



Government of Pakistan  
NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BOARD (NITB)  
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Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication  
NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BOARD  
(NITB)

**Request for Proposal (RFP) – Two Stage Bidding Process**

**Conceptual Design & Technical Proposal Submission  
for Smart Islamabad Initiative (Fusion Center Project)**

Tender No:NITB – 4(424)/2025

21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 2025

[www.nitb.gov.pk](http://www.nitb.gov.pk)

Plot # 24-B, Street # 6, H-9/1, Islamabad.



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## Data Sheet

### Procedure of Open Competitive Bidding

#### Two-Stage Bidding Procedure

This RFP is available under the Tender link of following websites  
<https://nitb.gov.pk> and <https://www.ppra.org.pk>

### Bid Security

**Not required for Stage 1.** Bid security (if any) may be requested in Stage 2.

### Performance Guarantee

**Not applicable at Stage 1.** Will be required only from the successful bidder selected after Stage 2.

### Deliverables (Stage 1)

Submission of a **Conceptual Technical Proposal** outlining the proposed solution design, methodology, and experience as per Annexure A.

### Contact Person

Deputy Director (Admin)

✉ Email: [ddadmin@nitb.gov.pk](mailto:ddadmin@nitb.gov.pk)

☎ Phone: 051-9265063

### Language

Proposals should be submitted in English language.

### Currency

PKR

### Taxes

**Not applicable in Stage 1.** Financial proposals including taxes will be submitted in Stage 2 only.

### Proposal Validity

N/A

### Bidder Must Submit

Only the **Stage 1 conceptual technical proposal** through the **EPAD system of PPRa**.

*No financial proposal or bid security is required at this stage.*

### Bid Submission Address

Proposals must be submitted **online via EPAD**. Hard copies of technical proposals may be requested later for record.

### Pre-Bid Meeting

A Pre-Bid Meeting (optional) will be held at NITB on 28th Oct 2025, at: Plot # 24-B, Street # 6, H-9/1, Islamabad.

### Bid Submission Date & Time

The Stage 1 conceptual technical proposal must be submitted via EPAD on or before **6th Nov 2025**. Proposals will be opened **30 minutes** after the submission deadline.

*Note: Any Queries may be forwarded via email and/or postal mail to DD Admin (NITB) within 10 days of publishing of this RFP document.*



## Introduction

The National Information Technology Board (NITB) is mandated, inter alia, to undertake and coordinate e-government initiatives at federal ministries/ divisions and departments, provide consulting and advisory services in acquiring and implementing IT solutions as well as for enhancing their performance, quality, and productivity. NITB envisions a digitally developed and IT-enabled Pakistan in the coming years with impeccable IT consultancy services.

The **Smart Islamabad Initiative (SII)** is a flagship program of the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT), executed through the National Information Technology Board (NITB). The project aims to establish a **Fusion Center** as a centralized digital hub for real-time data integration, analysis, and visualization across multiple civic domains. By consolidating datasets from key stakeholders such as Safe City Islamabad, Capital Development Authority (CDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the initiative seeks to enable smarter governance, enhance inter-agency coordination, and improve the efficiency of city-level public services.

In its initial phase, the Fusion Center will integrate priority use cases including **smart traffic management, environmental monitoring, and city services oversight**, with scope to expand into broader domains such as disaster response, law enforcement coordination, and utility management in future phases. Leveraging IoT devices, AI-driven analytics, and a state-of-the-art Command & Control Center, SII will serve as a model for **Pakistan's smart city transformation**, ensuring transparent, citizen-centric governance and laying the foundation for scalable national-level digital governance infrastructure.

## 1. Invitation to Bids

The National Information Technology Board (hereinafter called "NITB" and/or the "Procuring Agency") invites bids against this RFP titled "Smart Islamabad Initiative - SII" from eligible bidders.

### 1.1. PPRA Rules to be followed

Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules, 2004 will be strictly followed. These may be obtained from PPRA's website. In this document, unless otherwise mentioned to the contrary, "Rule" means a Rule under the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules, 2004.

### 1.2. Mode of Advertisement

As per Rule 12, this RFP is being placed online at PPRA's and NITB websites, as well as being advertised in print media. Bidding document containing detailed instructions, terms and conditions and this advertisement can be downloaded from NITB and PPRA websites.



### 1.3. Type of Open Competitive Bidding

As per Rule 36(d) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004, a “**Two-Stage Bidding Procedure**” shall be followed for this RFP.

Due to the complexity and pioneering nature of this initiative, the Two-Stage Bidding Procedure is adopted.

**Stage 1:** Conceptual proposals without financials. Vendors must demonstrate their understanding of the project, high-level technical approach, integration methodology, and prior experience.

**Stage 2:** Shortlisted bidders will submit final technical and financial proposals against refined TORs.

#### 1.3.1. Stage 1 – Preliminary Technical Proposal (Conceptual Design Stage)

- In the first stage, bidders shall submit **conceptual technical proposals without financial bids**. These will include their **approach, methodology, system architecture, and prior experience**, but shall not contain final technical specifications, financials, or BOQs.
- Based on the evaluation of these preliminary proposals and inputs gathered, the procuring agency shall **finalize the technical requirements** to be used in the second stage.

#### 1.3.2. Stage 2 – Final Technical and Financial Proposals

- Only those bidders **shortlisted in Stage 1** will be invited to submit their **final technical and financial proposals** based on the finalized specifications.
- Final technical proposals will be evaluated, and only technically responsive bids shall proceed to financial opening.
- The **financial proposals of technically non-responsive bidders will remain unopened** and be returned.

#### 1.3.3. Award of Contract

- The contract shall be awarded to the bidder who submits the **most advantageous bid**, balancing **technical responsiveness, solution quality, and competitive pricing**.
- The procuring agency may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal in accordance with Rule 33 of PPRA Rules, 2004.
- Upon rejection of all bids, notice shall be promptly given to all participating bidders. The Procuring Agency shall not be liable for any costs incurred by bidders in the preparation or submission of their proposals.



## 1.4. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation process will follow a structured **two-stage methodology** under Rule 36(d) of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004, ensuring transparency, fairness, and alignment with the project's complex and consultative nature.

### 1.4.1. Stage 1 – Preliminary Evaluation

This stage aims to assess the **eligibility, technical approach, and conceptual understanding** of the bidders.

#### a) Initial Screening

All bids submitted in Stage 1 will first be reviewed against the **Initial Screening Criteria** (refer to Section 9) to confirm compliance with mandatory legal, financial, and organizational requirements. Only bidders meeting all conditions shall be considered eligible for further evaluation.

#### b) Conceptual Technical Evaluation

Eligible bidders will be evaluated based on their **conceptual technical proposals**, which shall include:

- Proposed approach and methodology
- Preliminary system design and architecture
- Understanding of project objectives and site-specific needs
- Relevant past experience of the bidder or OEM
- Capacity to execute such complex projects
- Presentation on the solution to the procuring agency

This evaluation will also include **site surveys, stakeholder interactions**, and any clarifications requested by the procuring agency.

#### c) Shortlisting for Stage 2

Only those bidders whose conceptual proposals demonstrate **technical competence and contextual understanding** shall be shortlisted for participation in Stage 2.

### 1.4.2. Stage 2 – Final Evaluation

In this stage, shortlisted bidders will be invited to submit:

- A final **technical proposal** based on the standardized specifications and BOQs developed after Stage 1



- A corresponding **financial proposal**

The Stage 2 evaluation will proceed as follows:

**a) Final Technical Evaluation**

Bids will be evaluated for full compliance with the finalized technical specifications. Proposals not meeting mandatory requirements shall be rejected.

**b) Financial Evaluation**

Only technically compliant proposals will undergo financial evaluation. The contract may be awarded to the bidder whose proposal offers the **most advantageous combination of technical merit, compliance, and price**, ensuring best value for money.

## 2. Instructions to Bidders

### 2.1. Language

The bid and all documents relating to the bid, exchanged between the bidder and the Procuring Agency, shall be in English. Any printed literature furnished by the bidder in another language shall be accompanied by an English translation which shall govern for the purposes of interpretation of the bid.

### 2.2. Bid Document

The bid document can be downloaded from the NITB and/ or PPRA websites.

### 2.3. RFP Clarifications and Questions

To ensure fair consideration for all bidders, NITB prohibits communication to or with any department, officer or employee of NITB during the evaluation process. No bidder shall be allowed to alter or modify his bid after the bids have been opened. However, the procuring agency may seek and accept clarifications to the bids that do not change the substance of the bids. Any request for clarification in the bid made by the bidders shall invariably be in writing through email to DD Admin (NITB) [ddadmin@nitb.gov.pk](mailto:ddadmin@nitb.gov.pk).

### 2.4. Pre-Bid Meeting/ Site Survey

A **Pre-Bid Meeting** may be scheduled by the procuring agency to address queries from interested bidders related to the Stage 1 RFP. All queries must be submitted **in writing only** to the contact person identified in this RFP.



NITB reserves the right not to respond to any queries raised verbally, over the phone, or through informal communication channels. All written queries must be submitted via email or postal mail within **ten (10) days** of the RFP's publication. Please include the RFP title as the subject of your correspondence.

Responses to all written queries will be compiled and communicated in writing to all participating bidders. Any oral interpretations or clarifications shall not be binding and should not be relied upon.

### 2.4.1. Site Surveys – Post Shortlisting in Stage 1

As part of the Two-Stage Bidding Process:

- **Shortlisted bidders** will be invited to conduct any site visits in coordination with the designated focal persons of the procuring agency.
- The purpose of these surveys is to enable bidders to refine and finalize their solution designs for submission in Stage 2.

NITB shall not be responsible for any costs, travel expenses, or logistical arrangements incurred by the bidders during the pre-bid meeting, Stage 1 proposal submission, or subsequent site surveys.

Bidders must include in their proposals the contact information (name, title, phone, and email) of their **authorized representative** for all official communications until the conclusion of the bidding process.

### 2.5. RFP/ Bid Price

**Note:** Financial bids are **not required in Stage 1** of this Two-Stage Bidding Process. Price related details, including formats and evaluation methodology, will be shared **only with shortlisted bidders** at the start of **Stage 2**. No pricing information should be included in the Stage 1 submission.

### 2.6. Ownership of the Project

All equipment, software, and related licenses proposed in the final design (to be submitted in Stage 2) shall, upon procurement, become the property of the Procuring Agency.

Bidders are advised that all solution components proposed must support full ownership transfer of hardware, software, and usage rights to the procuring agency upon delivery and final acceptance.

**Note:** Final ownership terms and licensing obligations will be confirmed at Stage 2, once technical specifications and procurement details are finalized.



## 2.7. Confidentiality

The prospective bidder (whether or not they submit a proposal under this Stage 1 RFP) shall treat all information related to this RFP — including examination, clarification, evaluation, comparison, and any stage-wise communication — as confidential. Such information shall not be disclosed to other bidders or any unauthorized persons not officially involved in the bidding process.

The bidder is not permitted to make any public announcement or release any information regarding this RFP or their participation without prior written approval from NITB.

NITB reserves the right to share the bidder's Stage 1 proposal and related documents with its internal committees, technical advisors, and affiliates solely for the purpose of evaluation and project planning.

If a bidder is found to have breached confidentiality obligations, NITB reserves the right to disqualify them from the current bidding process and/or exclude them from future procurement exercises.

Bidders are encouraged to clearly mark any parts of their submissions they consider confidential or proprietary. Failure to do so may result in the entire proposal being treated as non-confidential and in the public domain.

## 2.8. Notices

Unless otherwise specified in this document, any provision that requires the exchange of notices, certificates, orders, consents, approvals, or instructions between the parties shall be executed **in writing** and in a timely manner.

- All official communications must be issued within **five (05) working days** from the date of receiving a request or notification.
- Such communications shall be served via **courier or registered postal mail** to the notified principal office addresses of the parties.
- The terms "notify", "certify", "order", "consent", "approve", and "instruct" shall be interpreted accordingly.

This clause shall remain applicable throughout both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the bidding process and any subsequent contract negotiation or execution phases.

## 2.9. Joint Venture

No Joint Venture is allowed for or under this RFP.



## 2.10. Corrupt Practices

NITB requires that bidders/ contractors, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of resultant contract and refrain from undertaking or participating in any corrupt or fraudulent practices.

NITB will reject a proposal and award of contract, if it determines that the bidder participated in the bidding process or recommended for award was engaged in any corrupt practices or has been blacklisted by any other entity.

Any false information or misstatement on the part of the bidder will lead to disqualification/ blacklisting/ legal proceeding regardless of the bid price or quality of the products.

## 2.11. SLA & Penalty

### 2.11.1. Severity Levels and Response Priorities

This clause shall be part of the final contract and will be shared with shortlisted bidders during **Stage 2** of the bidding process.

### 2.11.2. Penalty for Deliverable Tasks

This clause shall be part of the final contract and will be shared with shortlisted bidders during **Stage 2** of the bidding process. Penalties will be defined based on the agreed timelines and deliverables established in the final award stage.

### 2.11.3. Penalty for Support & Maintenance Services

This clause shall be part of the final contract and will be shared with shortlisted bidders during **Stage 2** of the bidding process. Penalties will be defined based on the agreed timelines and deliverables established in the final award stage.

## 2.12. Warranty/ Support & Maintenance Services

This clause shall be part of the final contract and will be shared with shortlisted bidders during **Stage 2** of the bidding process.

## 2.13. Indemnification

### 2.13.1. Conflict of Interest (Applicable in Stage 1)

Bidders are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the bidding process. This includes, but is not limited to, any personal, financial, or professional relationships that could influence the bidder's impartiality or decision-making. Bidders must notify the Procuring Agency immediately upon becoming aware of any such conflict. Failure to disclose a known conflict may result in disqualification from the bidding process.



### 2.13.2. Indemnification (Applicable at Contract Award Stage)

The indemnification clause will be part of the final contract shared with shortlisted bidders during Stage 2. It will include standard provisions related to misrepresentation, breach, intellectual property rights, and liability arising from implementation activities.

## 3. Preparation of Bids

### 3.1. Cost of Bidding

The issuance of this RFP and the receipt of information in response to it shall not in any way cause NITB to incur any liability or obligation to the bidder (or any proposed subcontractor(s), if any), whether financial or otherwise.

NITB assumes no obligation to reimburse or compensate any bidder for costs and/or expenses incurred in connection with the preparation, submission, clarification, or follow-up of any proposal submitted under this **Stage 1 RFP**.

All such costs — including travel, site visits (where applicable), and consultations — shall be the sole responsibility of the bidder.

The same condition will apply during **Stage 2**, which will involve submission of final technical and financial proposals by shortlisted bidders only.

### 3.2. Bid Security

**No bid security is required at Stage 1** of the bidding process. However, shortlisted bidders may be required to submit bid security along with their final proposals in **Stage 2**, in accordance with the finalized Stage 2 RFP.

### 3.3. Technical Proposal

Bidders are required to submit a **Stage 1 Technical Proposal** in line with the format provided in [Annexure A – Conceptual Proposal Requirements](#).

At this stage, bidders shall present a **conceptual technical proposal** which includes:

- Their proposed approach and understanding of the project;
- Preliminary design concept and architecture;
- Relevant institutional experience and qualifications;
- Preliminary identification of technology components (without exact makes/models or quantities);
- Assumptions and dependencies.



**Note:** Detailed technical specifications, compliance sheets, and final solution designs will be required only from **shortlisted bidders during Stage 2** of the bidding process.

### 3.4. Financial Proposal

**No financial proposal is to be submitted at Stage 1.** Shortlisted bidders will be invited to submit **final technical and financial proposals** in Stage 2, in accordance with finalized specifications and BOQs provided by the procuring agency at that time.

### 3.5. Payment Terms/ Schedule

Payment terms, invoicing conditions, and milestone-based disbursements will be defined in the Stage 2 RFP and final contract documents to be issued to shortlisted bidders.

### 3.6. Advice of Omission or Misstatement

If any bidder identifies a material omission, ambiguity, or misstatement in this Stage 1 RFP or in the description of the expected services, the bidder is encouraged to formally notify the designated contact person at NITB in writing.

Such advice must be submitted well before the proposal submission deadline, so that any necessary clarification or addendum can be issued to all participating bidders in a timely manner.

### 3.7. Bid Validity Period

----- N/A -----

### 3.8. Additional Charges

No financial proposals are required at Stage 1. Any pricing terms, including inclusion or exclusion of charges related to delivery, installation, support, or training, will be addressed in the Stage 2 RFP to be issued to shortlisted bidders.

### 3.9. Right to Request Additional Information

NITB reserves the right to request any additional information or clarification it deems necessary during the evaluation of Stage 1 proposals.

Such requests may relate to the bidder's conceptual design, approach, previous experience, technical team, or any other aspect relevant to the Stage 1 submission.

Failure to provide the requested information in a timely manner may result in disqualification from further evaluation.



### 3.10. Right to Modify Scope of Work

NITB reserves the right to **refine, revise, or re-define** the scope of work and technical requirements based on inputs received during the Stage 1 proposal evaluation, site surveys, and vendor consultations.

Final technical specifications, quantities, and solution components will be finalized and shared with shortlisted bidders at the start of **Stage 2**.

No binding scope of work or bill of quantities is committed at this stage. Stage 1 is intended to inform and shape the final solution design.

## 4. Submission of Bids

### 4.1. Sealing and Marking of Bids

All Stage 1 proposals shall be submitted **electronically** through the **EPAD system** of PPRA. No financial proposal or bid security is to be submitted at this stage.

NITB reserves the right to request hard copies of the technical proposals from shortlisted bidders if needed for evaluation or record-keeping.

### 4.2. Extension of Time Period for Submission of Bids

NITB may extend the deadline for submission of **Stage 1 proposals** under the following circumstances:

- If the Procurement Committee is convinced that extraordinary circumstances (e.g., law-and-order situation, natural calamity) justify an extension;
- If a formal request for extension is received from at least **three (03)** potential bidders **no less than five (05) days** prior to the submission deadline;
- If the Procurement Committee determines that an extension is necessary for **administrative or procedural reasons**.

Any such extension will be communicated through the same channels used for original RFP publication.

### 4.3. Manual Bid

Manual (hard copy) bids shall **not be considered** in this Stage 1 process. All proposals must be submitted **exclusively through the EPAD system**.

Bidders who are not already registered on EPAD must complete the registration process before the submission deadline.



## 4.4. Modification or Withdrawal of Proposal

The modification or withdrawal of proposals shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the **PPRA Rules, 2004**.

Bidders may modify or withdraw their **Stage 1 proposal** prior to the submission deadline, subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable rules. Once the deadline has passed, no modifications or withdrawals shall be permitted unless explicitly allowed under PPRA guidelines.

The Procuring Agency reserves the right to disqualify any bidder found to have withdrawn or altered their proposal in contravention of these rules.

## 4.5. Submittal Requirements

Bidders must ensure that their Stage 1 submission includes all elements listed in:

- **Annexure A – Stage 1 Conceptual Technical Proposal Requirements**

**Note:** Financial proposals must **not** be submitted at this stage. Any financial information included in the Stage 1 submission may result in disqualification.

## 5. Opening and Evaluation of Bids

### 5.1. Opening of Bids

At this Stage 1, only the **conceptual technical proposals** submitted via **EPAD** will be opened and evaluated.

The evaluation process will follow these steps:

#### 1. Initial Screening:

Proposals will first be reviewed for compliance with the **Initial Screening Criteria** outlined in Section 9 of this RFP. Only those bidders meeting all mandatory requirements shall proceed to the next step.

#### 2. Technical (Conceptual) Evaluation:

The conceptual proposals of eligible bidders will be assessed against the evaluation criteria set forth in Section 1.4 and Annexure A. Evaluation will focus on understanding of the scope, proposed methodology, preliminary design concepts, presentation on the solution and past relevant experience.

**No financial proposals or bid securities are submitted or opened at this stage.** Financial and final technical proposals will be invited only from **shortlisted bidders in Stage 2**.



## 5.2. Modification of Bid

No bidder shall be allowed to alter or modify their Stage 1 proposal after the deadline for submission has passed.

However, NITB may, at its discretion, request a bidder to provide **clarification** regarding aspects of their **conceptual technical proposal** for evaluation purposes. Any such request and response shall be made in **writing**.

No changes to the **substance or structure** of the proposal shall be permitted, and no financial details shall be introduced at this stage.

## 5.3. Missing Information

The information requested in this Stage 1 RFP is intended to evaluate the bidders' **technical qualifications, relevant experience, conceptual approach**, and overall capability to perform the required work.

NITB encourages all bidders to furnish complete and accurate information as outlined in this document and its annexures.

Any missing, incomplete, or unclear information may be treated as **not available** and may adversely affect the evaluation of the proposal.

## 5.4. Addendum or Supplement to Request for Proposal

At any time prior to the submission deadline for Stage 1 proposals, NITB may, on its own initiative or in response to a request for clarification, **modify this Stage 1 RFP** by issuing an addendum.

A summary of all bidder questions and responses, as well as any updates or adjustments to the Stage 1 scope or submission requirements, will be documented and communicated in writing. Any such changes will be reflected in the **revised RFP published on the NITB and PPRA websites**.

It is the bidder's responsibility to remain informed of any updates or addenda issued prior to the submission deadline.

## 5.5. Shortlisting of the Bidders

Shortlisting of bidders for participation in **Stage 2** shall be based solely on the evaluation of the **Stage 1 conceptual technical proposals** and supporting documentation submitted in accordance with this RFP.

Shortlisted bidders will be invited to:



- Conduct site surveys (if not already done),
- Receive finalized technical specifications, and
- Submit detailed technical and financial proposals under **Stage 2**.

Shortlisting does **not constitute a contract award or commitment**, nor does it guarantee any commercial engagement. Final selection will be made only after completion of Stage 2 evaluation.

## 5.6. Bidder Evaluation

Evaluation of Stage 1 proposals shall be carried out by a **Technical Evaluation Committee** constituted by NITB specifically for this RFP. The committee will assess each submission in accordance with the evaluation criteria outlined in **Section 1.4**, and based on the conceptual soundness, relevance of experience, and proposed methodology.

NITB will assess the bidder's:

- Legal eligibility and authorization to operate;
- Compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Integrity, ethical conduct, and performance history;
- Willingness to participate in site surveys and Stage 2 process.

By submitting a Stage 1 proposal, the bidder warrants that:

- It is legally authorized to offer the proposed solutions;
- It is not prohibited from doing business with NITB or the Government of Pakistan;
- The individual signing the proposal is authorized to bind the organization to the terms of submission.

**Note:** Stage 1 is a shortlisting phase only. No contract will be awarded at this stage. Final evaluation and selection of the successful bidder shall be conducted under **Stage 2** based on detailed technical and financial proposals.

NITB is under no obligation to share internal decision-making rationale with any bidder.

## 5.7. Proposal Acceptance

A proposal submitted in response to this Stage 1 RFP shall constitute a **good faith representation** of the bidder's capability and intent to participate in the subsequent stages of this procurement process.

By submitting a proposal:

- The bidder confirms that the information provided is accurate and complete;



- The submission is authorized by an officer empowered to make such declarations on behalf of the bidder;
- The bidder acknowledges and accepts the terms and conditions of this Stage 1 RFP, excluding any pricing or contractual compensation elements.

**Note:** Submission of a Stage 1 proposal shall not constitute a binding commercial offer, nor shall it create any obligation on either party to enter into a contract.

The Procuring Agency reserves the right to reject all proposals at any time prior to shortlisting or Stage 2 initiation, in accordance with **Rule 33(1)** of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004.

Upon request, NITB shall communicate to any bidder the grounds for rejection of all proposals, but shall not be required to justify those grounds.

## 5.8. Redressal of Grievances by the Procuring Agency

Any bidder feeling aggrieved by any act of the Procuring Agency after the submission of their **Stage 1 proposal** may lodge a written complaint within **seven (07) days** of the announcement of the **Stage 1 evaluation results or shortlisting decision**.

The complaint shall be addressed to the **Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC)** constituted by NITB, which will investigate and decide upon the matter within **ten (10) days** of receipt of the complaint.

Complaints submitted **after the lapse of seven (07) days** from the Stage 1 result announcement shall not be entertained with respect to shortlisting decisions.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the GRC, they may file an appeal before the **Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA)** within **thirty (30) days** of communication of the decision, in accordance with the prescribed procedure and applicable fee.

The decision of PPRA shall be considered final.

## 6. Award of Contract

### 6.1. Stage 1 Shortlisting Criteria

At the conclusion of Stage 1, NITB shall **shortlist bidders** whose proposals are determined to be:

- **Substantially responsive** to the conceptual requirements and evaluation criteria stated in this RFP;
- Demonstrative of a sound understanding of the scope, technical needs, and implementation challenges;
- Supported by relevant organizational experience and technical competence;



- Legally and technically eligible based on initial screening.

Only those bidders shortlisted through this process will be invited to participate in **Stage 2**, where they will submit final technical and financial proposals in response to the **finalized requirements**.

Final contract award will occur only after the completion of Stage 2 evaluation and selection.

## 6.2. NITB's Right to Accept Any Bid and to Reject Any/ All Bids

NITB reserves the right to accept or reject any Stage 1 proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all proposals at any time prior to the finalization of shortlisting, without thereby incurring any liability to the bidder(s).

This right is exercised in accordance with **Rule 33(1)** of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004.

## 6.3. Notification of Shortlisting

At the conclusion of the Stage 1 evaluation process, NITB will notify all participating bidders of the outcome in writing.

- Bidders whose proposals are found to be responsive and technically suitable will be **shortlisted** for participation in **Stage 2**.
- The **Stage 2 RFP**, containing finalized technical specifications, evaluation criteria, and financial proposal requirements, will be issued only to shortlisted bidders.
- Notification of shortlisting does **not constitute a contract award or commitment**.

A formal Notification of Award (NOA) shall only be issued following successful completion of Stage 2 and final evaluation.

## 6.4. Signing of Contract

No contract shall be signed at the conclusion of Stage 1. Shortlisted bidders will be invited to submit final technical and financial proposals in **Stage 2**, after which a successful bidder may be selected based on the finalized evaluation process.

The contract shall only be signed following:

- Completion of Stage 2 evaluation,
- Issuance of a **formal Notification of Award**, and
- Submission of the **required performance guarantee** (if applicable).

Details regarding the contract signing process will be shared with the successful bidder at the conclusion of **Stage 2**.



## 6.5. Performance Guarantee

No performance guarantee is required at Stage 1. The requirement for a performance guarantee will apply only to the **successful bidder selected after Stage 2**, upon issuance of the final **Notification of Award (NOA)**.

Details regarding the performance guarantee amount, format, and duration will be specified in the **Stage 2 RFP** and final contract documents.

## 6.6. RFP Response Ownership

All information, materials, and ideas submitted in response to this **Stage 1 RFP** shall become the property of NITB upon submission.

NITB reserves the right to use, evaluate, adopt, modify, or reject any or all concepts, designs, and suggestions included in a bidder's proposal, without limitation.

NITB will not publicly disclose any portion of a bidder's proposal marked as **confidential**. However, conceptual proposals may be shared with internal stakeholders or independent consultants engaged by NITB for the purpose of technical review and expert input.

As no financial proposals are submitted at this stage, confidentiality concerns are limited to technical and conceptual content explicitly marked as confidential by the bidder.

## 6.7. Integrity Pact

An **Integrity Pact** shall be executed by the **successful bidder** at the time of contract award, in accordance with Rule 7 of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004.

## 6.8. Non-Disclosure Agreement

The **successful bidder** selected after Stage 2 shall be required to sign a **Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)** with NITB prior to the execution of the contract.

## 6.9. Contract Terms and Conditions

The **successful bidder** selected at the conclusion of **Stage 2** shall be required to sign a formal contract with NITB. The final contract will be based on:

- The terms and conditions finalized in the Stage 2 RFP,
- PPRA Rules, 2004 and any applicable procurement guidelines,
- NITB's specific project and legal requirements.



No contract shall be signed at the conclusion of Stage 1. Any potential conflicts between the RFP, the contract, and procurement regulations shall be resolved in accordance with **PPRA Rules, 2004**.

## 6.10. Mandatory Support and Maintenance Period

This clause shall apply only at the **contract award stage**, following the completion of Stage 2. The requirements for post-deployment **onsite support and maintenance**, including duration, scope, and service levels, will be detailed in the **Stage 2 RFP** and finalized during contract negotiations with the selected bidder.

## 7. Scope of Work – Preliminary Stage

This RFP is issued under a **Two-Stage Bidding Procedure** in accordance with Rule 36(d) of the Initiative.

### 7.1. Stage 1 Expectations from Bidders

At this stage, bidders are required to submit conceptual technical proposals covering:

- Understanding of stakeholder systems (Safe City, CDA, EPA) for the below use cases i.e. Public Transport System, Waste Management System, Traffic Management System, Air Quality System.
- High-level design of the Fusion Center (Digital Twin dashboards, Integration layers, data pipelines, Cloud Infrastructure, Connectivity) to enhance urban services through smart city concept.
- Approach to data integration via APIs/file/database/feeds/secure channels
- Scalability approach for nationwide replication

Relevant past Public Procurement Rules, 2004. At this **Stage 1**, the objective is to solicit **conceptual technical proposals** from qualified vendors for the establishment of a Fusion Center under Smart Islamabad

- projects and experience
- Preliminary risks, dependencies, and assumptions

### 7.2. Stage 2 Scope Finalization

The detailed Scope of Work—including specifications, bill of materials (BoM), installation responsibilities, training, and maintenance—will be finalized after Stage 1. It will be shared only with **shortlisted bidders** as part of the **Stage 2 RFP**.



## 8. Technical Specifications

This Stage 1 RFP does not include finalized technical specifications. Instead, bidders are invited to submit **conceptual technical proposals** and participate in site surveys and consultations to help define the final solution.

The **detailed technical specifications, standards, BOQs, compliance matrices, and integration requirements** will be finalized and issued as part of the **Stage 2 RFP**, to be shared only with **shortlisted bidders**.

## 9. Initial Screening Criteria

Below is the criterion for the initial screening of the Bidders. These are all mandatory requirements and failing to comply with any of them will result in ineligibility for further/ technical evaluation. Please ensure complete and valid documentary evidences are provided, NITB reserves the right to check the authenticity of any submitted document.

| #   | Screening Criteria  | Documents Required  | Compliance   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>A- Legal and Registration Requirements</b> |   |   |  |
| 1.  | Bidder is an entity duly registered and incorporated under the laws of Pakistan for the last 05-years.  | Registration/ Incorporation Certificate   | Copy of the Certificate to be attached.                      |
| 2.  | Bidder has a valid Registration Certificate for Income Tax, Sales Tax and/ or other allied agencies/ organizations/ regulatory authorities.   | FBR Certificate   | Copy of the FBR Certificate to be attached.                  |
| 3.  | Bidder is an Active Taxpayer as per Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)'s database i.e. Active Taxpayers List (ATL).   | Active Tax Payer/ Income Tax Returns.   | FBR Returns for last 03-years to be attached.                |
| 4.  | Bidder must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).   | SECP Certificate of Incorporation.  | Copy of the Certificates to be attached.                     |
| <b>B- Business Experience and References</b>  |   |   |  |
| 5.  | Bidder or OEM must be in the relevant business for at least 03-years. They should also demonstrate at least two supplies of similar solution in the past 05-years not less than Rs. 2 billion worth of projects, providing work/ purchase orders and delivery challans. | Purchase Orders/ Delivery Challans only of the projects with similar equipment. | Copies of Purchase Orders/ Delivery Challans to be attached. |
| <b>C- Office Presence</b>                     |   |   |  |



|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| 6.                                     | Bidder must have an office in Islamabad.   | List of all offices with addresses.   | List to be attached.  |
| <b>D- Technical Expertise</b>          |  |   |   |
| 7.                                     | Bidder should have a technical team (certified resources) with relevant experience. i.e. data analyst, integration expert, Infrastructure expert, data scientist, big data expert, AI expert | Provide complete details of the technical resources along with their relevant certifications. | CVs to be attached and bidder's letter head confirming the date of joining from HR. |
| <b>E- Affidavits and Documentation</b> |  |   |   |
| 8.                                     | Affidavit on the Stamp Paper duly attested by Notary Public that the bidder is not blacklisted by any government/ semi government/ public department.  | Stamp Paper   | Original Stamp Paper to be attached.  |

**Note: Verifiable documentary proof is required for all above mandatory requirements.**



## Annexures

### Annexure A – Stage 1 Technical Proposal Submittal Requirements

Following sections should be part of the technical proposal and clearly marked/ divided.

| #  | Description   |
|----|---|
|    | <b>SECTION-A: Administrative Information</b>  |
| 1. | Cover Letter (on bidder's Letter Head)  |
| 2. | Bidder's Contact Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization Name</li><li>• Authorized Representative</li><li>• Email, Phone, Postal Address</li></ul>   |
|    | <b>SECTION-B: Eligibility and Screening</b>   |
| 3. | Submit all required documents as listed in <b>Section 9: Initial Screening Criteria</b>   |
|    | <b>SECTION-C: Conceptual Proposal</b>   |
| 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Project understanding and objectives</li><li>- Proposed approach &amp; methodology</li><li>- High-level system design (block diagrams encouraged)</li><li>- Assumptions, risks, and dependencies</li><li>- Relevant past projects</li></ul> |

**Note:** Additional annexures related to final technical specifications, BOQs, compliance sheets, and financial proposal formats will be included in the **Stage 2 RFP**, which will be issued only to **shortlisted bidders**.