QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - RFP NO. SAREP RFP-2025-002

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1	4	2.1 Automating the coordination of operations with various entities Capture Information: Record events requiring coordination under conditions such as: • Node voltage fluctuations beyond normal ranges. • Ramping up/ramping down of the load under specific conditions. • Deviations in the drawl from the regional grid from schedules. • Loading limits exceeded on network elements. • Approval/disapproval for shutdowns. • Operating Codes for transmission elements and generation units.	Do we get all the data from the SCADA / third-party software, or will it be entered by the control room	Please refer to Section 3.1.1. It will be a mix of data from manual process and in the form of APIs/web-based output from SCADA.
2	4	2.1 Automating the coordination of operations with various entities Other critical events identified by BPSO	What are these activities?	Please refer to Section 2.1.
3	6	Provision will also be made to pick up the information in the digital form, in case the same is made available by the SCADA System of BPSO in the form of APIs (Application Programming Interface) or as a web-based output. While designing the structure towards recording of the information, the	Do we get the APIs to fetch data from SCADA and other sources?	Yes, in case the data is fetched from the SCADA system it shall be made available in the form of APIs.
			If it is the bidder's responsibility, could we get the database structure?	Developing the APIs for the data received from SCADA system rests with the SCADA system operator and does not fall under the responsibility of the bidder.
4	9	3.3.3. Shift-Based Deviation Summary The analytical tool will also summarize deviations for each shift. By correlating these deviations with the shifts, BPSO can also explore assessing Control Centre effectiveness shift wise. Additionally, the tool will also digitalize shift roster management to capture duty-related data digitally.	It is mentioned digitalized shift roster management. Should we manage the following details: Employee database, leave details, viewing schedules, shift swaps, resource allocation, etc.?	Please refer to Section 3.3.3. As indicated here, the only objective of this is just to correlate the deviations with the particular shift based on the timings and it does not include the intricacies like resource allocations etc.
			What specific types of deviations need to be tracked and summarized? (e.g., schedule adherence, incident handling)	Please refer to Section 2.3.

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			What parameters should be considered when correlating deviations with specific shifts (e.g., shift duration, external factors like peak hours)?	As explained in Section 2.3, it is a simple co-relation of the deviations with the particular shift and any further intricacies like shift duration, peak hours etc. are not involved.
5	9	4.3 Hosting Options The solution will be hosted locally (at the BPSO Control Centre). The service provider will be responsible for supplying and integrating the necessary systems and ensuring adequate provisions for security against public network vulnerabilities	1. Do we need to deploy the application server and database server on separate physical machines, or can they be hosted on the same server? 2. What is the expected load on the system in terms of concurrent users, transactions, or data throughput? 3. Are there any specific recommendations for server configurations, such as: • Processor type and cores • RAM requirements • Storage type and size • operating system 4. Should the storage system include backup mechanisms or failover support?	1. Deployment of application and database in separate physical machines is not a compulsion and/or mandatory requirement. 2. Most functions will be managed from the BPSO Control Centre, except for capturing tripping and shutdown data from stakeholders via a web-based interface, as outlined in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2. Bidders can estimate system load based on functional requirements and publicly available information related to the concerned utilities and domain knowledge. 3. There are no specific recommendations for the server and other devices configurations and the bidder can plan for the system configuration based on the functional requirements. 4. In order to ensure service continuity during system failures, adequate provisions towards backup & failover should be deployed, so that in the event of a failure of the primary system, the backup can assume the role of the primary system with minimal downtime. The failover process may involve manually or automated changeover to be configured by the bidder and in the technical proposal the bidder should clearly define their backup & failover plan.

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			Is there existing infrastructure, or will we need to procure and set up everything from scratch?	Please refer to Section 4.3.
			Which type of server machine is needs to be precured rack server or tower server?	The bidder can plan for this based on the functional requirements.
			Are there any local regulations or standards the hosting solution must comply with?	Standard regulations and provisions, generally applicable for such systems can be followed.
			To install and commission the servers, a few essential things are required, such as reliable Internet Connectivity (high- speed, etc.), a temperature-controlled environment, power backups, server rack, switches etc. Will the BPSO provide this?	The hosting place along with the temperature-controlled environment, internet connectivity and input power source shall be provided by BPSO. However, any server rack, switches etc. specifically associated with the system referred under Section 4.3, shall be under the scope of the bidder.
			Hardware server needs some kind of human interventions for management and keep running. Example: Power cycling, Force shutdown, Rebooting as needed, Software Installation, and force updates etc. Will BPSO personnel will help in this (post Go-live)?	For any simple switching operations, the support from the in-house BPSO personnel can be sought by suitably guiding them from remote, however overall bidder will be responsible for the maintenance activities and keeping the system up as per the performance standards set in the RFP.
6	10	4.10 System Perimeter Security Controls TSP shall implement two firewall devices connected in series from different OEMs. Common and uncommon IPS signatures from disparate OEMs will enforce tighter security regime. Define rules in firewall for: o Allowing only desired ports (TCP ports) and disallow the rest o Allowing only desired services and disallow the rest	It is mentioned to deploy two firewalls connected in series from different OEMs. Would deploying a single firewall be acceptable if it can effectively enforce all specified rules, such as restricting ports, services, protocols, and implementing two-way authentication?	No

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		o Allowing only desired protocols and disallow the rest o Two-way authentication for network traffic		
7		General - RFP	Can you provide sample message formats and their trigger points?	Information will be shared post award.
8		General -RFP	Can you provide sample report formats and an estimate of the number of reports that need to be prepared?	Information will be shared post award.
9		General - BOQ	Integration and archiving of live data: How much data will be present with BSPO and in which format?	Please refer to Section 3.1.1.
10	16	B.REIMBURSABLE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS FOR BHUTAN	As per our understanding, we are required to provide the cost for four trips for two individuals, which means submitting the price for a total of 16 tickets.	Yes
11	16	B.REIMBURSABLE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS FOR BHUTAN	Could you please confirm whether the ceiling prices for lodging and M&IE, as shared via the provided link, will remain fixed, or if the rates we quote will be the ones considered for approval and reimbursement?	The quoted rates will be used. The ceilings indicate the maximum rates. Also, note that all travel related payments are reimbursable on actual basis subject to production of receipts.
12	2	Computer System	What are the H/W and Licenses required? Is there any specific BOQ? And who will be responsible for that?	Please see the response at Sl. No. 5 above.
13			SMS and Email gateway needed for communicating the critical events. Who will be providing these?	Development of the SMS and Email facility along with the gateway shall be under the scope of the bidder.

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14	4	2,3. Automating the coordination of operations with various entities	Is there any existing system to capture approved shutdowns?	Under the existing conditions it is being done manually.
15	11	4.10 System Perimeter Security Controls	Who will implement SIEM?	It shall be under the scope of the bidder.
16	11	4.10 System Perimeter Security Controls	What will be the Deployment Mode? Will it be from onshore or remote deployment based?	Deployment to be done as per BPSO requirement through hybrid mode with on ground presence of the bidder personnel in coordination with other remote resources as required.
17.		General	Who will be the paying authority?	If you mean subcontract payments, Research Triangle Institute (RTI International) located at 3040 Cornwallis Road, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, will process all subcontractor payments.
18		General	Is there any warranty period for this contract?	Please refer to Section 4.7.
19	1	'Eligibility Criteria' section	We are an India registered digital solution technology company. It is our understanding that we are eligible to respond to the RFP. Is the understanding correct?	Your understanding could be correct. Please refer to the eligibility criteria listed on the first page of our RFP.
20	4	'Background' section	1. Do we need to just automate capture of events (tripping, shutdown, ramp-up/down, etc.) or also control these in real-time? 2. Do we need to capture events in real-time or has it to be at a pre-defined intervals (every 15 mins, every hour) or say at the end of the day?	1. Please refer to Section 3.1. 2. Please refer to Section 3.1.1.

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21	6	Section 3.1.1	1. What is the expected volume and velocity for data capture? Is it real-time or at a pre-defined frequency – *hourly or daily or weekly, etc.*? 2. What is the size of the data that we should be considering? 3. Can we get a list of current architecture / topology of the grids with details of stations, sub-stations, etc.? 4. It is our understanding that BPSO will make the provisioning of ensuring data availability and that we are not required to pull data with certain protocol(s) from your systems. Is the understanding correct? 5. What protocols will the SCADA send over the data to us – OPC UA, OPC DA, MQTT, etc.? Can you please share list of all such protocols?	1. It is close to real-time. Please refer to Section 3.1.1. 2. This can be estimated by the bidder based on the functional requirements and related publicly available information of the concerned utilities as well as the domain knowledge. 3. Details will be provided to the successful bidder. 4. Please see the response at Sl. No. 1 above. 5. As stated earlier the data to be captured from SCADA shall be in the form of APIs, to be facilitated by BPSO.
22	9	Section 3.3.2	Is advanced analysis also expected – like root-cause of an event, prediction of an event, etc.?	Please refer to SOW under Section 3.0. However, incorporating advance functions involving post/predictive analysis is not mandated.
23	9	Section 4.2	Is there a preference on technology stack? Java, Python, React, Angular, etc.?	No
24	10-12	Section 4.10	1. Are we required to submit any specific certifications for cyber-security measures? 2. Can you please share a checklist of acceptance criteria w.r.t. security?	1. Best practices are to be adopted. 2. Please refer to section 4.10.

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25	14	Team Composition	1. Are we required to submit actual resumes of the team members who will be working on the project post-award? 2. Can we submit representative (sample) resumes? 3. Is there any expectation around minimum number of Frontend & Backend developers or DBAs required in a team?	1. Yes 2. No 3. No
26	21	Section 11	Is there a special preference (weightage) for local solution providers from Bhutan?	No
27		Generic	Can you please share archival expectations? Storing and analyzing data for how many years?	Minimum 10 Years.
28		Generic	Will there be an RFP debrief where RTI will provide a walk-through on the scope & expectations in detail? If already done, can we get a copy of the recording or PPT?	No such debrief is envisaged.
29		Generic	1. Is there an incumbent already identified for the RFP? 2. Has BPSO assessed readily available solutions? If so, which all solutions were evaluated and which solution(s) come closest to the expectations?	1. No 2. Not Relevant
30		Generic	Where can we find list of addendums?	The addendums are Attachments A, B, and C.
31		Generic	Can we also get a list of all interested vendors as well as their questions & your answers?	The Questions and Answers will be posted at https://www.rti.org/current-opportunities and https://sarepenergy.net/rfp-rfq/. Since procurement actions are sensitive in

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				nature, the list of bidders or the successful bidder cannot be shared.
32		Scope of Work and Deliverables	Can you provide detailed clarification on the specific parameters to be captured in the e-Monitoring system under each module?	The scope provides necessary details.
			How will existing data from legacy systems, if any, be migrated into the new solution? Will SAREP or BPSO provide support for data migration?	Current system is manual, we are digitalizing the manual system.
			Are there specific regulatory standards or compliance requirements (e.g., ISO, IEEE) that the solution must adhere to?	The bidders can propose the standards based on existing regulatory standards, which can be evaluated.
			Will BPSO provide predefined templates for operational messages, reports, and analytical outputs, or will these need to be developed by the service provider?	These will be developed by the bidder in consultation with SAREP/BPSO.
			Are there any specific KPIs that the system must monitor or report on beyond those mentioned in the RFP?	No
33		Deployment and Infrastructure	Will SAREP or BPSO provide the physical or cloud infrastructure for hosting the solution, or is the service provider responsible for procuring and setting up servers?	Please refer to Section 4.3.
			Can you specify the system's expected load and user capacity to ensure proper scalability during deployment?	The expected load on the system can be estimated by the bidder, based on the functional requirements and related publicly available information of the concerned utilities as well as the domain knowledge.

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			Is the service provider required to set up disaster recovery (DR) and failover mechanisms? If so, what are the expectations?	Yes, it is expected.
			What hardware and network prerequisites will BPSO provide (e.g., servers, switches, and routers)?	Please refer to Section 4.3.
			Will the solution need to integrate with any third-party systems or platforms (e.g., SCADA, ERP, or others)?	Beyond the details as specifically stipulated under the RFP, direct integration with any third-party system or platform is not envisaged.
34		Testing and User Acceptance	What are the specific testing criteria and metrics to be used during User Acceptance Testing (UAT)?	Standard functionalities will be tested.
			How many iterations of UAT are expected before final approval?	Post development of the solution, the bidder shall submit the Test Procedures to SAREP for approval and finally approved procedures shall contain all such details.
			Will SAREP or BPSO provide access to a test environment or sandbox for pre-deployment testing?	Any such requirements can be made a part of the proposed test procedures and SAREP shall consider the same at the time of final approval.
			Are there specific tools or frameworks preferred for testing the system?	No
			What are the exact roles and expectations for the test-user group during UAT?	To test standard functionalities and provide approval.
35		Security and Compliance	Can you elaborate on the specific security standards the system must meet (e.g., encryption, role-based access control)?	Please refer to Section 4.10.

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			Are there any specific protocols for managing remote access during development, deployment, and maintenance?	Please refer to Section 4.10.
			Are there existing firewalls or intrusion detection/prevention systems (IDS/IPS) that the solution must integrate with?	Please refer to Section 4.10.
			What are the detailed requirements for the two firewalls (from different OEMs) mentioned in the RFP? Will BPSO procure these, or is it the provider's responsibility?	Providing firewalls fall under the responsibilities of the bidder.
			Will you provide a detailed list of existing vulnerabilities or penetration testing results for securing the perimeter?	No
36		Maintenance and Support	Can you provide clarity on the exact scope of maintenance activities expected during the three-month post-deployment support period?	AMC includes the necessary maintenance to ensure meeting the performance standards.
			Will the extended support contract (after three months) be based on an annual review? What criteria will determine renewal?	Stakeholder discretion.
			What provisions are in place for major updates or system upgrades during the maintenance period?	Maintenance shall include essential operational updates and minor enhancements, including modifications to meet system requirements.
37		Training and Documentation	How many BPSO personnel will require training and what is their technical background?	Shall be decided before the start of the training period.
			Can training be delivered entirely online and what is their technical background?	Please refer to Section 4.6.

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			Are there any predefined documentation formats for user manuals technical specifications and troubleshooting guides?	There are no predefined formats and can be proposed by the bidder after the final selection.
38		Audits and Performance Monitoring	Are there periodic audit requirements during development or after deployment? If so, who will conduct them, and what will they cover?	To be decided at the time of finalization of the SRS.
			Will the system need to provide real-time logs and activity reports for external or internal audits?	Yes
			What are the specific criteria and reporting structures for monthly system performance updates?	To be decided at the time of finalization of the SRS.
39		Technical Details	Are there preferred or mandated technologies for developing the backend, frontend, and database management system?	There are no specific recommendations.
			Will BPSO provide APIs for SCADA or other systems mentioned in the RFP, or is the service provider responsible for their development?	Please see the response at Sl. No. 1 above.
			Are there limitations on the types of open-source software or libraries that can be used?	No
40		Financial and Project Management	Will reimbursable costs for travel and lodging include specific limits on expenditures or preferred vendors?	As provided in Attachment A of the RFP, RTI's and USAID's prior approval is required for all international travel. For air travel, only economy class travel is authorized. The daily ceiling lodging and per diem rates for all international travel is specified at https://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=184&menu_id=78. The daily ceiling lodging

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				and per diem rates for travel to Bhutan is specified at https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem_action.asp?MenuHide=1&CountryCode=1379.
			Are there penalties for not meeting project deadlines for milestones like UAT, go-live, or training?	No. However, no payment can be released for the deliverables that are not fully completed.
41		Integration and Future Proofing	Are there plans for expanding the system in the future (e.g., integration with AI/ML models or blockchain)?	No such plans are there at this moment.
			Should the solution accommodate interoperability with other regional grids or power systems?	Beyond the details as specifically stipulated under the RFP, direct interoperability with other regional grids or power system is not envisaged.
			Are there plans for scalability in case of an increase in the number of stakeholders or system nodes?	The system may be planned with the provisions towards expansion to a reasonable extent as applicable in general for similar systems.
42		General	**Bid Composition:** Is there a requirement that only one company respond to the RFP or can multiple companies collaborate and work together on the different aspects of the project?	Interested parties can form a consortium, but there must be one lead partner who will submit the bid. If the bid is successful, the subcontract will be awarded to the lead partner firm who submitted the bid.

If a consortium is formed, the bidder must indicate that in their technical proposal and also complete "Table -I Summary Sheet for Organizational Experience" for all their consortium partners separately. For details, refer to the complete Section 3. Proposal Requirements in "Attachment "B" Instructions to Bidders/Sellers" of our RFP |

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43		System Integration	What existing systems (e.g., SCADA, EMS) does the e-Monitoring and Digitalization Solution need to integrate with?	Please refer to Section 3.1.1.
			Are APIs available for these integrations or will the vendor need to develop custom interfaces?	Please see the response at Sl. No. 1 above.
			What data formats and protocols are used by the existing systems?	Current system is manual, we are digitalizing the manual system.
44		Data Storage and Archival	What is the expected data volume (number of records, data points, transactions) for each of the three modules?	The data volume can be estimated by the bidder, based on the functional requirements and related publicly available information of the concerned utilities as well as the domain knowledge.
			How many years of historical data need to be migrated into the new system?	As the current system is being worked on manual basis, there are no plans to migrate the old data.
			What are the data retention policies and archival requirements?	Data archival will start immediately and retention is to be made for minimum 10 years.
45		Cybersecurity and Access Control	Are there any specific cybersecurity standards or regulations (e.g., NERC CIP, IEC 62351) that the system must comply with?	Please refer to Section 4.10.
			What are the requirements for user roles, access control, and authentication mechanisms?	Details will be provided to successful bidder.
			Are there any existing identity and access management systems that the solution needs to integrate with?	Details will be provided to successful bidder.

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46		Performance and Availability	What are the expected number of concurrent users during peak load conditions?	The expected load on the system on account of concurrent users can be estimated by the bidder, based on the functional requirements and related publicly available information of the concerned utilities as well as the domain knowledge.
			Are there any specific performance requirements (e.g., maximum response time, transactions per second)?	The system performance must meet the generally applicable standard norms for such systems.
			Beyond the 99% availability mentioned, are there any additional reliability or redundancy requirements?	No
47		User Interface and Visualization	Are there any specific requirements or preferences for the user interface design (e.g., web-based, mobile-responsive, accessibility)?	No
			What kind of data visualization capabilities are expected (e.g., real-time dashboards, interactive charts, geographical maps)?	Keeping functional requirements as the basis, shall be discussed and finalized with the successful bidder at the time of finalization of SRS.
			Are there any existing UI/UX standards or guidelines that need to be followed?	No
48		Training and Support	How many users will require training on the new system? Will training be conducted centrally or at multiple locations?	Please refer to Section 4.6 for the details related to conduction of training. The details regarding the number of trainees etc., shall be decided before the start of the training period.
			Are there any specific training requirements (e.g., classroom-based, hands-on, e-learning)?	Please refer to Section 4.6.

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			What are the expectations for ongoing support and maintenance beyond the 3-month period mentioned in the RFP?	By way of maintenance and support, the bidder should be able to meet the performance criteria as stated under the RFP and maintenance support shall include essential operational updates and minor enhancements, including modifications to meet system requirements.
49		Project Management and Delivery	Are there any specific project management methodologies or frameworks preferred by BPSO (e.g., Agile, Waterfall)?	No, the bidder can propose their project management methodology framework, which can be evaluated.
			What are the expectations for project status reporting and communication channels with BPSO stakeholders?	Shall be discussed and decided at the time of finalization of SRS.
			Are there any key milestones or dependencies on BPSO's side that need to be considered in the project timeline?	Shall be discussed and decided at the time of finalization of SRS.
50		Technical Specifications of Existing Infrastructure	What are the hardware specifications (e.g., server configuration, storage capacity, network bandwidth) of the infrastructure that will host the e-Monitoring and Digitalization Solution?	There are no specific recommendations for the hardware specifications and the bidder can plan for the system configuration based on the functional requirements.
			Are there any plans for infrastructure upgrades or enhancements in the near future that could impact the performance of the proposed solution?	The system may be planned with the provisions towards expansion to a reasonable extent as applicable in general for similar systems.
51		Current System Performance Metrics	What are the performance metrics (e.g., response time, throughput, latency) of the existing systems that the e-Monitoring and Digitalization Solution will integrate with?	The system performance must meet the generally applicable standard norms for such systems.
			Are there any known performance bottlenecks or limitations in the current infrastructure that could affect the performance of the new solution?	No

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52		Network Topology and Bandwidth	Can you provide an overview of the network topology, including the connectivity between various sites (e.g., control center, substations, remote locations)?	Any such requirements if needed can be gathered by the bidder, based on the related publicly available information of the concerned utilities as well as the domain knowledge.
			What are the available bandwidth and network latency between these sites?	The bidder can estimate the requirement of available bandwidth and network latency as per their own experiences.
			Are there any planned network upgrades or changes that could impact the performance of the proposed solution?	No
53		Scalability and Future Growth	What are the expected growth rates for data volume, number of users, and system usage over the next 3-5 years?	It can be estimated by the bidder, based on the functional requirements and related publicly available information of the concerned utilities as well as the domain knowledge.
			Are there any specific scalability requirements or targets that the proposed solution should be designed to accommodate?	The system may be planned with the provisions towards expansion to a reasonable extent as applicable in general for similar systems.
54		Performance Testing and Benchmarking	Will there be an opportunity to conduct performance testing and benchmarking of the proposed solution on the actual infrastructure before go-live?	Post development of the solution, the bidder shall submit the Test Procedures to SAREP for approval and any such requirements can be made a part of the proposed test procedures and SAREP shall consider the same at the time of final approval.
			What are the expectations and criteria for acceptance testing related to performance and scalability?	The Test Procedures referred above shall cover all expectations and criteria.
55		General - Hardware requirement for launching the modules.	The hardware requirement sizing and configuration requirement for launching the software application shall be in BPSO scope. However, hardware sizing	Please refer to Section 4.3.

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			recommendation should be provided by the contractor. Please confirm	
56		General - Requirement for SMS and Email Alerts	Kindly confirm whether the bidder is required to send SMS and email alerts as part of the project deliverables.	Yes, such provisions are required to be built-in the solution by the bidder.
57		General - Responsibility for Procuring Gateways and Payment	If SMS and email alerts are required, please clarify whether the bidder is responsible for procuring the necessary SMS/email gateways and bearing the associated costs, or if BPSO will provide the gateways and manage the payments.	Development of the SMS and Email facility along with the gateway, including the associated costs shall be under the scope of the bidder.
58		General - Volume of SMS and Email Alerts	Kindly specify the approximate number of SMS and email alerts that will be required on a daily, monthly, or annual basis to ensure accurate cost estimation and infrastructure planning	The expected number of such alerts can be estimated by the bidder, based on the functional requirements and related publicly available information of the concerned utilities as well as the domain knowledge.
59		General - Requirement for Voice Call Integration	Please confirm whether voice call integration is required as part of the project	No
60		General - Details of Required Functionality for Voice Call Integration	If voice call integration is needed, kindly provide detailed specifications, including: • Purpose and scope of voice call functionality. • Call initiation process (e.g., automated or manual). • Expected call volume. • Preferred protocols or platforms for implementation.	Not required.

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61		General – Deliverables & Timelines, and Project time line	Since the UAT sign -off is T+3.5 Months which is a very short duration for the development of module / application by understanding the grid procedures and operating conditions, the submission timeline of Deliverable 1E should be T+5.5 months and the overall project should be extended by 9 months	The project is time bound, and the bidder is expected to account for and deploy sufficient resources to meet the required timelines.
62		General - AMC & Maintenance period of the contract	Please provide details of AMC of the project after project handover from the 7th Month or support requirement from the contractor after project submission	AMC includes the necessary maintenance to ensure meeting the performance standards.
63		Article 7 section A	Article 7 section A states that subcontractors must obtain prior written approval for the use of lower-tier subcontractors. Is it possible to obtain written approval prior to the submission deadline of Jan 20?	This is applicable after award of the subcontract by RTI and not before.
64		General – Bid submission deadline	As Project involves multiple levels of workflows, data management, automation and visualization, and considering the size and complexity of the tender, we request you to kindly extend the submission date of above tender by at least 10 more days (i.e., 1st February 2025) so that we can submit an appropriate Proposal	The bid submission date has been extended till February 10, 2025 via RFP Amendment 1.
65		Clause 7, Deliverables and Timelines. Solution development, including the wireframe finalization, integration with live data, and QA testing=T+ 2.5 Months	The total timeline for "Solution development, including the wireframe finalization, integration with live data, and QA testing" is T+ 2.5 Months, which should be extended to T+5 months.

Rationale:
The proposed timeline of T+2.5 months for | The project is time bound, and the bidder is expected to account for and deploy sufficient resources to meet the required timelines. |

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			the development of the e-Monitoring and Digitalization Solution is too short, especially considering the complexity of the project and the dependency on timely data sharing by the Bhutan Power System Operator (BPSO). A more realistic timeline would be at least 5 months from the date the required data is provided by BPSO. This adjustment would allow sufficient time for system design, development, testing, and integration to ensure high-quality deliverables without compromising on critical functionalities or performance standards.	
66		Manpower Deployment	We understand that the team would be working from India, and limited visits would be required to Bhutan. Please clarify.	Yes
67		Estimated Budget	Request you to clarify the estimated budget for the assignment	It is up to the individual bidder to calculate their own prices for proving the required technical assistance.
68		Technical Specification	We understand that the solution tool can be developed using the .NET framework or PHP Laravel for the front end, Python or .NET for the backend, and MySQL or MongoDB for the database. Additionally, we would appreciate your guidance on whether these technologies align with the project requirements and expectations."	The bidder can propose appropriate technologies to address the requirements as per the RFP.
69		General	Please confirm the Client's contracting entity and the country of its incorporation.	Please refer to page 1 of the RFP Attachment B, Section 2 Procuring Activity. RTI International is an US Entity.

S.No	RFP Page No	RFP Clause/Topic	Query/Suggestion	RTI/SAREP Response
70		General	As per RFP, All the terms and conditions/clauses are inclined to Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and all the terms of this RFP have been drafted in accordance with FAR. Does that mean the terms and conditions will follow FAR and other US regulations? There is no Indian law terms and conditions mentioned in the RFP.	Your understanding is correct. RTI is a US entity implementing a USAID funded program. The detailed terms and conditions will be shared in the draft subcontract to the successful bidder.
71		Bid Submission deadline	Since, it's a multi tower deal, multiple team involvement, we need bid submission deadline of at least 8 weeks after pre bid query response date	The bid submission date has been extended till February 10, 2025 via RFP Amendment 1.
72		Limitation of Liability	There is no Limitation of Liability clause present in the RFP. We understand that Bidder's maximum liability will be capped to Total contract Value and bidder shall not be liable for any indirect and consequential damages.	Please refer to the RFP Attachment C, Article 22 on Indemnification.
73		Deviation	Bidder reserves the right to submit a detailed deviation list and if the contract is awarded then the parties will mutually negotiate and execute a final contract.	The deviations, if any, must be clearly specified in the bid proposal and highlighted so that it catches our attention. As the contracting agency, RTI reserves the right to exclude bids from further evaluation if such deviations are unacceptable or non-negotiable. The concerned bidders will be notified accordingly.
74		General	Privity of contract will be between the signing entities (Prime contractor and Bidder as Subcontractor) and this RFP/ Contract can only be enforced by the signing entity. No third party will have a right to enforce this contract against the Bidder.	Noted.