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GovTech/ACCESS/PMU/2026-27/ 557

August 25, 2026

To: All Prospective bidders

Subject: Response to Clarifications-01 on Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Equipment – Government Networks Core and Middle-Mile Infrastructure Enhancement.

Ref: Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) – Bhutan Project
(Ref No: ACCESS/GovTech/GD-1)

The following clarification-01 is issued for the Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Equipment – Government Networks Core and Middle-Mile Infrastructure Enhancement is issued by GovTech Agency.

Clarification-01 to the Queries of the bidders

Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
1	Volume I - Pg. 118	Latest delivery date - 120 days	To be revised to 180 days considering the global shortage of IT components including but not limited to memory & storage.	The latest delivery date is not revised and the bidding document shall prevail. Should there be contract delivery delays due to price



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				and availability of specific components in global supply chains, delivery time extensions may be considered during the contract implementation.
2	Volume I - Pg. 54	a. Lot-1: Value of at least US\$ 3 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes supply, installation, commissioning of active network equipment such as high-end service-provider grade routers and switches.	Can the desired products be part of an overall project where total project value is over USD 3M? Is there any minimum value of SP grade products as part of total contract value?	a. Lot-1: Value of at least US\$ 1.5 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes supply, installation, commissioning of active network equipment such as high-end service-provider grade routers and switches. (Amendment to be issued)
3	Volume I - Pg. 54	a. Lot-1: Value of at least US\$ 3 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes supply, installation,	In case bidder has presence across India & SAARC, and Singapore, can bidder choose to participate from India entity & fulfill specific experience criteria from Singapore entity and vice - versa.	Please refer to Instruction to Bidders (ITB) clause 32.2 which states “The determination shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Bidder’s qualifications submitted by the



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		commissioning of active network equipment such as high-end service-provider grade routers and switches.		Bidder, pursuant to ITB 17. The determination shall not take into consideration the qualifications of other firms such as the Bidder's subsidiaries, parent entities, affiliates, subcontractors (other than specialized subcontractors if permitted in the bidding document), or any other firm different from the Bidder".
4	Volume I - Pg. 138	Repeater Switch (DC Input). MACsec Support: IEEE 802.1AE MACsec shall be supported on all 400G QSFPDD and 40/100G QSFP-28 interconnection ports	MACsec Support: IEEE 802.1AE MACsec shall be supported on all 400G QSFPDD WAN ports. Since the 100G ports would be for co-located interconnection we don't need MACSec for security	MACsec Support: IEEE 802.1AE MACsec shall be supported on at least 6x400G QSFPDD interconnection Ports (Amendment to be issued)



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5	Volume I - Pg. 174	2. Optical Amplifiers (EDFA): a. Booster Amplifier (BA) Gain: Scalable from 5-25 dB	2. Optical Amplifiers (EDFA): a. Booster Amplifier (BA) Gain: Scalable from 12-24 dB	Optical Amplifiers (EDFA): a. Booster Amplifier (BA) Gain: Scalable from 5-23 dB (Amendment to be issued)
		Input power: Minimum range -23 to 16 dBm	Input power: Minimum range -23 to 10 dBm	Input power: Minimum range -23 to 10 dBm Amendment to be issued.
		Output power: - Minimum +20 dBm total composite output	Output power: - Minimum +17 dBm total composite output	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
		- Scalable / configurable up to +23 dBm (or higher) and down to +5 dBm	- This clause limits OEMs to submit optimum solutions. Request to drop this clause and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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6	Volume I - Pg. 174	b. Pre-Amplifier (PreAmp) Optical amplifier type: EDFA (C-band) - Gain: Scalable from 5 to 35 dB (with tilt-controlled operation)	b. Pre-Amplifier (PreAmp) Optical amplifier type: EDFA (C-band) - Gain: Scalable up to 25 dB (with tilt-controlled operation)	Pre-Amplifier (PreAmp) Optical amplifier type: EDFA (C-band) - Gain: Scalable from 5 to 25 dB (with tilt-controlled operation) (Amendment to be issued)
7	Volume I - Pg. 175	Output power: Minimum +20 dBm	Output power: Minimum +17 dBm	Output power: Minimum +17 dBm (Amendment to be issued)
		Scalable / configurable up to +23 dBm (or higher) and down to +5 dBm	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
		Low noise figure - measured at nominal gain	Low noise figure - measured at nominal gain (25 dB) across the C-Band: ≤ 6.5 dB	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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		(25 dB) across the C-Band: ≤ 6 dB		
8	Volume I - Pg. 175	3.Integrated/Modular DWDM Mux / DeMux	3. Integrated/Modular DWDM Mux / DeMux	
		Insertion Loss (IL): Typical IL: ≤ 5 dB, Maximum IL: ≤ 6.5 - Return Loss ≥ 40 dB	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solutions. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
9	Volume I - Pg. 176	Channel isolation: Adjacent ≥ 20 dB	Channel isolation: Adjacent ≥ 15 dB	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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		Effective Clear Passband Group Delay Ripple (GDR): ≤ 5 ps peak-to-peak within Effective Clear Passband.	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
10	Volume I - Pg. 177	6. Variable Optical Attenuator (VOA) b. VOA shall be: Software configurable	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
		Automatically adjustable based on power targets	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solutions. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
11	Volume I - Pg. 171	Insertion Loss (IL): Typical IL: ≤ 4.5 dB	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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		Maximum IL: ≤ 5 dB (for full 16 channels with monitor and expansion/1310 nm ports)	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
12	Volume I - Pg. 171	Channel isolation: Adjacent ≥ 30 dB	Channel isolation: This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
		Non-Adjacent ≥ 40 dB	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solutions. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
		Return Loss ≥ 45 dB	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solutions. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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13	Volume I - Pg. 172	Operating Temperature: - 40 to 75°C	Operating Temperature: 0 to 55°C	Operating Temperature: -5 to 55°C (Amendment to be issued)
14	Volume I - Pg. 173	Insertion Loss (IL): Typical IL: ≤ 2 dB	This clause limits OEMs to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
		Maximum IL: ≤ 3.5 dB (for full 4 channels with monitor and expansion/OSC ports)	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
15	Volume I - Pg. 173	Channel isolation: Adjacent ≥ 25 dB	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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16	N/A	Non-Adjacent $\geq 40\text{dB}$	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
17	N/A	Return Loss: $\geq 45\text{dB}$	This clause limits OEM to submit optimum solution. Request to drop this clause, and allow OEM to propose Hardware based on Network design.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
18	Volume I - Pg. 173	Operating Temperature: -5 to 70°C	Operating Temperature: 0 to 55°C	Operating Temperature: -5 to 55°C (Amendment to be issued)
19	N/A	N/A	Fiber Loss to be shared for each fiber in tabular format	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document. The fiber loss for the existing core network is mentioned in Annexure-II-B for reference. Bids will be evaluated on this common basis. Actual losses shall be reconciled



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				following the contractor's fibre characterization, and any resulting variation addressed under the contract.
20	N/A	N/A	Why the OLS ask is for 34 QTY ? Sites are just 28	The remaining 6 are expected to be used as spares.
21	N/A	N/A	Is Pemagatshel and Nangkhon same sites.	Nangkor ICT Colocation Center is located under the Pemagatshel District
22	N/A	N/A	Thimphu-1 and Thimphu-2 Distance and is there any 400G traffic link?	Distance is approx. 5 km, between Thimphu-1 and Thimphu-2. The project is required to build a 400G link.
23	N/A	N/A	Tsirang and Dagana connectivity not shown in Topology and Distance given in Power Budget. Is there a 400G Link between?	The project is required to build a 400G link between Tsirang and Dagana as specified in Drawing No.5. of Volume-I.



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24	N/A	N/A	Planned site Lhamozingkha Distance not given	The distance from Dagana to Lhamozingkha is approximately 36 kms. The distance from Gedu to Lhamozingkha is approximately 63 kms.
25	N/A	N/A	Are Zhemgang and Tingtibi the same site?	Tingtibi ICT Colocation is located under Zhemgang District
26	N/A	N/A	Thimpu to Jamjee Two Fiber spans or Two 400G Links?	One pair fiber but two DWDM channel 400G links.
27	N/A	N/A	Deothang and Pemagatshel connectivity missing. Is there any 400G link?	The 400G link is required to be built between Nangkor ICT Colocation Shelter and Deothang/Neylang ICT Colocation Shelter. Nangkor ICT Colocation shelter is located under Pemagatshel District.



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28	N/A	N/A	Please share the DWDM OLS Site names in tabular format	Refer Drawing No.6 to Drawing No.10 and refer Section VII sub-section 6.3.2 Sl. No.4 (Page No. 223 - Page No.224) in Volume I.
29	N/A	N/A	Please share the DWDM traffic Matrix with number of channels in tabular format.	Refer Drawing No.6 to Drawing No.10 of Annexure-A of Volume-II for the high-level DWDM design. The bidders shall propose the DWDM traffic matrix with the number of channels in their technical proposal.
30	N/A	N/A	Kindly provide a detailed description for Scope of Installation & Commissioning. Please confirm the Partner alignment for the scope of Installation & Commissioning.	The detailed scope of work is given in 6.3 under section VII of Volume-I. On partner alignment for installation and commissioning: subcontracting is permitted subject to GCC. The bidder shall name proposed installation subcontractors (if any)



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				and their scope in the technical proposal.
31	N/A	N/A	Kindly provide a detailed description of the Project milestones for this RFB	The Project milestones for this RFB should be included by the bidders in their technical proposal (reference: Section-IV Response to Description of Works- Forms).
31	N/A	N/A	Please clarify on the Logistics support that we would be requiring in case of submission	It is the responsibility of the bidder to deliver the bids before the bid submission deadline. Client will not be responsible to any logistics in delivering the bids
33	Volume I - Pg. 47	ITB 22.1 Section II – Bid Data Sheet (BDS)	Request you please provide a timeline extension for the submission	Bid submission date is extended till September 07, 2026 at 1500 Hours. (Amendment will be issued)



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34			This is in reference to the attached UPS Specification, we would like to inform you that in the specification sheet nothing has been mentioned on the backup which they will require on Lithium Ion Battery, please clarify us on this la.	Refer to pages 183-184 of Volume I for Lithium Ion Battery specifications. (Amendment to be issued)
35	171	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	In industry practice, many vendors support CH20–CH35. Kindly confirm whether it is acceptable to offer a DWDM MUX/DEMUX with channels CH20–CH35.	Amendment to be issued supporting both CH20-35 or CH21-CH36. Bidders shall propose a single channel plan applicable network-wide.
36	171	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	The specification requires a wavelength of 1310 nm. Kindly confirm whether an operating wavelength of 1511 nm, in accordance with industry practice, is acceptable.	1310 nm Port or 1511 nm Port: For Management (Amendment to be issued)



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37	171	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	We can achieve monitoring functionalities using the OPM at the o/p of the amplifier. Hope this is acceptable instead of having a separate monitoring port on MDU, which will have the same functionality.	The requirement is for per-channel optical power visibility at the DWDM line interface, reported to the NMS, without interruption to live traffic. This may be delivered by: (i) an integrated monitor port on the Mux/DeMux; (ii) a passive tap with an Optical Channel Monitor; or (iii) a per-channel monitoring function at the amplifier, provided it resolves power per DWDM channel and not aggregate composite power only. Total-composite-power monitoring alone, and host-platform (router/switch) transceiver DDM reporting alone, do not satisfy this requirement.



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38	66	Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria For LOT-2	There is a contradiction between Section III and Section VII of the specification. As per Section III, a bidder will receive full compliance/maximum marks if the proposed solution supports channels with bandwidth greater than 120 GHz.	Deleting the '>120 GHz channel bandwidth' rated criterion in Section III and replacing it with a rated criterion consistent with the fixed 100 GHz grid at Section VII. (Amendment will be issued)
39	172	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	However, Section VII specifies that the system must operate on a fixed-grid architecture with 100 GHz channel spacing. Please let us know the requirements and the validation criteria that will be followed.	
40	172	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	In industry practice many vendors support CH32–CH35. Kindly confirm whether it is acceptable to offer a DWDM MUX/DEMUX with channels CH32–CH35.	DWDM Wavelength: Fixed Grid - CH31-CH34/CH32-CH35 in ITU G.694.1 standard DWDM region (Amendment to be issued)



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41	121 & 207	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	We have reviewed Drawing No 10 and identified a total of 12 DWDM MUX/DeMUX systems. Could you kindly confirm where the remaining 4 systems are planned to be integrated?	The remaining 4 DWDM MUX/DeMUX (item no. 33) are expected to be used as spares.
42	172	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	Optical power monitoring can be implemented through the amplifier monitoring port and an OPM card. Please clarify whether the optical power monitoring feature is specifically required to be integrated within the MUX/DEMUX unit. Can we use the proposed OPM card to achieve the monitoring?	The requirement is for per-channel optical power visibility at the DWDM line interface, reported to the NMS, without interruption to live traffic. This may be delivered by: (i) an integrated monitor port on the Mux/DeMux; (ii) a passive tap with an Optical Channel Monitor; or (iii) a per-channel monitoring function at the amplifier, provided it resolves power per DWDM channel and not aggregate composite power only.



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				Total-composite-power monitoring alone, and host-platform (router/switch) transceiver DDM reporting alone, do not satisfy this requirement.
43	175	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	Is it acceptable if we can propose the Flex MDU card having built in amplifier capability to meet the insertion loss mentioned in specs and also the required optical power monitoring functionality can be achieved using the amplifier monitoring port in conjunction with an Optical Power Monitoring (OPM) card. Kindly confirm whether this solution is acceptable.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
44	174	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	For a network with MDU a gain range of 10 to 23 dB is sufficient at the booster amplifier. Any gain range below this can be achieved using attenuators.	Optical Amplifiers (EDFA): a. Booster Amplifier (BA) Gain: Scalable from 5-23 dB. (Amendment to be issued)



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45	174	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	The standard gain range for a DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing) optical amplifier, such as an Erbium-Doped Fiber Amplifier (EDFA), typically falls between 15 dB and 30 dB. Please allow a gain range 15-30 dB for point to point application. If mandatory then we have options of RAMAN+ EDFA or Cascaded EDFAs	Pre-Amplifier (PreAmp) Optical amplifier type: EDFA (C-band) Gain: Scalable from 5 to 25 dB (with tilt-controlled operation) Amendment to be issued)
46	121 & 203-207	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	We have reviewed Drawing Nos. 6 to 10 and identified a total of 28 DWDM line systems. Could you kindly confirm where the remaining 6 systems are planned to be integrated?	The remaining 6 are expected to be used as spares.
47	215	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	Kindly confirm the deployment scenario consisting of a newly supplied DWDM Mux/DeMux at one end and an existing DWDM Mux/DeMux at the remote end	There is no such deployment scenario, where DWDM Mux/DeMux (Item no.33) at one end and an existing DWDM Mux/DeMux at the remote end. However, the proposed DWDM



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				Mux/Demux unit (item no. 33) shall be integrated with the existing DWDM optical equipment given in Annexure II-C to enable optical monitoring capabilities.
48	178	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	For the proposed network size, NMS Northbound Integration provides a simpler, lower-risk, and more cost-effective integration approach by offering a single API interface for provisioning, fault, performance, and inventory management while reducing operational complexity and deployment effort. Due to this Tejas recommends to go with the NMS NBI approach instead of Openconfig . Request to allow this approach.	The requirement shall remain unchanged. OpenConfig is required to provide a normalised, vendor-independent telemetry and configuration interface across Lot-1 and Lot-2 equipment supplied by potentially different contractors, and to avoid dependence on a single OEM's NMS over the network lifecycle. Vendor NMS northbound integration may be offered in addition to , not in substitution for, OpenConfig support.



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49	162-164	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	Distance will depend on the fiber loss. Without considering the distances, Is it ok if we propose the SFPs meeting the optical parameters given in the specification.	The bidder must supply the SFPs specified in the bidding document. Wherever there is high fiber loss, the contractor may deploy existing amplifiers being decommissioned, the inventory, make, model, gain, noise figure, quantity and condition of which will be provided to the contractor by GovTech. Performance risk on links using reused amplifiers shall be allocated accordingly and will be negotiated with the successful bidder.
50	165-168	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	Distance will depend on the fiber loss. Without considering the distances, Is it ok if we propose the SFPs meeting the optical parameters given in the specification.	The bidder must supply the SFPs specified in the bidding document. Wherever there is high fiber loss, the contractor may deploy existing amplifiers being decommissioned, the inventory, make, model, gain,



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				noise figure, quantity and condition of which will be provided to the contractor by GovTech. Performance risk on links using reused amplifiers shall be allocated accordingly and will be negotiated with the successful bidder.
51	N/A	N/A	Firstly, with regard to the key personnel's experience and qualifications, the document mentions the requirement for a Certified Technician. Could you kindly clarify whether a technician who has graduated from the Vocational Training Institute (VTI) would be considered eligible under this requirement?	The proposed technician must have a Diploma/Certificate for the minimum education qualification criteria. VTI graduates shall be treated as having a Certificate as a minimum education qualification. For the rated criteria, the proposed Technician will be rated based on the certification obtained as specified in the scoring description under Section III, THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES.



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52	N/A	N/A	Secondly, for the requirement of a Certified Optical Engineer, would a candidate holding a Master/degree in the relevant field satisfy this criterion? Similarly, for the Cyber Security position, would a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Cyber Security or a related discipline be considered sufficient to meet the qualification requirement?	B.Tech/ B.E/ B.Sc will be qualified for the minimum education qualification requirement but not as a certified optical engineer. For the rated criteria, the proposed optical Engineer will be rated based on the certification obtained on Optical Engineer Field. Bachelor's or master's degree in cybersecurity or related discipline will not be considered for cybersecurity certification.
53	N/A	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria TECHNICAL PART 1. Qualification Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1) (c) General Experience: The Bidder shall have five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of Goods related to networking/ telecommunication	Option I (c) <i>General Experience</i> : The Bidder shall have five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of Goods related to IT/networking/telecommunication equipment. For a joint venture, this requirement must be met by each member.



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			equipment. For a joint venture, this requirement must be met by each member. In order to allow wider bidder participation in the subject tender process, we kindly request that the following clause be amended to either of the options below: Option I (c) <i>General Experience</i>: The Bidder shall have five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of Goods related to IT/networking/telecommunication equipment. For a joint venture, this requirement must be met by each member. Option II (c) <i>General Experience</i>: The Bidder shall have five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of Goods related to IT/networking/telecommunication equipment. For a joint venture, this requirement may be met by all members combined.	(Amendment will be issued)



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			We believe that adopting either of the above options will ensure fair participation while maintaining compliance with the tender requirements	
54	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 54	1. Qualification Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1) (b) Financial Resources:	Request for Clarification: Kindly clarify whether the minimum cash-flow requirement of US\$ 1.5 Million is to be demonstrated separately for Lot-1 and Lot-2, or whether a combined financial resource of US\$ 1.5 Million is sufficient when bidding for both lots.	The minimum cash-flow requirement must be demonstrated separately for each lot.
55	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 54	1. Qualification Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1) (d) Specific Experience	Kindly modify the definition of Similar Work to enable wider participation of eligible bidders. a. Lot-1: Value of at least US\$ 3 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes the supply, installation, commissioning, and integration of active network equipment such as high-end service-provider grade routers, switches, and IT security equipment/solutions.	Lot-1: Value of at least US\$ 1.5 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes supply, installation, commissioning of active network equipment such as high-end service-provider grade routers and switches.



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			b. Lot-2: Value of at least US\$ 3 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes supply, installation and commissioning of optical network equipment such as DWDM Line System/MDWDM/400G Coherent optical transceivers, and other optical transceivers.	(Amendment to be issued) Lot-2: Value of at least US\$ 3 Million or equivalent will be retained.
56	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 58	1. Qualification Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1) (h) Cyber Security Compliance:	Request: Kindly remove the requirement of mandatory cybersecurity certification for the proposed project team. Justification: The mandatory certification requirement is restrictive and may limit the participation of otherwise technically qualified bidders. Removal of this clause will enable wider participation while maintaining fair competition.	a. At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: <i>GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND) or equivalent.</i> (Amendment to be issued)
57	Section III - Evaluation and	2. Technical Evaluation (ITB 32.4)	Request: Kindly change/modify this clause for wider participation	Certified Project Manager (PMP or PRINCE2 Practitioner or Agile PM)



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	Qualification Criteria Page No. 58	THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES ARE: For LOT-1	3.1 Project Manager Certification Certified Project Manager (PMP/PRINCE2 Practitioner/ITIL or Agile PM)	(Amendment to be issued)
58	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 63	2. Technical Evaluation (ITB 32.4) THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES ARE: For LOT-1	Request: Kindly modify the Network Engineer certification requirement to allow 2 Nos. of CCNP-certified engineers in lieu of 1 No. of CCIE-certified engineer, or revise the clause to CCIE/CCNP certification for 100% Marks Justification: This modification will enable wider participation of qualified bidders while ensuring the availability of adequately skilled and certified network professionals for the project.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
59	Section III - Evaluation and	2. Technical Evaluation (ITB 32.4)	3.4 Network Engineer Specific Work Experience - Specifically designing, operating/commissioning, or troubleshooting routing and switching Service Provider infrastructure--	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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	Qualification Criteria Page No. 64	THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES ARE: For LOT-1	More than 7 Years -- 100%	
60	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 64	2. Technical Evaluation (ITB 32.4) THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES ARE: For LOT-1	Request: Kindly revise the Technician Specific Work Experience criteria from more than 8 years to more than 3 years for awarding 100% marks. Justification: The requirement of more than 8 years of experience for technicians is overly restrictive, as technician-level roles generally do not require such extensive experience. Revising the requirement to more than 3 years will enable wider participation while ensuring the availability of competent technical personnel.	Technician certification is retained as a rated criterion but rebalanced against demonstrated experience. (Amendment to be issued)
61	Section III - Evaluation and	2. Technical Evaluation (ITB 32.4)	Request: Kindly remove the evaluation criterion related to the percentage of local (Bhutanese) labor under the QCBS evaluation and instead make it a	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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	Qualification Criteria Page No. 64	THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES ARE: For LOT-1	mandatory compliance requirement by obtaining an undertaking from the bidder to engage a minimum of 10% Local (Bhutanese) labor (based on the services value/workforce) for equipment installation services. Justification: Evaluating bids based on the percentage of local labor may restrict fair competition, particularly for international bidders. Making this a mandatory contractual obligation through an undertaking will ensure local employment objectives are achieved while promoting wider and fair participation.	
62	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 67	2. Technical Evaluation (ITB 32.4) THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES ARE: For LOT-2	Request: Kindly change/modify this clause for wider participation 3.1 Project Manager Certification Certified Project Manager (PMP/PRINCE2 Practitioner/ITIL or Agile PM)	Certified Project Manager (PMP or PRINCE2 Practitioner or Agile PM) (Amendment to be issued)



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63	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 68	2. Technical Evaluation (ITB 32.4) THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES ARE: For LOT-2	Request: Kindly remove the Technician Certification criteria from the technical evaluation. Justification: The requirement for technician certification is restrictive and does not necessarily reflect the technical capability of personnel. Removing this criterion will promote wider participation while ensuring that bidders can deploy competent and experienced technicians for the project.	Technician certification is retained as a rated criterion but rebalanced against demonstrated experience. (Amendment to be issued)
64	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 68	2. Technical Evaluation (ITB 32.4) THE NON-PRICE FACTORS/ TECHNICAL FEATURES AND THE CORRESPONDING SCORES ARE: For LOT-2	Request: Kindly revise the Technician Specific Work Experience criteria from more than 6 years to more than 3 years for awarding 100% marks. Justification: The requirement of more than 6 years of experience for technicians is overly restrictive, as technician-level roles generally do not require such extensive experience. Revising the requirement to more than 3 years will enable wider participation while ensuring the availability of competent technical personnel.	Technician certification is retained as a rated criterion but rebalanced against demonstrated experience. (Amendment to be issued)



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65	Section II – Bid Data Sheet (BDS) Page No. 46	ITB 19.1 Bid Security	The tender requires submission of Bid Security issued by an internationally reputed Bank or Financial Institution. However, the bidding document also provides formats for Bid Bond/Surety Bond, which have been marked as "Not Applicable." We kindly request the Purchaser to allow bidders to submit the Bid Security in the form of a Bid Bond/Surety Bond issued by a reputed bank or financial institution, in addition to the existing acceptable modes of submission. We request that the Bid Bond/Surety Bond format be made applicable and accepted as a valid form of Bid Security.	The bid security must be furnished as per the ITB 19.3. Other forms of bid security are not acceptable
66	Section IX – Special Conditions of Contract	GCC 18.1 Performance Security	The tender requires the submission of a Performance Security equivalent to 10% of the Contract Price. The bidding document provides the following options:	The performance guarantee must be furnished as per the performance security Bank Guarantee Form included in Section X of the RFB.



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	Page No. 286		Option 1: Bank Guarantee Option 2: Performance Bond (Marked as "Not Applicable") We respectfully request the Purchaser to allow the submission of the Performance Security in the form of a Performance Bond/Surety Bond issued by a reputed bank or financial institution, in addition to the Bank Guarantee. Accordingly, we request the Purchaser to make Option 2 (Performance Bond/Surety Bond) applicable and accept it as a valid form of Performance Security.	Other forms of the Performance Security is not acceptable
67	Section IX – Special Conditions of Contract Page No. 284-285	GCC 16.1 Payment for Goods supplied from abroad:	The payment clause is titled "Payment for Goods Supplied from Abroad" and specifies the payment schedule only for the supply of goods (Advance Payment, On Shipment, and On Acceptance). However, the tender also includes installation, testing, commissioning, and other related services	The payment schedule in the Special Conditions of Contract (SCC) will be amended to incorporate installation, testing, commissioning, and other related services



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			under the scope of work for Lot-1 and Lot-2. Kindly clarify whether the payment terms mentioned in this clause are applicable to the entire contract value (including supply, installation, testing, commissioning, and associated services) for Lot-1 and Lot-2, or whether separate payment terms for installation, commissioning, and services will be applicable. If separate payment milestones are applicable for the installation and commissioning activities, kindly provide the detailed payment schedule for the same.	
68			As per the tender, the scope of work is divided into three separate Lots: Lot-1: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Core/Aggregation Routers, Repeater Switches, Agency Routers, Aggregation Switches, and CPE. Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories.	The bidders participating only in Lot-1 and Lot-2 are required to supply only the items specifically listed under these lots. All passive items covered under Lot-3 are not required to be supplied by the Lot-1 and Lot-2 suppliers.



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			Lot-3: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of GovNet Server Rooms at 21 sites. We intend to participate only in Lot-1 and Lot-2. Kindly confirm that bidders participating only in Lot-1 and Lot-2 are required to supply only the items specifically listed under these Lots. Further, kindly confirm that all passive items covered under Lot-3, even if required for the installation and implementation of the active equipment under Lot-1 and Lot-2, are not required to be supplied by bidders participating only in Lot-1 and Lot-2.	
69	N/A	N/A	There are 40 line items under Lot-2 supply – we need to understand the correlation between these numbers and the drawings provided in Volume-1 and Volume-II annexures.	The 40 line items under LOT 2 form the comprehensive Bill of Quantities (BoQ) derived from project drawings and technical annexures. Drawings in Volume-I detail the existing DrukREN and GovNet core



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				topologies alongside the conceptual 400G DWDM deployment schematics. Volume-II includes, but not limited to, optical link annexures and Middle Mile Network Topology for GovNet and DrukREN.
70	N/A	N/A	We need Fiber losses for the DWDM line system specified in Annexure-II-E (Volume-II)	The contractor shall carry out detailed fibre loss characterisation before execution. Fibre loss for the existing core network is at Annexure II-B.
71	N/A	N/A	DCN Router Supply, Design, and Services to manage the DWDM line system of Ciena - Whether the Govt tech will provide or a new hardware and solution to be proposed?	Refer to the RFB Section-VII, Vol-I (Page 174, Sl. No. 34) regarding services, requirements, and solutions.



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72	N/A	N/A	We need to understand whether the NMS solution should be 1+1 or 1+0. This will help us to consider the licenses accordingly.	Minimum requirement is 1+0.
73	N/A	N/A	As per Annexure-II-A, there are 129 spans for fiber characterization to be carried out. We need to know whether the testing should be done in a dark fiber?	The contractor must perform fiber testing across all 129 links specified. This includes testing on active fiber spans within the existing live network (via planned maintenance windows) as well as designated dark fiber links.
74	N/A	N/A	Need to understand the purpose of Annexure-II-B(Volume-II) power budget and which equipment is to be deployed here?	Annexure-II-B power budget is attached for reference to determine and understand the optical fiber loss. Lot-2 Item No. 33 and 34 will be deployed in the identified sites mentioned in the bidding documents. The existing equipment from



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				Annexure II-C will be re-used in the core network.
75	N/A	N/A	As per Annexure-II-H (Volume-II), I need to replace CWDM mux/Demux to DWDM mux/demux. Need to understand whether it is live migration or we can light up DWDM using dark fiber and migrate?	The contractor shall replace CWDM Mux/DeMUX with CWDM Mux/DeMUX as per Annexure -II-H using existing fiber infrastructure. The migration method shall be determined as follows: - Where a spare (dark) fiber pair is available on the span, the contractor shall build DWDM link in parallel and then cut over. - Where no spare fiber pair is available, migration shall be executed on the in-service fiber within an approved maintenance window.



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76	N/A	N/A	Needs to know the existing rack dimensions to verify the compatibility of the Ciena Line system.	The existing 38U includes the following dimensions of 1832 mm (H) × 800 mm (W) × 1000 mm (D).
77	N/A	N/A	With ref.pg-225 (Volume-I) Acceptance Testing of Optical Equipment: Testing shall be performed against all the supplied equipment in a staging room before field deployment. – We need to understand from the customer whether 100% of the supplied equipment is to be tested here or some % of the supply.	Testing shall be performed against all the supplied equipment in a staging room before field deployment. While Item. No. 1, 31, 33, and 34 require 100% testing, all remaining line items under Lot-2 may be tested using a random sample or select pairs per item. This will be finalised during the acceptance testing as determined by the purchaser.
78			Proposed Lot-1 equipment make and model is required, which will help Ciena to check the compatibility and interop with Ciena plugs.	Make and model will be subject to bids in Lot-1; refer to the technical specification and requirement for compatibility.



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				The Purchaser will act as integration authority. Following evaluation, and where Lot-1 and Lot-2 are awarded to different entities, the Purchaser will review the proposed equipment of both lots, identify any compatibility constraints, and require these to be resolved through the respective contract negotiations before signature.
79	N/A	N/A	1. Core Router - Is 1G port required on the Core Router? - Is the <=2RU form factor mandatory? - Is MACsec support on all QSFP28 ports mandatory?	Yes, for all



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80	N/A	N/A	2. Aggregation Router Is MACsec support on all QSFP28 ports mandatory?	Yes
81	N/A	N/A	3. Repeater Switch - Is SRv6 support mandatory? - Is Hierarchical Class of Service (HCos) mandatory?	Yes, for all
82	N/A	N/A	4. Agencies/Customer Routers - Are DWDM and CWDM optics mandatory? - Is Hierarchical Class of Service (HCos) mandatory?	Yes, for all
83	N/A	N/A	5. Core/Aggregation Switch & CPE L3 Switch Are DWDM optics mandatory?	Yes



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84	175	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/16CH DWDM Mux/DeMux for 1G/10G DWDM Links	Kindly Clarify Support to monitor optical power levels of the DWDM C-band signals when we are using as Mux/Demux is a passive component. Request complete OLS system to have the channel monitoring.	Optical power level will be monitored on the host platform (routers and switches).
85	175	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/16CH DWDM Mux/DeMux for 1G/10G DWDM Links	Kindly Clarify on the use of MUX/Demux how will be in the Architecture. Need Understanding how the Mux/demux will be connected and used in the NEW and Existing system.	Refer Annexure-A for Middle mile topology for GovNet and DrukREN. This will be used to connect agencies (Refer, clause iii (g) (Page 228 & 229) under Section VII)
86	176	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/DWDM	Kindly Clarify Support to monitor optical power levels of the DWDM C-band signals when we are using as Mux/Demux is a passive component. Request complete OLS system to have the channel monitoring.	The proposed DWDM Mux/Demux unit (item no. 33) shall be integrated with the existing DWDM optical equipment given in Annexure II-C to enable optical monitoring capabilities.



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		Mux/DeMux for 400Gbps DWDM Coherent links		
87	176	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/DWDM Mux/DeMux for 400Gbps DWDM Coherent links	Kindly Clarify on the use of MUX/Demux how will be in the Architecture. Need Understanding how the Mux/demux will be connected and used in the NEW and Existing system.	Refer drawing no.6 to drawing no. 10 in volume-II of RFB for the architecture.
88	178	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/DWDM Line System	As per the clause, The system shall support coherent and non-coherent DWDM signals simultaneously on the same fiber. It depends on the router Pluggable , Fiber characteristic distance and Losses. Justification: Non-coherent signals with longer distance may have performance issues.	The contractors shall be responsible to carry our fiber testing to determine the quality of the fiber.



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89	N/A	Lot1: Software Licensing	"Perpetual software licenses to support all features mentioned in the specification throughout the life cycle of the equipment." Cisco switches provide advanced software features through a subscription-based licensing model, and perpetual licensing is not available for these features. Kindly clarify the expected software license duration so that we can propose the appropriate subscription license term.	Perpetual software licenses support means that the proposed equipment must support all the required features mentioned in the specification throughout the life cycle of the equipment. However, the client must have access to the software upgrades at least for the defined OEM tech support period.
90	N/A	Lot 1: Scope of work	Kindly provide the detailed scope of work for LOT 1, particularly regarding the required router configuration, migration activities, and any other implementation requirements	Refer Section VII, sub-section 6.3 SCOPE OF WORKS of the Volume-I (Page- 217)
91	N/A	Lot 1: Optical Transceivers	Please confirm whether bidders are required to supply optical transceivers (SFP, SFP+, QSFP, and QSFP+) under LOT 1. If required, kindly provide the type and quantity of each transceiver.	All the optical transceivers will be supplied by Lot-2 contractor. Lot-1 bidders do not have to quote for optical transceivers.



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				The Purchaser will act as integration authority. Following evaluation, and where Lot-1 and Lot-2 are awarded to different entities, the Purchaser will review the proposed equipment of both lots, identify any compatibility constraints, and require these to be resolved through the respective contract negotiations before signature.
92	N/A	Lot 2: Delivery Schedule	Please clarify whether the entire consignment must be delivered in a single shipment or whether partial deliveries after contract award will be acceptable.	The contractor can deliver the consignment in either a single shipment or multiple partial shipments at their discretion and convenience, provided that all items are fully delivered within the overall delivery schedule specified in the Bidding Documents.



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93	N/A	Lot 2: Transceiver Tool Kit / Tuning Box	With reference to Section VII, Item No. 31, which states: "The multifunction transceiver Tool Kit/Tuning Box should be of the same make as of proposed transceivers under this LOT-2 of this procurement package." Kindly confirm whether the transceiver tuning box/tool kit must necessarily be of the same manufacturer as the proposed transceivers.	Yes, the multifunction transceiver Tool Kit/Tuning Box should be of the same make as of proposed transceivers under this LOT-2 of this procurement package.
94	N/A	Lot 2: Decommissioning Scope	Kindly clarify whether the scope of work is limited to the decommissioning of the 59 sites or whether it also includes relocation, reinstallation, testing, and commissioning of the equipment at new locations.	Update Annexure-I E and Annexure-II-I Add clause on Lot-2 under scope of works Modify section 6.3.1 clause(f) on page.221 Amendment to be issued



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95	N/A	Lot 3: Material Specifications	Kindly provide the required sizes and specifications for the following materials: · Casing-capping · Cable trays · HDPE pipes ● PVC flexible pipes	Refer to Lot-3: Supply, installation, and commissioning of GovNets server rooms at 21 sites.(Volume-I Page 187-192).
96	N/A	Lot 3: Site-wise Bill of Quantities	Kindly provide: · Site-wise quantity requirements for all items listed under LOT 3. · Power Single Line Diagram (SLD) for each site.	Site-wise quantities and installation sites for all equipment/items under LOT 3 are provided in Annexure III (A–F). For miscellaneous consumable items such as casing capping, HDPE pipe, copper cable, etc., quantities are not specified site-wise and are to be quoted on a Lumpsum basis. Bidders shall quote their rate based on the List of Goods and Delivery Schedule -Lot-3: Supply, installation, and commissioning of GovNet server rooms at 21 sites. The supplier shall



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				carry out the installation of these items as per site-specific requirements during execution, and shall be measured/ reconciled at site accordingly. The supplier shall prepare detailed server room layout drawings, including: i. Rack layout ii. Electrical and grounding layout iii. Cooling layout iv. Cable routing diagrams. Power Distribution Flow from Main Utility Power to Server room IT Equipment is given in Drawing No. 11 for reference.



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97	N/A	Lot 3: Environmental Monitoring Sensor	Kindly specify the required parameters and monitoring capabilities of the environmental monitoring sensor (e.g., temperature, humidity, smoke, water leakage, door status, power failure, etc.).	The required environmental monitoring sensor shall monitor temperature and relative humidity only which is mentioned in the bidding document.
98	N/A	Lot 3: 15-Amp Socket Installation	Kindly confirm whether the 15-Amp socket outlet is required to be surface-mounted or recessed (flush-mounted).	A 15-Amp socket outlet is required to be surface-mounted with a switch socket combined box. (Amendment to be issued)
99	N/A	Lot 3: UPS Requirement	Kindly specify: · The required UPS backup duration. · Whether adequate battery installation space is available at each site.	Refer to pages 183-184 of Volume I for Lithium Ion Battery specifications. Amendment to be issued Yes, there is adequate battery installation space available at each site.



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100	N/A	General: Submission of Supporting documents	Kindly clarify where supporting documents such as CVs, Letters of Intent, Manufacturer Authorization Letters, and other required documents should be uploaded. Should these documents be submitted as separate attachments, or should they be included as part of the Technical or financial Proposal?	The supporting documents such as CVs, Letters of Intent, Manufacturer Authorization Letters, and other required documents should be submitted as part of technical proposal.
101	ITB 19 / BDS ITB 19.1, p.49	A Bid Security of US\$30,000 (Lot-1), US\$30,000 (Lot-2) and US\$4,000 (Lot-3) must be submitted, and may be forfeited if the Bidder withdraws its bid during the validity period or fails to sign the contract or furnish performance security.	We request the Customer to confirm that the Bid Security will only be forfeited in cases of clear default by the Bidder, and not for minor or technical non-compliance, so that genuine bidders are not unfairly penalized.	Please refer Instruction to Bidders (ITB) 19.7 which states the grounds under which the bid security may be forfeited



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102	ITB 18.1 / BDS, p.49	The Bid must remain valid until 30 December 2026, and if the Purchaser asks for an extension, the Bidder may either agree or refuse without losing its Bid Security.	We appreciate that bidders can refuse a validity extension without losing the Bid Security. We request that this protection be clearly retained in the final contract documents as well.	Please refer ITB 18.2 where it states that bid security will not be forfeited if the bidders refuse to extend the bid validity period
103	GCC 18.1, p.289 (SCC)	A Performance Security equal to 10% of the Contract Price is required, valid for 1 year and must be renewed every year until the Supplier completes performance, including warranty obligations.	Since the total warranty period can run up to 36 months, we request the Customer to consider whether a shorter validity period, or a reducing performance security amount as delivery milestones are completed, would be more proportionate for the Supplier.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
104	GCC 27.1 (Liquidated Damages), p.271, 289 (SCC)	Liquidated damages of 0.5% of the delayed goods/services value per week of delay apply, up to a maximum of 10%, after	We request that liquidated damages apply only for delays that are genuinely the Supplier's fault, and that the Customer confirm no liquidated damages will be charged for delays caused by the Purchaser, force majeure, or third parties such as other lot contractors.	GCC 27.1 (Liquidated Damage) and GCC 32 (Force Majeure) describes the details in this regard. The requirements shall remain



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		which the Purchaser may terminate the contract.		unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
105	GCC 28 (Warranty), p.271-272, 289 (SCC)	Goods must be warranted for a minimum of 36 months for certain items and 12 months for others, with defects to be repaired within 7 days or replaced within 28 days of notice, failing which the Purchaser may itself remedy the defect at the Supplier's risk and cost.	We request the Customer to confirm that the 7-day repair and 28-day replacement timelines will be extended where the delay is caused by import, customs, or logistics constraints outside the Supplier's control, given Bhutan's remote sites.	The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document. Should there be contract delivery delays due to price and availability of specific components in global supply chains, delivery time extensions may be considered during the contract implementation.
106	GCC 29 (Patent Indemnity), p.272-273	The Supplier must indemnify the Purchaser against all claims, damages, costs and legal fees arising from any infringement of patents,	We request that the Supplier's indemnity obligation for intellectual property claims be limited to a reasonable cap to 6 months preceding date of the Contract Price from the date of claim, except in cases of willful misconduct, so that the Supplier's exposure remains proportionate to the contract value.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended



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		trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property caused by the installation or use of the Goods, with no monetary cap on this indemnity.		
107	GCC 30.1 (Limitation of Liability), p.273	The Supplier's total liability is capped at the Contract Price, but this cap does NOT apply to the cost of repairing or replacing defective equipment or to the Supplier's patent indemnity obligations, meaning liability in those two areas is effectively unlimited.	We request that the cost of repair/replacement of defective equipment and the patent indemnity obligation also be brought within an overall liability cap (for example, a percentage of the Contract Price), so that the Supplier's total financial exposure remains predictable and reasonable.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended.
108	GCC 30.1(a), p.273	The Supplier is excluded from liability for indirect or consequential losses,	We request confirmation that liquidated damages remain the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy for delay, so that the Purchaser cannot separately claim	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended.



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		except that this exclusion does not apply to the Supplier's obligation to pay liquidated damages.	additional indirect or consequential losses for the same delay.	
109	GCC 32 (Force Majeure), p.274, 277	Force Majeure only excuses the Supplier from liquidated damages, performance security forfeiture, or termination for default, but does not entitle the Supplier to any additional time or cost relief beyond this.	We request that the Customer agree to a fair extension of time and, where appropriate, additional cost relief for the Supplier when delays are caused by genuine Force Majeure events, rather than simply waiving penalties.	Please refer to GCC 32.3 (Force Majeure) and 34.1 & 34.2 (Extensions of Time) clauses in this regard. The GCC cannot be customized or amended.
110	GCC 31 (Change in Laws), p.273-274	Price or delivery date will only be adjusted if a law changes in Bhutan (the Purchaser's Country) after a set date; there is no similar relief if laws change in the Supplier's home country or	We request that the Customer also consider fair price or schedule adjustments where changes in law in the country of manufacture or export (such as new tariffs or export restrictions) increase the Supplier's costs or delay delivery.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended



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		the country of manufacture that affect cost or delivery.		
111	GCC 35.1 (Termination for Default), p.276	The Purchaser may terminate the contract for the Supplier's failure to deliver goods or perform any other obligation, and may then procure replacement goods/services at the Supplier's cost, without a prior cure period being guaranteed.	We request that the Supplier be given a reasonable written notice and opportunity to cure any alleged default before the Purchaser exercises its right to terminate for default, to avoid termination for minor or curable issues.	Please refer to GCC 26 (Inspections and Tests) clause with a focus on GCC 26.7 in this regard. The GCC cannot be amended.
112	GCC 35.2 (Termination for Insolvency), p.276-277	If the Supplier becomes insolvent, the Purchaser can terminate immediately without paying any compensation to the Supplier.	We request that, in the event of termination for insolvency, the Supplier (or its estate) still be paid for goods already delivered and services already properly performed up to the date of termination.	Please refer to GCC 16 (Terms of Payment) with a focus on SCC 16.1 and GCC 35.2 (Termination for Insolvency) in this regard. The GCC cannot be amended.



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113	GCC 35.3 (Termination for Convenience), p.277	The Purchaser may terminate the contract at any time for its own convenience, with the Supplier only compensated for goods ready for shipment within 28 days or for partially completed goods/materials, but not for lost profits or other business losses.	We request that, if the Purchaser terminates for convenience, the Supplier also be reasonably compensated for costs already committed (such as non-cancellable orders placed with manufacturers) and a fair measure of lost profit on the terminated portion.	Please refer to GCC 35.3 (Termination for Convenience) with a focus on GCC 35.3 (b) in this regard. The GCC cannot be amended.
114	GCC 9.1 (Governing Law), p.262, 285 (SCC)	The contract will be governed by the laws of Bhutan.	As the Supplier is an Indian entity, we request the Customer to confirm whether it is aligned to a neutral governing law - our proposal is Laws of Singapore.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended.
115	GCC 10 (Settlement of Disputes), p.262-263,	Disputes must first be negotiated for 28 days; if unresolved, they go to arbitration. The specific arbitration rules (for	We request the Customer to confirm and finalize the specific international arbitration rules and the seat of arbitration (for example, a neutral venue) before contract signing, so that both parties have clarity on the dispute resolution process from the outset.	It will be discussed and finalized during contract negotiation with the winning bidder



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	285-286 (SCC)	example UNCITRAL, ICC, LCIA or Stockholm rules) are left open in the Special Conditions of Contract and have not been finalized.		
116	GCC 10.3, p.266	Even during arbitration, the Supplier must continue performing its obligations under the contract unless the parties agree otherwise.	We request that the Supplier be allowed to suspend or adjust performance in cases where the dispute concerns non-payment by the Purchaser, so the Supplier is not forced to keep performing indefinitely without being paid.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended
117	GCC 16.3 (Terms of Payment), p.268	Payments are to be made within 60 days after the Supplier submits an invoice and the Purchaser accepts it, with no cap on how long the “acceptance” step itself may take.	We request a defined maximum timeline for the Purchaser's acceptance process (for example, 15 days from delivery), after which the goods are deemed accepted, so that the 60-day payment clock starts promptly and payment is not unreasonably delayed.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended



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118	SCC GCC 16.1, p.288	Payment is structured as 10% advance, 60% on shipment (against a letter of credit), and 30% only after the Purchaser issues an acceptance certificate following delivery, meaning nearly a third of payment is deferred until final acceptance.	We request the Customer to confirm a clear and time-bound acceptance testing process, so that the final 30% payment is not delayed by matters unrelated to the Supplier's performance.	The payment schedule in the Special Conditions of Contract (SCC) will be amended to incorporate installation, testing, commissioning, and other related services
119	ITB 14.5 / GCC 15.1, p.288	Prices are fixed for the entire contract and cannot be adjusted for any reason, including currency fluctuations, freight cost increases, or raw material price changes, given the likely multi-month/year delivery timeline.	We request the Customer to consider allowing a limited price adjustment mechanism for significant, documented increases in shipping, currency, or commodity costs that are beyond the Supplier's control, to keep the contract commercially sustainable for both parties.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended



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120	GCC 17.1 (Taxes and Duties), p.269	The Supplier is responsible for all taxes, stamp duties, and levies imposed outside Bhutan (i.e., in the Supplier's or manufacturer's country), while the Purchaser only covers duties within Bhutan.	We request confirmation that this allocation of taxes is limited to taxes that are legally payable in the ordinary course, and that any new or unexpected foreign taxes introduced after contract signing will be discussed and fairly shared.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended
121	ITB 3.2 / GCC 11 (Inspections and Audit by the Bank), p.263, 283	The Supplier must allow the World Bank (and its appointed auditors) to inspect all of its accounts, records, and documents relating to the contract, and interfering with this right can lead to termination and debarment.	We request that any audit or inspection request be made with reasonable advance written notice and be limited to records that are directly relevant to this contract, to protect the Supplier's other confidential business information.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended



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122	GCC 3 / Section VI (Fraud and Corruption), p.263, 279-282	If the Bank determines, at its own discretion, that the Supplier (or any of its personnel, agents, or subcontractors) has engaged in a corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practice, the Supplier can be debarred and the contract terminated.	We request that any finding of fraud or corruption affecting the Supplier be based on a fair process that gives the Supplier a reasonable opportunity to respond and present its position before any termination or debarment action is taken.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended
123	GCC 21 (Subcontracting), p.268	The Supplier must notify the Purchaser of subcontractors, but remains fully responsible for all of the subcontractors' obligations, duties, and liabilities under the contract.	We request confirmation that this is standard practice, and note that the Supplier will ensure all subcontractors are bound by equivalent obligations, so risk is properly managed down the supply chain.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended



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124	GCC 20 (Confidential Information), p.267	Confidentiality obligations survive even after the contract ends or is terminated, indefinitely, for both parties.	We request that a reasonable time limit for 3 years after contract completion or termination be placed on the confidentiality obligation, which is a common and fair practice in commercial contracts.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended
125	GCC 37 (Export Restriction), p.277-278	If export restrictions prevent the Supplier from delivering goods, the Supplier is only released from its obligations if it can prove to the satisfaction of both the Purchaser and the Bank that it acted diligently in obtaining all necessary permits and licenses.	We request that this relief be available more simply upon the Supplier providing reasonable evidence of the export restriction and its efforts to comply, without requiring proof to the satisfaction of multiple parties, which can be difficult to demonstrate in practice.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended
126	Schedule of Requirement s, Description of Works,	The equipment manufacturer (OEM) must provide 24x7 technical support with strict response times (for example, 30	We request a reasonable cap on continuous round-the-clock support effort (for example, escalation review after 48-72 hours) so that support obligations remain practically achievable, especially for sites in remote areas of Bhutan.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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	Section 6.3.1(8), p.225 (OEM TAC Support / SLA)	minutes for Severity 1 issues), and for Severity 1 and 2 issues, must provide continuous round-the-clock effort until resolved, with no cap on how long this effort must continue.		
127	Schedule of Requirement s, Section 6.3.1(4)(c), p.223-224	Service disruption during installation, relocation, or integration is limited to a maximum of 8 hours as a target, with an absolute cap of 24 consecutive hours, but the RFP does not clarify what penalty, if any, applies if this cap is exceeded due to matters outside the Supplier's control.	We request the Customer to confirm that liquidated damages or other penalties will not apply to service disruptions that exceed these limits due to factors outside the Supplier's control, such as power outages or third-party network issues.	The contractor is responsible to come up with the detailed work plan and consequently execute the work to meet the service disruption period as defined in the bidding documents. The contractor shall also be responsible to coordinate with the relevant stakeholders during the installation, relocation, and integration. If the service disruption is out of suppliers control, it will be considered on a case by case basis.



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128	Section VII, Annex 1 (ESCoPs), B2, p.243 (E-Waste Management)	If any equipment supplied by the Supplier is found defective, damaged, or is replaced during the warranty period, the Supplier bears full and exclusive responsibility for take-back and environmentally compliant disposal of that equipment, at its own cost.	We request the Customer to confirm that reasonable costs of take-back and disposal of defective/replaced equipment in Bhutan will be fairly shared or reimbursed, since this is a cost that arises from operating in a remote, landlocked location.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
129	Section VII, Annex 3 (SEA/SH Requirements), p.252, 256	The Supplier and all its subcontractors and personnel (including manufacturer's supply chain) must comply with detailed anti-sexual exploitation and abuse requirements; non-compliance may result in withheld payments,	We request that any withholding of payment or termination for personnel misconduct be limited to the specific individual(s) involved and be proportionate to the severity of the breach, rather than automatically putting the entire contract at risk for an isolated incident.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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		personnel removal, or termination of the entire contract, even for a single individual's misconduct.		
130	GCC 14.9 (Cyber Security and Data Protection), p.268	The Supplier must use "all reasonable efforts" to maintain cyber security and data protection controls, but the RFP does not define a specific liability position or cap if a data breach or cyber incident occurs despite such efforts.	We request the Customer to clarify the liability position in case of a cyber security incident despite the Supplier's reasonable efforts, and confirm that this liability will also be subject to the overall limitation of liability cap under GCC Clause 30.	Not considered: The GCC cannot be amended
131			Jobs executed for Parent/ Subsidiary / Holding company will be considered as experience for the purpose of meeting experience criteria. Please Confirm.	Please refer to ITB 32.2 clause which states "The determination (Qualification of the Bidders) shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Bidder's qualifications submitted by the Bidder, pursuant to ITB 17. The



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				determination shall not take into consideration the qualifications of other firms such as the Bidder's subsidiaries, parent entities, affiliates, subcontractors (other than specialized subcontractors if permitted in the bidding document), or any other firm different from the Bidder".
132	N/A	N/A	We kindly request confirmation that such a Teaming/Subcontracting arrangement between an internationally qualified Bidder and a locally registered subcontractor is acceptable under the terms of this Bidding Document, and whether any additional documentation (e.g., Subcontractor Agreement, letter of intent) would be required to formalize this arrangement at the time of bid submission	Please refer to GCC 21.1 and 21.2 clause on Subcontracting.



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133	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 58	1. Qualification Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1) (h) Cyber Security Compliance:	a. At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND). Request to modified this clause: a. At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND) <u>or ISACA (CISM/CISA/CISSP)</u>	a. At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: <i>GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND) or equivalent.</i> (Amendment to be issued)
134	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria Page No. 58	1. Qualification Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1) (h) Cyber Security Compliance:	a. At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND). Please clarify:-	The certified individual is required to be one of the Key Project Team Personnel proposed for Lot-1.



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			Clause states: "At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND)." We kindly request the Purchaser to clarify whether the certified individual is required to be one of the Key Project Team Personnel proposed for Lot-1, or whether the Bidder may submit the certification of any employee of the company possessing the required certification, even if such employee is not proposed as Key Project Team Personnel as per tender. Proposed Change: We kindly request the Purchaser to amend the above clause as follows:	



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			<u>At least one employee of the Bidder, on the Bidder's payroll</u>, must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND) or ISACA (CISM/CISA/CISSP). The certified employee will be deployed for the project as and when required during implementation as per the bidders discretion in order to achieve the overall requirement of certification.	
135	Section III- Evaluation and Qualification Criteria; LOT-1; Page: 61-63	Lot 1: The forwarding rate benchmark defined under the Sub-Technical Factor (STF) for core routers, aggregation routers, repeater switches, and agency/customer routers appears to be significantly higher compared to the	The scoring benchmark shall be aligned with the main technical specifications specified in Section VII – Schedule of Requirements. The technical scoring benchmark should focus on the overall offered product capabilities, including throughput, port density, scalability, and required functionalities, rather than being disproportionately weighted toward	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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		technical specifications specified in Section VII – Schedule of Requirements.	forwarding rate alone. If the offered device meets the required network performance and fulfills the primary objectives of the network design, the evaluation criteria should remain open and vendor-neutral. Setting excessively strict forwarding rate benchmarks may only favor oversized solutions from specific OEMs, resulting in unnecessary cost increases without providing proportional operational benefits.	
136	Section VII - Schedule of Requirement s; LOT-1; Page: 129-154	Lot1: Memory, and Storage requirements specified with fixed paraments for routers and switches.	Memory, and Storage requirement shall remain open to As per OEM design architecture equivalent solutions from different OEMs. When the required service specifications are fully met, the hardware specifications of the device should not be required to exceed the actual operational needs. Different OEMs may use efficient hardware	The requirement of Memory and Storage shall be deleted for SL. No. 1, 2, 4 and 5 and storage requirement shall be set to 16 GB for Sl. No. 7 and 8 under Technical Specification of Lot-1. (Amendment to be issued)



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			and software optimization approaches to achieve high performance and capacity without relying on larger centralized memory and storage resources. Factors contributing to optimize performance may include: · Efficient Operating System · Customized Hardware Design · Advanced Traffic Forwarding Architecture · Intelligent Packet Processing · Data Compression and Caching	
137	Section VII - Schedule of Requirement s; LOT-1; SL# 8, 9, 10; Page: 146-154	Lot 1: Inclusion of specific OME proprietary protocols in the technical specifications: · PVST and PVST+ · SVI/IRB · TACACS+	Equivalent technologies from other OME's that provide similar or enhanced functionality. The inclusion of specific OEM proprietary features in the technical specifications may restrict vendor participation and limit fair competition. Therefore, the technical specifications should be defined based on required network functions,	The requirement for Layer 2 support for "VLAN Spanning Tree (PVST and PVST+)", as specified in the technical specifications for Lot-1 under Section VII - Schedule of Supply, has been deleted for the following items: 1. Item no. 8 2. Item no.9



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			performance, security objectives, and operational outcomes rather than vendor-specific protocol names or proprietary features. The requirements should allow different OEMs with equivalent solutions to ensure fair competition, interoperability, and technology neutrality	3. Item no.10 The requirement for Layer 2 support for “SVI/IRB interfaces: Minimum 800”, as specified in the technical specifications for Lot-1 under Section VII - Schedule of Supply, is hereby amended and shall read as “VLAN Interface (SVI/IRB) or equivalent: Minimum 800” for the following items: 1. Item no. 8 2. Item no.9 The requirement for Layer 2 support for “SVI/IRB interfaces: Minimum 800”, as specified in the technical specifications for Lot-1 under Section VII - Schedule of Supply, is hereby amended and shall read as “VLAN Interface (SVI/IRB) or



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				equivalent: Minimum 500” for Item no.10. (Amendment to be issued)
138	Section VII - Schedule of Requirement s; LOT-1; SL# 1, 2, 3, 6, 7; Page: 129-146	Lot 1: License: Perpetual software licenses to support all features mentioned in the specification throughout the life cycle of the equipment (License should be activated from day 1 and valid until end of life of the equipment)	License: Software licenses to support all features mentioned in the specification (License should be activated from day 1 and valid until equipment service warranty) In high-end network devices, advanced functions such as MACSec, SRv6, and IPSec are typically subscription-based, in line with industry practice. Allowing these advanced features to be offered on a subscription basis will ensure greater commercial transparency during the evaluation of offers.	Perpetual software licenses support means that the proposed equipment must support all the required features mentioned in the specification throughout the life cycle of the equipment. However, the client must have access to the software upgrades at least for the defined OEM tech support period.
139		Lot2: Specifications	The specifications defined under Lot-2 appear to be aligned with a specific vendor solution, which may limit fair participation from other industry-recognized OEMs. The IPoDWDM technology	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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			appears to have been promoted by Specific OEM, which may impact the primary purpose and objectives of GovTech. Such vendor-specific requirements can restrict competition and prevent the consideration of advanced, optimized, and equivalent technologies available in the market. Rather than mandating IPoDWDM, GovTech could maintain an open approach that allows for new, advanced, and efficient technologies, such as IP+DWDM.	



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140	Section IX – Special Conditions of Contract; GCC 28.5; Page: 289	The period for repair or replacement shall be: 7 (seven) days for repair / 28 (twenty-eight) days for replacement.	The period for repair or replacement shall be: 90 (ninety) business days for repair/replacement. Bhutan's lack of direct flights and sea ports requires multi-route shipments, causing unpredictable transit delays. This is necessitated by operational lead times for parts procurement and quality assurance procedures, which are essential to deliver a durable and compliant repair.	The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document. Should there be contract delivery delays due to price and availability of specific components in global supply chains, delivery time extensions may be considered during the contract implementation.
141	Section III - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1)	Value of at least US\$ 3 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes supply, installation and commissioning of optical network equipment such as DWDM Line System, 400G Coherent optical	Value of at least US\$ 3 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes supply, installation and commissioning of optical network of CWDM Equipment for Bidder and the System Integration Experience of the Proposed OEM such as DWDM Line System, 400G Coherent optical transceivers, and other optical transceivers. we therefore requesting to consider the DWDM Implementation Experience for OEM.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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	Specific Experience- b. Lot-2 Page No. 54-55	transceivers, and other optical transceivers.		
142	Section III Cyber Security Compliance: Page No. 58	a. At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND). b. All proposed equipment provided under Lot-1 must comply with the guidelines set forth in NIST SP 800-193. Lot-1 bidders must submit Manufacturer	a. At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold the OEM Certification of the Proposed Products. b. All proposed equipment provided under Lot-1 must comply with the guidelines set forth in NIST SP 800-193 or similar industry standard. c. All bidders of Lot-1, Lot-2 and Lot-3 must align their deployment practices with the CIS Critical Security Controls and NIST SP 800-53 or similar industry standard to ensure secure integration of the proposed equipment. Bidders must submit their compliance activities in their Installation and Related Services Methodology. Specifying a particular certification unduly narrows participation, as different manufacturers may hold	a. At least one member of the proposed project team in Lot-1 must hold one of the following cybersecurity certifications: <i>GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) or ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) or EC-Council Certified Network Defender (CND) or equivalent.</i> b. All proposed equipment provided under Lot-1 must comply with the guidelines set forth in NIST SP 800-193 or equivalent. Lot-1 bidders must submit Manufacturer Attestation on the compliance. c. All bidders of Lot-1, Lot-2 and Lot-3 must align their deployment



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		Attestation on the compliance. c. All bidders of Lot-1, Lot-2 and Lot-3 must align their deployment practices with the CIS Critical Security Controls and NIST SP 800-53 to ensure secure integration of the proposed equipment. Bidders must submit their compliance activities in their Installation and Related Services Methodology.	equivalent certifications from different authorities or under different regulatory frameworks.	practices with the CIS Critical Security Controls and NIST SP 800-53 to ensure secure integration of the proposed equipment. Bidders must submit their compliance activities in their Installation and Related Services Methodology. (Amendment to be issued)
143	Section III Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1) b) Financial Resources:	Lot-1 and Lot-2: US\$ 1.5 Million or equivalent amount The documentary evidence shall be in the form of supporting letter(s) issued	Lot-1 and Lot-2: US\$ 1.5 Million or equivalent amount The documentary evidence shall be in the form of supporting letter(s) issued by the bidder's Local bank/financial institution of the Bidder's Country of Registration to confirming that the above-specified	The documentary evidence issuing Bank/Financial Institution is not restricted.



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		by the bidder's bank/financial institution confirming that the above-specified minimum amount is available through lines of credit and/or funds in the bidder's bank account for the specific use in the execution of the subject-mentioned contract, if awarded to the bidder, or any other form acceptable to the Purchaser. For a joint venture, this requirement must be met by all members combined; while the lead member and each member of the joint venture must meet at least 40% and 25% of the	minimum amount is available through lines of credit and/or funds in the bidder's bank account for the specific use in the execution of the subject-mentioned contract, if awarded to the bidder, or any other form acceptable to the Purchaser. For a joint venture, this requirement must be met by all members combined; while the lead member and each member of the joint venture must meet at least 40% and 25% of the financial requirement respectively.	The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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		financial requirement respectively.		
144	Section III Qualification Criteria (ITB 32.1) Qualifications of Key Personnel (Project Team): Lot-1 & 2	Key Position: 3. Technician – 10 Nos.	Key Position: 3. Technician – Min. 05 Nos. for each Lot For the Bid evaluation marking purpose requesting to amend the No. of Technician person Min. 5 for each Lot- 1 & 2 , The International Bidders who want to participate in Lot-1 & 2, this change may reduce the project cost and will create job opportunity for the local resource.	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
145	Section III Qualification Criteria for Lot-1: Page No. 63 Qualification of Key	Certified Project Manager (PMP, PRINCE2 Practitioner, or Agile PM)	Certified Project Manager (PMP or PRINCE2 Practitioner, or Agile PM)	Certified Project Manager (PMP or PRINCE2 Practitioner or Agile PM) (Amendment to be issued)



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	Project Team Personnel: 3.1 Project Manager Certification		Please allow PMP or PRINCE2 any one Project Management Certification of the Certified Project Manager for Rated Scoring Criteria	
146	Core Router (DC Input) 133	Port Density: Minimum 24x1/10Gbps SFP+ ports, 16x10/25Gbps SFP28 ports and 8x100Gbps QSFP28 Ports (All the ports should support DWDM and CWDM Optics besides gray optics - ZR+, ZR, LR, IR, SR)	Port Density: Minimum 15 x 1/10G/25G + 16 x 100G SFP 112 (100/50/25) + 6 x 400G QSFP DD (All the ports should support DWDM and CWDM Optics besides gray optics - ZR+, ZR, LR, IR, SR) Port Density seems to be proprietary and to allow other OEM, we request to change port density to 15 x 1/10G/25G + 16 x 100G SFP 112 (100/50/25) + 6 x 400G QSFP DD	The port density specified in the technical specification is the minimum requirement that should be met by the bidders. Bidders can propose equipment with higher port density.
147	Core Router (DC Input) 133	Storage: Minimum 100GB SSD	We request to remove SSD storage requirement as such high storage is not required on networking equipments and is proprietary to few OEM's.	The requirement of Memory and Storage shall be deleted for SL. No. 1, 2, 4 and 5 under Technical Specification of Lot-1.



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148	Core Router (DC Input) 135	Power and Cooling Requirement: Hot swappable redundant power supplies - DC input voltage 48V DC, hot swappable redundant fans	Power and Cooling Requirement: Hot swappable redundant power supplies - DC input voltage 48V DC, redundant fans In fixed chassis configurations , hot swappable fans are not needed , we request to change this to redundant fans only.	Power and Cooling Requirement: Hot swappable redundant power supplies - AC input voltage: 220V AC, hot swappable redundant fans or N+1 redundancy fan (Amendment to be issues)
149	Core Router (DC Input) 136	Port Density: Minimum 24x1/10Gbps SFP+ ports, 16x10/25Gbps SFP28 ports and 8x100Gbps QSFP28 Ports (All the ports should support DWDM and CWDM Optics besides gray optics - ZR+, ZR, LR, IR, SR)	Port Density: Minimum 15 x 1/10G/25G + 16 x 100G SFP 112 (100/50/25) + 6 x 400G QSFP DD (All the ports should support DWDM and CWDM Optics besides gray optics - ZR+, ZR, LR, IR, SR) Port Density seems to be proprietry and to allow other OEM , we request to change port density to 15 x 1/10G/25G + 16 x 100G SFP 112 (100/50/25) + 6 x 400G QSFP DD	The port density specified in the technical specification is the minimum requirement that should be met by the bidders. Bidders can propose equipment with higher port density.



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150	Core Router (DC Input) 137	Power and Cooling Requirement: Hot swappable redundant power supplies - AC input voltage: 220V AC, hot swappable redundant fans	Power and Cooling Requirement: Hot swappable redundant power supplies - AC input voltage: 220V AC, redundant fans In fixed chassis configurations , hot swappable fans are not needed , we request to change this to redundant fans only	Power and Cooling Requirement: Hot swappable redundant power supplies - AC input voltage: 220V AC, hot swappable redundant fans or N+1 redundancy fan (Amendment to be issues)
151	Aggregation Router 138	Storage: Minimum 32GB SSD	We request to remove SSD storage requirement as such high storage is not required on networking equipment's and is proprietary to few OEM's.	The requirement of Memory and Storage shall be deleted for SL. No. 1, 2, 4 and 5 and storage requirement shall be set to 16 GB for SL. No. 7 and 8 under Technical Specification of Lot-1. (Amendment to be issued)
152	Repeater Switch (DC Input) 140	Port Density: Minimum 6x400G QSFP-DD (QSFP-DD ports should comply with Multi-Source Agreement (MSA)	Port Density: Minimum 4x400G QSFP-DD (QSFP-DD ports should comply with Multi-Source Agreement (MSA) standards for coherent pluggable optics and DSP interfaces) and 32x40/100G QSFP-	The port density specified in the technical specification is the minimum requirement that should be met by the bidders. Bidders can



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
		standards for coherent pluggable optics and DSP interfaces) and 24x40/100G QSFP-28 Ports (Breakout should be supported for 10G, 25G and 50G with minimum of 48x10G ports)	28 Ports (Breakout should be supported for 10G, 25G and 50G with minimum of 48x10G ports) In Router industry, most common configuration is 4x400G + 32x100G. Hence, we request to change port density to 4x400G + 32x100G to allow all OEM's to participate in bid	propose equipment with higher port density.
153	Repeater Switch (DC Input) 141	Memory: Minimum 32 GB Storage Memory: Minimum 100 GB SSD CPU: Minimum Quad Core x86 CPU	We request to remove SSD storage requirement as such high storage is not required on networking equipment and is proprietry to few OEM's.	The requirement of Memory and Storage shall be deleted for SL. No. 1, 2, 4 and 5 and storage requirement shall be set to 16 GB for SL. No. 7 and 8 under Technical Specification of Lot-1. (Amendment to be issued)
154	Repeater Switch (DC Input)	Security: Root-of-trust and secure boot, Authentication,	Security: Root-of-trust and secure boot, Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA), Terminal Access Controller Access-Control	On security: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
	142	Authorization, and Accounting (AAA), Terminal Access Controller Access-Control System Plus (TACACS+), RBAC, Syslog over TLS, Secure Shell (SSHv2), Layer 3 ingress and egress ACLs for IPv4 and IPv6, Layer 2 ingress ACLs, 802.1AE (MACsec) support on all the QSFP-DD and QSFP28 Ports MACsec Support: IEEE 802.1AE MACsec shall be supported on all 400G QSFP-DD and 40/100G QSFP-28 interconnection ports	System Plus (TACACS+), RBAC, Syslog over TLS, Secure Shell (SSHv2), Layer 3 ingress and egress ACLs for IPv4 and IPv6, Layer 2 ingress ACLs, MACsec is usually only in Core and Aggregator routers and not required for Repeater Switches. Hence we request to remove this MACsec requirement from repeater switch.	On MacSec: MACsec shall be supported on at least 6x400G QSFPDD interconnection Ports



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
155	Repeater Switch (DC Input) 143	Port Density: Minimum 6x400G QSFP-DD (QSFP-DD ports should comply with Multi-Source Agreement (MSA) standards for coherent pluggable optics and DSP interfaces) and 24x40/100G QSFP-28 Ports (Breakout should be supported for 10G, 25G and 50G with minimum of 48x10G ports)	Port Density: Minimum 4x400G QSFP-DD (QSFP-DD ports should comply with Multi-Source Agreement (MSA) standards for coherent pluggable optics and DSP interfaces) and 32x40/100G QSFP-28 Ports (Breakout should be supported for 10G, 25G and 50G with minimum of 48x10G ports) In Router industry, most common configuration is 4x400G + 32x100G. Hence, we request to change port density to 4x400G + 32x100G to allow all OEM's to participate in bid	The port density specified in the technical specification is the minimum requirement that should be met by the bidders. Bidders can propose equipment with higher port density.
156	Repeater Switch (DC Input) 143	Memory: Minimum 32 GB Storage Memory: 100 GB SSD	We request to remove SSD storage requirement as such high storage is not required on networking equipment and is propriety to few OEM's	The requirement of Memory and Storage shall be deleted for SL. No. 1, 2, 4 and 5 and storage requirement shall be set to 16 GB for Sl. No. 7 and 8 under Technical Specification of Lot-1.



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
				(Amendment to be issued)
157	Repeater Switch (DC Input) 145	MACsec Support: IEEE 802.1AE MACsec shall be supported on all 400G QSFP-DD and 40/100G QSFP-28 interconnection ports.	MACsec is usually only in Core and Aggregator routers and not required for Repeater Switches. Hence, we request to remove this MACsec requirement from the repeater switch.	MACsec Support: IEEE 802.1AE MACsec shall be supported on at least 6x400G QSFP-DD interconnection Ports (Amendment to be issued)
158	Agencies/Cu stomers Router 10G (AC input) 146	Memory: Minimum 16GB Storage: Minimum 32GB	Memory: Minimum 8GB Storage: Minimum 16GB Router with 10G throughput does not require 16GB Memory and 32 GB storage. We request to change it to optimum configuration of Memory: 8 GB , Storage : 16GB	The requirement storage shall be set to 16 GB for Sl. No. 7 and 8 under Technical Specification of Lot-1. (Amendment to be issued)



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			Memory should be sufficient enough to host multiple images and store logs files.	
159	Agencies/Cu stomers Router 10G (AC input) 148	Memory: Minimum 16GB Storage: Minimum 32GB	Memory: Minimum 8GB Storage: Minimum 16GB Router with 10G throughput does not require 16GB Memory and 32 GB storage . We request to change it to optimum configuration of Memory : 8 GB , Storage : 16GB Memory should be sufficient enough to host multiple images and store logs files.	The requirement storage shall be set to 16 GB for Sl. No. 7 and 8 under Technical Specification of Lot-1. (Amendment to be issued)
160	Core/Aggre gation Switch (AC Input) 150	Minimum Packet Buffer Size: 32MB (dynamic sharing) Memory: Minimum 16 GB Storage Memory:	Minimum Packet Buffer Size: 32MB (dynamic sharing) Memory: Minimum 6 GB Storage Memory: Minimum 8 GB CPU: Minimum Quad Core x86 Memory should be sufficient enough to host multiple images and store logs files	The requirement storage shall be set to 16 GB for Sl. No. 7 and 8 under Technical Specification of Lot-1. (Amendment to be issued)



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
		Minimum 16 GB CPU: Minimum Quad Core x86		
161	Core/Aggregation Switch (AC Input) 152	Other Features support from Day-1: - Stacking support - upto 4 switches in a stack	Due to limitation of backplane capacity in stacking and chances of loop, so Stacking should be removed and latest protocol like VRRP, MC-LAG should be supported	Other Features support from Day-1: - Stacking support - upto 4 switches in a stack The above requirement shall be deleted. (Amendment to be issued)
162	Core/Aggregation Switch (DC Input) 153	Minimum Packet Buffer Size: 32MB (dynamic sharing) Memory: Minimum 16 GB Storage Memory: Minimum 16 GB CPU: Minimum Quad Core x86	Minimum Packet Buffer Size: 32MB (dynamic sharing) Memory: Minimum 6 GB Storage Memory: Minimum 8 GB CPU: Minimum Quad Core x86 Memory should be sufficient enough to host multiple images and store logs files.	The requirement storage shall be set to 16 GB for Sl. No. 7 and 8 under Technical Specification of Lot-1. (Amendment to be issued)



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163	Core/Aggregation Switch (DC Input) 155	Other Features support from Day-1: - Stacking support - upto 4 switches in a stack	Due to limitation of backplane capacity in stacking and chances of loop, so Stacking should be removed and latest protocol like VRRP , MC-LAG should be supported	Other Features support from Day-1: - Stacking support - upto 4 switches in a stack The above requirement shall be deleted. (Amendment to be issued)
164	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/ 16CH	Monitor Port: Support to monitor optical power levels of the DWDM C-band signals without interrupting live traffic.	Kindly Clarify Support to monitor optical power levels of the DWDM C-band signals when we are using as Mux/Demux is a passive component Request complete OLS system to have the channel monitoring.	Optical power level will be monitored on the host platform (routers and switches).



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
	DWDM Mux/DeMux for 1G/10G DWDM Links			
165	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/ 16CH DWDM	16CH DWDM Mux/DeMux for 1G/10G DWDM Links	Kindly Clarify on the use of MUX/Demux how will be in the Architecture. Need Understanding how the Mux/demux will be connected and used in the NEW and Existing system.	Refer Annexure-A for Middle Mile topology for GovNet and DrukREN. This will be used to connect agencies (Refer, clause iii (g) (Page 228 & 229) under Section VII)



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	Mux/DeMux for 1G/10G DWDM Links			
166	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/ DWDM Mux/DeMux for 400Gbps	Monitor Port: Support to monitor optical power levels of the DWDM C-band signals without interrupting live traffic.	Kindly Clarify Support to monitor optical power levels of the DWDM C-band signals when we are using as Mux/Demux is a passive component Request complete OLS system to have the channel monitoring.	The proposed DWDM Mux/Demux unit (item no. 33) shall be integrated with the existing DWDM optical equipment given in Annexure II-C to enable optical monitoring capabilities.



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	DWDM Coherent links			
167	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/ DWDM Mux/DeMux for 400Gbps DWDM	DWDM Mux/DeMux for 400Gbps DWDM Coherent links	Kindly Clarify on the use of MUX/Demux how will be in the Architecture. Need Understanding how the Mux/demux will be connected and used in the NEW and Existing system	Refer drawing no.6 to drawing no. 10 in volume-II of bidding documents for the architecture.



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	Coherent links			
168	Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories/ DWDM Line System	The system shall support coherent and non-coherent DWDM signals simultaneously on the same fiber.	It depends on the router Pluggable , Fiber characteristic distance and Losses Non-coherent Signal with longer distance may have the performance issues.	Need more clarifications (Question not clear)



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
169	Port Density Specification — Core Router, Aggregation Router & Repeater Switch (RFB Vol. II, Section VII, pp. 133–145)	The stipulated port configuration (e.g., 24x1/10G SFP+, 16x10/25G SFP28, 8x100G QSFP28 for Core Routers; 6x400G QSFP-DD + 24x40/100G QSFP28 for Repeater Switches) corresponds closely to a single OEM's fixed chassis line-card configuration	Revise to an industry-common configuration — e.g., 15x1/10/25G + 16x100G SFP112 + 6x400G QSFP-DD for Core Routers, and 4x400G QSFP-DD + 32x40/100G QSFP28 for Repeater Switches — which is offered by multiple Tier-1 OEMs. A port mix built around one vendor's exact hardware SKU narrows the field to that OEM alone. The alternative configuration delivers equivalent (or greater) aggregate throughput and port count while remaining vendor-neutral, enabling genuine multi-OEM bidding.	The port density specified in the technical specification is the minimum requirement that should be met by the bidders. Bidders can propose equipment with higher port density.
170	Onboard SSD Storage — Core Router, Aggregation Router & Repeater	A minimum 32–100GB SSD is mandated across multiple router classes.	Remove the SSD capacity requirement, or reduce it to a level sufficient only for OS images and logs. Core/aggregation-class routing platforms do not require server-grade SSD storage for their control-	The storage specified in the technical specification is the minimum requirement that should be met by the bidders. Bidders can propose equipment with higher storage.



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
	Switch (pp. 133, 136, 138, 141)		plane function; the requirement, as worded, is a differentiator that only a limited number of OEMs' specific hardware variants satisfy, rather than a functional network requirement.	
171	Hot-Swappable Fans — Core Router, DC & AC Input Variants (pp. 135, 137)	Hot-swappable redundant fans are mandated in addition to hot-swappable redundant power supplies.	Retain the requirement for redundant fans, but remove the mandatory hot-swap capability for fans. In fixed-chassis platforms, fan trays are frequently integrated with the chassis design and do not require hot-swap capability to deliver operational redundancy; mandating hot-swap fans specifically (versus simply redundant fans) again narrows eligible OEM designs without a corresponding operational benefit	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
172	MACsec (802.1AE) on Repeater Switches	IEEE 802.1AE MACsec encryption is required on all interconnection ports of the Repeater Switch.	Limit the mandatory MACsec requirement to Core and Aggregation Routers; remove it as a mandatory feature for Repeater Switches	MACsec Support: IEEE 802.1AE MACsec shall be supported on at least 6x400G QSFP-DD interconnection Ports (Amendment



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	(pp. 142, 145)		MACsec is conventionally a Core/Aggregation-layer security control applied at network edges carrying sensitive traffic; requiring it universally on repeater/transport-layer switches adds cost and again restricts the field to OEMs whose repeater-class hardware happens to support line-rate MACsec at that layer	to be issued)
173	Repeater Switch, Core/Aggregation Switch (pp. 141, 143, 146, 148, 150, 153)	Memory and storage minimums (e.g., 16GB memory/32GB storage for a 10G agency router; 16GB memory/16GB storage for core/aggregation switches) are set well above what these device classes typically carry.	Right-size to 8GB memory/16GB storage for the 10G agency router class, and 6GB memory/8GB storage for the core/aggregation switch class — sufficient to host multiple software images and retain logs. As specified, the thresholds are calibrated to specific OEM hardware SKUs rather than to functional need, which has the effect of excluding otherwise well-qualified OEMs whose equivalent products carry standard, adequate memory/storage in this range.	The memory and storage specified in the technical specification is the minimum requirement that should be met by the bidders. Bidders can propose equipment with higher memory and storage.



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
174	Mandatory Stacking — Core/Aggregation Switch, AC & DC Input (pp. 152, 155)	Stacking support for up to four switches is mandated as a Day-1 feature.	Remove the stacking requirement and instead mandate modern redundancy/multi-homing protocols such as VRRP and MC-LAG. Stacking architectures carry inherent backplane-capacity limits and loop-formation risk at this network layer; VRRP/MC-LAG are the more current, widely supported alternative for the same redundancy objective, and are supported across a broader OEM base than proprietary stacking implementations.	Other Features support from Day-1: - Stacking support - upto 4 switches in a stack The above requirement shall be deleted. (Amendment to be issued)
175	Lot-2: Monitor Port Requirement on DWDM Mux/DeMux — 16CH Mux/DeMux for	The specification requires the Mux/DeMux (both the 16-channel 1G/10G unit and the 400Gbps coherent-link unit) to support monitoring of optical power levels of the DWDM	Kindly clarify how optical-power monitoring is intended at the Mux/DeMux, given that the Mux/DeMux is a passive component with no inherent monitoring capability; we recommend that channel-level monitoring instead be a requirement of the complete Optical Line System (OLS), rather than of the passive Mux/DeMux element itself.	Optical power level will be monitored on the host platform (routers and switches). Refer Annexure-A for Middle Mile topology for GovNet and DrukREN. This will be used to connect agencies (Refer, clause iii (g) (Page 228 & 229) under Section VII)



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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
	1G/10G Links & Mux/DeMux for 400Gbps Coherent Links (RFB Vol. I, Lot-2, pp. 175–176)	C-band signal without interrupting live traffic.	A passive Mux/DeMux has no active circuitry to perform power monitoring without an external tap/monitor device; placing this requirement at the OLS-system level (where active monitoring components reside) reflects standard DWDM architecture and avoids a specification that a purely passive component cannot, by itself, satisfy.	The proposed DWDM Mux/Demux unit (item no. 33) shall be integrated with the existing DWDM optical equipment given in Annexure II-C to enable optical monitoring capabilities
176	DWDM Mux/DeMux Network Architecture — 1G/10G & 400Gbps Coherent Links (pp. 175–176)	The Schedule of Requirements specifies 16CH DWDM Mux/DeMux (1G/10G) and separate Mux/DeMux for 400Gbps coherent links, without detailing how these elements interface with the network	Kindly clarify the intended network architecture — specifically how the Mux/DeMux units are to be connected and used within both the new infrastructure being deployed and the existing GovNet infrastructure. A clear architecture reference (interconnection points, existing vs. new segments, and integration method) is necessary for Bidders to correctly	Refer Annexure-A under volume-II for detail architecture of 16 CH DWDM Mux/DeMUX deployment. Detail architecture for 400G DWDM deployment is mentioned in Drawing No 6 to Drawing No. 10 under Volume-I.



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			engineer and cost the DWDM system, and to ensure like-for-like technical proposals are received across Bidders.	
177	Simultaneous Coherent and Non-Coherent DWDM Signal Support — DWDM Line System (p. 178	The DWDM Line System is required to support coherent and non-coherent DWDM signals simultaneously on the same fiber.	Kindly confirm the intended distances, fiber characteristics, and loss budgets this requirement is meant to accommodate, and clarify whether the requirement can be qualified accordingly rather than stated as an unconditional simultaneous-support mandate Co-propagation performance of coherent and non-coherent signals on a shared fiber is highly dependent on the router pluggable type, span distance, and fiber loss characteristics; a non-coherent signal carried over a longer span may encounter performance degradation, so the requirement should be scoped to the Project's actual link distances and loss budgets to avoid an unachievable or ambiguous specification	The minimum requirements stipulated in the technical specifications must be met by all bidders. While the power budget on the existing core network have been included as Annexure II B under Volume II for reference, Contractor must carry out fiber testing.



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178	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories. Page 155	1.400G QSFP-DD MULTIRATE HIGH-POWER COHERENT TUNABLE DWDM WITH FEC OPTICAL MODULE	For third party pluggable to work seamlessly in router both optical specifications and management aspects need to be taken care .Typically it is observed that there could be the event that the coherent pluggable requires proprietary management extensions beyond the standard CMIS/CMI framework for certain applications and use cases, is the router OEM willing to undertake the necessary software development, integration, qualification, and support activities to ensure full interoperability and operational functionality?	Make and model will be subject to bids in Lot-1 and Lot-2; refer to the technical specification and requirement for compatibility. The Purchaser will act as integration authority. Following evaluation, and where Lot-1 and Lot-2 are awarded to different entities, the Purchaser will review the proposed equipment of both lots, identify any compatibility constraints, and require these to be resolved through the respective contract negotiations before signature.



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179	N/A	N/A	Whether a bidder can participate in different lot in different composition like in Lot 1 & Lot 3 as a single bidder but in lot 2 in consortium	Yes, each lot is considered a separate contract
180	N/A	N/A	The specific platform is only available with an AC power supply. For the 52 sites where a DC input is specified, would it be considered compliant with the specifications if we provide a carrier-grade external DC-to-AC inverter as part of our proposed Bill of Materials (BOM)?	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
181	N/A	N/A	Regarding the 52 sites currently designated for DC input routers (such as the Dzongkhag and Thromde server rooms), is there available capacity for commercial AC 220V power? If AC power is available, would we be permitted to propose AC input models for all 52 routers to standardize the equipment and improve overall availability by	Most of the Agencies/ Customers Routers 10G (DC Input) shall be installed in ICT Colocation shelter with DC power source. Those that won't be installed will be kept as spare.



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			eliminating the inverter as a potential single point of failure?	
182	N/A	N/A	Would it be possible to consider as compliant if we propose EVPN/VXLAN architecture instead of MPLS for L2/L3 VPN?	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.
183	N/A	N/A	Could you please clarify DWDM requirements? 1. Required channels (C21-C36 or any specific ITU- T channel) 2. How many DWDM channels are needed? 3. What form factor: 1RU, LGX? 4. Is a 50 GHz or 100 GHz channel spacing required? Also, confirm the AOC SFP cable distance (2M, 5M, 10M or any other length required).	1. Clarification covered in earlier responses. 2. Refer to Item No. 32 and Item No.33 of LOT-2 under Volume-I (Page No. 171-172) 3. The form factor shall be =1 RU for Item No. 32 and Item 33 and <=5RU for Item No. 34,



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				for LOT-2 under Volume-I. (Amendment to be issued) 4. 100 GHz channel spacing, as mentioned in the technical specification. (Amendment to be issued) AOC cable length is 5m as specified in the technical specification, Item No.7
184	N/A	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories. 34. DWDM Line System Page 175	Section VII - Schedule of Requirements Lot-2: Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of DWDM System, Optical Modules, and Accessories. 34. DWDM Line System Page 175	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document.



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Government Technology (GovTech) Agency
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Sl. No	Page No of RFB	RFB Reference	Queries/Request made by the potential bidders	Clarification/ Responses of the Project
185	N/A	N/A	“A firm that is a Bidder (either individually or as a JV member) shall not participate in more than one Bid, except for permitted alternative Bids. This includes participation as a subcontractor. Such participation shall result in the disqualification of all Bids in which the firm is involved. A firm that is not a Bidder or a JV member may participate as a subcontractor in more than one Bid.” Our understanding of the above clause is as follows: Bhutan Telecom may submit a bid for all three lots, either independently or in association with its partner(s)/JV member(s), as applicable. However, having participated as a Bidder or JV member in a bid covering the three lots, Bhutan Telecom would not be permitted to participate in another bid for the same lot(s) under a different JV or partnership arrangement, unless such participation falls under the permitted alternative bids specified in the bidding document.	Please refer to the to Instruction to Bidders (ITB) 4.3. <i>A firm that is a Bidder (either individually or as a JV member) shall not participate in more than one Bid, except for permitted alternative Bids. This includes participation as a subcontractor. Such participation shall result in the disqualification of all Bids in which the firm is involved. A firm that is not a Bidder or a JV member, may participate as a subcontractor in more than one Bid".</i> As stated in the ITB, your understanding is correct.



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			We would appreciate your clarification and confirmation as to whether our understanding of the above clause is correct.	
186	N/A	N/A	Lot 1: “Value of at least US\$ 3 Million or equivalent. The contract will be treated as similar if it includes supply, installation and commissioning of active network equipment such as high-end service-provider grade routers and switches.” Our specific concern relates to the requirement for experience in the supply, installation, and commissioning of “high-end service-provider grade routers and switches.” The use of the term “service-provider grade” appears to significantly narrow the qualifying experience. In practice, projects of this nature and value are generally undertaken by large telecommunications operators, service providers, or their specialized implementation partners. This may exclude bidders and OEM partners that have successfully implemented high-end, technically comparable routing and switching solutions but	Not considered: The requirement shall remain unchanged as specified in the bidding document. However, the value shall be revised to at least US\$ 1.5 Million or equivalent. (Amendment to be issued)



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			whose previous projects may not have been specifically categorized as “service-provider grade.” We therefore respectfully request the Employer to consider whether the requirement could be revised from: “high-end service-provider grade routers and switches” to: “high-end grade routers and switches of similar nature and technical complexity.”	

Project Management Unit
ACCESS- Bhutan Project
GovTech Agency