule 11 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026
(PA to constitute odd number Bid Evaluation Committee for the purpose of bid opening and evaluation of all procurements with an estimated value up to two billion rupees)

24. **Third Party Validation**

24.1. **In compliance with Rule 12** of Public Procurement Rules, 2026, the third-party validation committee or firm shall validate all procurements above five hundred million and up to two 2 billion rupees. The third-party validation shall be conducted at specifications, bidding documents preparation, technical (if any) & final evaluation stages.

25. **External Bid Evaluation Committee**

25.1. **As per Rule 13 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026,** procurements with an estimated value above two billion rupees shall be opened and evaluated by the Procuring Agency's notified External Bid Evaluation Committee.

26. **Opening of Bids**

26.1. The Procuring Agency will open all bids through EPADS at the place, on the date and at the time, specified in the **BDS**.

26.2. The bids shall be opened one at a time, and the following and recorded: (a) the name of the bidder; (b) the presence of a bid security, if required; and (c) any other details as the procuring agency may consider appropriate.

26.3. No bid will be rejected at the time of bid opening except for bids whose bid security has not been provided to the procuring agency before submission deadline**.**

27. **Confidentiality**

27.1. Information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of bids and recommendation of contract award shall not be disclosed to bidders or any other person(s) not officially concerned with such process, until the time of the announcement of the respective evaluation report.

27.2. Any effort by a bidder to influence the procuring agency processing of bids or award decision may result in the rejection of his bid.

28. **Preliminary Examination of Bids**

28.1. Prior to the detailed evaluation of bids, the procuring agency will determine whether each bid:

28.1.1. meets the eligibility criteria defined in **ITB 4**;

28.1.2. has been prepared as per the format and contents defined by the procuring agency in the bidding document;

28.1.3. is accompanied by the required securities; and

28.1.4. is substantially responsive to the requirements of the bidding document.

28.2. The procuring agency will confirm that the documents and information specified under **ITB 9,10 and 11** have been provided in the bids. If any of these documents or information is missing, or is not provided in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, the bid shall be rejected.

28.3. If a bid is not substantially responsive, it will be rejected by the procuring agency and may not subsequently be evaluated for complete technical responsiveness.

29. **Examination of Terms and Conditions, Technical Evaluation**

29.1. The procuring agency shall evaluate the technical aspects of the bids submitted in accordance with **ITB 21,** to confirm that all requirements specified in **Evaluation Criteria, Technical Specifications and**

Schedule of Requirements,prescribed inthe bidding document have been met without material deviation or reservation.

29.2. If after the examination of the terms and conditions and the technical evaluation, the procuring agency determines that the bid is not substantially responsive in accordance with **ITB 28,** it shall reject the bids.

30. **Correction of Errors**

30.1. Bids determined to be substantially responsive will be checked for any arithmetic errors. Errors will be corrected as follows: -

30.1.1. if there is a discrepancy between unit prices and the total price that is obtained by multiplying the unit price and quantity, the unit price shall prevail, and the total price shall be corrected, unless in the opinion of the procuring agency there is an obvious misplacement of the decimal point in the unit price, in which the total price as quoted shall govern and the unit price shall be corrected;

30.1.2. if there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of sub-totals, the sub-totals shall prevail and the total shall be corrected; and

30.1.3. where there is a discrepancy between the amounts in figures and in words, the amount in words will govern.

30.1.4. Where there is discrepancy between grand total of price schedule and amount mentioned on the Forms of bid, the amount referred in Price Schedule shall be treated as correct subject to elimination of other errors.

30.2. The amount stated in the bid will be adjusted by the procuring agency in accordance with the above procedure for the correction of errors and, with the concurrence of the bidder that shall be considered as binding upon the bidder. If the Bidder does not accept the corrected amount, his bid will then be rejected, and the Bid Security may be forfeited or the Bid Securing Declaration may be executed in accordance with **ITB 17.**

31. **Conversion to Single Currency**

31.1. As per Rule 42(2) of Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

32. **Evaluation of Bids**

32.1. The procuring agency shall evaluate bids in accordance with Rule 42 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026 and compare only those bids determined to be substantially responsive, pursuant to **ITB 28.**

32.2. In evaluating the Technical Bids of each Bidder, the Procuring Agency shall apply the evaluation criteria and methodologies specified in the **Bid Data Sheet (BDS)** and in accordance with the Statement of Requirements and Technical Specifications. No other evaluation criteria or methodologies shall be permitted.

32.3. **In case of tie of bids, the bidders shall be provided an opportunity to offer their best and final monetary offer through EPADS. However, in no case the rates shall be higher than the original financial bids.**

32.4. The Procuring agency/Employer's evaluation of a bid will take into account:

32.4.1. the bid price, excluding provisional sums and the provision, if any, for contingencies in the summary bill of quantities, but including day work items, where priced competitively;

32.4.2. price adjustment for correction of arithmetic errors in accordance with **ITB 30;**

32.5. converting the amount resulting from applying (a) and (b) above, if relevant, to a single currency in accordance with **ITB 31**;

32.6. The estimated effect of the price adjustment provisions of the Conditions of Contract, applied over the period of execution of the Contract, shall not be taken into account in bid evaluation.

32.7. If these bidding documents allow bidders to quote separate prices for different lots, and the award to a successful bidder of multiple lots, the methodology of evaluation to determine the lowest evaluated lot

combinations in the Form of Bid, is specified in the **BDS.**

33. **Determination of Most Advantageous Bids**

33.1. Selection technique will be adopted for determining the Successful Bid in accordance with the criteria referred in the **BDS** or prescribed in the separate section titled as Evaluation Criteria.

34. **Abnormally Low Financial Bids**

34.1. Subject to sub-clause (2), a procuring agency may, in the procurement of goods, works and services, reject a bid if it has determined that the price, in combination with other constituent elements of the bid, is abnormally low in relation to the subject matter of the procurement such that it raises material concerns on the part of the procuring agency as to the ability of the bidder to perform the procurement contract satisfactorily for the offered price.

34.2. A procuring agency shall not reject a bid as abnormally low under sub-rule (1) unless the procuring agency—

34.2.1. requested through EPADS from the bidder a written clarification of bid, including a detailed price analysis of its bid price in relation to the subject matter of the procurement contract, scope, methodology, schedule, allocation of risks and responsibilities and any other requirements of the bidding documents; and

34.2.2. having taken into account the information provided by the bidder in response to a request under clause (a) and the information included in the bid, the procuring agency determines that the bidder has failed to demonstrate its ability to perform the procurement contract satisfactorily against the offered price.

34.3. The procuring agency shall promptly communicate to the bidder concerned its decision to reject the bid, including the reasons for the decision. The procuring agency may reinitiate the bidding process after communication of such decision.

34.4. Every abnormally low bid shall be investigated in order to determine the reason for submitting the bid including whether the bid was submitted in order to remove other bidders from competition.

34.5. In case it is established after investigation that the bidder submitted an abnormally low bid to remove other bidders from competition or to frustrate the bidding process, the procuring agency may blacklist the bidder in accordance with Rule 25(1)(d).

35. **Rejection of Bids**

35.1. As per Rule 45 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026

36. **Cancellation of procurement**

36.1. As per Rule 46 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026

37. **Single Responsive Bid**

37.1. The procuring agency may consider single responsive subject to underlying conditions of Rule 50 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

38. **Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

38.1. As per Rule 66 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026

39. **Arbitration Clause**

39.1. Appointing Authority for the Arbitrator shall be Managing Director (PPRA) OR Secretary (Ministry of Law & Justice),

40. **Fee of the Arbitrator**

40.1. The fee shall be specified in PKR as detrmined by the Appointing Authority and shall be shared equally by each party.

41. **Socio-economic development**

41.1. As per Rule 63 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026, PA to encourage the inclusiveness of small and medium enterprises, and marginalized groups by

according preferences in line with the notified policies of the Federal Government

42. **Environmental objectives**

42.1. As per Rule 64 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026, The procuring agency may seek to procure services with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to services with the same primary function that may otherwise be procured.

F. Award of Contract

43. **Appointment of Contract Manager**

43.1. The procuring agency shall designate a Contract Manager for each procurement or class of procurement who shall manage the contract as per Rule 58 & 59 of Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

44. **Criteria of Award**

44.1. The procuring agency will award the Contract to the bidder whose bid has been determined to be substantially responsive to the bidding document and that has been declared as Successful Bid .

45. **Procuring Agency’s Right to reject All Bids**

45.1. The procuring agency reserves the right to reject all the Bids and to annul the procurement process at any time prior to acceptance of the bid(s), without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

45.2. Notice of the rejection of all bids shall be given promptly to all bidders that have submitted the bids. The procuring agency shall upon request communicate to any bidder the grounds for the rejection of his bid, but is not required to justify those grounds.

46. **Procuring Agency’s Right to Vary Quantities at the Time of Award**

46.1. The procuring agency reserves the right, at the time of contract award, to increase or decrease not more than 15% of the original scope of related services originally specified in the Schedule of Requirements, provided that such variation does not exceed the percentage indicated in the **Bid Data Sheet (BDS)**. This adjustment shall be made without any change in the unit price or other terms and conditions of the Bids and Bidding Documents.

47. **Notification of Award**

47.1. Prior to the award of contract, the procuring agency shall issue a Final Evaluation Report giving justification for acceptance or rejection of the bids.

47.2. Bidder whose bid has been accepted, will be notified for the award by the Procuring Agency prior to expiration of the Bid Validity period through EPADS. The Letter of Award will state the sum that the procuring agency will pay the successful bidder in consideration for the execution of the scope of works as prescribed by the Contract (hereinafter and in the Contract called the "Contract Price).

47.3. The notification of award will constitute the formation of the Contract, subject to the condition that bidder furnish the Performance Guarantee in accordance with **ITB 49** and signing of the contract in accordance with **ITB 48.**

48. **Signing of Contract**

48.1. Promptly after notification of award, Procuring Agency shall send the successful bidder the draft agreement, incorporating all terms and conditions as agreed by the parties to the contract. The successful bidder and the procuring agency shall sign the contract.

49. **Performance Guarantee**

49.1. After the receipt of the Letter of Award, the successful bidder, within the specified time, shall deliver to the Procuring Agency a Performance Guarantee in the amount and in the form stipulated in the **BDS and SCC**,

denominated in the type and proportions of currencies in the Letter of Acceptance and in accordance with the Conditions of Contract.

49.2. Failure of the successful bidder to comply with the requirement of **ITB 49.1** shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award and forfeiture of the bid security, in which event the procuring agency may make the award to the next ranked bidder or call for new bids.

50. **Advance Payment**

50.1. The Procuring Agency will provide an Advance Payment as stipulated in the Conditions of Contract, subject to a maximum amount, as stated in the **BDS**. The Advance Payment request shall be accompanied by an Advance Payment Guarantee in the form provided in Contract Forms.

51. **Arbitration**

51.1. The Arbitrator shall be appointed by mutual consent of the both parties as per the provisions specified in the **SCC**.

52. **Corrupt & Fraudulent Practices**

52.1. Procuring Agencies (including beneficiaries of Government funded projects and procurement) as well as Bidders/Contractors under Government financed contracts, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts, and will avoid to engage in any corrupt and fraudulent practices.

G. Grievance Redressal & Complaint Review Mechanism

53. **Constitution of Grievance Redressal**

53.1. The Principal Accounting Officer or head of procuring agency or any authorized officer shall constitute a committee comprising of odd number of members completely outside the procuring agency from any other procuring agency or from the pool of experts maintained by the Authority and

accessible through EPADS with necessary powers and authorizations, to address the complaints of bidders or parties that may occur prior to the entry into force of the procurement contract.

53.2. Any party may file a written complaint, two days prior to the proposal submission deadline, against the eligibility parameters, evaluation criteria or any other terms and conditions described in the bidding documents, if found contrary to the provisions of the procurement regulatory framework, and the same shall be addressed by the GRC.

53.3. Any bidder or party feeling aggrieved by any act of the procuring agency after the submission of bid, may lodge a written complaint concerning his grievances within seven days of announcement of the technical evaluation report and five days after issuance of final evaluation report.

53.4. In case, the complaint is filed against the technical or final evaluation report, the GRC may suspend the procurement proceedings till the decision.

53.5. In case, the complaint is filed after the issuance of the final evaluation report, the complainant may not raise any objection on technical evaluation of the report:Provided that the complainant may raise the objection on any part of the final evaluation report in case where single stage-single envelope bidding procedure is adopted.

53.6. The GRC shall investigate and decide upon the complaint within ten days of its receipt.

53.7. Any bidder or party not satisfied with the decision of the GRC or if GRC fails to decide within ten days under sub-rule 6, may file an appeal before the Appellate Committee of the Authority, comprising odd number of members including an external member within ten days of communication of decision subject to depositing the prescribed fee and in accordance with the procedure determined by the Authority. The Appellate Committee of the Authority shall decide the appeal within 45 days from the receipt of the appeal. The Appellate Committee may suspend the process of award of contract to such period as deemed appropriate during the pendency of appeal. The decision of the Appellate Committee of the Authority shall be considered as final.

H. Blacklisting/ Debarment

55. **Procedure for Blacklisting/Debarment**

55.1. The procuring agency may initiate blacklisting proceedings against contractor/supplier in accordance with Rule-25 of the Public Procurement Rules, 2026 , Mechanism for Blacklisting, Debarment Regulations, 2024 and “procedure for filling and disposal of review petition under rule-25(6) of Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PPRA) EPADS

Bid Data Sheet

Bids Data Sheet (BDS)

The following specific data for the procurement of Goods to be procured shall complement, supplement, or amend the provisions in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB). Whenever there is a conflict, the provisions herein shall prevail over those in ITB.

BDS Clause Number
ITB Number
Amendments of, and Supplements to, Clauses in the Instruction to Bidders

A. Introduction

BDS Clause Number 1
ITB Number 1.1

Name of Procuring Agency: **National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research)**

The subject of procurement is: **Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)**

Expected commencement date: **Tuesday, January 5, 2027**

BDS Clause Number 2
ITB Number 2.1

Financial year for the operations of the Procuring Agency: **2026-27**

Name and identification number of the Contract: **P212352**

BDS Clause Number 3
ITB Number 4

JV/Consortium or Association Allowed: **No**
Number of JV/Consortium Members: **Nil**

B. Bidding Documents

BDS Clause Number 4
ITB Number 7.1

The Bidders may seek clarifications through **EPADS v2.0**: Clarification Date: Monday, December 28, 2026
Pre-Bid Meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 2026 12:00 AM
Venue: Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat.
Meeting Link: https://meet.google.com/omu-qwbo-cub

BDS Clause Number 5
ITB Number 8.1

Any addendum, in case issued, shall be published on **National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research)** website and on **EPADS v2.0**.

BDS Clause Number 6
ITB Number9.1

List of documents required along with the bid:

1. Annex-A: Technical Proposal Checklist / Compliance Sheet Annex-B: Financial Proposal Forms (F-1, F-2A1,F-2A2, F-2B, F-3, F-4) Annex-C: Eligibility / Mandatory Documents Checklist Annex-D: Format of Bid Security Annex-E: Integrity Pact Annex-F: Affidavit of Non-Blacklisting Annex-G: Non-Disclosure & Data Security Undertaking Annex-H: Curriculum Vitae (CV) Format for Key Personnel

BDS Clause Number 7
ITB Number 11.1

The qualification criteria to establish the supply / production capability of the bidder.

see Eligibility Criteria

BDS Clause Number 8
ITB Number 7.1

Services and Their related documents:
See section Required Services and Scope of Work

BDS Clause Number 9
ITB Number 13.1 & 13.2

Price schedule will be provided according to the format defined and acquired.
see section price schedule.

BDS Clause Number 10
ITB Number 7.1

Specifications:

see section of specifications.

C. Preparation of Bids

BDS Clause Number 11
ITB Number 13.5

The price shall be **Fixed**.

BDS Clause Number 12
ITB Number 15.1

Currency of the Bids shall be : **PKR**

BDS Clause Number 13
ITB Number 16.1

The Bids/Bid Validity period shall be: **90 Days**

BDS Clause Number 14
ITB Number 17.1

The amount of Bid Security shall be as defined in Bid Security Section for items and lots given
Instrument of Bid Security Shall be in the Name of : **National Food Security And Research**
The Bid Security shall be in the form of: **Pay Order, Banker's Cheque, Call at Deposit, Demand Draft**

BDS Clause Number 15
ITB Number 17.3

The Bids security shall be valid for twenty-eight (28) days beyond the expiry of the Bids validity period specified in the bidding documents, for example the bid validity is 180 days so the bid security shall be valid for 180+28 = 208 days.

BDS Clause Number 16
ITB Number 18.1

Alternative Bids to the requirements of the bidding documents will not be permitted.

D. Submission of Bids

BDS Clause Number 17
ITB Number 21.1

Bid shall be submitted online on **EPADS v2.0** whereas hard copy of the bid security should be submitted to the following;

Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory

Bids that are not submitted on EPADS v2.0 shall be disqualified.

The deadline for Bids submission is: **Thursday, December 31, 2026 02:00 PM**

E. Opening and Evaluation of Bids

BDS Clause Number 18
ITB Number 26.1

The Bids opening shall take place on **EPADS v2.0**.

Day *: **Thursday***

Date: ***Thursday, December 31, 2026***

Time *: **02:30 PM***

BDS Clause Number 19
ITB Number 32.1

Selection technique adopted will be: **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)**
see Evaluation Criteria

F. Award of Contract

BDS Clause Number 20
ITB Number 49.1

The Performance guarantee shall: **10.00%**.

The Performance Guarantee shall be acceptable in the form of: **Pay Order, Banker's Cheque, Call at Deposit, Bank Guarantee, Demand Draft**

BDS Clause Number 21
ITB Number 51.1

Arbitrator shall be appointed by mutual consent of the both parties.

G. Review of Procurement Decisions

BDS Clause Number 22
ITB Number 53.1

Grievence against this procurement shall be submitted online on **EPADS v2.0**.

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Eligibility Criteria

All Active Taxpayers shall be eligible to participate in the procurement process, unless expressly excluded or otherwise restricted under the Eligibility Criteria specified by the Procuring Agency.

Required Registration
NADRA CITIZENSHIP (CNIC/NICOP)
FBR (NTN)
FBR (GSTN)
SECP
Registrar of Firms

Eligibility Criteria	Document
Legally registered entity in Pakistan (company/Bidder/registered branch office), with valid and active NTN and Sales Tax/STRN registration, appearing on FBR's Active Taxpayers List.	Yes
Demonstrated ownership of, or a binding contractual arrangement with, a Tier III (or higher) data centre physically located within Pakistan. - Data centre ownership/lease/service agreement; Tier & ISO 27001 certificates	Yes
Not currently blacklisted or debarred by PPRA, any Government of Pakistan entity, MNFSR, State Bank of Pakistan, or any other regulatory authority.-Signed affidavit on judicial-stamp paper (Annex-F)	Yes

Proposed core project team meeting minimum qualification thresholds (Solution Architect, AI/ML Engineers, Data Engineer, Cybersecurity Specialist, PMP/PMI-certified Project Manager) with CVs.-CVs (Annex-H) and certifications	Yes
Declaration of no conflict of interest with MNFSR or its officials, and compliance with MNFSR's Code of Conduct for Vendors.-Signed declaration	Yes
Manufacturer/OEM authorisation letters for any proposed proprietary LLM platform, hardware or software licences (where applicable).-OEM/authorised-partner letters	Yes

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Evaluation Criteria

Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)

Weightage

Technical Evaluation %	Financial Evaluation %
70	30

Technical Marks	100
Passing Marks	**70**
Technical Evaluation Criteria	
Bidder's Profile, Corporate Experience & Financial Capacity/10 points for more than 05 Years in business; turnover of more than PKR. 200 million in the last financial year 05 points for less than 05 Years in business; turnover of less than PKR. 200 million but more than PKR 100 million in the last financial year. (Qualitative)(Doc Required)	10
Relevant Past Experience / Similar Assignments/Number and relevance of prior AI/GenAI deployments; public-sector/Agriculture and Livestock references; scale and complexity More than 05 projects: 10 points Less than 05 but more than 02 projects: 05 points (Qualitative)(Doc Required)	10
Understanding of Requirements & Proposed Technical Solution/Depth of understanding of MNFSR's business domains; RAG/LLM architecture; bilingual support; guardrails; integration approach Fill Annexure-AA with appropriate response tag against each requirement 01 point for fully compliant, 0.5 points for partially compliant and 0 for non-compliant. Each requirement carry maximum of 01 point. Annexure-AA contains thirty (30) requirements. The raw score out of 30 shall be normalised to the 25 marks allocated to this criterion, i.e. Marks = (raw score ÷ 30) × 25. (Qualitative)(Doc Required)	25

AI Infrastructure, Hosting & Security Proposal/In-country data centre credentials; HA/DR design; scalability; ISO 27001/security posture; compliance with Section 8. Fully compliant: 20 pts Partial compliant: against any point qualifies the bidder for securing ½ points allocated for respective section. Non-Compliance: against any point qualifies the bidder for securing zero points allocated for respective section. 8.1: 05 points 8.2: 04 points 8.3: 04 points 8.4: 04 points 8.5: 04 points 8.6: 04 points Compliance with the GPU Compute Appliance specification at Section 3.3.7 and Table 3-1 shall be assessed under this criterion; any parameter below the stated minimum renders the proposal non-responsive under Section 3.3.7(a). (Qualitative)(Doc Required)	25
Implementation Methodology & Project Plan/Realism and clarity of work plan, phasing, risk management, governance (qualitative) (Qualitative)(Doc Required)	10
Key Personnel Qualifications/Relevant experience/certifications of Solution Architect, AI/ML Engineers, Security Specialist, Project Manager (10 points for more than 5 years relevant experience, 05 points for less than 05 years experience) (Qualitative)(Doc Required)	10
Training, Knowledge Transfer, Support & SLA Commitments/Quality of training plan; KT approach; proposed SLA/support model (Qualitative) (Qualitative)(Doc Required)	10

Required Services

Lot Title : Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)

Bid Security : 2000000 PKR

Position	Delivery Schedule	Quantity
One-Time Development & Implementation Cost	**Address:** Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory **Schedule:** 90 days **Quantity:** 1/bundle	1/bundle
GPU / AI-Compute Capital Cost & Asset Register	**Address:** Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory **Schedule:** 90 days **Quantity:** 1/bundle	1/bundle
Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge	**Address:** Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory **Schedule:** 3 Years **Quantity:** 1/bundle	1/bundle

Position	Delivery Schedule	Quantity
AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations Cost (Recurring, Years 1–3)	**Address:** Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory **Schedule:** 3 Years **Quantity:** 1/bundle	1/bundle
Annual Managed Support & SLA Cost (Post-Warranty)	**Address:** Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory **Schedule:** 3 Years **Quantity:** 1/bundle	1/bundle
Grand Summary: 3-Year Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)	**Address:** Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory **Schedule:** 3 Years **Quantity:** 1/bundle	1/bundle

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Related Services :

No

Services Specifications

Lot Title : Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)

Position: One-Time Development & Implementation Cost

Specifications / Requirements:

7.1 Form F-1 — One-Time Development & Implementation Cost			
#	Cost Component	Unit	Amount (PKR)
1	Discovery, Requirements & Solution Design	Lump Sum	
2	Application Development & AI/RAG Platform Build (per business domain, itemised)	Lump Sum	
3	Data/Content Ingestion & Preparation	Lump Sum	
4	Integration with Existing MNFSR Systems	Lump Sum	
5	Security Hardening & Independent VAPT (pre-Go-Live)	Lump Sum	
6	Training & Knowledge Transfer	Lump Sum	
7	Project Management (Phases 0–4)	Lump Sum	
8	Contingency / Miscellaneous (max 5% of subtotal)	Lump Sum	

7.1 Form F-1 — One-Time Development & Implementation Cost			
	Sub-Total (Form F-1)		

Position: GPU / AI-Compute Capital Cost & Asset Register

Specifications / Requirements:

7.2A Form F-2A — GPU / AI-Compute Capital Cost & Asset Register				
#	GPU / AI-Compute Hardware Item (Make, Model & Specification as proposed in the Technical Proposal)	Qty	Unit Capital Cost (PKR)	Total Capital Cost (PKR)
1	GPU compute appliance units — integrated AI all-in-one GPU server, each providing 16 GPU accelerators and conforming to Table 3-1 (Section 3.3.7). Quantity below is expressed in appliance units, not individual accelerator cards.			
2	Directly-associated compute/networking hardware dedicated to the GPU cluster not already integrated within the appliance units above (e.g., high-speed interconnect/switching between appliance units, external storage) — itemise each			
3	Installation, commissioning & burn-in testing of the above hardware			
	TOTAL GPU CAPITAL COST (Asset Register value transferred to MNFSR at Year 3 — see Section 3.3.6)			

Position: Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge

Specifications / Requirements:

7.2A-2 Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge				
Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3-Yr Total
Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge				

Position: AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations Cost (Recurring, Years 1–3)

Specifications / Requirements:

7.2B Form F-2B — AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations Cost (Recurring, Years 1–3)				
Cost Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3-Yr Total
Non-GPU Compute & Platform Operations (orchestration/application servers, platform administration — excludes capitalised GPU hardware costed under Form F-2A)				
Storage, Backup & Retention				
Data Centre / Colocation / Private Cloud Fees (facility, power, cooling, rack space)				
Network, Bandwidth & Security Appliances (Firewall/WAF/IDS-IPS)				
LLM/Software Licensing (if any, excluding public foreign APIs)				
Disaster Recovery Site & Failover Testing				

7.2B Form F-2B — AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations Cost (Recurring, Years 1–3)				
Managed Services: 24×7 Monitoring & L1/L2/L3 Support				
GPU Hardware Insurance & Warranty Management (until title transfers to MNFSR)				
Sub-Total (Form F-2B)				

Position: Annual Managed Support & SLA Cost (Post-Warranty)

Specifications / Requirements:

7.3 Form F-3 — Annual Managed Support & SLA Cost (Post-Warranty)				
Cost Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3-Yr Total
Application Support & Maintenance (bug-fixes, minor enhancements)				
Model/Content Refresh & Retraining Cycles				
Periodic Security Re-Assessment (Annual VAPT)				
Helpdesk / Support Desk Personnel				
Sub-Total (Form F-3)				

Position: Grand Summary: 3-Year Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

Specifications / Requirements:

7.4 Form F-4 — Grand Summary: 3-Year Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

Component	Amount (PKR)
Sub-Total Form F-1 (One-Time Development & Implementation)	
Sub-Total Form F-2A1 (GPU Capital Cost, 3-Year Recovery — Asset Transfers to MNFSR at Year 3)	
Sub-Total Form F-2A2 — GPU/ Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge	
Sub-Total Form F-2B (AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations, 3 Years)	
Sub-Total Form F-3 (Managed Support & SLA, 3 Years)	
TOTAL EVALUATED COST (Used for Financial Scoring — Section 6.1)	

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Scope of Work

The Scope of Work is organised into:

(a) Functional scope across MNFSR's

(b) Technical and solution scope

(c) AI infrastructure and hosting requirements for three (3) years

(d) implementation phases

(e)training and knowledge transfer

(f) exit management.

The selected Bidder shall be responsible, on an end-to-end basis, for the discovery, design, development, integration, testing, security hardening, deployment, in-country hosting, operation, maintenance, and managed support of the Solution.

3.1 Functional Scope - Business Domains & Use Cases

The AI Assistant shall be a single, unified platform serving the following MNFSR business domains and user groups, at minimum. The Bidder's Technical Proposal shall demonstrate a clear understanding of, and a proposed approach for, each of the representative use cases set out below.

Business Domain / Wing	Representative Use Cases	Primary Users

Food Security Policy, Planning & Coordination	AI-assisted policy research; retrieval and comparison of laws, policies, notifications, strategies and international commitments; preparation of briefs, summaries, meeting material and evidence-based policy notes.	MNFSR policy and technical Wings; senior management; authorized policymakers
Crop Monitoring, Forecasting & Agricultural Statistics	Analysis and summarisation of crop-area, production, yield, price, weather and supply data; trend identification; anomaly alerts; support for crop forecasts, food-balance assessments and management dashboards.	Crop and food-security analysts; statistical teams; senior management
Agricultural Research & Innovation	Search and synthesis of agricultural research, technical reports, trial results, publications and best practices; identification of relevant technologies, evidence gaps and research linkages.	MNFSR; PARC/NARC and research institutes; researchers; technical experts
Seed Certification & Registration	Guided assistance on seed laws, variety registration, certification procedures, field inspection requirements, testing standards, licensing and application-status information from authorized systems.	MNFSR and FSC&RD staff; seed companies; breeders; applicants; farmers

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Plant Protection, Quarantine & Pesticide Management	Query resolution on plant quarantine, import/export procedures, phytosanitary requirements, pest surveillance, pesticide registration and related technical guidelines; summarisation of inspection and surveillance records.	MNFSR and DPP staff; inspectors; importers/exporters; growers; laboratories
Livestock, Animal Health & Animal Quarantine	Assistance on animal quarantine procedures, import/export requirements, disease surveillance, livestock development, breeding, dairy and fisheries-related policies and technical material.	MNFSR and attached organizations; veterinarians; livestock and fisheries stakeholders
Agricultural Trade, Markets, Storage & Strategic Reserves	Analysis of agricultural trade, prices, stocks, procurement, storage and supply-chain information; retrieval of export/import requirements; support for market briefs, food-supply monitoring and strategic-reserve planning.	MNFSR; API; PASSCO; trade and market analysts; authorized stakeholders
Cotton, Fisheries & Other Sectoral Programmes	Retrieval and summarisation of sector-specific policies, research, production data, programme records and technical guidance; support for project monitoring and stakeholder queries.	MNFSR; PCCC; FDB and other relevant entities; technical teams; sector stakeholders

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Farmer and Stakeholder Services / Public Helpdesk	Public-facing chatbot on mnfsr.gov.pk and approved portals for frequently asked questions, procedural guidance, programme information, application or request status where integrated, and escalation to designated human support channels.	Farmers; researchers; exporters/importers; agribusinesses; development partners; general public
Corporate Support Functions (Legal, HR, Finance, Administration, Procurement & IT)	Internal knowledge assistant for applicable laws, Rules of Business, SOPs, HR policies, financial and procurement procedures, administrative instructions, IT support material and official drafting templates.	All authorized MNFSR employees

The Bidder shall propose a phased rollout sequence across these domains, prioritised in consultation with MNFSR during the Discovery and Solution Design phase. The final sequence shall reflect business criticality, data readiness, security classification, integration dependencies, expected public value, and the availability of designated content owners and subject-matter experts.

3.2 Technical / Solution Scope

Technology neutrality: This RFP is technology-neutral. MNFSR does not mandate, and has no preference for, any specific product, brand, programming language, framework, hardware manufacturer, cloud service provider, or foundation-model vendor. Where a functional capability is described below (for example, a vector database, retrieval-augmented generation framework, orchestration layer, or model-serving stack), it identifies a required capability only and not a named product. Bidders may propose an open-source, proprietary, or hybrid technology stack that best meets the functional, performance, security, interoperability, scalability, and data-residency requirements of this RFP. Proposals shall be evaluated on their demonstrated compliance and technical merit rather than on the specific technologies selected.

Knowledge ingestion and retrieval: Design and implement a secure data-ingestion pipeline covering applicable laws, rules, policies, notifications, guidelines, technical standards, research publications, reports, manuals, SOPs, project records, datasets and other authorized content held by MNFSR, its attached departments and autonomous organizations. The Solution shall use a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) architecture that grounds substantive answers in relevant, version-controlled and traceable source material, with document-level citations and metadata.

Language model layer: The Bidder may propose any suitable Large Language Model or combination of models, whether open-weight or proprietary/licensed, provided that: (a) inference, fine-tuning, embedding generation and model evaluation occur solely on infrastructure physically located within Pakistan; (b) no prompt, response, document, dataset, embedding, telemetry or derivative of MNFSR data is transmitted to, cached by, or processed on any server, endpoint or API outside Pakistan at any stage; and (c) the licensing arrangements permit private, in-country deployment and continued operation for the full Contract Period.

Bilingual support: The Solution shall support English and Urdu queries and responses at minimum, including accurate handling of agricultural terminology, Government of Pakistan drafting conventions and mixed-language queries. Bidders may separately propose support for additional regional languages.

Access and identity: Integrate with MNFSR's existing or designated identity and access management (IAM) and single sign-on (SSO) environment through supported standards-based protocols, such as SAML, OIDC or LDAP. Role-based access control shall ensure that responses, functions and source documents are limited to the requesting user's role, Wing, organization and security clearance. A separate, appropriately throttled, content-filtered and isolated channel shall be provided for public and external users.

Guardrails and quality assurance: Provide hallucination mitigation, mandatory source citation, confidence or evidence indicators, content and security filters, configurable refusal and escalation rules, and human-in-the-loop review for AI-generated content intended for official use. The Solution shall capture structured user feedback and support controlled testing, evaluation and improvement of prompts, models and retrieval quality.

Administration console: Provide a secure back-office console for MNFSR's designated Information Technology/Digital Transformation team and authorized content administrators to manage data sources, ingestion status, document versions, user roles, prompts, guardrail policies, integrations, analytics, feedback, audit logs and system configuration.

Channels: Provide a responsive web application and an embeddable chatbot widget for mnfsr.gov.pk and other approved MNFSR portals. Integration with MNFSR's internal collaboration, intranet or messaging tools may be proposed as an optional component and shall be separately priced.

Integration: Provide secure, standards-based API integration with authorized MNFSR systems, including, where applicable, e-Office, knowledge-management repositories, websites and portals, dashboards, programme-monitoring systems, laboratory or registration systems, and systems of attached departments and autonomous organizations. Real-time or transactional information, such as application, inspection, programme or request status, shall be obtained from the authoritative source system rather than inferred from static content.

Analytics: Provide role-based dashboards covering usage, user adoption, query trends, response quality, frequently accessed topics, unanswered or low-confidence queries, source-document gaps, system performance and user satisfaction. Analytics shall support continuous improvement without exposing restricted content or personal information to unauthorized users.

3.3 AI Infrastructure & Hosting Requirements (Three-Year Term)

The Bidder shall design, provision, secure and operate — for the full three (3)-year hosting term following Go-Live — all AI infrastructure required to run the Solution at production scale, entirely within Pakistan. At minimum, the proposed infrastructure and hosting model shall meet the following requirements:

3.3.1 Facility & Hosting Model

- Hosting shall be provided via a private cloud arrangement with a data centre physically located within Pakistan, either owned by the Bidder or contracted through a licensed Pakistani data centre/cloud service provider (CSP) — public-cloud regions located outside Pakistan are not acceptable for any environment (Dev/Test/UAT/Prod).

- The data centre facility must be, at minimum, Uptime Institute Tier III (or equivalent) certified, with ISO/IEC 27001 certification for its Information Security Management System (ISMS).
- The Bidder shall classify all Solution data in accordance with the Government of Pakistan's Cloud First Policy (2022) data classification scheme and Bidder that MNFSR data (regulatory records, case files, personally identifiable information, model weights and embeddings) is treated at minimum as "Sensitive/Confidential", requiring an Accredited Government Cloud/CSP located within Pakistan.

3.3.2 Compute, Storage & Scalability

- Dedicated GPU-accelerated compute for LLM inference and (if applicable) fine-tuning, delivered as integrated AI all-in-one appliance units that meet, at minimum, every parameter of the GPU Compute Appliance specification at Section 3.3.7 and Table 3-1, and sized to support the concurrency and response-time targets defined in the Bidder's Technical Proposal (indicative baseline: minimum 300 concurrent internal users and 500 concurrent public/eZfile users at peak, 95th-percentile response latency under 5 seconds for retrieval-augmented queries). This GPU compute infrastructure shall be financed and, on completion of the three-year hosting term, transferred to MNFSR as set out in Section 3.3.6.
- Separate, logically and physically isolated Development, Test, User Acceptance Testing (UAT), and Production environments.
- Encrypted primary storage with automated daily backups; minimum 7-year retention for regulatory records-linked data (or as directed by MNFSR's record-retention policy), with backups also retained exclusively within Pakistan.
- Elastic scalability to accommodate at least 100% growth in usage over the Contract Period without requiring a change in hosting jurisdiction or a fresh procurement. Scale-out shall be achieved by clustering additional appliance units into the existing unified cluster in accordance with Section 3.3.7, without re-architecting or interrupting the deployed environment.

3.3.3 High Availability & Disaster Recovery

- High-availability (active-active or active-passive) architecture within Pakistan; a geographically separate Disaster Recovery (DR) site also located within Pakistan.
- Target Recovery Time Objective (RTO) of 4 hours and Recovery Point Objective (RPO) of 1 hour, or better, to be conBiddered in the Technical Proposal.
- Guaranteed minimum production uptime of 99.5% measured monthly, with Service Level Agreement (SLA) credits for non-compliance as defined in the Contract.

3.3.4 AI/LLM Platform Stack

- A production-grade model-serving/inference stack, a vector database or equivalent retrieval index for embeddings, an orchestration/RAG framework, and MLOps/LLMOps tooling for monitoring model performance, drift and cost. These components shall be delivered as a pre-integrated, factory-installed and vendor-validated cloud-native AI stack on the appliance units specified at Section 3.3.7, rather than as separately assembled components integrated for the first time on this engagement; the Bidder shall evidence prior validation of the stack as an integrated whole and shall justify its choices in the Technical Proposal.
- Comprehensive audit logging of all prompts, responses, retrieved sources and administrative actions, retained within Pakistan and made available to MNFSR on request.

3.3.5 Managed Hosting Services (Years 1–3)

- 24×7 infrastructure monitoring and alerting; patch and vulnerability management; capacity planning and tuning; tiered technical support (L1/L2/L3) with defined response and resolution SLAs by severity.

- Quarterly performance, security and usage reports to MNFSR's ITD throughout the hosting term.

3.3.6 GPU Capital Asset Financing & Ownership Transfer

MNFSR intends to acquire, over time, ownership of the GPU and directly-associated AI-compute hardware underpinning the Solution, rather than procuring it as a pure ongoing service. Accordingly, the following capital-asset model shall apply, in addition to the recurring hosting/operations cost at Section 3.3.5:

- **Capital cost recovery:** The Bidder shall procure, install, commission and own the GPU/AI-compute hardware for the duration of the three-year hosting term. MNFSR shall pay the Bidder the capital cost of this hardware (as itemised in Form F-2A) in instalments distributed over the three (3)-year hosting term, in addition to — and shown separately from — the recurring AI infrastructure hosting cost (Form F-2B) and managed support cost (Form F-3).
- **Transfer of ownership:** Upon (a) expiry of the three-year hosting term (or earlier if MNFSR and the Bidder agree to an accelerated buy-out), and (b) receipt by the Bidder of the full GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge for all three years, title to and ownership of the GPU hardware (and the directly-associated compute/networking hardware costed under Form F-2A) shall transfer to MNFSR automatically and unconditionally, free of any lien, charge, encumbrance or third-party interest, and the hardware shall thereafter be recorded as a fixed asset of MNFSR.
- **Condition, maintenance & insurance:** Throughout the three-year term, the Bidder shall be responsible, at its own cost, for the insurance, maintenance, Bidderware/driver updates, warranty management and replacement of any faulty, degraded or failed GPU units, and shall deliver the hardware to MNFSR at the point of transfer in good operating condition consistent with normal wear and tear.
- **Handover documentation:** At the point of transfer, the Bidder shall execute a formal Certificate of Asset Transfer with MNFSR, reconciling each physical unit against the Form F-2A Asset Register (make, model, serial number, location), and shall hand over

all manufacturer warranties (to the extent transferable), manuals, and maintenance records.

- **Early termination:** If the Contract is terminated prior to completion of the three-year term for reasons attributable to the Bidder, no further Capital Cost Recovery Charge shall fall due and ownership shall not transfer until MNFSR, at its option, either (i) pays the Bidder the un-recovered balance of the GPU Capital Cost and takes immediate ownership, or (ii) procures continuity of hosting from a successor vendor, in which case the outgoing Bidder shall cooperate fully with relocation/handover of the hardware as directed by MNFSR, in accordance with the Contract's termination clause.
- **No effect on data/IP ownership:** This hardware ownership-transfer arrangement is independent of, and additional to, MNFSR's ownership of source code, models, data and configurations under Section 8.6, which vests in MNFSR throughout the Contract Period regardless of the hardware transfer date.

3.3.7 GPU Compute Appliance — Minimum Technical Specification

The GPU and directly-associated AI-compute hardware financed under Section 3.3.6 and costed at Form F-2A shall conform to the minimum specification set out below. This specification defines the floor of acceptable capability only; the Bidder remains responsible for sizing the deployment to meet the performance, availability and environment-separation requirements of Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3.

- **Configuration basis:** The Bidder shall supply GPU compute capacity in the form of an integrated AI all-in-one appliance — a factory-integrated, rack-mountable GPU server combining compute, high-speed card-to-card interconnect, local NVMe storage and a pre-installed AI software stack in a single unit.

All values in Table 3-1 are minimum acceptable values per unit; “≥” denotes “not less than”. Proposals offering values below any minimum in Table 3-1 shall be treated as non-responsive.

#	Parameter	Minimum Requirement
1	Processors	≥ 2 CPUs, ≥ 48 physical cores per CPU (≥ 96 cores per unit)
2	System memory	≥ 2 TB (2,048 GB)
3	GPU accelerators per unit	16
4	GPU memory per accelerator	≥ 96 GB
5	Aggregate GPU memory per unit	≥ 1,536 GB
6	Aggregate GPU memory bandwidth per unit	≥ 44 TB/s
7	Card-to-card interconnect bandwidth	≥ 700 GB/s per accelerator, via a high-speed intra-node interconnect fabric
8	Node-to-node interconnect (where multi-node scale-out is proposed)	≥ 1,600 Gbps RDMA per node

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9	Local storage	≥ 4 × 3.84 TB NVMe SSD
10	Whole-unit compute performance (BF16/FP16)	≥ 1.9 PFLOP/s

Table 3-1 — Minimum specification per GPU server unit

Note: Any additional hardware/software requirement may also be the responsibility of the selected vendor.

Brief Description

In alignment with the Ministry of National Food Security & Research's (MNFSR) the Government of Pakistan's Pakistan Cloud First Policy (2022), MNFSR intends to engage a competent, experienced, and financially sound Bidder ("the Bidder"/"the Bidder") to design, develop, deploy, and operate an enterprise-grade Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assistant ("the Solution"). The Solution shall support MNFSR's officers and staff, attached departments, autonomous organizations, policymakers, researchers, and other authorized stakeholders across the Ministry's core domains, including food security, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, agricultural research, crop monitoring, plant and animal health, seed certification, agricultural trade, and policy formulation. Where approved by MNFSR, the Solution may also provide controlled access to relevant information and services for farmers, exporters, development partners, and the general public. All data processed by the Solution shall be securely hosted, stored, and retained exclusively within the territorial jurisdiction of Pakistan.

This document sets out the objectives, eligibility and qualification requirements, scope of work, functional and technical requirements, implementation approach, deliverables, service-level requirements, technical evaluation criteria, financial proposal format, and applicable information security, data governance, privacy, and data-residency requirements for the engagement. Interested Bidders are invited to submit their Technical and Financial Proposals strictly in accordance with the instructions, terms,

and conditions contained herein.

Objectives of the Assignment

The overarching goal of this assignment is to design, develop, deploy, and operate a secure, reliable, and Pakistan-hosted Enterprise AI Assistant that materially improves the speed, accuracy, consistency, and accessibility of information and services across the Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR). The specific objectives of the assignment are to:

1. Provide MNFSR officers and staff across all Wings, attached departments, and autonomous organizations with an AI-powered assistant capable of rapidly retrieving, summarising, and citing relevant laws, rules, policies, regulations, notifications, guidelines, technical standards, research publications, official decisions, and internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

2. Reduce the average time required to research, draft, review, and finalise official correspondence, policy briefs, summaries, notifications, reports, meeting minutes, parliamentary responses, technical notes, and other official documents through AI-assisted drafting, subject to mandatory human review and approval.

3. Provide a 24/7 self-service AI helpdesk for farmers, researchers, exporters, importers, agricultural businesses, development partners, and the general public to address frequently raised queries relating to food security, crops, livestock, fisheries, seeds, plant and animal quarantine, agricultural research, applicable procedures, and MNFSR’s public services.

4. Support food-security monitoring, agricultural planning, crop forecasting, plant and animal health surveillance, seed certification, agricultural trade facilitation, and policy analysis through AI-assisted document review, data analysis, anomaly identification, trend detection, and summarisation of technical records, while ensuring that all official decisions remain subject to human authority and accountability.

5. Establish a reusable, scalable, and extensible enterprise AI platform comprising data ingestion, document processing, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), model orchestration, access controls, security guardrails, system integrations, monitoring, and

analytics that may be progressively extended to additional MNFSR business domains and authorized stakeholders.

6. Ensure complete data sovereignty by requiring all MNFSR data, documents, databases, embeddings, vector stores, model components and weights, user interactions, audit logs, system logs, and backups to be hosted, processed, stored, and retained exclusively within the territorial boundaries of Pakistan throughout the Contract Period.

7. Ensure that the Solution is secure by design, protects sensitive and official information, and remains resilient against common AI and Large Language Model (LLM) risks, including prompt injection, unauthorized access, data leakage, insecure outputs, model manipulation, bias, and hallucination. The Solution shall comply with applicable Pakistani laws, cybersecurity requirements, and relevant Government of Pakistan digital, cloud, data-governance, and information-security policies.

8. Build MNFSR’s internal institutional and technical capacity through structured training, documentation, hands-on knowledge transfer, and administrative access, enabling MNFSR’s designated Information Technology/Digital Transformation team to progressively administer, monitor, configure, integrate, extend, and, where required, internalise the Solution.

9. Establish a measurable and Service-Level Agreement (SLA)-governed managed-services and technical-support model for a period of three (3) years following Go-Live, including defined performance indicators, response and resolution times, system-availability targets, incident management, security monitoring, periodic reporting, model and knowledge-base updates, and continuous improvement of the Solution.

Implementation Phases

Phase	Title	Key Activities
0	Inception	Contract signing, mobilisation, project governance setup, detailed work plan.

1	Discovery & Solution Design	Requirements workshops with all Wings, data/content inventory, solution architecture, security architecture, infrastructure design, sign-off on SRS/SDD.
2	Build, Integration & Content Ingestion	Development of application layers, RAG pipeline build-out, model deployment, integration with MNFSR systems, iterative demos.
3	Testing, Security Audit & UAT	System/integration testing, independent VAPT and security audit, remediation, User Acceptance Testing with MNFSR Wings, sign-off.
4	Go-Live & Change Management	Phased roll-out by domain, user training, communication/change-management support, hypercare period (minimum 4 weeks).
5	Managed Hosting, Support & Continuous Improvement (Years 1–3)	SLA-governed hosting and support, quarterly reviews, periodic security re-assessment, content/model refresh, roadmap for extension to new domains.

3.5 Training & Knowledge Transfer

- End-user training for staff across all in-scope Wings, delivered in-person and/or via recorded modules, with user guides in English and Urdu.

- Administrator training for MNFSR Focal Persons, covering content management, prompt/guardrail configuration, analytics, and infrastructure operations.
- Technical knowledge transfer to designated MNFSR Focal Persons, covering architecture, deployment pipelines, model retraining/refresh procedures and incident response, sufficient for MNFSR to progressively co-manage the Solution.

3.6 Exit Management

Not less than six (6) months prior to expiry of the three-year hosting term (or immediately upon early termination), the Bidder shall prepare and execute an Exit/Transition-Out Plan, approved by MNFSR, covering secure handover of all source code, configurations, fine-tuned model weights, embeddings, ingested content and data to MNFSR or a successor vendor, followed by certified secure deletion of all MNFSR data from the Bidder's own systems, as further detailed in Section 8 (Information Security & Data Residency Requirements).

4. Deliverables

The Bidder shall submit the following deliverables at each stage of the assignment. All deliverables shall be in English, in editable and PDF format, and are subject to formal review and written acceptance by MNFSR's ITD before associated payment milestones (Section 10) are released.

#	Deliverable	Acceptance Criteria	Indicative Timeline
1	Inception Report & Detailed Project Plan	Approved by MNFSR Project Steering Committee (PSC)	T + 2 weeks

2	Business Requirements & Solution Design Document (incl. security & infrastructure architecture)	Signed off by PSC	T + 6 weeks
3	Data Governance & Content Ingestion Plan	Approved by ITD; classification aligned to Cloud First Policy	T + 6 weeks
4	Developed AI Assistant Application (source code, configs, documentation)	Passes system/integration testing	Per phased build plan
5	Provisioned AI Infrastructure (Dev/Test/UAT/Prod, DR) with architecture diagrams & runbooks	Infrastructure walkthrough and documentation accepted by PSC	Before UAT commencement
6	Independent Security Assessment / VAPT Report & Remediation ConBidderation	Critical/High findings remediated and closed	Before Go-Live
7	User Manuals & Administrator Manuals (English & Urdu, where applicable)	Accepted by PSC	Before Go-Live
8	Training Completion Report	Minimum 90% of nominated staff trained	Within Go-Live phase

9	UAT Sign-Off Report	Formal written sign-off by MNFSR	End of Phase 3
10	Go-Live Report & Hypercare Summary	Solution live in production; hypercare issues closed	End of Phase 4
11	Quarterly Service, Security & Performance Reports	Submitted within 10 working days of quarter-end throughout hosting term	Quarterly, Years 1–3
12	Exit / Transition-Out Plan and Certified Data & IP Handover	MNFSR conBidders receipt of all code, data, models; secure deletion certificate provided	6 months before contract expiry / on termination
13	GPU/AI-Compute Hardware Asset Register (Form F-2A) & Certificate of Asset Transfer	Physical hardware reconciled unit-by-unit against the Asset Register; title formally transferred to MNFSR per Section 3.3.6	End of Year 3 hosting term / contract expiry

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PPRA) EPADS

Price Schedule

For Individual Positions

#	Position Title	Quantity	Unit Price (PKR)	Total Price (PKR)	Delivery Location	Delivery Period / Year	Country of Origin
1							
2							

For Lots

#	Lot Title	Total Lot Price (PKR)	Country of Origin
1	[Lot 1 Title]		

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PPRA) EPADS

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(PPRA)
EPADS

General Conditions of Contract

A. General

1. **Definitions**

1.1. Unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms whenever used in this Contract shall have the same meaning and shall be interpreted as indicated

1.1.1. “Applicable Law” means the laws and any other instruments having the force of law in the Government’s Country, or in such other country as may be specified in the Special Conditions of the Contract (SC), as they may be issued and in force from time to time;

1.1.2. “The Contract” means an agreement enforceable by law;

1.1.3. “The Contract Price” means the price payable to the Contractor under the Contract for the full and proper performance of its contractual obligations;

1.1.4. “The Services” means the work to be performed by the Contractor pursuant to this Contract and as prescribed in the Specifications and Schedule of Activities included in the Contractor’s Bid;

1.1.5. “Ancillary Services” means those services ancillary to the provision of Services, such as transportation and insurance, and any other incidental services, such as installation, commissioning, provision of technical assistance, training, and other such obligations of the Contractor covered under the Contract;

1.1.6. “GCC” means the General Conditions of Contract contained in this section;

1.1.7. “SCC” means the Special Conditions of Contract by which the GCC may be amended or supplemented;

1.1.8. **“**Day” means calendar day unless indicated otherwise;

1.1.9. “Effective Date” means the date on which this Contract comes into force and effect;

1.1.10. “The Contractor” means the individual or corporate body whose Bids to provide the Services has been accepted by the Procuring Agency;

1.1.11. “The Project Site,” where applicable, means the place or places named in Bid Data Sheet and technical Specifications;

1.1.12. “Government” means the Government of Pakistan;

1.1.13. “Local Currency” means the currency of Pakistan;

1.1.14. “In Writing” means communicated in written form with proof of receipt;

1.1.15. “Completion Date” means the date of completion of the Services by the Contractor as certified by the Procuring Agency;

1.1.16. “Foreign Currency” means any currency other than the currency of the country of the Procuring Agency;

1.1.17. “Party” means the Procuring Agency or the Contractor, as the case may be, and “Parties” means both of them;

1.1.18. "Service" means any object of procurement other than goods or works;

1.1.19. “Subcontractor” means any entity to which the Bidder subcontracts any part of the Services.

2. **Applicable Law**

2.1. The contract shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Pakistan, unless otherwise specified in SCC.

3. **Language**

3.1. The Contract as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Contract exchanged between the Contractorand the Procuring Agency, shall be written in the **English language** unless otherwise stated in the **SCC** . Supporting documents and printed literature that are part of the Contract may be in another language provided these are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in English, in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the Contract, this translation shall govern.

4. **Notices**

4.1. Any notice, request, or consent made pursuant to this Contract shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been made when delivered in person to an authorized representative of the Party to whom the communication is addressed, or when sent by registered mail, telex, telegram, or facsimile to such Party at the address specified in the **SCC**.

5. **Location**

5.1. The Services shall be performed at such locations as the Procuring Agency may approve and as specified in **SCC.**

6. **Authorized Representatives / Authority of Member in charge**

6.1. Any action required or permitted to be taken, and any document required or permitted to be executed, under this Contract by the Procuring Agency or the Contractor may be taken or executed by the officials specified in the **SCC**.

B. Commencement, Completion, Modification, and Termination of Contract

7. **Effectiveness of Contract**

7.1. This Contract shall come into effect on the date the Contract is signed by both parties and such other later date as may be stated in the **SCC.**

8. **Commencement of Services**

8.1. The Contractor shall confirm availability of required resources and begin carrying out the Services not later than the number of days after the Effective Date specified in the **SCC.**

9. **Program schedule**

9.1. Before commencement of the Services, the Contractor shall submit to the Procuring Agency for approval a Program showing the general methods, arrangements, order and timing for all activities. The Services shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Program as updated.

10. **Starting Date/Expiration Date**

10.1. The Contractor shall start carrying out the Services Five (05) days after the date the Contract becomes effective, or at such other date as may be specified in the **SCC.**

10.2. Unless terminated earlier pursuant to Clause **GCC 14** hereof, this Contract shall expire at the end of such time period after the Effective Date as specified in the **SCC.**

11. **Entire Agreement**

11.1. This Contract contains all covenants, stipulations and provisions agreed by the Parties. No agent or representative of either Party has authority to make, and the Parties shall not be bound by or be liable for, any statement, representation, promise or agreement not set forth herein.

12. **Modification**

12.1. Any modification or variation of the terms and conditions of this Contract, including any modification or variation of the scope of the Services, may only be made by written agreement between the Parties. However, each Party shall give due consideration to any modification(s) or variation(s) made by the other Party.

12.2. In cases of any modification(s) or variation(s), the prior written consent of the Procuring Agency is required.

13. **Force Majeure**

13.1. **Definition**
For the purposes of this Contract, “Force Majeure” means an event which is beyond the reasonable control of a Contractor and which makes a Contractor’s performance of its obligations under the Contract impossible or so impractical as to be considered impossible under the circumstances.

13.2. **No Breach of Contract**
The failure of a Party to fulfill any of its obligations under the contract shall not be considered to be a breach of, or default under, this Contract in so far as such inability arises from an event of Force Majeure, provided that the Party affected by such an event (a) has taken all reasonable precautions, due care and reasonable alternative measures in order to carry out the terms and conditions of this Contract, and (b) has informed the other Party as soon as possible about the occurrence of such an event.

13.3. **Extension of Time**

Any period within which a Contractor shall, pursuant to this Contract, complete any action or task, shall be extended for a period equal to the time during which such Party was unable to perform such action as a result of Force Majeure.

13.4. **Payments**

During the period of their inability to perform the Services as a result of an event of Force Majeure, the Contractor shall be entitled to continue to be paid under the terms of this Contract, as well as to be reimbursed for additional costs reasonably and necessarily incurred by them during such period for the purposes of the Services and in reactivating the Service after the end of such period.

14. **Termination**

14.1. **By the Procuring Agency**

The Procuring Agency may terminate this Contract in case of the occurrence of any of the events specified in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this Clause. In such an occurrence the Procuring Agency shall give at least thirty (30) calendar days' written notice of termination to the Contractor in case of the events referred to in (a) through (d); at least sixty (60) calendar days' written notice in case of the event referred to in (e);

14.1.1. If the Contractor fails to remedy a failure in the performance of its obligations hereunder, as specified in a notice of suspension;

14.1.2. If the Contractor becomes (or, if the Contractor consists of more than one entity, if any of its members becomes) insolvent or bankrupt or enter into any agreements with their creditors for relief of debt or take advantage of any law for the benefit of debtors or go into liquidation or receivership whether compulsory or voluntary;

14.1.3. If the Contractor fails to comply with any final decision reached as a result of arbitration proceedings;

14.1.4. If, as the result of Force Majeure, the Contractor is unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than sixty (60) calendar days;

14.1.5. If the Procuring Agency, in its sole discretion and for any reason whatsoever, decides to terminate this Contract;

14.2. **By the Contractor**

The Contractor may terminate this Contract, by not less than thirty (30) calendar days' written notice to the Procuring Agency, in case of the occurrence of any of the events specified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this Clause.

14.2.1. If the Procuring Agency fails to pay any money due to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract and not subject to dispute within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving written notice from the Contractor that such payment is overdue;

14.2.2. If, as the result of Force Majeure, the Contractor is unable to perform a material portion of the Services for a period of not less than sixty (60) calendar days;

14.2.3. If the Procuring Agency fails to comply with any final decision reached as a result of arbitration;

14.2.4. If the Procuring Agency is in material breach of its obligations pursuant to this Contract and has not remedied the same within thirty (30) days (or such longer period as the Bidder may have subsequently approved in writing) following the receipt by the Procuring Agency of the Contractor's notice specifying such breach.

C. Obligations of the Contractor

15. **General**

15.1. **Standard of Performance**

15.1.1. The Contractor shall perform the Services and carry out the Services with all due diligence, efficiency and economy, in accordance with generally accepted professional standards and practices, and shall observe sound management practices, and employ appropriate technology and safe and effective equipment, machinery, materials and methods. The Contractor shall always act, in respect of any matter relating to this Contract or to the Services, as a faithful adviser to the Procuring Agency, and shall at all times support and safeguard the Procuring Agency's legitimate interests in any dealings with the third parties;

15.1.2. The Contractor shall employ and provide such qualified and experienced Experts and Sub-Contractors as are required to carry out the Services.

15.2. **Law Applicable to Services**

The Contractor shall perform the Services in accordance with the Contract and in accordance with the Law of Pakistan and shall take all practicable steps to ensure that any of its Experts and Sub-Bidders, comply with the Applicable Law.

16. **Conflict of Interests**

16.1. **Contractor Not to Benefit from Commissions and Discounts**

The remuneration of the Contractor shall constitute the Contractor's sole remuneration in connection with this Contract or the Services, and the Contractor shall not accept for their own benefit any trade commission, discount, or similar payment in connection with activities pursuant to this Contract or to the Services or in the discharge of their obligations under the Contract, and the Contractor shall use their best efforts to ensure that the Personnel, any Subcontractors, and agents of either of them similarly shall not receive any such additional remuneration.

16.2. **Contractor and Affiliates Not to be Otherwise Interested in Project**

The Contractor agree that, during the term of this Contract and after its termination, the Contractor and its affiliates, as well as any Subcontractor and any of its affiliates, shall be disqualified from providing Services (other than the Services and any continuation thereof) for any project resulting from or closely related to the Services.

16.3. **Prohibition of Conflicting Activities**

Neither the Bidder nor its Subcontractors nor the Personnel shall engage, either directly or indirectly, in any of the following activities:

16.3.1. during the term of this Contract, any business or professional activities in the Government's country which would conflict with the activities assigned to them under this Contract;

16.3.2. during the term of this Contract, neither the Contractor nor their Subcontractors shall hire public employees in active duty or on any type of leave, to perform any activity under this Contract;

16.3.3. after the termination of this Contract, such other activities as may be specified in the **SCC.**

17. **Insurance to be Taken Out by the Contractor**

17.1. The Contractor(a) shall take out and maintain, and shall cause any Subcontractors to take out and maintain, at its (or the Sub-contractors', as the case may be) own cost but on terms and conditions approved by the Procuring Agency, insurance against the risks, and for the coverage, as shall be specified in the **SCC**; and (b) at the Procuring Agency's request, shall provide evidence to the Procuring Agency showing that such insurance has been taken out and maintained and that the current premiums have been paid.

18. **Contractor's Actions Requiring Procuring Agency's Prior Approval**

18.1. The Contractor shall obtain the Procuring Agency's prior approval in writing before taking any of the following actions:

18.1.1. appointing such members of the Personnel not provided by the Contractor;

18.1.2. changing the Program of activities; and

18.1.3. any other action that may be specified in the **SCC.**

19. **Reporting Obligations**

19.1. The Contractor shall submit to the Procuring Agency the reports and documents in the numbers, and within the periods as prescribed by the Procuring Agency.

20. **Liquidated Damages**

20.1. **Payments of Liquidated Damages**
The Contractor shall pay liquidated damages to the Procuring Agency at the rate per day stated in the **SCC** for each day that the Completion Date is later than the Intended Completion Date. The total amount of liquidated damages shall not exceed the amount defined in the **SCC**. The Procuring Agency may deduct liquidated damages from payments due to the Contractor. Payment of liquidated damages shall not affect the Contractor's liabilities.

20.2. **Correction for Over-payment**
If the Intended Completion Date is extended after liquidated damages have been paid, the Procuring Agency shall correct any overpayment of liquidated damages by the Contractor by adjusting the next payment certificate. The Contractor shall be paid interest on the overpayment, calculated from the date of payment to the date of repayment, at the rates specified in **SCC.**

20.3. **Lack of performance penalty**

If the Contractor has not corrected a Defect within the time specified in the Procuring Agency's notice, a penalty for Lack of performance will be paid by the Contractor. The amount to be paid will be calculated as a percentage of the cost of having the Defect corrected, assessed as specified in the Contractor

21. **Performance Guarantee**

21.1. Within the time stipulated in the acceptance letter from the Procuring Agency, the successful Bidder shall furnish the Performance Guarantee in shape and amount **specified in SCC.**

21.2. The proceeds of the Performance Guarantee shall be payable to the Procuring agency as compensation for any loss resulting from the Service Provider failure to complete its obligations under the Contract.

21.3. The Performance Guarantee shall be denominated in the currency of the Contract, or in a freely convertible currency acceptable to the Procuring agency and shall be in the acceptable form as specified in **SCC**.

21.4. The Performance Guarantee will be discharged by the Procuring agency and returned to the Service Provider not later than thirty (30) days following the date of completion of the Supplier's performance obligations under the Contract, including any warranty obligations, unless otherwise **specified in SCC.**

22. **Sustainable Procurement**

22.1. The Contractor shall conform to the sustainable procurement contractual provisions, if and as specified in the **SCC.**

D. Contractor's Personnel

23. **Description of Personnel**

23.1. The titles, agreed job descriptions, minimum qualifications, and estimated periods of engagement in the carrying out of the Services of the Contractor's Key Personnel. The Key Personnel listed by title as well as by name are hereby approved by the Procuring Agency.

24. **Removal and / or Replacement of Personnel**

24.1. Except as the Procuring Agency may otherwise agree, no changes shall be made in the Key Personnel. If, for any reason beyond the reasonable control of the Contractor, it becomes necessary to replace any of the Key Personnel, the Contractor shall provide as a replacement a person of equivalent or better qualifications.

24.2. If the Procuring Agency finds that any of the Personnel have (i) committed serious misconduct or have been charged with having committed a criminal action, or (ii) have reasonable cause to be dissatisfied with the performance of any of the Personnel, then the Contractor shall, at the Procuring Agency's written request specifying the grounds thereof, provide as a replacement a person with qualifications and experience acceptable to the Procuring Agency.

24.3. The Contractor shall have no claim for additional costs arising out of or incidental to any removal and/or replacement of Personnel.

E. Obligations of the Procuring Agency

25. **Change in the Applicable Law**

25.1. If, after the date of this Contract, there is any change in the Applicable Law with respect to taxes and duties which increases or decreases the cost of the Services rendered by the Contractor, then the remuneration and reimbursable expenses otherwise payable to the Contractor under this Contract shall be increased or decreased accordingly by agreement between the Parties, and corresponding adjustments shall be made to the amounts referred in the **SCC.**

26. **Services and Facilities**

26.1. The Procuring Agency shall make available to the Contractor and the Experts, for the purposes of the Services and free of any charge, the services, facilities and property described in the Terms of Reference, at the times and in the manner specified in the Terms of Reference.

26.2. In case that such services, facilities and property shall not be made available to the Contractor, the Parties shall agree on (i) any time extension that it may be appropriate to grant to the Contractor for the performance of the Services, (ii) the manner in which the Contractor shall procure any such services, facilities and property from other sources, and (iii) the additional payments, if any, to be made to the Contractor as a result thereof.

F. Payments to the Contractor

27. **Contract Price**

27.1. The price payable shall be in Pakistani Rupees unless otherwise specified in the **SCC**.

28. **Terms and Conditions of Payment**

28.1. Payments will be made to the Contractor according to the payment schedule stated in the **SCC** and as per actual invoice submitted by the Contractor.

28.2. Unless otherwise stated in the **SCC**, the advance payment shall be made against the provision by the Contractor of a bank guarantee for the same amount, and shall be valid for the period stated in the **SCC.** Any other payment shall be made after the conditions listed in the **SCC** for such payment have been met, and the Contractor have submitted an invoice to the Procuring Agency specifying the amount due.

29. **Quality Control Identifying Defects**

29.1. The principle and modalities of Inspection of the Services by the Procuring Agency shall be as indicated in the **SCC.** The Procuring Agency shall check the Contractor's performance and notify him of any Defects that are found. Such checking shall not affect the Contractor's responsibilities. The Procuring Agency may instruct the Contractor to search for a Defect and to uncover and test any service that the Procuring Agency considers may have a Defect. Defect Liability Period is as defined in the **SCC**.

30. **Correction of Defects, and Lack of Performance Penalty**

30.1. The Procuring Agency shall give notice to the contractor of any Defects before the end of the Contract. The Defects liability period shall be extended for as long as Defects remain to be corrected.

30.2. Every time notice a Defect is given; the contractor shall correct the notified Defect within the length of time specified by the Procuring Agency's notice.

30.3. If the contractor has not corrected a Defect within the time specified in the Procuring Agency's notice, the Procuring Agency will assess the cost of having the Defect corrected, the contractor will pay this amount, and a Penalty for Lack of Performance.

31. **Disputes Amicable Settlement**

31.1. The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Contract or its interpretation.

32. **Dispute Settlement**

32.1. **Arbitration**

32.1.1. **Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR),** After coming into force of the procurement contracts, disputes, between the parties to the contract may be settled by one or more alternate dispute resolution methods including
Arbitration. Where an Alternate Dispute Resolution process other than Arbitration may not lead to an amicable settlement of dispute, Arbitration shall be resorted to.

32.1.2. The procuring agency shall specify mechanism for the appointment of an arbitrator expressly in the contract and the competent authority who shall appoint the arbitrator.

32.1.3. The laws of Pakistan shall apply to an arbitration unless specifically agreed to otherwise in the contract.

Special Conditions of Contract

SECTION VIII. SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

The following Special Conditions of Contract shall supplement the General Conditions of Contract. Whenever there is a conflict, the provisions herein shall prevail over those in the Conditions of Contract. The corresponding clause number of the GCC is indicated in parentheses.

Number of GC Clause

Amendments of, and Supplements to, Clauses in the General Conditions of Contract

Definitions

The Procuring Agency is: National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research), Section Officer Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory

Contractor is:

The title of the subject procurement is:Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)

Number of GC Clause 2

Applicable/Governing Law:

The Contract shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Number of GC Clause 3

Language:

The language of the Contract, all correspondence and communications to be given, and all other documentation to be prepared and supplied under the Contract shall be in **English.**

Number of GC Clause 4

Notices:

The addresses for the notices are:

Procuring Agency:

National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research), Section Officer Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory
+92-333-500-0934
so.ga@mnfsr.gov.pk

Contractor/ Bidder:

[Name, address and telephone number].

The Contractor/ Bidder’s Representative(s)

[Name, address, telephone number and e-mail address]

Number of GC Clause 6.1

The Authorized Representatives are:

For the Procuring Agency:

National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research), Section Officer
Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory
+92-333-500-0934
so.ga@mnfsr.gov.pk

For the Bidder:

Name: ……

Designation: ……..

Address: ……..

Number of GC Clause 7

Effectiveness of the contract

The Contractor/Bidder shall be effective within ….. days from the date of signature of the Contract by both parties

Number of GC Clause 8

Commencement of Contract:

The Contractor/ Bidder shall provide Non-Consultancy Services from the effective date of contract.

Number of GC Clause 10.2

Expiration of Contract:

The time period shall be …….

Number of GC Clause 14

Termination

In the event of termination of the contract due to any reason as already defined in the General Conditions of Contract, the Bidder shall be responsible for providing to the Authority the Goods till the time of alternate arrangements.

Number of GC Clause 16

Conflict of Interest:

The Procuring Agency reserves the right to determine on a case-by-case basis whether the Bidder should be disqualified from providing goods or services due to a conflict of a nature described in Clause GCC 16**.**

Number of GC Clause 20

Liquidated Damages

If the Bidder fails to provide services as required under the contract or in case of any data loss/data breach or any incident compromising the data security or other such failures related to any services, the Bidder shall pay to the Procuring Agency as Liquidated Damages at a rate of **0.00%** to **0.00%** of the Contract value, in accordance with the extent of performance failure & the cost of investigating such incidents as judged by the Authority.

Number of GC Clause 21

Performance Guarantee:
Instrument of Performance Guarantee shall be in the Name of : **National Food Security And Research**

The amount of performance guarantee shall be 10.00% of the contract price in acceptable form of Pay Order, Banker's Cheque, Call at Deposit, Bank Guarantee, Demand Draft

Number of GC Clause 27

Currency of Payment:

All the payment to be released to the contractor/Bidder shall be in Pakistani Rupees.

Number of GC Clause 28

Payment terms:

Payment will be made to the Bidder against the procured Goods and services according to the actual invoice or running bills submitted by the Bidder against the services provided within the time given in the conditions of the contract.

Number of GC Clause 29

Identifying Defects:

The Authority reserves the right at any time to inspect the premises of the provider to inspect the goods and monitor the goods being provided.

Inspections & Tests Requirements

For being Brand New, bearing relevant reference numbers of the equipment (Certificate from supplier)

For Physical Fitness having No Damages (Certificate from supplier)

For the Country of Origin as quoted by the Supplier (Certificate from manufacturer)

For conformance to specifications and performance parameters, through Prior to delivery inspection (Inspection Report by Procurement Committee / Inspection Team)

For successful operation at site after complete installation, testing and commissioning of the equipment (Installation, Testing and Commissioning Report by Procurement Committee / Inspection Team)

Delivery & Documents

Copies of the Supplier's invoice showing Goods' description, quantity, unit price, and total amount;

Original and two copies of the usual transport document (for example, a negotiable bill of lading, a non-negotiable sea waybill, an inland waterway document, an air waybill, a railway consignment note, a road consignment note, or a multimodal transport document) which the buyer may require to take the goods;

Copies of the packing list identifying contents of each package;

Insurance Certificate;

Manufacturer's or Supplier's Valid Warranty Certificate;

Inspection Certificate issued by the Nominated Inspection Agency (if any), and the Supplier's Factory Inspection Report;

Certificate of Origin.

The above documents would be required even if the equipment has already been imported and is available with the supplier ex-stock

Number of GC Clause 31

Following is the guidance for Dispute Resolution

i. If any dispute of any kind whatsoever shall arise between the Authority and the Bidder in connection with or arising out of the Contract, including without prejudice to the generality of foregoing, any question regarding its existence, validity, termination and the execution of the Contract – whether during developing phase or after their completion and whether before or after the termination, abandonment or breach of the Contract – the parties shall seek to resolve any such dispute or difference by mutual diligent negotiations in good faith within 14 (fourteen) days following a notice sent by one Party to the other Party in this regard**.**

ii. At future of negotiation the dispute shall be resolved through mediation and mediator shall be appointed with the mutual consent of the both parties**.**

iii. At the event of failure of mediation to resolve the dispute relating to this contract such dispute shall finally be resolved through binding Arbitration by sole arbitrator in accordance with Arbitration Act 1940. The arbitrator shall be appointed by mutual consent of the both parties**.** The Arbitration shall take place in Islamabad, Pakistan and proceedings will be conducted in English language.

iv. The cost of the mediation and arbitration shall be shared by the parties in equal proportion however the both parties shall bear their own costs and lawyer's fees regarding their own participation in the mediation and arbitration. However, the Arbitrator may make an award of costs upon the conclusion of the arbitration making any party to the dispute liable to pay the costs of another party to the dispute**.**

v. Arbitration proceedings as mentioned in the above clause regarding resolution of disputes may be commenced prior to, during or after completion of the contract.

Notwithstanding any reference to the arbitration herein, the parties shall continue to perform their respective obligations under the Contract unless they otherwise agree that the Authority shall pay the Bidder any monies due to the Bidder.

Arbitrator's fee:

The fee shall be specified in Pak Rupees, as determined by the Arbitrator, which shall be shared equally by both parties**.**

Appointing Authority for Arbitrator:

By the Mutual Consent or in accordance with the provisions of Arbitration Act, 1940, in case the parties fail to reach a consensus on the name of sole arbitrator, any party may submit an application to the Chief Justice Islamabad High Court for appointment of sole arbitrator. The Chief Justice IHC may appoint a former judge of any High Court or Supreme Court as the sole arbitrator to resolve the dispute between the parties.

Rules of procedure for arbitration proceedings:

Any dispute between the Authority and a Bidder who is a national of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan arising in connection with the present Contract shall be referred to adjudication or arbitration in accordance with the laws of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan including Arbitration Act 1940, however above provision shall prevail in referring the case to the Arbitrator.

Place of Arbitration and Award:

The arbitration shall be conducted in English language and place of arbitration shall be at Islamabad. The award of the arbitrator shall be final and shall be binding on the parties.

Bid Securing Declaration

Form 9: Bid Securing Declaration

Date: *[insert date (as day, month and year)]*

Bid No.:***P212352***

To: **National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research), Section Officer Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory**

We, the undersigned, declare that:

We understand that, according to your conditions, Bids must be supported by a Bid Securing Declaration.

We accept that we will be blacklisted and henceforth cross debarred for participating in respective category of public procurement proceedings for a period of (not more than) six months, if fail to abide with a bid securing declaration, however without indulging in corrupt and fraudulent practices, if we are in breach of our obligation(s) under the Bid conditions, because we:

1. have withdrawn or modified our Bid during the period of Bid Validity specified in the Form of Bid;

2. Disagreement to arithmetical correction made to the Bid price; or

3. having been notified of the acceptance of our Bid by the Procuring Agency during the period of Bid Validity, (i) failure to sign the contract if required by Procuring Agency to do so or (ii) fail or refuse to furnish the Performance Security or to comply with any other condition precedent to signing the contract specified in the Bidding Documents.

We understand this Bid Securing Declaration shall expire if we are not the successful

Bidder, upon the earlier of (i) our receipt of your notification to us of the name of the successful Bidder; or (ii) twenty-eight (28) days after the expiration of our Bid.

Contract Form

SECTION IX: CONTRACT FORMS

THIS AGREEMENT made the _____ day of _____ 20_____ between **National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research), Section Officer Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory**

(hereinafter called "the Procuring Agency") of the one part and *[name of Bidder]* of *[city and country of Bidder]* (hereinafter called "the Bidder") of the other part:

WHEREAS the Procuring Agency invited Bids for provision of goods, viz., **Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR) (*P212352*)** and has accepted a Bids by the Bidder for the provision of Services in the sum of *[contract price in words and figures]* (hereinafter called "the Contract Price").

NOW THIS CONTRACT WITNESSETH AS FOLLOWS:

1. In this Contract words and expressions shall have the same meanings as are respectively assigned to them in the Conditions of Contract referred to.

2. The following documents shall be deemed to form and be read and construed as part of this Contract, In the event of any ambiguity or conflict between the Contract Documents listed below, the order of precedence shall be the order in which the Contract Documents are listed below:-

1. This form of Contract;
2. the Form of Bids and the Price Schedule submitted by the Bidder;
3. the Schedule of Requirements;
4. the Technical Specifications;
5. the Special Conditions of Contract;
6. the General Conditions of the Contract;
7. the Procuring Agency's Letter of Acceptance; and
8. [*add here: any other documents*]

3. In consideration of the payments to be made by the Procuring Agency to the Bidder as hereinafter mentioned, the Bidder hereby covenants with the Procuring Agency to provide the Goods related services and to remedy defects therein in conformity in all respects with the provisions of the Contract.

4. The Procuring Agency hereby covenants to pay the Bidder in consideration of the provision of Goods and the remedying of defects therein, the Contract Price or such other sum as may become payable under the provisions of the contract at the times and in the manner prescribed by the contract.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have caused this Contract to be executed in accordance with their respective laws the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed, delivered by _____the _____ (for the Procuring Agency)

Witness to the signatures of the Procuring Agency:

……

Signed, sealed, delivered by _____the _____ (for the Procuring Agency)

Witness to the signatures of the Bidder: ……

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Integrity Pact

Integrity Pact

DECLARATION OF FEES, COMMISSION AND BROKERAGE ETC. PAYABLE BYTHE SUPPLIERS OF GOODS, SERVICES & WORKS IN CONTRACTS WORTH RS.10.00 MILLION OR MORE

Contract Number: Contract Value: Contract Title:

Dated:

[Name of Supplier] hereby declares that it has not obtained or induced the procurement of any contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit from Government of Pakistan or any administrative subdivision or agency thereof or any other entity owned or controlled by it (GoP) through any corrupt business practice.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing [Name of Supplier] represents and warrants that it has fully declared the brokerage, commission, fee etc. paid or payable to anyone and not given or agreed to give and shall not give or agree to give to anyone within or outside Pakistan either directly or indirectly through any natural or juridical person, including its affiliate, agent, associate, broker, consultant, director, promoter, shareholder, sponsor or subsidiary, any commission, gratification, bribe, finder's fee or kickback, whether described as consultations fee or otherwise, with the object of obtaining or inducing the procurement of a contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit in whatsoever form from GoP, except that which has been expressly declared pursuant hereto.

[Name of Supplier] certifies that it has made and will make full disclosure of all agreements and arrangements with all persons in respect of or related to the transaction with GoP and has not taken any action or will not take any action to circumvent the above declaration, representative or warranty.

[Name of Supplier] accepts full responsibility and strict liability for making and false declaration, not making full disclosure, misrepresenting fact or taking any action likely to defeat the purpose of this declaration, representation and warranty. It agrees that any contract, right interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit obtained or procured as aforesaid shall, without prejudice to any other right and remedies available to GoP under any law, contract or other instrument, be voidable at the option of GoP.

Notwithstanding any rights and remedies exercised by GoP in this regard, [Name of Supplier] agrees to indemnify GoP for any loss or damage incurred by it on account of its corrupt business practices and further pay compensation to GoP in an amount equivalent to ten time the sum of any commission, gratification, bribe, finder's fee or kickback given by [Name of Supplier] as aforesaid for the purpose of obtaining or inducing the procurement of any contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit in whatsoever form from GoP.

Performance Guarantee Form

Performance Guarantee Form

To: **National Food Security And Research (Ministry of National Food Security and Research), Section Officer Room # 412, 4th Floor, B-Block, Pak Secretariat., Islamabad Capital Territory**

WHEREAS *[name of Bidder]* (hereinafter called "the Bidder") has undertaken, in pursuance of Contract No. *[reference number of the contract]* dated *[insert date]* for provision of Non-Consultancy Services*(*hereinafter called "the Contract").

AND WHEREAS it has been stipulated by you in the said Contract that the Bidder shall furnish you with a Bank Guarantee by a reputable bank for the sum specified therein as security for compliance with the Bidder's performance obligations in accordance with the Contract.

AND WHEREAS we have agreed to give the Bidders guarantee:

THEREFORE, WE hereby affirm that we are Guarantors and responsible to you, on behalf of the Bidder, up to a total of *[amount of the guarantee in words and figures]*, and we undertake to pay you, upon your first written demand declaring the Bidder to be in default under the Contract and without cavil or argument, any sum or sums within the limits of *[amount of guarantee]* as aforesaid, without your needing to prove or to show grounds or reasons for your demand or the sum specified therein.

This guarantee is valid until the: *[insert date]*

Signature and seal of the Guarantors

_____

[name of bank or financial institution]

_____

[address]

_____

[date}

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Annexure

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PPRA) EPADS

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)

RFP No: MNFSR/ITD/AI-ASSISTANT/RFP-01/2026

Date of Issue: November, 2026

Procurement Method: Single Stage – Two Envelope Procedure

Information (Read-Only)

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Request for Proposal (RFP)** (page number: 93)

Financial Bid Form

Financial Bid Form

Financial Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Financial Bid Form** (page number: 128)

Technical Forms and Annexures

Other Technical Forms and Annexures

Technical Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Technical Forms and Annexures** (page number: 129)

Procurement Forms

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Additional Forms and Documents

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY & RESEARCH (MNFSR)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Design, Development, Deployment, Hosting and Three (3) Years' Managed Support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)

RFP No: MNFSR/ITD/AI-ASSISTANT/RFP-01/2026

Date of Issue: XXXXXXXXXX, 2026

Procurement Method: Single Stage – Two Envelope Procedure

Issued by:

Ministry of National Food Security & Research(MNFSR)

Email: procurement@MNFSR.gov.pk | www.MNFSR.gov.pk

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Disclaimer

This Request for Proposal ("RFP") is issued by the Ministry of National Food Security & Research(MNFSR) solely for the purpose of inviting proposals from eligible and interested Bidders for the design, development, deployment, hosting and three (3) years' managed support of an Enterprise AI Assistant for MNFSR . This document does not constitute an offer or contract and confers no rights on any recipient. MNFSR reserves the right, at its sole discretion and without assigning any reason, to amend, withdraw, cancel or annul this RFP, in whole or in part, at any stage prior to contract signing, and to reject any or all proposals, without incurring any liability towards any Bidder, in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules, 2004 issued by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA). All costs associated with the preparation and submission of proposals shall be borne solely by the Bidders.

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1. Introduction & Background

1.1 About MNFSR

The Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR) is the principal federal ministry responsible for national food security, agricultural policy, research coordination, and the sustainable development of Pakistan's agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and allied sectors. Its mandate includes policy formulation, strategic planning, agricultural research, crop forecasting, food availability, plant and animal quarantine, seed certification and registration, agricultural trade facilitation, and coordination with provincial governments and relevant national and international organizations. The Ministry operates through its specialized Wings and technical units, as well as attached departments and autonomous organizations, including the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Federal Seed Certification & Registration Department (FSC&RD), Department of Plant Protection (DPP), Animal Quarantine Department, Agricultural Policy Institute (API), Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC), Fisheries Development Board (FDB), Livestock and Dairy Development Board (LDDB), and Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation (PASSCO).(https://www.mnfsr.gov.pk/)

MNFSR administers, implements, and contributes to a broad and continuously evolving body of federal laws, rules, policies, regulations, notifications, guidelines, research publications, technical standards, food-security assessments, agricultural statistics, and official decisions. These cover areas such as seed certification, plant protection and quarantine, animal health and quarantine, agricultural research, crop production, livestock development, food availability, strategic reserves, agricultural inputs, and the import and export of agricultural commodities. Officers across MNFSR's Wings, attached departments, and autonomous organizations—as well as provincial governments, researchers, farmers, exporters, development partners, policymakers, and the general public—routinely require fast, accurate, and properly referenced information drawn from this extensive and technical repository of agricultural and food-security knowledge.

1.2 Rationale for this Assignment

In alignment with the Ministry of National Food Security & Research's (MNFSR) the Government of Pakistan's Pakistan Cloud First Policy (2022), MNFSR intends to engage a competent, experienced, and financially sound Bidder ("the Bidder"/"the Bidder") to design, develop, deploy, and operate an enterprise-grade Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assistant ("the Solution"). The Solution shall support MNFSR's officers and staff, attached departments, autonomous organizations, policymakers, researchers, and other authorized stakeholders across the Ministry's core domains, including food security, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, agricultural research, crop monitoring, plant and animal health, seed certification, agricultural trade, and policy formulation. Where approved by MNFSR, the Solution may also provide controlled access to relevant information and services for farmers, exporters, development partners, and the general public. All data processed by the Solution shall be securely hosted, stored, and retained exclusively within the territorial jurisdiction of Pakistan.

This document sets out the objectives, eligibility and qualification requirements, scope of work, functional and technical requirements, implementation approach, deliverables, service-level requirements, technical evaluation criteria, financial proposal format, and applicable information security, data governance, privacy, and data-residency requirements for the engagement. Interested Bidders are invited to submit their Technical and Financial Proposals strictly in accordance with the instructions, terms, and conditions contained herein.

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1.3 Definitions

- **"MNFSR"** means the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Federal Ministry of the Government of Pakistan.
- **"Bidder or Vendor"** means a company, Bidder, joint venture or consortium submitting a proposal in response to this RFP.
- **"Solution or AI Assistant"** means the complete AI-based software application, models, infrastructure and services proposed and delivered under this RFP.
- **"Contract Period"** means the implementation period plus three (3) years of hosting, operations and managed support following Go-Live.
- **"GoP"** means the Government of Pakistan
- **"PPRA"** means the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority.

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2. Objectives of the Assignment

The overarching goal of this assignment is to design, develop, deploy, and operate a secure, reliable, and Pakistan-hosted Enterprise AI Assistant that materially improves the speed, accuracy, consistency, and accessibility of information and services across the Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR). The specific objectives of the assignment are to:

1. Provide MNFSR officers and staff across all Wings, attached departments, and autonomous organizations with an AI-powered assistant capable of rapidly retrieving, summarising, and citing relevant laws, rules, policies, regulations, notifications, guidelines, technical standards, research publications, official decisions, and internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
2. Reduce the average time required to research, draft, review, and finalise official correspondence, policy briefs, summaries, notifications, reports, meeting minutes, parliamentary responses, technical notes, and other official documents through AI-assisted drafting, subject to mandatory human review and approval.
3. Provide a 24/7 self-service AI helpdesk for farmers, researchers, exporters, importers, agricultural businesses, development partners, and the general public to address frequently raised queries relating to food security, crops, livestock, fisheries, seeds, plant and animal quarantine, agricultural research, applicable procedures, and MNFSR's public services.
4. Support food-security monitoring, agricultural planning, crop forecasting, plant and animal health surveillance, seed certification, agricultural trade facilitation, and policy analysis through AI-assisted document review, data analysis, anomaly identification, trend detection, and summarisation of technical records, while ensuring that all official decisions remain subject to human authority and accountability.
5. Establish a reusable, scalable, and extensible enterprise AI platform comprising data ingestion, document processing, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), model orchestration, access controls, security guardrails, system integrations, monitoring, and analytics that may be progressively extended to additional MNFSR business domains and authorized stakeholders.
6. Ensure complete data sovereignty by requiring all MNFSR data, documents, databases, embeddings, vector stores, model components and weights, user interactions, audit logs, system logs, and backups to be hosted, processed, stored, and retained exclusively within the territorial boundaries of Pakistan throughout the Contract Period.
7. Ensure that the Solution is secure by design, protects sensitive and official information, and remains resilient against common AI and Large Language Model (LLM) risks, including prompt injection, unauthorized access, data leakage, insecure outputs, model manipulation, bias, and hallucination. The Solution shall comply with applicable Pakistani laws, cybersecurity requirements, and relevant Government of Pakistan digital, cloud, data-governance, and information-security policies.
8. Build MNFSR's internal institutional and technical capacity through structured training, documentation, hands-on knowledge transfer, and administrative access, enabling MNFSR's designated Information Technology/Digital Transformation team to progressively

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administer, monitor, configure, integrate, extend, and, where required, internalise the Solution.

9. Establish a measurable and Service-Level Agreement (SLA)-governed managed-services and technical-support model for a period of three (3) years following Go-Live, including defined performance indicators, response and resolution times, system-availability targets, incident management, security monitoring, periodic reporting, model and knowledge-base updates, and continuous improvement of the Solution.

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3. Scope of Work

The Scope of Work is organised into:

(a) Functional scope across MNFSR's

(b) Technical and solution scope

(c) AI infrastructure and hosting requirements for three (3) years

(d) implementation phases

(e)training and knowledge transfer

(f) exit management.

The selected Bidder shall be responsible, on an end-to-end basis, for the discovery, design, development, integration, testing, security hardening, deployment, in-country hosting, operation, maintenance, and managed support of the Solution.

3.1 Functional Scope - Business Domains & Use Cases

The AI Assistant shall be a single, unified platform serving the following MNFSR business domains and user groups, at minimum. The Bidder's Technical Proposal shall demonstrate a clear understanding of, and a proposed approach for, each of the representative use cases set out below.

Business Domain / Wing	Representative Use Cases	Primary Users
Food Security Policy, Planning & Coordination	AI-assisted policy research; retrieval and comparison of laws, policies, notifications, strategies and international commitments; preparation of briefs, summaries, meeting material and evidence-based policy notes.	MNFSR policy and technical Wings; senior management; authorized policymakers
Crop Monitoring, Forecasting & Agricultural Statistics	Analysis and summarisation of crop-area, production, yield, price, weather and supply data; trend identification; anomaly alerts; support for crop forecasts, food-balance assessments and management dashboards.	Crop and food-security analysts; statistical teams; senior management
Agricultural Research & Innovation	Search and synthesis of agricultural research, technical reports, trial results, publications and best practices; identification of relevant technologies, evidence gaps and research linkages.	MNFSR; PARC/NARC and research institutes; researchers; technical experts
Seed Certification & Registration	Guided assistance on seed laws, variety registration, certification procedures, field inspection requirements, testing standards,	MNFSR and FSC&RD staff; seed companies; breeders; applicants; farmers

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	licensing and application-status information from authorized systems.	
Plant Protection, Quarantine & Pesticide Management	Query resolution on plant quarantine, import/export procedures, phytosanitary requirements, pest surveillance, pesticide registration and related technical guidelines; summarisation of inspection and surveillance records.	MNFSR and DPP staff; inspectors; importers/exporters; growers; laboratories
Livestock, Animal Health & Animal Quarantine	Assistance on animal quarantine procedures, import/export requirements, disease surveillance, livestock development, breeding, dairy and fisheries-related policies and technical material.	MNFSR and attached organizations; veterinarians; livestock and fisheries stakeholders
Agricultural Trade, Markets, Storage & Strategic Reserves	Analysis of agricultural trade, prices, stocks, procurement, storage and supply-chain information; retrieval of export/import requirements; support for market briefs, food-supply monitoring and strategic-reserve planning.	MNFSR; API; PASSCO; trade and market analysts; authorized stakeholders
Cotton, Fisheries & Other Sectoral Programmes	Retrieval and summarisation of sector-specific policies, research, production data, programme records and technical guidance; support for project monitoring and stakeholder queries.	MNFSR; PCCC; FDB and other relevant entities; technical teams; sector stakeholders
Farmer and Stakeholder Services / Public Helpdesk	Public-facing chatbot on mnfsr.gov.pk and approved portals for frequently asked questions, procedural guidance, programme information, application or request status where integrated, and escalation to designated human support channels.	Farmers; researchers; exporters/importers; agribusinesses; development partners; general public
Corporate Support Functions (Legal, HR, Finance, Administration, Procurement & IT)	Internal knowledge assistant for applicable laws, Rules of Business, SOPs, HR policies, financial and procurement procedures, administrative instructions, IT support material and official drafting templates.	All authorized MNFSR employees

The Bidder shall propose a phased rollout sequence across these domains, prioritised in consultation with MNFSR during the Discovery and Solution Design phase. The final sequence shall reflect business criticality, data readiness, security classification, integration dependencies, expected public value, and the availability of designated content owners and subject-matter experts.

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3.2 Technical / Solution Scope

Technology neutrality: This RFP is technology-neutral. MNFSR does not mandate, and has no preference for, any specific product, brand, programming language, framework, hardware manufacturer, cloud service provider, or foundation-model vendor. Where a functional capability is described below (for example, a vector database, retrieval-augmented generation framework, orchestration layer, or model-serving stack), it identifies a required capability only and not a named product. Bidders may propose an open-source, proprietary, or hybrid technology stack that best meets the functional, performance, security, interoperability, scalability, and data-residency requirements of this RFP. Proposals shall be evaluated on their demonstrated compliance and technical merit rather than on the specific technologies selected.

Knowledge ingestion and retrieval: Design and implement a secure data-ingestion pipeline covering applicable laws, rules, policies, notifications, guidelines, technical standards, research publications, reports, manuals, SOPs, project records, datasets and other authorized content held by MNFSR, its attached departments and autonomous organizations. The Solution shall use a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) architecture that grounds substantive answers in relevant, version-controlled and traceable source material, with document-level citations and metadata.

Language model layer: The Bidder may propose any suitable Large Language Model or combination of models, whether open-weight or proprietary/licensed, provided that: (a) inference, fine-tuning, embedding generation and model evaluation occur solely on infrastructure physically located within Pakistan; (b) no prompt, response, document, dataset, embedding, telemetry or derivative of MNFSR data is transmitted to, cached by, or processed on any server, endpoint or API outside Pakistan at any stage; and (c) the licensing arrangements permit private, in-country deployment and continued operation for the full Contract Period.

Bilingual support: The Solution shall support English and Urdu queries and responses at minimum, including accurate handling of agricultural terminology, Government of Pakistan drafting conventions and mixed-language queries. Bidders may separately propose support for additional regional languages.

Access and identity: Integrate with MNFSR's existing or designated identity and access management (IAM) and single sign-on (SSO) environment through supported standards-based protocols, such as SAML, OIDC or LDAP. Role-based access control shall ensure that responses, functions and source documents are limited to the requesting user's role, Wing, organization and security clearance. A separate, appropriately throttled, content-filtered and isolated channel shall be provided for public and external users.

Guardrails and quality assurance: Provide hallucination mitigation, mandatory source citation, confidence or evidence indicators, content and security filters, configurable refusal and escalation rules, and human-in-the-loop review for AI-generated content intended for official use. The Solution shall capture structured user feedback and support controlled testing, evaluation and improvement of prompts, models and retrieval quality.

Administration console: Provide a secure back-office console for MNFSR's designated Information Technology/Digital Transformation team and authorized content administrators to manage data sources, ingestion status, document versions, user roles, prompts, guardrail policies, integrations, analytics, feedback, audit logs and system configuration.

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Channels: Provide a responsive web application and an embeddable chatbot widget for mnfsr.gov.pk and other approved MNFSR portals. Integration with MNFSR's internal collaboration, intranet or messaging tools may be proposed as an optional component and shall be separately priced.

Integration: Provide secure, standards-based API integration with authorized MNFSR systems, including, where applicable, e-Office, knowledge-management repositories, websites and portals, dashboards, programme-monitoring systems, laboratory or registration systems, and systems of attached departments and autonomous organizations. Real-time or transactional information, such as application, inspection, programme or request status, shall be obtained from the authoritative source system rather than inferred from static content.

Analytics: Provide role-based dashboards covering usage, user adoption, query trends, response quality, frequently accessed topics, unanswered or low-confidence queries, source-document gaps, system performance and user satisfaction. Analytics shall support continuous improvement without exposing restricted content or personal information to unauthorized users.

3.3 AI Infrastructure & Hosting Requirements (Three-Year Term)

The Bidder shall design, provision, secure and operate — for the full three (3)-year hosting term following Go-Live — all AI infrastructure required to run the Solution at production scale, entirely within Pakistan. At minimum, the proposed infrastructure and hosting model shall meet the following requirements:

3.3.1 Facility & Hosting Model

- Hosting shall be provided via a private cloud arrangement with a data centre physically located within Pakistan, either owned by the Bidder or contracted through a licensed Pakistani data centre/cloud service provider (CSP) — public-cloud regions located outside Pakistan are not acceptable for any environment (Dev/Test/UAT/Prod).
- The data centre facility must be, at minimum, Uptime Institute Tier III (or equivalent) certified, with ISO/IEC 27001 certification for its Information Security Management System (ISMS).
- The Bidder shall classify all Solution data in accordance with the Government of Pakistan's Cloud First Policy (2022) data classification scheme and Bidder that MNFSR data (regulatory records, case files, personally identifiable information, model weights and embeddings) is treated at minimum as "Sensitive/Confidential", requiring an Accredited Government Cloud/CSP located within Pakistan.

3.3.2 Compute, Storage & Scalability

- Dedicated GPU-accelerated compute for LLM inference and (if applicable) fine-tuning, delivered as integrated AI all-in-one appliance units that meet, at minimum, every parameter of the GPU Compute Appliance specification at Section 3.3.7 and Table 3-1, and sized to support the concurrency and response-time targets defined in the Bidder's Technical Proposal (indicative baseline: minimum 300 concurrent internal users and 500 concurrent public/eZfile users at peak, 95th-percentile response latency under 5 seconds for retrieval-augmented queries). This GPU compute infrastructure shall be financed and, on completion of the three-year hosting term, transferred to MNFSR as set out in Section 3.3.6.
- Separate, logically and physically isolated Development, Test, User Acceptance Testing (UAT), and Production environments.

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- Encrypted primary storage with automated daily backups; minimum 7-year retention for regulatory records-linked data (or as directed by MNFSR's record-retention policy), with backups also retained exclusively within Pakistan.
- Elastic scalability to accommodate at least 100% growth in usage over the Contract Period without requiring a change in hosting jurisdiction or a fresh procurement. Scale-out shall be achieved by clustering additional appliance units into the existing unified cluster in accordance with Section 3.3.7, without re-architecting or interrupting the deployed environment.

3.3.3 High Availability & Disaster Recovery

- High-availability (active-active or active-passive) architecture within Pakistan; a geographically separate Disaster Recovery (DR) site also located within Pakistan.
- Target Recovery Time Objective (RTO) of 4 hours and Recovery Point Objective (RPO) of 1 hour, or better, to be conBiddered in the Technical Proposal.
- Guaranteed minimum production uptime of 99.5% measured monthly, with Service Level Agreement (SLA) credits for non-compliance as defined in the Contract.

3.3.4 AI/LLM Platform Stack

- A production-grade model-serving/inference stack, a vector database or equivalent retrieval index for embeddings, an orchestration/RAG framework, and MLOps/LLMOps tooling for monitoring model performance, drift and cost. These components shall be delivered as a pre-integrated, factory-installed and vendor-validated cloud-native AI stack on the appliance units specified at Section 3.3.7, rather than as separately assembled components integrated for the first time on this engagement; the Bidder shall evidence prior validation of the stack as an integrated whole and shall justify its choices in the Technical Proposal.
- Comprehensive audit logging of all prompts, responses, retrieved sources and administrative actions, retained within Pakistan and made available to MNFSR on request.

3.3.5 Managed Hosting Services (Years 1–3)

- 24×7 infrastructure monitoring and alerting; patch and vulnerability management; capacity planning and tuning; tiered technical support (L1/L2/L3) with defined response and resolution SLAs by severity.
- Quarterly performance, security and usage reports to MNFSR's ITD throughout the hosting term.

3.3.6 GPU Capital Asset Financing & Ownership Transfer

MNFSR intends to acquire, over time, ownership of the GPU and directly-associated AI-compute hardware underpinning the Solution, rather than procuring it as a pure ongoing service. Accordingly, the following capital-asset model shall apply, in addition to the recurring hosting/operations cost at Section 3.3.5:

- **Capital cost recovery:** The Bidder shall procure, install, commission and own the GPU/AI-compute hardware for the duration of the three-year hosting term. MNFSR shall pay the Bidder the capital cost of this hardware (as itemised in Form F-2A) in instalments distributed over the three (3)-year hosting term, in addition to — and shown separately from — the recurring AI infrastructure hosting cost (Form F-2B) and managed support cost (Form F-3).
- **Transfer of ownership:** Upon (a) expiry of the three-year hosting term (or earlier if MNFSR and the Bidder agree to an accelerated buy-out), and (b) receipt by the Bidder of the full GPU Capital

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Cost Recovery Charge for all three years, title to and ownership of the GPU hardware (and the directly-associated compute/networking hardware costed under Form F-2A) shall transfer to MNFSR automatically and unconditionally, free of any lien, charge, encumbrance or third-party interest, and the hardware shall thereafter be recorded as a fixed asset of MNFSR.

- **Condition, maintenance & insurance:** Throughout the three-year term, the Bidder shall be responsible, at its own cost, for the insurance, maintenance, Bidderware/driver updates, warranty management and replacement of any faulty, degraded or failed GPU units, and shall deliver the hardware to MNFSR at the point of transfer in good operating condition consistent with normal wear and tear.
- **Handover documentation:** At the point of transfer, the Bidder shall execute a formal Certificate of Asset Transfer with MNFSR, reconciling each physical unit against the Form F-2A Asset Register (make, model, serial number, location), and shall hand over all manufacturer warranties (to the extent transferable), manuals, and maintenance records.
- **Early termination:** If the Contract is terminated prior to completion of the three-year term for reasons attributable to the Bidder, no further Capital Cost Recovery Charge shall fall due and ownership shall not transfer until MNFSR, at its option, either (i) pays the Bidder the un-recovered balance of the GPU Capital Cost and takes immediate ownership, or (ii) procures continuity of hosting from a successor vendor, in which case the outgoing Bidder shall cooperate fully with relocation/handover of the hardware as directed by MNFSR, in accordance with the Contract's termination clause.
- **No effect on data/IP ownership:** This hardware ownership-transfer arrangement is independent of, and additional to, MNFSR's ownership of source code, models, data and configurations under Section 8.6, which vests in MNFSR throughout the Contract Period regardless of the hardware transfer date.

3.3.7 GPU Compute Appliance — Minimum Technical Specification

The GPU and directly-associated AI-compute hardware financed under Section 3.3.6 and costed at Form F-2A shall conform to the minimum specification set out below. This specification defines the floor of acceptable capability only; the Bidder remains responsible for sizing the deployment to meet the performance, availability and environment-separation requirements of Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3.

- **Configuration basis:** The Bidder shall supply GPU compute capacity in the form of an integrated AI all-in-one appliance — a factory-integrated, rack-mountable GPU server combining compute, high-speed card-to-card interconnect, local NVMe storage and a pre-installed AI software stack in a single unit.

  All values in Table 3-1 are minimum acceptable values per unit; "≥" denotes "not less than". Proposals offering values below any minimum in Table 3-1 shall be treated as non-responsive.

#	Parameter	Minimum Requirement
1	Processors	≥ 2 CPUs, ≥ 48 physical cores per CPU (≥ 96 cores per unit)
2	System memory	≥ 2 TB (2,048 GB)
3	GPU accelerators per unit	16
4	GPU memory per accelerator	≥ 96 GB
5	Aggregate GPU memory per unit	≥ 1,536 GB
6	Aggregate GPU memory bandwidth per unit	≥ 44 TB/s

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7	Card-to-card interconnect bandwidth	≥ 700 GB/s per accelerator, via a high-speed intra-node interconnect fabric
8	Node-to-node interconnect (where multi-node scale-out is proposed)	≥ 1,600 Gbps RDMA per node
9	Local storage	≥ 4 × 3.84 TB NVMe SSD
10	Whole-unit compute performance (BF16/FP16)	≥ 1.9 PFLOP/s

Table 3-1 — Minimum specification per GPU server unit

Note: Any additional hardware/software requirement may also be the responsibility of the selected vendor.

- **Single-unit model-serving capability:** A single unit shall be capable of hosting and serving, at full BF16 precision and without accuracy loss from quantisation, a mixture-of-experts large language model of not less than 671 billion parameters, or a model of not less than 235 billion parameters, without distributing the model across multiple units. Indicative minimum serving performance on a single unit shall be: for a 671B-class model on all 16 accelerators, aggregate output throughput ≥ 1,300 tokens/s at ≥ 128 concurrent sessions; for a 235B-class model on 8 accelerators, aggregate output throughput ≥ 2,000 tokens/s at ≥ 256 concurrent sessions. This capability underpins the concurrency and latency targets at Section 3.3.2.
- **Scale-out and unified management:** The appliance shall support decentralised horizontal scale-out by clustering multiple single-unit appliances into a unified cluster — to a minimum of 48 GPU server units — to increase model concurrency and to extend retrieval-augmented-generation and agent services, without re-architecting or interrupting the deployed environment. The solution shall provide a unified management console covering single sign-on and authorisation, load balancing, multi-node management, monitoring and alerting. This clause gives effect to the elastic scalability requirement at Section 3.3.2.
- **Software stack:** Each unit shall be delivered with a cloud-native AI software stack, factory-installed and validated, comprising: an optimised high-performance inference engine; full-lifecycle model capabilities covering development, training, fine-tuning, inference, RAG and agent orchestration; PaaS components including a vector database, cache, full-text search and application observability; and an optional model-scheduling platform. The stack shall support both open-weight and licensed models deployed wholly within the delivered infrastructure, consistent with Sections 3.2 and 8.1.
- **Processor platform options:** The Bidder may offer the configuration on either an international or a domestically manufactured CPU platform. Where a domestic CPU platform is offered, all minimum parameters of Table 3-1 shall apply, except that system memory shall be not less than 1.5 TB (1,536 GB) on that platform. The Bidder shall state, per offered platform, the exact make and model of CPU, GPU, interconnect fabric and memory configuration.
- **Evidence:** The Bidder shall substantiate each value in Table 3-1 and each capability as mentioned above, by cross-reference to the relevant page of its Technical Proposal and, where available, to manufacturer datasheets or independent benchmark reports. A declaration of compliance unsupported by such reference may be disregarded.

3.4 Implementation Phases

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Phase	Title	Key Activities
0	Inception	Contract signing, mobilisation, project governance setup, detailed work plan.
1	Discovery & Solution Design	Requirements workshops with all Wings, data/content inventory, solution architecture, security architecture, infrastructure design, sign-off on SRS/SDD.
2	Build, Integration & Content Ingestion	Development of application layers, RAG pipeline build-out, model deployment, integration with MNFSR systems, iterative demos.
3	Testing, Security Audit & UAT	System/integration testing, independent VAPT and security audit, remediation, User Acceptance Testing with MNFSR Wings, sign-off.
4	Go-Live & Change Management	Phased roll-out by domain, user training, communication/change-management support, hypercare period (minimum 4 weeks).
5	Managed Hosting, Support & Continuous Improvement (Years 1–3)	SLA-governed hosting and support, quarterly reviews, periodic security re-assessment, content/model refresh, roadmap for extension to new domains.

3.5 Training & Knowledge Transfer

- End-user training for staff across all in-scope Wings, delivered in-person and/or via recorded modules, with user guides in English and Urdu.
- Administrator training for MNFSR Focal Persons, covering content management, prompt/guardrail configuration, analytics, and infrastructure operations.
- Technical knowledge transfer to designated MNFSR Focal Persons, covering architecture, deployment pipelines, model retraining/refresh procedures and incident response, sufficient for MNFSR to progressively co-manage the Solution.

3.6 Exit Management

Not less than six (6) months prior to expiry of the three-year hosting term (or immediately upon early termination), the Bidder shall prepare and execute an Exit/Transition-Out Plan, approved by MNFSR, covering secure handover of all source code, configurations, fine-tuned model weights, embeddings, ingested content and data to MNFSR or a successor vendor, followed by certified secure deletion of all MNFSR data from the Bidder's own systems, as further detailed in Section 8 (Information Security & Data Residency Requirements).

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4. Deliverables

The Bidder shall submit the following deliverables at each stage of the assignment. All deliverables shall be in English, in editable and PDF format, and are subject to formal review and written acceptance by MNFSR's ITD before associated payment milestones (Section 10) are released.

#	Deliverable	Acceptance Criteria	Indicative Timeline
1	Inception Report & Detailed Project Plan	Approved by MNFSR Project Steering Committee (PSC)	T + 2 weeks
2	Business Requirements & Solution Design Document (incl. security & infrastructure architecture)	Signed off by PSC	T + 6 weeks
3	Data Governance & Content Ingestion Plan	Approved by ITD; classification aligned to Cloud First Policy	T + 6 weeks
4	Developed AI Assistant Application (source code, configs, documentation)	Passes system/integration testing	Per phased build plan
5	Provisioned AI Infrastructure (Dev/Test/UAT/Prod, DR) with architecture diagrams & runbooks	Infrastructure walkthrough and documentation accepted by PSC	Before UAT commencement
6	Independent Security Assessment / VAPT Report & Remediation ConBidderation	Critical/High findings remediated and closed	Before Go-Live
7	User Manuals & Administrator Manuals (English & Urdu, where applicable)	Accepted by PSC	Before Go-Live
8	Training Completion Report	Minimum 90% of nominated staff trained	Within Go-Live phase
9	UAT Sign-Off Report	Formal written sign-off by MNFSR	End of Phase 3
10	Go-Live Report & Hypercare Summary	Solution live in production; hypercare issues closed	End of Phase 4
11	Quarterly Service, Security & Performance Reports	Submitted within 10 working days of quarter-end throughout hosting term	Quarterly, Years 1–3
12	Exit / Transition-Out Plan and Certified Data & IP Handover	MNFSR conBidders receipt of all code, data, models; secure deletion certificate provided	6 months before contract expiry / on termination
13	GPU/AI-Compute Hardware Asset Register (Form F-2A) & Certificate of Asset Transfer	Physical hardware reconciled unit-by-unit against the Asset Register; title formally transferred to MNFSR per Section 3.3.6	End of Year 3 hosting term / contract expiry

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5. Qualifying / Eligibility Criteria for Bidders

The following mandatory (Pass/Fail) criteria establish the minimum eligibility of a Bidder to participate in this RFP. Envelope I (Technical Proposal) of any Bidder that fails to satisfy ALL mandatory criteria, supported by documentary evidence, shall be rejected and its Envelope II (Financial Proposal) shall not be opened. Joint ventures/consortia are permitted, provided a lead partner is clearly designated and all partners are jointly and severally liable; the consortium as a whole must meet the criteria below, with the lead partner meeting at least 60% of the financial thresholds.

#	Mandatory Eligibility Criterion	Documentary Evidence Required
1	Legally registered entity in Pakistan (company/Bidder/registered branch office), with valid and active NTN and Sales Tax/STRN registration, appearing on FBR's Active Taxpayers List.	Certificate of Incorporation/Registration, NTN certificate, ATL screenshot
2	Demonstrated ownership of, or a binding contractual arrangement with, a Tier III (or higher) data centre physically located within Pakistan.	Data centre ownership/lease/service agreement; Tier & ISO 27001 certificates
3	Not currently blacklisted or debarred by PPRA, any Government of Pakistan entity, MNFSR, State Bank of Pakistan, or any other regulatory authority.	Signed affidavit on judicial-stamp paper (Annex-F)
4	Proposed core project team meeting minimum qualification thresholds (Solution Architect, AI/ML Engineers, Data Engineer, Cybersecurity Specialist, PMP/PMI-certified Project Manager) with CVs.	CVs (Annex-H) and certifications
5	Declaration of no conflict of interest with MNFSR or its officials, and compliance with MNFSR's Code of Conduct for Vendors.	Signed declaration
6	Manufacturer/OEM authorisation letters for any proposed proprietary LLM platform, hardware or software licences (where applicable).	OEM/authorised-partner letters

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6. Technical Evaluation Criteria

Technical Proposals (Envelope I) of Bidders who satisfy all mandatory eligibility criteria in Section 5 shall be evaluated by MNFSR's Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) against the weighted criteria below, on a scale of 100 points. Only Bidders scoring a minimum of seventy-five (70) marks out of 100 shall be declared "technically qualified" and shall have their Financial Proposals (Envelope II) opened, in accordance with the Single Stage – Two Envelope procedure under Rule 27(b) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2026.

#	Evaluation Criterion	Sub-Factors (Indicative)	Marks
1	Bidder's Profile, Corporate Experience & Financial Capacity	10 points for more than 05 Years in business; turnover of more than PKR. 200 million in the last financial year 05 points for less than 05 Years in business; turnover of less than PKR. 200 million but more than PKR 100 million in the last financial year.	10
2	Relevant Past Experience / Similar Assignments	Number and relevance of prior AI/GenAI deployments; public-sector/Agriculture and Livestock references; scale and complexity More than 05 projects: 10 points Less than 05 but more than 02 projects: 05 points	10
3	Understanding of Requirements & Proposed Technical Solution	Depth of understanding of MNFSR's business domains; RAG/LLM architecture; bilingual support; guardrails; integration approach Fill Annexure-AA with appropriate response tag against each requirement 01 point for fully compliant, 0.5 points for partially compliant and 0 for non-compliant. Each requirement carry maximum of 01 point. **Annexure-AA contains thirty (30) requirements. The raw score out of 30 shall be normalised to the 25 marks allocated to this criterion, i.e. Marks = (raw score ÷ 30) × 25.**	25

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#	Evaluation Criterion	Sub-Factors (Indicative)	Marks
4	AI Infrastructure, Hosting & Security Proposal	In-country data centre credentials; HA/DR design; scalability; ISO 27001/security posture; compliance with Section 8. Fully compliant: 20 pts Partial compliant: against any point qualifies the bidder for securing ½ points allocated for respective section. Non-Compliance: against any point qualifies the bidder for securing zero points allocated for respective section. 8.1: 05 points 8.2: 04 points 8.3: 04 points 8.4: 04 points 8.5: 04 points 8.6: 04 points **Compliance with the GPU Compute Appliance specification at Section 3.3.7 and Table 3-1 shall be assessed under this criterion; any parameter below the stated minimum renders the proposal non-responsive under Section 3.3.7(a).**	25
5	Implementation Methodology & Project Plan	Realism and clarity of work plan, phasing, risk management, governance (qualitative)	10
6	Key Personnel Qualifications	Relevant experience/certifications of Solution Architect, AI/ML Engineers, Security Specialist, Project Manager (10 points for more than 5 years relevant experience, 05 points for less than 05 years experience)	10
7	Training, Knowledge Transfer, Support & SLA Commitments	Quality of training plan; KT approach; proposed SLA/support model (Qualitative)	10
	Total		**100**

6.1 Combined Technical & Financial Scoring

For Bidders declared technically qualified (score ≥ 70), the final ranking and award recommendation shall be determined using a combined score, weighted 70% Technical and 30% Financial, computed as follows:

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- **Normalised Technical Score (NTS)** = (Bidder's Technical Score ÷ Highest Technical Score obtained) × 100
- **Normalised Financial Score (NFS)** = (Lowest Total Evaluated Cost among qualified Bidders ÷ Bidder's Total Evaluated Cost) × 100
- **Combined Score** = (NTS × 0.70) + (NFS × 0.30)

The Contract shall be recommended for award to the technically qualified Bidder obtaining the highest Combined Score. MNFSR's Procurement/Technical Evaluation Committee reserves the right to conduct clarification meetings, technical demonstrations, proof-of-concept evaluations, and reference checks prior to finalising the evaluation.

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7. Financial Proposal Format

The Financial Proposal (Envelope II) shall be submitted strictly in the formats prescribed below (Forms F-1, F-2A, F-2B, F-3 and F-4, reproduced in blank in Annex-B). Financial Proposals not conforming to this format may be rejected. Key instructions:

- All prices shall be quoted in Pakistani Rupees (PKR) only, inclusive of all applicable taxes, duties, levies, insurance, travel and out-of-pocket expenses, unless a line item explicitly states otherwise.
- Prices shall remain Bidder and fixed for the entire Contract Period.
- The Financial Proposal shall remain valid for 120 days from the closing date for submission of proposals.
- Any discrepancy between figures and words shall be resolved in favour of the amount expressed in words; any arithmetic error shall be corrected by MNFSR and the corrected total shall bind the Bidder.
- **Capital cost of GPU/AI-compute hardware (Form F-2A) shall be quoted and evaluated separately from recurring hosting/operations costs (Form F-2B).** MNFSR shall pay the GPU capital cost to the Bidder in instalments distributed over the three (3)-year hosting term, in addition to the recurring hosting cost; ownership of the GPU hardware shall transfer to MNFSR at the end of the three-year term, as detailed in Section 3.3.6 and Section 7.2A below.

7.1 Form F-1 — One-Time Development & Implementation Cost

#	Cost Component	Unit	Amount (PKR)
1	Discovery, Requirements & Solution Design	Lump Sum	
2	Application Development & AI/RAG Platform Build (per business domain, itemised)	Lump Sum	
3	Data/Content Ingestion & Preparation	Lump Sum	
4	Integration with Existing MNFSR Systems	Lump Sum	
5	Security Hardening & Independent VAPT (pre-Go-Live)	Lump Sum	
6	Training & Knowledge Transfer	Lump Sum	
7	Project Management (Phases 0–4)	Lump Sum	
8	Contingency / Miscellaneous (max 5% of subtotal)	Lump Sum	
	Sub-Total (Form F-1)		

7.2A Form F-2A1 — GPU / AI-Compute Capital Cost & Asset Register

This form captures the one-time capital cost of all GPU and directly-associated AI-compute hardware that the Bidder will procure, install and dedicate to the Solution. This capital cost is recovered from MNFSR over the three-year hosting term (see the Capital Cost Recovery Schedule below) and, upon full payment, ownership of this hardware transfers to MNFSR as its fixed asset, in accordance with Section 3.3.6.

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#	GPU / AI-Compute Hardware Item (Make, Model & Specification as proposed in the Technical Proposal)	Qty	Unit Capital Cost (PKR)	Total Capital Cost (PKR)
1	GPU compute appliance units — integrated AI all-in-one GPU server, each providing 16 GPU accelerators and conforming to Table 3-1 (Section 3.3.7). Quantity below is expressed in appliance units, not individual accelerator cards.			
2	Directly-associated compute/networking hardware dedicated to the GPU cluster not already integrated within the appliance units above (e.g., high-speed interconnect/switching between appliance units, external storage) — itemise each			
3	Installation, commissioning & burn-in testing of the above hardware			
	TOTAL GPU CAPITAL COST (Asset Register value transferred to MNFSR at Year 3 — see Section 3.3.6)			

Capital Cost Recovery Schedule — the Total GPU Capital Cost above shall be paid to the Bidder by MNFSR as an Annual Capital Cost Recovery Charge distributed over the three-year hosting term (equal instalments unless the Bidder proposes, and justifies, an alternative schedule):

7.2A Form F-2A2 — GPU/ Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge

Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3-Yr Total
Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge				

7.2B Form F-2B — AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations Cost (Recurring, Years 1–3)

This form captures the recurring, service-based (operating expenditure) costs of hosting and operating the Solution. Unlike Form F-2A, none of these items result in an asset transfer to MNFSR; they represent the Bidder's ongoing service fee for the duration quoted.

Cost Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3-Yr Total
Non-GPU Compute & Platform Operations (orchestration/application servers, platform administration — excludes capitalised GPU hardware costed under Form F-2A)				
Storage, Backup & Retention				
Data Centre / Colocation / Private Cloud Fees (facility, power, cooling, rack space)				
Network, Bandwidth & Security Appliances (Firewall/WAF/IDS-IPS)				

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Cost Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3-Yr Total
LLM/Software Licensing (if any, excluding public foreign APIs)				
Disaster Recovery Site & Failover Testing				
Managed Services: 24×7 Monitoring & L1/L2/L3 Support				
GPU Hardware Insurance & Warranty Management (until title transfers to MNFSR)				
Sub-Total (Form F-2B)				

7.3 Form F-3 — Annual Managed Support & SLA Cost (Post-Warranty)

Cost Component	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	3-Yr Total
Application Support & Maintenance (bug-fixes, minor enhancements)				
Model/Content Refresh & Retraining Cycles				
Periodic Security Re-Assessment (Annual VAPT)				
Helpdesk / Support Desk Personnel				
Sub-Total (Form F-3)				

7.4 Form F-4 — Grand Summary: 3-Year Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

Component	Amount (PKR)
Sub-Total Form F-1 (One-Time Development & Implementation)	
Sub-Total Form F-2A1 (GPU Capital Cost, 3-Year Recovery — Asset Transfers to MNFSR at Year 3)	
Sub-Total Form F-2A2 — GPU/ Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge	
Sub-Total Form F-2B (AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations, 3 Years)	
Sub-Total Form F-3 (Managed Support & SLA, 3 Years)	
TOTAL EVALUATED COST (Used for Financial Scoring — Section 6.1)	

Note: The GPU Capital Cost (Form F-2A) is included in the Total Evaluated Cost for financial scoring purposes and is a genuine cost to MNFSR; however, it converts to an owned MNFSR asset at the end of Year 3 and is not a sunk service fee, unlike Forms F-1, F-2B and F-3.

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8. Information Security & Data Residency Requirements

Given the highly sensitive nature of MNFSR's regulatory, corporate and personal data, compliance with this Section is mandatory and non-negotiable. Non-compliance identified at any stage — proposal evaluation, implementation or operations — shall constitute grounds for disqualification or contract termination for cause, as applicable.

8.1 Data Residency

- All data processed by the Solution — including but not limited to ingested regulatory content, case files, personally identifiable information (PII) of registered companies/investors/staff, user queries and AI-generated responses, embeddings, fine-tuned model weights, logs, analytics and backups — shall be hosted, processed, stored and backed up exclusively within the territorial boundaries of Pakistan for the entire Contract Period, with no exception.
- This requirement aligns with the Ministry of IT & Telecommunication's Cloud First Policy (2022), under which MNFSR's data is classified at minimum as "Sensitive/Confidential", mandating hosting on an Accredited Government Cloud/CSP located within Pakistan, and anticipates the data-localisation provisions for critical and sensitive personal data under Pakistan's Personal Data Protection Act (pending enactment).
- No public, foreign-hosted LLM or API service (e.g., any model endpoint hosted outside Pakistan) may be used for inference, fine-tuning, or embedding generation on any MNFSR data. Only models self-hosted on in-country infrastructure — whether open-weight or licensed for on-premises/private-cloud deployment — are permitted.
- Remote access to production systems or data by the Bidder's personnel located outside Pakistan is strictly prohibited unless explicitly pre-approved in writing by MNFSR's ITD for a specific, time-bound, logged and supervised purpose.
- The Bidder shall provide, at contract signing and annually thereafter, a signed attestation conBiddering full compliance with this data residency clause, supported by evidence (e.g., data centre location certificates, network architecture diagrams).

8.2 Regulatory & Standards Compliance

- Compliance with the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), 2016 and all applicable directives issued by MNFSR, and, where relevant, the State Bank of Pakistan and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority.
- Information Security Management aligned to ISO/IEC 27001:2022; the Bidder's hosting environment shall hold, or achieve within 6 months of contract signing, a valid ISO/IEC 27001 certification. ISO/IEC 27701 (Privacy Information Management) is desirable.
- Application-level security aligned to the OWASP Top 10 and the OWASP Top 10 for Large Language Model Applications (prompt injection, insecure output handling, training-data poisoning, model denial-of-service, sensitive information disclosure, etc.).
- Readiness to comply with Pakistan's Personal Data Protection Act upon its enactment, including data subject rights, breach notification and localisation obligations for critical/sensitive personal data.

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8.3 Technical Security Controls

- Encryption of data at rest using AES-256 (or stronger) and data in transit using TLS 1.2 or higher; cryptographic key management via a Hardware Security Module (HSM) located within Pakistan.
- Role-based access control (RBAC) integrated with MNFSR's identity provider, multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all privileged and administrative access, and a documented Privileged Access Management (PAM) process.
- Network segmentation, next-generation firewalls, Web Application Firewall (WAF), intrusion detection/prevention (IDS/IPS), and continuous security monitoring (SIEM) with alerting to both the Bidder's and MNFSR's security teams.
- LLM-specific guardrails: input/output content filtering, prompt-injection detection, mandatory source citation for factual claims, hallucination-rate monitoring, configurable human-in-the-loop review gates for any AI-drafted content prior to official use, and comprehensive logging of all interactions.
- Independent penetration testing (VAPT) prior to Go-Live and at least annually thereafter throughout the hosting term, performed by a third party acceptable to MNFSR, with all Critical/High findings remediated prior to sign-off/continued operation.

8.4 Personnel & Organisational Security

- All Bidder personnel with access to MNFSR data shall be Pakistani nationals unless MNFSR grants a specific written exception; all such personnel shall execute Non-Disclosure Agreements (Annex-G) and undergo background verification prior to being granted access.
- The Bidder shall maintain an access log/register of all personnel with access to MNFSR systems/data, provided to MNFSR on request, and shall immediately revoke access upon personnel exit or role change.

8.5 Audit, Incident Response & Right to Inspect

- MNFSR, and any government auditor, regulator or body it designates (including PPRA), shall have the right to audit the Bidder's data centre, security controls, processes and documentation relevant to this Contract, with reasonable notice.
- The Bidder shall notify MNFSR of any actual or suspected security incident or data breach within twenty-four (24) hours of detection, followed by a full written incident report within seventy-two (72) hours, and shall cooperate fully with MNFSR's incident response and any regulatory reporting obligations.

8.6 Intellectual Property, Business Continuity & Exit

- All source code, configurations, fine-tuned model weights, embeddings, ingested content, and data created or used under this Contract shall be the sole and exclusive property of MNFSR upon corresponding payment; the Bidder shall retain no residual rights to reuse MNFSR-specific data, content or fine-tuned models for any other client.
- Ownership of the GPU and directly-associated AI-compute hardware transfers to MNFSR separately, under the capital-asset financing arrangement at Section 3.3.6, upon completion of the three-year Capital Cost Recovery Charge; this is in addition to, and independent of, MNFSR's ownership of code, data and models under this Section.

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- A source-code and configuration escrow arrangement (with a mutually agreed escrow agent within Pakistan) shall be maintained throughout the Contract Period.
- On expiry or termination of the Contract, the Bidder shall, within the timelines in Section 3.6, securely transfer all code, data, models and documentation to MNFSR or a successor vendor, and thereafter certify secure and complete deletion of all MNFSR data from its own systems and those of any subcontractor, subject to MNFSR's verification.

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9. Implementation Timeline

The Bidder shall propose a detailed, resource-loaded project schedule in its Technical Proposal. The indicative overall timeline — from contract signing (T0) to Go-Live, followed by three years of hosting and managed support — is summarised below; the Bidder may propose an accelerated schedule with justification.

Phase	Indicative Duration (from Contract Signing)
Phase 0 – Inception & Mobilisation	T0 to T0 + 2 weeks
Phase 1 – Discovery & Solution Design	T0 + 2 to T0 + 8 weeks
Phase 2 – Build, Integration & Content Ingestion	T0 + 8 to T0 + 22 weeks
Phase 3 – Testing, Security Audit & UAT	T0 + 22 to T0 + 30 weeks
Phase 4 – Go-Live & Hypercare (phased by domain)	T0 + 30 to T0 + 36 weeks
Phase 5 – Managed Hosting, Support & Continuous Improvement	T0 + 36 weeks to T0 + 36 weeks + 3 years

Total build-to-Go-Live duration shall not exceed nine (9) months from contract signing, followed immediately by a three (3)-year hosting and managed support term, giving a total indicative Contract Period of approximately three years and nine months.

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10. Contract Period & Payment Schedule

10.1 Contract Period

The Contract shall remain in force from the date of signing until three (3) years after the date of Go-Live (formal acceptance of the Solution into production), unless extended or terminated earlier in accordance with the Contract's terms and conditions. MNFSR may, at its sole discretion, extend the hosting and managed-support term for up to two (2) further one-year periods on the same terms, subject to satisfactory performance and budgetary availability.

10.2 Indicative Payment Schedule

#	Milestone	% of Form F-1	Timing
1	Contract Signing & Mobilisation Advance	10%	On contract signing (against bank guarantee)
2	Sign-off of Solution Design (SRS/SDD) — Phase 1 completion	15%	T0 + 8 weeks
3	Completion of Build & Successful Security Assessment — Phase 2/3 completion	25%	T0 + 30 weeks
4	UAT Sign-off	20%	End of Phase 3
5	Go-Live & Successful Completion of Hypercare	30%	End of Phase 4

Form F-2B (AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations) and Form F-3 (Managed Support) costs shall be paid quarterly in arrears throughout the three-year hosting term, subject to SLA compliance and applicable service credits/penalties as defined in the Contract's SLA schedule.

10.3 GPU Capital Cost Recovery Payments

The Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge (Form F-2A) is a distinct payment stream from the Form F-1 milestone payments and the Form F-2B/F-3 recurring service fees. It shall be invoiced and paid quarterly in equal instalments across each of the three hosting years (i.e., one-twelfth of the applicable Annual Capital Cost Recovery Charge per quarter), commencing from the quarter following successful installation and commissioning of the GPU hardware and Go-Live. Payment of the final instalment in Year 3 is a precondition for transfer of ownership under Section 3.3.6, and shall be released only upon MNFSR's acceptance of the Certificate of Asset Transfer and reconciled Asset Register (Deliverable 13, Section 4).

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11. Instructions to Bidders & Submission Requirements

11.1 Procurement Method

This procurement shall follow the Single Stage – Two Envelope procedure prescribed under Rule 27(b) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2026 revised SRO 1658(1) 2026 (PPRA). Each Bidder shall submit its proposal in two separate, clearly marked, sealed inner envelopes, both placed inside one sealed outer envelope:

- **Envelope I – Technical Proposal:** containing all eligibility documents (Section 5) and the full technical response (Sections 3, 6 and Annex-A), but excluding any price/cost information.
- **Envelope II – Financial Proposal:** containing the Financial Proposal strictly in the format of Section 7 / Annex-B.

Envelope I shall be opened first, on the date and time specified in the RFP notice, in the presence of Bidders' authorised representatives who choose to attend. The Technical Evaluation Committee shall evaluate Envelope I as per Sections 5 and 6. Envelope II of only those Bidders declared technically qualified (score ≥ 75) shall be opened publicly on a subsequently notified date; Envelope II of technically disqualified Bidders shall be returned unopened.

11.2 Bid Security

Each Bidder shall submit a Bid Security (earnest money) of two percent (2%) of the Bidder's Total Evaluated Cost (Form F-4), in the form of a Pay Order, Demand Draft, or unconditional Bank Guarantee from a scheduled bank operating in Pakistan, valid for a period of 28 days beyond the validity of the Financial Proposal (i.e., 148 days from the closing date). Proposals not accompanied by a valid Bid Security shall be rejected. Bid Security of unsuccessful Bidders shall be returned within 30 days of contract award; that of the successful Bidder shall be retained until submission of the Performance Guarantee.

11.3 Pre-Bid Meeting & Clarifications

A pre-bid meeting shall be held at MNFSR Head Office, Islamabad (and via video conference for outstation Bidders) on a date to be notified at least seven (7) days after issuance of this RFP. Written queries may be submitted to the Focal Person (Section 11.7) up to three (3) working days before the pre-bid meeting. Responses to all queries, along with any RFP amendments, shall be communicated to all prospective Bidders and published on MNFSR's and PPRA's websites.

11.4 Proposal Validity, Language & Currency

- Proposals shall remain valid for 120 days from the closing date for submission.
- All proposals shall be submitted in English.
- Financial Proposals shall be denominated in Pakistani Rupees (PKR) only.

11.5 Submission Mechanics

- One (1) original and two (2) copies each of Envelope I and Envelope II, clearly marked "ORIGINAL" and "COPY", plus one soft copy (USB/CD) of the Technical Proposal, shall be submitted.

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- Proposals must be received at the address in Section 11.7 by the closing date and time specified in the RFP notice/PPRA advertisement. Proposals received after the deadline shall not be accepted under any circumstances.
- Proposals submitted by fax or e-mail shall not be accepted.

11.6 Integrity Pact & Other Undertakings

As this procurement's estimated value exceeds the threshold prescribed under the applicable Integrity Pact policy, the successful Bidder shall be required to sign an Integrity Pact (Annex-E) at the time of contract signing. All Bidders shall additionally submit the Affidavit of Non-Blacklisting (Annex-F) and the Non-Disclosure & Data Security Undertaking (Annex-G) with their Technical Proposal.

11.7 Right to Reject & Reservations

MNFSR reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, and to annul the procurement process at any time, without assigning any reason and without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder(s), in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules, 2004. MNFSR also reserves the right to negotiate scope and price with the highest-ranked technically qualified Bidder prior to contract award, in accordance with applicable PPRA guidance, without prejudice to the evaluation outcome.

11.8 Focal Person & Submission Address

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12. Annexures

Annex-A: Technical Proposal Checklist / Compliance Sheet

Bidders shall submit a self-certified, item-by-item compliance statement against every requirement in Sections 3, 5, 6 and 8 of this RFP, cross-referenced to the corresponding page/section of their Technical Proposal where each requirement is addressed.

Annex-B: Financial Proposal Forms (F-1, F-2A1,F-2A2, F-2B, F-3, F-4)

Blank templates of Forms F-1, F-2A (GPU Capital Cost & Asset Register), F-2B (Hosting & Operations), F-3 and F-4 (Section 7) shall be provided as fillable annexures to this RFP and shall be reproduced by the Bidder exactly as formatted, with all cells completed.

Annex-C: Eligibility / Mandatory Documents Checklist

A single checklist enumerating all documentary evidence required under Section 5, to be completed and submitted as the first page of Envelope I.

Annex-D: Format of Bid Security

Standard Bank Guarantee / Pay Order format acceptable to MNFSR for the Bid Security referred to in Section 11.2, to be obtained from a scheduled bank operating in Pakistan.

Annex-E: Integrity Pact

Standard Integrity Pact format, to be executed by the successful Bidder at contract signing, in accordance with the Government of Pakistan's Integrity Pact policy.

Annex-F: Affidavit of Non-Blacklisting

Affidavit, on judicial-stamp paper, afBiddering that the Bidder (and its directors/partners) is not blacklisted or debarred by PPRA or any Government of Pakistan entity, regulator, or financial institution.

Annex-G: Non-Disclosure & Data Security Undertaking

Undertaking to be signed by the Bidder and by each of its personnel granted access to MNFSR data/systems, binding them to confidentiality, data residency, and information security obligations set out in Section 8, surviving termination or expiry of the Contract.

Annex-H: Curriculum Vitae (CV) Format for Key Personnel

Standard CV template capturing academic qualifications, professional certifications, years of relevant experience, and details of at least three (3) similar assignments for each proposed key resource (Solution Architect, AI/ML Engineers, Data Engineer, Cybersecurity Specialist, Project Manager).

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Annexure “AA”

Technical Evaluation Compliance Matrix

Instructions to Bidders
The bidder shall complete this matrix without modifying the requirement descriptions.
The bidder shall indicate compliance using only the following classifications:

Response	Meaning
Fully Compliant	Requirement is supported without modification, qualification or future development
Partially Compliant	Requirement is supported with limitations, dependencies or additional work
Not Compliant	Requirement is not supported

A response of “Fully Compliant” without a supporting proposal reference may not be considered sufficient.

Compliance Matrix

ID	Requirement	Bidder Compliance	Proposal Reference	Remarks / Qualification
1.	The proposed solution shall provide a reusable Enterprise AI Foundation supporting multiple MNFSR business domains.			
2.	The solution shall support multiple approved AI models without requiring replacement of the underlying platform.			
3.	The bidder shall clearly disclose all proposed AI models, platform components, licenses and third-party dependencies.			
4.	The solution shall provide enterprise knowledge retrieval, semantic search and Retrieval-Augmented Generation capabilities.			
5.	AI-generated responses shall support reference to approved knowledge sources where applicable.			
6.	The solution shall provide an Agentic AI framework supporting assistants, copilots and controlled task-oriented agents.			
7.	Human-in-the-loop review and approval controls shall be configurable for controlled business activities.			
8.	The solution shall provide secure APIs and integration capabilities for existing and future MNFSR systems.			
9.	The solution shall support English and Urdu, with extensibility for additional languages.			

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10.	The solution shall provide centralized administration, monitoring, logging and audit capabilities.			
11.	All production systems and AI services shall operate exclusively within infrastructure physically located in Pakistan.			
12.	No MNFSR data, prompts, responses, embeddings, indexes, metadata, logs, telemetry, backups or derived information shall be processed, stored, cached, replicated or transmitted outside Pakistan.			
13.	Disaster recovery and backup environments shall be physically located within Pakistan.			
14.	MNFSR information shall not be used to train, fine-tune, optimize or improve any public, shared, commercial or third-party model.			
15.	Prompts, conversations, outputs and enterprise knowledge shall not be retained for external or shared model learning.			
16.	All mandatory external communications, internet dependencies and telemetry mechanisms shall be disclosed.			
17.	The solution shall support encryption in transit and at rest.			
18.	The solution shall support role-based access control, enterprise identity integration and multifactor authentication.			
19.	Regulatory, supervisory, enforcement and legal decisions shall remain subject to authorized human review and accountability.			
20.	Existing operational systems and the new MNFSR website shall not be unnecessarily replaced or redeveloped.			
21.	The bidder shall submit implementation, testing, training, knowledge-transfer and support plans.			
22.	The bidder shall provide architecture, deployment, security, integration and operational documentation.			
23.	The solution shall support export of MNFSR owned data, configurations and knowledge assets in usable formats.			

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24	All recurring, one-time, optional and third-party costs shall be separately disclosed.			
25.	All assumptions, exclusions, dependencies and deviations shall be explicitly declared.			
26.	GPU compute shall be delivered as factory-integrated AI all-in-one appliance units meeting every minimum parameter of Table 3-1 (Section 3.3.7).			
27.	Each appliance unit shall provide 16 GPU accelerators with aggregate GPU memory ≥ 1,536 GB and aggregate GPU memory bandwidth ≥ 44 TB/s.			
28.	A single appliance unit shall serve a ≥ 671B-parameter MoE model at full BF16 precision without sharding the model across units or quantisation-induced accuracy loss.			
29.	Each unit shall be delivered with a factory-installed, validated cloud-native AI stack (inference engine, full model lifecycle, vector database, cache, full-text search, observability).			
30.	The appliance shall cluster to a minimum of 48 units under a unified management console without re-architecting or interrupting the deployed environment.			

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FORMAT FOR FINANCIAL BID

Financial bid(s) shall be submitted in following format:

The Bidder shall fill in these Price/Charges Schedule Forms in accordance with the instructions indicated.

S. No.	Item Description		Quoted Unit Price (PKR) Inclusive of Applicable taxes (PKR)	Quoted Total Amount/Charges Inclusive of Applicable taxes (PKR)
1	Sub-Total Form F-1 (One-Time Development & Implementation)	Lump Sum Job		
2	Sub-Total Form F-2A1 (GPU Capital Cost, 3-Year Recovery — Asset Transfers to MNFSR at Year 3)	Lump Sum Job		
3	Sub-Total Form F-2A2 — GPU/ Annual GPU Capital Cost Recovery Charge	Lump Sum Job		
4	Sub-Total Form F-2B (AI Infrastructure Hosting & Operations, 3 Years)	Lump Sum Job		
5	Sub-Total Form F-3 (Managed Support & SLA, 3 Years)	Lump Sum Job		
Total Price/Charges (Rs.)				

Note:

- All prices to be quoted in Pak Rupees only. Total Prices will be written both in figures and words

Integrity Pact

Integrity Pact

DECLARATION OF FEES, COMMISSION AND BROKERAGE ETC. PAYABLE BYTHE SUPPLIERS OF GOODS, SERVICES & WORKS IN CONTRACTS WORTH RS.10.00 MILLION OR MORE

Contract Number: Contract Value: Contract Title:

Dated:

[Name of Supplier] hereby declares that it has not obtained or induced the procurement of any contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit from Government of Pakistan or any administrative subdivision or agency thereof or any other entity owned or controlled by it (GoP) through any corrupt business practice.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing [Name of Supplier] represents and warrants that it has fully declared the brokerage, commission, fee etc. paid or payable to anyone and not given or agreed to give and shall not give or agree to give to anyone within or outside Pakistan either directly or indirectly through any natural or juridical person, including its affiliate, agent, associate, broker, consultant, director, promoter, shareholder, sponsor or subsidiary, any commission, gratification, bribe, finder's fee or kickback, whether described as consultations fee or otherwise, with the object of obtaining or inducing the procurement of a contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit in whatsoever form from GoP, except that which has been expressly declared pursuant hereto.

[Name of Supplier] certifies that it has made and will make full disclosure of all agreements and arrangements with all persons in respect of or related to the transaction with GoP and has not taken any action or will not take any action to circumvent the above declaration, representative or warranty.

[Name of Supplier] accepts full responsibility and strict liability for making and false declaration, not making full disclosure, misrepresenting fact or taking any action likely to defeat the purpose of this declaration, representation and warranty. It agrees that any contract, right interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit obtained or procured as aforesaid shall, without prejudice to any other right and remedies available to GoP under any law, contract or other instrument, be voidable at the option of GoP.

Notwithstanding any rights and remedies exercised by GoP in this regard, [Name of Supplier] agrees to indemnify GoP for any loss or damage incurred by it on account of its corrupt business practices and further pay compensation to GoP in an amount equivalent to ten time the sum of any commission, gratification, bribe, finder's fee or kickback given by [Name of Supplier] as aforesaid for the purpose of obtaining or inducing the procurement of any contract, right, interest, privilege or other obligation or benefit in whatsoever form from GoP.

Performance Guarantee Form

Performance Guarantee Form

To: **Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR) (Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR)), Joint Director 63-NICL Building, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area., Islamabad Capital Territory**

WHEREAS *[name of Bidder]* (hereinafter called "the Bidder") has undertaken, in pursuance of Contract No. *[reference number of the contract]* dated *[insert date]* for provision of Goods*(*hereinafter called "the Contract").

AND WHEREAS it has been stipulated by you in the said Contract that the Bidder shall furnish you with a Bank Guarantee by a reputable bank for the sum specified therein as security for compliance with the Bidder's performance obligations in accordance with the Contract.

AND WHEREAS we have agreed to give the Bidders guarantee:

THEREFORE, WE hereby affirm that we are Guarantors and responsible to you, on behalf of the Bidder, up to a total of *[amount of the guarantee in words and figures],* and we undertake to pay you, upon your first written demand declaring the Bidder to be in default under the Contract and without cavil or argument, any sum or sums within the limits of *[amount of guarantee]* as aforesaid, without your needing to prove or to show grounds or reasons for your demand or the sum specified therein.

This guarantee is valid until the: *[insert date]*

Signature and seal of the Guarantors

_____

[name of bank or financial institution]

_____

[address]

_____

[date}

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Annexure

affidavit

Technical Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **affidavit** (page number: 69)

Declaration of Ultimate Beneficial Owners Information

Technical Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Declaration of Ultimate Beneficial Owners Information** (page number: 71)

FORMAT FOR FINANCIAL BID

Financial Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **FORMAT FOR FINANCIAL BID** (page number: 72)

Conflict of Interest (on letter head)

Technical Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Conflict of Interest (on letter head)** (page number: 73)

Reference letter Format

Technical Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Reference letter Format** (page number: 74)

Resume Format

Technical Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Resume Format** (page number: 75)

Annexure AA - Technical Evaluation Compliance Matrix

Technical Evaluation Compliance Matrix

Technical Submission (Vendor)

Document Required

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Annexure AA - Technical Evaluation Compliance Matrix** (page number: 76)

Scope of Work

Information (Read-Only)

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Scope of Work** (page number: 78)

Procurement Forms

Past Experience and Completed Contracts

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Past Experience and Completed Contracts** (page number: 89)

Average Annual Turnover

See Form Under Additional Forms and Documents: **Average Annual Turnover** (page number: 90)

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Additional Forms and Documents

Annex "C"

Format of Affidavit/Undertaking

Bidder must submit following undertaking (on stamp paper of Rs.100), failing which the bid shall be rejected

I, Mr. ……. S/o…….. holding CNIC # ……. from M/s ……. Having Its business office at ……., do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under;

a)That M/s …….. is not engaged, under investigation or offences or no proceedings are pending before FBR, Customs, NAB, any Judicial form, FIA or any other Govt. authority with respect to fraud, terror financing, money laundering etc.

b)We also confirm that our firm has not been black listed by any National/International organization or forum and its entitled to carry out its business activities to the standard business ethics.

c)We also confirm that we are not in litigation with and / or blacklisted by any client / customer and not on sanction list of NACTA.

d)That the Partner(s) / Officers of M/s…….. have not been subject to financial crime. Nor they every compounded with their creditors in any capacity.

e)We also confirm that we do not have any linkage with Israel or India regarding nationality, ownership, sponsoring and financing etc.

f)We declare that the proposed product/ solution is not from any hostile countries' origin (i.e., India or Israel)

g)We declare that their offered product/ solution has no backdoors, eavesdropping, or remote access mechanisms

h)We declare that the proposed product/ solution is free from any unauthorized access or data leakage risks

i)We also confirm our acceptance to all terms and conditions of this bidding document.

j)That the person is nor an insolvent and neither his application for insolvency, liquidation, winding up or bankruptcy is pending in any court of law, tribunal or any other authority.

k)The above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed or is false.

Note: In case bidder is found in the list of "Blacklisted Firms-Pakistan" or related links at https://www.ppra.org.pk/ then its bid shall be rejected

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Name: _____

Signature _____

Stamp: _____

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Declaration of Ultimate Beneficial Owners Information

Bidders are required to submit the subject declaration as per following format.

1. Name
2. Father'sName/Spouse'sName
3. CNIC/NICOP/PassportNo.
4. Nationality
5. Residentialaddress
6. Emailaddress
7. Dateonwhichshareholding,controlorinterestacquiredinthebusiness.
8. Incaseofindirectshareholding, control or interest being exercised through intermediary companies, entries or other legal persons or legal arrangements in the chain of ownership or control, following additional particulars to be provided.

	2.	3	4.			8.	9.	10.
Name	Legal form (company / Limited liability Partnership/Association of Persons/Single Member Company/partnership Firm/Trust/Any other individual, body corporate (to be specified)	Date of Incorporation/Registration	Name of Registering Authority	Business Address	Country	Email Address	Percentage of Shareholding, control or interest of BO in the legal person or legal arrangement	Percentage of Shareholding, control or interest of legal person or legal arrangement in the Company	Identity of natural person who ultimately owns or controls the legal person or arrangement

9. InformationabouttheBoardofDirectors(detailsshallbeprovidedregardingnumberofshares in thecapitalofthecompanyassetoppositerespectivenames).

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6	7.	8.
Name and Surname (in Block Letters	CNIC No.(in case of foreigner, Passport No.	Father's/Husband's Name in Full	Current Nationality	Any other Nationality(ies)	Occupation	Residential address in full or the registered/principal office addres for a sunscribers other than natural person	Name of shares taken by cash subscribe(in figures and words)
			Total numbers of shares taken (in figures and words)				

10. Any other information incidental to or relevant to Beneficial Owner(s)

Name and Signature
(Person authorized to issue notice on behalf of company)

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PPRA) EPADS

FORMAT FOR FINANCIAL BID

Financial bid(s) shall be submitted in following format:

The Bidder shall fill in these Price/Charges Schedule Forms in accordance with the instructions indicated.

S. No.	Item Description		Quoted Unit Price (PKR) Inclusive of Applicable taxes (PKR)	Quoted Total Amount/Charges Inclusive of Applicable taxes (PKR)
1	Design Development, Deployment, of an Enterprise AI Assistant for	Lump Sum Job		
2	Support and Maintenance/ SLA for the Developed	36 months		
3	AI enabled Hosting Requirements + Support and maintenance (Three-Year Term) as per the requirements defined	36 months		
Total Price/Charges (Rs.)				

Note:

- All prices to be quoted in Pak Rupees only. Total Prices will be written both in figures and words

Annexure

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. Confirm that your firm/organization is not having any potential or existing conflict of interest with Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR):

Confirm
Yes _____; No _____

2. Confirm that your firm/organization is not having any conflict of interest with MNFSR:

Confirm
Yes _____; No _____

3. Confirm that your firm has disclosed any actual or perceived conflict of interest situation/condition:

Confirm
Yes _____; No _____

4. Confirm that in case a potential or existing conflict of interest is identified, your firm shall not be allowed to participate further in the procurement process:

Confirm
Yes _____; No _____

Name _____

Designation _____

Signature& Stamp _____

Date _____

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PPRA) EPADS

Annexure

REFERENCE FORMAT

Name of Bidder: _____

Name of Organization and Address:	
Name and Title of Point of Contact: (provide 2)	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	
Period of Performance:	
Location where project services were performed:	
Contract Value:	
Reasons for Termination (if applicable):	
Description of Products & Services and their relevance to the requirements under this RFP:	

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PPRA) EPADS

Annexure

RESUME FORMAT

Name of Personnel:	
Title:	
Years with Firm:	**Country/City of Residency:**
Education/Qualifications: (Summarize college/university and other specialized education of staff member, giving names of schools, dates attended and degrees, certification, professional qualifications obtained.)	
Employment Record: (Starting with present position, list in reverse order, relevant employment experience. For the last ten (10) years, give dates, names of employing organization, title of positions held and location of employment.)	
Experience: (For experience in last five (5) years, detail the types of activities performed, degree of responsibilities, location of assignments and any other information or professional experience considered pertinent for this assignment.)	

I, the undersigned, certify to the best of my knowledge and belief, this bio data is accurate and confirms my availability.

_____ _____

Signature of Personnel or Firm Representative Date (Month/ Day/Year)

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PPRA) EPADS

Annexure AA

Technical Evaluation Compliance Matrix

Instructions to Bidders

The bidder shall complete this matrix without modifying the requirement descriptions.
The bidder shall indicate compliance using only the following classifications:

Response	Meaning
Fully Compliant	Requirement is supported without modification, qualification or future
Partially Compliant	Requirement is supported with limitations, dependencies or additional
Not Compliant	Requirement is not supported

A response of "Fully Compliant" without a supporting proposal reference may not be considered sufficient.

Compliance Matrix

ID	Requirement	Bidder Compliance	Proposal Reference	Remarks / Qualification
1.	The proposed solution shall provide a reusable Enterprise AI Foundation supporting multiple MNFSR business domains.			
2.	The solution shall support multiple approved AI models without requiring replacement of the			
3.	The bidder shall clearly disclose all proposed AI models, platform components, licenses and third-party dependencies.			
4.	The solution shall provide enterprise knowledge retrieval, semantic search and Retrieval-Augmented Generation			
5.	AI-generated responses shall support reference to approved knowledge sources where			
6.	The solution shall provide an Agentic AI framework supporting assistants, copilots and controlled task-oriented			
7.	Human-in-the-loop review and approval controls shall be configurable for controlled business activities.			
8.	The solution shall provide secure APIs and integration capabilities for existing and			
9.	The solution shall support English and Urdu, with extensibility for additional			
10.	The solution shall provide centralized administration, monitoring, logging and			
11.	All production systems and AI services shall operate			

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	within infrastructure physically located in			
12.	No MNFSR data, prompts, responses, embeddings, indexes, metadata, logs, telemetry, backups or derived information shall be processed,			
13.	Backup and high availability environments shall be physically located within			
14.	MNFSR information shall not be used to train, fine-tune, optimize or improve any public, shared,			
15.	Prompts, conversations, outputs and enterprise knowledge shall not be retained for external or shared			
16.	All mandatory external communications, internet dependencies and telemetry			
17.	The solution shall support encryption in transit and at			
18.	The solution shall support role-based access control, enterprise			
19.	Regulatory, supervisory, enforcement and legal decisions shall remain subject to authorized human review			
20.	Existing operational systems and the new MNFSR website shall not be unnecessarily replaced or			
21.	The bidder shall submit implementation, testing, training, knowledge-transfer and support plans.			
22.	The bidder shall provide architecture, deployment, security, integration and operational			
23.	The solution shall support export of MNFSR owned data, configurations and knowledge assets in usable			
24	All recurring, one-time, optional and third-party costs shall be			
25.	All assumptions, exclusions, dependencies and deviations shall be explicitly declared.			