

**RFP NO. SAREP RFP-2023-022: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

S No	RFP Reference	RFP Clause	Question	RTI Response
1	RFP Para 1.4	It is stated that the data of the different countries for the BRED Portal shall be captured through web scrapping, web crawling, API, manual entry etc. as the case may be.	Since the data captured through APIs is more scientific and secure, out of the total data captured, approximately for what portion of the total data to be captured, the APIs are available. For the values currently captured through web scrapping/web crawling, are there some definite plans for getting the APIs?	Currently to start with most of the data shall have to be captured through web scrapping/web crawling and at present APIs are available for a very small percentage of data only, which includes few sub-indicators from CEA and IEX (around 20 Nos.). However, all the stakeholders are being sensitized to develop the Database and APIs for the data pertaining to their system and it is very likely that gradually we may start getting the APIs for more and more data. As and when the new APIs are available, the developer shall take requisite measures for configuring APIs links in the BRED software/database and shall take all other measures towards capturing the data through APIs. Though the primary responsibility of supplying the APIs rest with the stakeholders, however in case required, the Developer shall also render requisite help and support to the stakeholders in making available the APIs which are compatible to the BRED portal. All these efforts shall be covered under rendering the maintenance and support services as described under Para 1.5 of the RFP towards keeping the database portal and mobile applications fully operational and updated.
2	RFP Para 1.4 (i)	it has been stated that out of the seven (7) countries to be covered under BRED, as data of the five (5) countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) is already captured and available under SAED, the data of these five countries can be readily captured for BRED Portal on the similar lines. At the end of this para it is also stated that the data format, visualization etc. for any specific parameters is proposed to be maintained similar to that of SAED, without many changes.	Basically, the remarks in the RFP suggest maintaining the data for the five (5) countries in the BRED, which are common to SAED as well, on a similar line and format as that of SAED. To maintain uniformity in the data to be ported for BRED, similar to the data already captured for the SAED, as well as to maintain similarity in the format, etc., the following queries are there: 1)Whether such data already available in SAED along with the sources shall be shared with the successful bidder; 2)If yes, in what manner and mode such data/information shall be shared; 3)Are the APIs ready in the SAED project that can be used in this	To clarify it further, this is elaborated that the party developing the BRED portal shall be required to develop a totally independent portal, without any interconnection/ dependence on the SAED portal for the current and future data. However, in order to maintain a symmetry in the past period archived data of the 5 common countries under these two portals, at the request of the BRED portal Developer, the past period data files from SAED, in whatever form these are available with SAREP can be shared with the BRED Developer, on 'as-is' conditions basis.  In this regard, it is reiterated that the responsibility towards interpreting any useful information/ data from the past period data files from SAED, entirely rests with the BRED Developer, without any further onus at SAREP end. In case BRED Developer finds any difficulty in this regard, they have to devise alternate means

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				<p>towards arranging the past data.</p> <p>As far as sharing of APIs already in use under SAED are concerned, it is to be informed that these APIs are available at the website of the respective organization/utility in public domain, and therefore the same can be captured from there seamlessly.</p>
3	RFP Para 1.4(iii)	it has been stated that the Developer shall suggest the BRED Design with all the required IT features based on industry best practices and shall also keep into consideration the future expansion, to take care of the expanded data points.	When we talk of future expansion, basically what type of expansion we are envisaging in the BRED portal to be developed, under the above RFP. Whether it is some expansion in the number of countries, the dataset categories, the number of key parameters/sub-parameters, the intervals at which the different sets of data are to be captured and all the above	<p>Broadly the efforts to take care of the expanded data points can be segregated in 2 (two) categories:</p> <p>a) Expansion/modification in terms of the dataset categories, the number of key parameters/sub-parameters, and the intervals at which the different sets of data are to be captured for the 7 (seven) countries to be currently configured under BRED. The efforts towards all these expansions/modifications shall be covered under rendering the maintenance and support services as described under Para 1.5 of the RFP towards keeping the database portal and mobile applications fully operational and updated.</p> <p>b) Provision towards futuristic expansion in terms of the number of countries to be incorporated under BRED in future, on demand. While designing the database architecture, the flexibility towards scaling up this number needs to be built-in, for one hundred percentage expansion in terms of number, say up to by additional 7 countries. However, at the time of actual addition of one or more country along with the relevant data, the expansion shall be construed as a major change and the efforts by the Developer towards that shall be suitably compensated based on mutual agreement.</p>

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4	RFP Para 1.5(x)	It has been stated that a close review of the SAED portal can be carried out by the Developer to build similar features related to Analytics and Reports in the BRED. While going through the SAED portal, few instances (cases) have been shown under both Analytics as well as Reports links.	(Whether some further details are available about the instances (cases) related to Analytics and Reports as given under SAED. Further, in the BRED portal, whether the total number of instances (cases) to be covered under Analytics and Reports would remain the same, or they can be increased.	<p>By going through the instances (cases) related to Analytics and Reports as given under SAED, it can be seen that the logic and any other details related to these are self-explanatory. In addition to that, at the extreme right side of the Home page of each instance (case) as shown in SAED, there is a 'Help' link, which elaborates the logic and sequence of execution in further details.</p> <p>With the passage of time, based on USAID/SAREP/BIMSTEC or any of their authorized representative's requirement, the total number of instances (cases) to be covered under Analytics and Reports can be increased and these efforts shall be covered under rendering the maintenance and support services as described under Para 1.5 of the RFP towards keeping the database portal and mobile applications fully operational and updated.</p>
5	RFP Para 1.5(xi)	it has been stated that the BRED portal shall be equipped with the 'Institutions' and 'Policies' features and a close review of the SAED portal can be carried out by the Developer to build similar features in the BRED portal.	Whether some further details are available about 'Institutions' and 'Policies' features as given under SAED and what philosophy has to be followed by the Developer to keep these continuously updated under BRED.	<p>By going through the 'Institutions and Policy' features as given under SAED, it can be seen that the philosophy and concept towards providing these features, categories for segregation and any other details related to these are self-explanatory and in the BRED portal also these features can be provided on similar lines.</p> <p>In any country as these details are of dynamic nature and can change with the passage of time, the BRED portal has to be kept continuously updated with any such change, and these efforts shall be covered under rendering the maintenance and support services as described under Para 1.5 of the RFP towards keeping the database portal and mobile applications fully operational and updated.</p>

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6	RFP Para 1.5 (iv)	The developed BRED portal will be hosted on a cloud server with an SSL certificate. It will be available on a 24X7 basis, with a guaranteed 99.9% uptime SLA agreement and with the provision for backup and archival. The developed system will be secure and hack-proof and shall undergo the web security audit process by a cert-in emplaned agency and the Developer shall handle and manage the cloud server and shall share the monthly performance and the usage report of the cloud server	<p>1) Is there any preference for cloud server specifications? Is there any minimum server configuration for the cloud server?</p> <p>2)When does the security audit process need to be done? Generally, it must be done before go-live</p> <p>3)It is advisable that a security audit must be done each year when the application is in the maintenance &amp; support period. Is it required in this portal?</p> <p>4)In which format are the monthly archival copies to be shared</p>	<p>1) The broad details with respect to cloud server and any other associated item(s) requirements have already been specified under RFP Para 1.5 (iv). There is no specific preference from SAREP side about any specific cloud server or minimum configuration. However, while selecting the cloud server and any other associated item(s) and their specifications, it has to be ensured by the Developer that the selected items and specifications meet all the required statutory, technical and adequacy requirements and once these are finalized, prior permission shall be taken by the Developer from SAREP for hiring the same.</p> <p>2) Security audit process shall require to be done before go-live and the Developer shall be responsible for getting accomplished this security audit process, including for payment and bearing of applicable charges, if any.</p> <p>3) Yes, each year also security audit process shall require to be done and the Developer shall be responsible for getting this accomplished including for payment of applicable charges, to be covered under annual maintenance and support charges.</p> <p>4) The monthly archival copies are to be shared in the original formats and shall have to be further supported by explanations/interpretations as per the requirement of USAID/SAREP/BIMSTEC or any of their authorized representative.</p>
7	RFP Para 1.5 (xii)	The Developer shall also provide android, and iOS based mobile application(s) that has all the requisite visualization and report generation features of the database.	To publish and upload the mobile app on the Apple Store and Google Play Store, there is a requirement to have an organization (BIMSTC) account. Are these accounts are created then BIMSTAC needs to share the credentials for app uploading, If an account is not created, who will create the account and	Initially the account can be created on behalf of USAID/SAREP and for that the requisite co-ordinates/address shall be shared by SAREP with the Developer. However later on based on requirement it should be possible to convert this account in the name of BIMSTEC or any of its authorized representative and for

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			who will bear the charges for the same?	that also the requisite co-ordinates/address shall be shared with the Developer. All efforts in terms of creating /modifying the account shall be carried out by the Developer, including the payment and bearing of the applicable charges, if any.
8	RPP Attachment B point 3 (f)	Attachment B, Annexure 2, it is indicated that the bidder shall quote the price for the cloud storage charges and maintenance and support services for a period of 5 (five) years on annual basis.	<p>1) What is the mode of payment for these charges in terms of the number of installments?</p> <p>2) if server charges in the future may rise due to some unavoidable circumstances (like government policy-related changes), server charges will be quoted on an actual basis (back-to- back), and the charges may be revised (increased) in case proper justification/document will be provided</p>	<p>1) The mode of payment of these charges shall be similar to the manner in which charges for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of maintenance and support services are paid, that is in two installments on 6 months' period basis, each time after completion of the 6 months' period.</p> <p>2) As stated under Para 1.7 (ii) of RFP, for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of operation, the Developer shall submit the component wise details of the cloud services procured along with the cost, before Go-Live and the cost towards cloud charges to be restricted as per the actual cost incurred. For the next 5 (five) years of services also, same philosophy shall be followed and in future in case there is a rise in the server charges due to some unavoidable circumstances (like government policy-related changes etc.), from the earlier quoted charges as per Annexure II, the Developer shall make a formal request for rise in the charges along with full justification for the same. The request towards revision in such charges shall be suitably considered by USAID/SAREP/BIMSTEC or their authorized representative and their decision in this regard shall be final and binding with the Developer.</p>
9	RFP Attachment "D"	Please refer to EESL General conditions of contract (GCC) and other Special conditions of contract (SCC)	Please elaborate, Do we (bidder) need to submit the confirmation and acceptance on "EESL General conditions of contract (GCC) and other Special conditions of contract (SCC)"	Attachment 'D' as it appears is not relevant. The RFP is amended (Amendment 1) to replace the text of Attachment 'D' with the text of Attachment 'E'

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10	Attachment A.1.5 Scope of Work/ Pg No. 8	General Point	As per our understanding, the required man power will be working from Developer's office. Please clarify.	Yes, the Developer's manpower can do the development work from the Developer's office. However, for any meetings/physical discussions, they may have to visit SAREP's office currently located in Delhi.  Further as indicated under Para 1.5 (xix) of RFP, during the maintenance and support period a dedicated team shall be deployed by the Developer for handling all the maintenance and upgradation support and during this period USAID/SAREP/ BIMSTEC or their authorised representative shall be duly appraised and seek their approval towards such deployment.
11	Attachment A.1.5 Scope of Work (i)/ Pg No. 9	Suitable English language conversion program shall be used if data from any country is in different language	As per our understanding data that is to be pulled from all sources will be in English language. Please clarify.	Yes, in general the data to be pulled from different sources shall be in English Language. However, in some specific cases if any critical information is not available in English Language but available in the local language, then for such typical needs the Developer can attempt to take support from the on-line English Language Conversion Programs available on web, besides taking up the issue with the concerned country coordinator(s) with the help of SAREP.
12	Attachment A.1.4 Philosophy Towards Creating BIMSTEC Regional Energy Database (BRED) Portal (i)/ Pg No. 8	In the BRED, out of the seven (7) countries, as data of the five (5) countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) is already captured and available under SAED, on the similar lines, the data of these five countries can be readily captured for BRED Portal, by using similar methodology such as web scrapping, web crawling, API, manual entry etc. as the case may be, but mostly web scrapping, web crawling techniques and database can be developed. The data format, visualization etc. for any specific parameters is proposed to be maintained	As per our understanding:  1) For 5 countries data shall be pulled from SAED website / database as one single point integration  2) For the remaining 2 countries we assume there will be another 1- 2 database integration points for each country. Please elaborate on the same and clarify	These points have already been deliberated in details under Point No. 2 above. For the data of all the 7 (seven) countries under BIMSTEC, the Developer shall have to develop a totally independent self-contained database portal.  1) For maintaining similarity in the data formats and visualization etc. for the 5 (five) common countries in the BRED with respect to SAED, the past period data files from SAED, in whatever form these are available with SAREP can be shared with the BRED Developer, on 'as-is' conditions basis, with the assumptions as elaborated further under Point No. 2 above. However, the current and future data shall have to be captured by the Developer from the different data sources from the respective countries through web scraping/web crawling/ manual entry or API method, whatever manner it is available and the overall responsibility to build-in the independent database for these countries

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				<p>rests with the Developer. In order to distinctly clear this point, it is reiterated that no physical/web –based connection shall be facilitated from SAED to BRED for pulling out the data of these 5 countries as a single source.</p> <p>2) For the remaining 2 (two) countries also data shall have to be captured by the Developer from different data sources from these countries through web scraping/web crawling/ manual entry or API method, whatever manner it is available and it shall be under the responsibility of the developer to identify all such data and its sources.</p>
13	Page no 12/58 point no.(xix)	The maintenance and support services shall include all the essential support required for keeping the Database and mobile applications fully operational and updated and shall include implementation of minor enhancements to take care of the changes in the system configuration /parameters and/or addition of new system elements. A dedicated team shall be deployed by the Developer for handling all the maintenance and upgradation support.	Kindly specify the definition of minor enhancement during the AMC period	The explanation about the minor enhancements is covered in details under Point Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 above.
14	Page no 09/58 point no.(ii)	The developer shall also ensure and validate the imported data to match to its source value. Further in case of requirement to apply any data conversion factor etc., the system shall have the ability to absorb the formulas and showcase the converted data with proper indication and disclaimer.	Request to kindly clarify Data Verification process	The data verification process can be defined as the process to continuously monitor and verify the correctness and validation of the captured data. In case of the data captured through web scraping/web crawling, quite often the problems can be experienced in capturing the data due to change in the format of the report/change in the web-page layout. This can be identified with the help of initiating a trigger in the event of the missing data in the defined time frame and to address the same corresponding modification in the script has to be carried out to capture the data at the new location through web scraping/ web crawling. The data verification can also be carried out by developing certain utilities to instantaneously look and compare the max. min. and average values of the time series data, by physically looking at the trends of the different values for any abnormal change/behavior and/or missing of the whole string of data due to communication issue.

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15	Page no 07/58 point no. 1.3	Broad Key parameters under BIMSTEC regional energy Database portal	Request to kindly clarify the list of Key Parameter indicators and sub indicators with valid source and data unit	The list of Key Parameter indicators and sub indicators for the 5 (five) countries can easily be referred at the Navigation Bar of the respective countries under the link 'Dashboard' of the SAED portal and the Key Parameter indicators and sub indicators for the balance 2 (two) countries can also be configured on the similar lines.
16	Page no 06/58 point no. 1.2	Key Objectives and brief overview of BIMSTEC regional Energy Database (BRED) portal	Please clarify any provision to be made to add extra countries apart from 7 BIMSTEC countries	This issue is deliberated in detail under Point No. 3 above.
17	Page no 09/58 point no. (i)	A web-based portal by the name of BIMSTEC Regional Energy Database (BRED) shall be developed, which shall capture data directly from the websites of BIMSTEC countries and/or other sources available in public domain, by using API (if available) or through web scrapping/web crawling or by manual entry. Suitable English language conversion program shall be used if data from any country is in different language	Using a web crawling/scraping method, if the source report format (webpage/pdf/excel) is changed. How will this be treated?	This issue is deliberated in detail under Point No. 14 above. Re-writing the script/code to capture the data from the new position, in the event of change in the format of the report/change in the web-page layout shall be covered under rendering the maintenance and support services as described under Para 1.5 of the RFP towards keeping the database portal and mobile applications fully operational and updated.
18	Page no 12/58 point no.1.6 (iv)	The activities related to testing and any modifications/corrections required thereof shall be completed within a period of another 1 month and the project shall be offered for Go-Live within a period of 5 months of the placement of the order.	During the inspection by SAREP officials after the four months of the placement of order, if any major amendment is required which requires more than 1 month of time. How will the additional time involved in such changes be treated? In case, there are new activities asked for, how would that be treated?	The estimated time period of one month should be adequate for addressing SAREP's comments. Hence no changes in the timeline are envisaged.

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19	Page no 12/58 Point 1.5 (xix)	The maintenance and support services shall include all the essential support required for keeping the Database and mobile applications fully operational and updated and shall include implementation of minor enhancements to take care of the changes in the system configuration/parameters and/or addition of new system elements. A dedicated team shall be deployed by the Developer for handling all the maintenance and upgradation support.	Whether In the AMC period, only data updating activities to be carried out?	Besides the details given under SOW, the activities are further elaborated under point nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 14 and 17 above.
20	Page no 10/58 Point no. (xiii)	From the developed BRED portal, it should be possible to export the desired values in the form of APIs, to be created by the Developer, without affecting the overall security of the system. These APIs will be accessible in public so that imported data can be useful to other institutes or government or non-government entities. The integration and usability of these APIs shall be restricted and only be used after successful authentication mechanism.	1)How any system security related to BRED portal to these API would be treated technically and legally by the SAREP/respective country of SAED and BIMSTEC?  2)The API authentication process is not defined in the RFP. Kindly define and explain in detail.	Capturing the data using API is considered to be a safe and secure method and it has been observed that in case of a number of organizations/utilities, at their own they have been directly sharing the APIs links on their website in public domain, in order to share their data.  The API authentication can be carried out by comparing the data to be finally received in the BRED portal using the API link with the data available in the corresponding reports, invariable available on the website of the respective utility.
21	RFP	General Questions	1) Whether KPIs (sub indicator) will be fixed before the development phase?  2) Who will provide documents/support required from time to time regarding data/details from BIMSTEC countries?  3) Whether developer interaction with the BIMSTEC countries is included in the developer scope of work?  4) Pre-bid meeting details are not mentioned in the RFP, whether the	1) These shall be shared by the Developer as a part of Inception Report/System Requirement Specifications (SRS) Document and getting these approved from SAREP.  2) The primary responsibility towards identification of data source/document and capturing of the data rests with the Developer. In case of any difficulty it can be apprised to the team from SAREP for any possible help/resolution.  3) Any such interactions if required shall be facilitated by the SAREP Team.  4) As per the standard practices under such cases, the queries of all the bidders

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			<p>same will be held and queries of all the bidders will be shared?</p> <p>5) During the AMC period, if the data source is blocked or not responsive. What is the alternative option?</p> <p>6) With passage of time, certain data and format is revised or updated. Do we need to update all previous year(s) data? How will this redevelopment activity be treated in the AMC period?</p> <p>7) Development is completed from the data source, if data source code is changed. Redevelopment is required during the AMC period. Such redevelopment activities due to source change (format, syntax) will be treated as additional work/change requests?</p>	<p>and the replies are being shared.</p> <p>5) During the AMC in the event of any difficulty/failure in the receipt of the data, the Developer has to find the out the specific reason and the action plan to restore the data will have to be taken by the Developer. In case the receipt of data has been affected due to some problem at the sender's end, then the issue in a simplistic manner shall be substantiated by the Developer's maintenance engineers and it shall be taken up with the sender utility in association with SAREP Team.</p> <p>6) Such requirements may not be very common. However, while validating the data, such revisions are viewed, and the revisions may improve the overall authenticity and visibility of the whole data stream, the updating of the data for the previous years also is to be carried out in a gradual manner. This activity shall be covered under rendering the maintenance and support services as described under Para 1.5 of the RFP towards keeping the database portal and mobile applications fully operational and updated.</p> <p>7) As already deliberated under Point No 14 above, in case of the data captured through web scraping/web crawling, quite often the problems can be experienced in capturing the data due to change in the format of the report/change in the web-page layout, which for a utility with growing size and system expansion cannot be averted all together. Under such situations, re-writing the script to capture the data from the new position, is the only solution. As stated under Point No 1, with the growing use of APIs, such requirements shall be reduced, however till such time re-writing the script/code is the only solution and as this activity is related to data validation and updating, this shall be covered under rendering the maintenance and support services as described under Para 1.5 of the RFP towards keeping the database portal and mobile applications fully operational and updated and</p>

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				cannot be treated as additional work/change request.
22	RFP	Suggestion	We request you to kindly arrange scheduling an online Pre-Bid meeting for better understating of scope and your assess your requirements	All the queries by different bidders are being addressed suitably and the need towards any pre-bid meeting is not envisaged.
23	RFP	General Comments Certifications and Standards	<p><b>Recommendation / Remarks:</b></p> <p>We urge to SAREP to incorporate the following certifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMMi Level 3 and above</li> <li>• ISO 20000-1:2018</li> <li>• ISO 14001:2015</li> <li>• ISO 27001:2013</li> <li>• ISO 9001</li> <li>• OHSAS 45001</li> </ul>	No change is envisaged.

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24	RFP	General Comments Blacklisting & Debarred	<p><b>Recommendation / Remarks:</b></p> <p>We would like to request SAREP to include the following clause:</p> <p>“The proprietor/partners/directors of the firm have never been a part of any blacklisted/debarred/banned firms or company in any unit of Central Governments/Other PSUs/ GOVT of India/ State Govts/ Quasi Govt. organizations”</p>	No change is envisaged.
25	RFP	<p>Scope of Work Existing Clause No-1.5 – xix, Page No-12</p> <p>The maintenance and support services shall include all the essential support required for keeping the Database and mobile applications fully operational and updated and shall include implementation of minor enhancements to take care of the changes in the system configuration/parameters and/or addition of new system elements. A dedicated team shall be deployed by the Developer for handling all the maintenance and upgradation support</p>	<p><b>Recommendation / Remarks:</b></p> <p>In reference to the existing clause we would like to request SAREP to provide the clarity on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of Manpower need to deployed for maintenance and upgradation support</li> <li>• Preferred Educational Background</li> <li>• For maintenance and upgradation activities is 24*7 support required if yes than what will be the required shift to be considered for the deployed manpower</li> <li>• No. of Years of Experience</li> <li>• For maintenance and upgradation support activities - Remote support is required or onsite support required</li> </ul>	No change is envisaged as the requirement in respect of the maintenance and upgradation support and the level of availability and uptime etc. been clearly elaborated under Para 1.5 of RFP. Keeping into consideration these requirements, the bidder would be better placed to estimate the manpower required and their qualifications/experience etc.

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26	RFP	General Comments Financial Capability - Net Worth Positive	<p><b>Recommendation / Remarks:</b></p> <p>In reference to this we would like to request SAREP to consider the following scenario which will increase the project sanctity and viability for the successful execution:</p> <p>“The net worth of the bidder, as on 31st March 2022, should be positive.”</p>	No change is envisaged.
27	RFP	Attachment “C” Standard Terms and Conditions  Article 20 - Work for Hire (Existing clause): The work contributed by Subcontractor exclusively hereunder shall be considered a "work made for hire" as defined by the copyright laws of the United States. RTI shall be the sole and exclusive owner and copyright proprietor of all rights and title in and to the results and proceeds of Subcontractor’s Subcontract deliverables hereunder in whatever stage of completion.	<p><b>Recommendation / Remarks:</b></p> <p>We would like to request SAREP to clarify on the Copyright including IPR and Source Code of the entire project, and modify the clause with the following.</p> <p>“As per standard terms and conditions all IPR including the source code and materials developed shall remain the sole property of the bidder”</p>	<p>At the time of subcontract award, we can modify the clause to include the following text:</p> <p><i>Copyright in materials, including computer software, created or fixed in a tangible medium of expression during the performance of the work funded under this Agreement shall vest in Supplier. Supplier hereby grants to RTI a non-exclusive license to copy, distribute, make derivatives, display or perform any such copyright on reasonable terms and conditions, including reasonable royalties, as the parties mutually agree in separate writing.</i></p> <p><i>In the case of joint authorship by Supplier and RTI, copyright will vest jointly in Supplier and RTI. Each party shall have a right for itself to a license to use the copyright, including granting nonexclusive licenses to other parties, without an obligation to account to the other.</i></p>

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28	RFP	<p>Attachment 'A' Scope of Work</p> <p>Existing language in Section 1.5 (iii) "The developed BRED portal will be hosted on a cloud server with an SSL certificate. It will be available on a 24X7 basis, with a guaranteed 99.9% uptime SLA agreement and with the provision for backup and archival. The developed system will be secure and hack-proof and shall undergo the web security audit process by a cert-in empanelled agency and the Developer shall handle and manage the cloud server and shall share the monthly performance and the usage report of the cloud server hosting."</p>	<p>Can you please clarify, Is the hosting permitted on any public cloud service provider or does it have to be on one of the MeitY empanelled cloud service providers?</p>	<p>As indicated in the Scope of Work, the requirement is to host on a cloud server with an SSL certificate.</p>