**Set 18**

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| 1 | Clarifications Set 16 -17 | Answer to Question 48 | Page 7 out of 19 | PART 4 – POST-ISSUANCE CHIP PATCHING AND CITIZEN PORTAL (B.13) B 13.1. B13.2 and B13.3 | The anwers to the question:<br>"Patches must be produced and signed by the chip OS vendor, using keys loaded at manufacture. Please confirm (a) the identity of the chip and chip OS vendor; (b) who holds the post-issuance update keys (DIE or the vendor); and (c) that DIE will make the vendor's cooperation, patch packages and interface specifications available to the bidder."<br>The answer provided by DIE is<br>" No post chip-locked updates will be required"<br>This is in contradicting with the answers from "Clarifications Set 1-8", Question 68 Page 36 out of 91.<br>" No previous e Passports & however bidder should provide solution to update chip OS/Security for which will be issued with new solution."<br>Please confirm the requirement of the Post Issuance Update is needed on the ePassport Chip and OS due to security reasons. Due to the rapid advancement of using Artificial Intelligence for Hacking and the rapid emerging threat of Post Quantum Computing, it is recommended that some form of channel is needed to patch the operating system,during the Passport Validity of 10 years.<br><br>With the advent of AI, compute power and hacking tools, ePassport solution without post-issuance capabilities could result in substantial technical and operational risks which will result in uncertain financial costs to DIE.<br><br>As any security vulnerability identified in the Chip Operating System (OS) could necessitate the reissuance of entirely new passports, including replacement of the ePassport booklet albeit Chip + OS, for all affected citizens.<br>Implementing post-issuance capabilities would mitigate these risks by enabling the deployment of security patches and updates to the chip Operating System without requiring the replacement of existing passports, thereby significantly reducing potential reissuance costs and operational disruptions. It is also important to note that the ePassport holders data is secure and is not updated / amended in this process.The importance of post-issuance capabilities may not be immediately evident but is expected to become increasingly significant in the future, particularly as potential security vulnerabilities in the Chip Operating System (OS) emerge. | Patching os a chip-locked passport will not be required within the scope of this tender. All data written to the passport by the selected contractor shall remain immutable. |
| 2 | Clarifications Set 16 -17 | Answer to Question 51 | Page 8 out of 19 | PART 4 – POST-ISSUANCE CHIP PATCHING AND CITIZEN PORTAL (B.13) B 13.1. B13.2 and B13.3 | The answer to the question, "Communicating with a passport chip requires a contactless reader and lowlevel chip commands, which standard desktop browsers cannot perform without a driver, extension or helper application. Please confirm whether a mobile application or a certified reader driver is acceptable." The answer provided by DIE is " No post chip-locked updates will be required"<br>This is in conflict with the answers from "Clarifications Set 1-8", Question 2 Page 70 out of 91.<br>" The Procuring Entity does not agree with the claim that Common Criteria<br>EAL 5+ certification prohibits all post- issuance loading of OS or security patches onto ePassport chips. Published EAL 5+ ePassport Security Targets allow controlled OS patch loading during operational use while protecting personalized passport data from modification. The proposed backend vulnerability management solution, including Defect Lists, revocation information, border-system flagging and physical booklet replacement, does not meet Clause B.13.1, which requires loading signed OS or security patches onto issued chips without replacing or reissuing the physical passport. No change in original requirement."<br>Please clarified if Post Issuance Update is needed on the ePassport Chip and OS. Due to the advancement of using Artificial Intelligence for Hacking and the emerging threat of Post Quantum Computing, it is recommended that some form of channel is needed to patch the operating system,during the Passport Validity of 10 years,<br>With the advent of AI, compute power and hacking tools, ePassport solution without post-issuance capabilities could result in substantial technical and operational risks which will result in uncertain financial costs to DIE.<br>As any security vulnerability identified in the Chip Operating System (OS) could necessitate the reissuance of entirely new passports, including replacement of the ePassport booklet albeit Chip + OS, for all affected citizens.<br>Implementing post-issuance capabilities would mitigate these risks by enabling the deployment of security patches and updates to the chip Operating System without requiring the replacement of existing passports, thereby significantly reducing potential reissuance costs and operational disruptions. It is also important to note that the ePassport holders data is secure and is not updated / amended in this process.The importance of post-issuance capabilities may not be immediately evident but is expected to become increasingly significant in the future, particularly as potential security vulnerabilities in the Chip Operating System (OS) emerge. | All data encoded to the chip within the scope of this tender shall remain immutable for the lifetime of the passport. |

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| 3 | Clarifications Set 16 -17 | Answer to Question 54 | Page 8 out of 19 | PART 4 – POST-ISSUANCE CHIP PATCHING AND CITIZEN PORTAL (B.13) B 13.1. B13.2 and B13.3 | The answer to the question, A passport's lifetime (typically 10 years) extends beyond the 60-month contract. Please confirm the period for which the bidder must support B.13,<br>and the price schedule line in which it is to be priced. The answer provided by DIE is " " No post chip-locked updates will be required"<br>This is in conflict with the answers from "Clarifications Set 1-8", Question Page 11 out of 91.<br>"Sri Lanka has not issued e passports yet.1.Yes this cost to be included in scope B<br>2. Proposed soltuion should be compatible any passport chip which should comply with ICAO9303"<br><br>Please clarified if Post Issuance Update is needed on the ePassport Chip and OS. Due to the rapid advancement of using Artificial Intelligence for Hacking and the emerging threat of Post Quantum Computing, it is recommended that some form of channel is needed to patch the operating system,during the Passport Validity of 10 years,<br><br>With the advent of AI, compute power and hacking tools, ePassport solution without post-issuance capabilities could result in substantial technical and operational risks which will result in uncertain financial costs to DIE.<br>As any security vulnerability identified in the Chip Operating System (OS) could necessitate the reissuance of entirely new passports, including replacement of the ePassport booklet albeit Chip + OS, for all affected citizens.<br><br>Implementing post-issuance capabilities would mitigate these risks by enabling the deployment of security patches and updates to the chip Operating System without requiring the replacement of existing passports, thereby significantly reducing potential reissuance costs and operational disruptions. It is also important to note that the ePassport holders data is secure and is not updated / amended in this process.The importance of post-issuance capabilities may not be immediately evident but is expected to become increasingly significant in the future, particularly as potential security vulnerabilities in the Chip Operating System (OS) emerge. | Not applicable as post issuance updates are not required |
| 4 | Clarifications set 9-15 | Answers to Question 67 | Page 14 out of 87 | Volume 2 General Requirements | Since MRP personalization will continue in the Production Environment during the implementation of e-Passport personalization, kindly confirm whether a separate Staging/Testing Environment is required to conduct testing without affecting ongoing MRP operations and ensure a smooth transition to the new system. | DIE does not require a staging environment for the personalization scope |
| 5 | Clarifications set 9-15 | Answers to Question 44 | Page 77 out of 87 | B.10-2 to B.10.7 | Kindly confirm that a separate Staging/Testing Environment is required for Scope B to conduct integration and acceptance testing without affecting ongoing MRP personalization operations in the Production Environment. | DIE does not require a staging environment for the personalization scope |
| 6 | Clarifications Set 16 | Answers to Question 23 | Page 4 out of 19 | A.7.9 | OEMs do not commonly issue such letters committing for the EOS/ EOL specially for the 10 years . Therefore, we kindly request DIE to remove this requirement. | Requirement remains unchanged |

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| 7 | Volume 1,3 | Page 31 of Clarification Set 9-15<br><br>AND<br><br>Page 18 of Clarification Set 16-17 | Query No 124 of Clarification Set 9-15<br><br>AND<br><br>Clarification on Page 18 of Clarification Set 16-17 ( First query on this | Clarification Provided in Query Set 9-15 - Query No 124 the authority has clarified as below<br><br>Bidders are required to include all applicable taxes in the bid price included SSCL. Value Added Tax (VAT) shall be paid separately<br><br>AND<br><br>Clarification Provided in Query Set 16-17 - Page 18 the authority | The responses provided in the Clarification Set 9-15 and subsequent Clarification Set 16-17 are conflicting;<br><br>Therefore, we request you to provide the below clarifications to remove any confusion:<br><br>1) Where in the Price sheet VAT should be indicated separately for goods and service supplied from outside Sri Lanka?<br><br>2) Whether DIE will deposit VAT directly to tax authorities in Sri Lanka based on foreign supplier invoice or DIE will pay VAT to foreign supplier and foreign supplier need to deposit with Tax authorities in Sri Lanka?<br><br>3) Whether DIE expect foreign supplier to register with tax authorities in Sri Lanka for SSCL and VAT? | 1. All the taxes outside the sri Lanka must be included in the bid price. Only Local applicable VAT can be shown in the price sheet.<br><br>2. Foreign suppliers cannot invoice with VAT. Only for the companies who are registered for VAT only can invoice<br><br>3. Any supplier should comply with tax authority requirement in Sri Lanka |
| 8 | Volume 1,3 | | **Appendix 7. Terms and Procedures for Payment** | | Please confirm, whether DIE will withhold any tax while paying to foreign supplier for goods, services, Software license or personalisation services? | Supply of goods does not require any tax to be withheld. Services/ software licenses or personalization services withholding taxes will be deducted as per applicable regulation. |
| 9 | 42 | Bid Data Sheet ITB 20.5(a) | Bid Data Sheet ITB 20.5( a) | All Goods, Software or Services supplied outside Sri Lanka shall be quoted on Delivered Duty Paid (DDP), inclusive of all | If VAT on customs duty is disclosed separately in the Pricing Schedule, the total VAT amount will not equal exactly 18% of the quoted supply price. Kindly confirm whether this presentation is acceptable | No. VAT on customs duty is contactors responsibility as contractor is the consignee. Hence in pricing schedule VAT has to be 18% of the price quoted |

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| 10 | Clarification Set 16 | | | Integration with SLUDI will be required once it becomes operational and where applicable | With reference to the proposed integration with SL-UDI, please confirm that DIE will provide the necessary API specifications and technical support to facilitate integration once the SL-UDI system becomes operational. | API specifications will be provided once they become available |
| 11 | addendum 01 | 3 2.0 Amendments to the original Bidding Document | Page 3 of 15 | 1. Live operations of the passport personalization service should commence within 150 days from the contract award for personalization MRP passports. | With reference to Addendum 01, which specifies the MRP personalization Go-Live within 150 days from the contract award, we kindly request the Employer to consider extending this timeline to 180 days to allow sufficient time for equipment procurement, installation, integration and commissioning. | No change to the requirements |
| 12 | addendum 01 | 3 2.0 Amendments to the original Bidding Document | Page 3 of 15 | 3. The contract duration for passport personalization facility service will cover completion of a personalization volume of 3,150,000 e MRPs or 60 months (whichever occurs earlier). | With reference to Item 03 of the amended Particular Conditions, please confirm whether the 500,000 MRP passports are excluded from the revised contract personalization volume of 3,150,000 e-MRPs or are still included in the contract scope. | 1. Contract will include 5oo,ooo MRP's and 3,150,000 e-MRPs.<br>2. The contract duration for passport personalization facility service will cover completion of a personalization volume of 500,000 MRP's completes<br>3. The contract duration for passport personalization facility service will cover completion of a personalization volume of 3,150,000 e MRPs or 60 months (whichever occurs earlier). |

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| 13 | Clarifications set 9 | Answer to Q 67 | 14 | Volume 2 Gene | The answer to the question,<br>"Could you please clarify whether Test/Staging environment is required for Scope B?"<br>is "NO"<br><br>Staging / Test environment is definitely required for Scope B, especially for the Phase 2 (e-Passport Personalization Go-Live). This is because MRP Personalization will be ongoing in the PROD environment by then, and then all the bidders can only do the integration test, acceptance test, etc. in the Staging/Test environment before Go-Live of Phase 2. ( You have MRP running while eMRP is in installation phase, you do not want to jeapardise ongoing operations of MRP with eMRP testing and setup)<br><br>Hence, kindly confirm whether a Staging/Testing Environment is required to ensure that operational risks are adequately mitigated and to minimize risks associated with the migration from the existing MRP system to the eMRP + MRP system across both the Staging and Production Environments. | DIE does not require any staging environment within this scope. Bidders may include such for their own purposes |
| 14 | Clarifications set 14 | Answers to Q 44 | 77 | B.10-2 to B.10.1 | The answer to the question:<br>"Are dedicated test printers, chip encoders and QC readers required, or may production equipment be used before go-live for UAT/OAT? "<br>is "Only production environment is required"<br><br>Staging / Test environment is definitely required for Scope B, especially for the Phase 2 (e-Passport Personalization Go-Live). This is because MRP Personalization will be ongoing in the PROD environment by then, and and then all the bidders only do the integration test, acceptance test, etc. in the Staging/Test environment before Go-Live of Phase 2. ( You have MRP running while eMRP is in installation phrase, you do not want to jeapardise ongoing operations of MRP with eMRP testing and setup)<br><br>Hence, kindly confirm whether a Staging/Testing Environment is required to ensure that operational risks are adequately mitigated and to minimize risks associated with the migration from the existing MRP system to the eMRP + MRP system across both the Staging and Production Environments. | DIE does not require any staging environment within this scope. |
| 15 | Clarifications Set 16 | Answers to Q 23 | 4 | A.7.9 | It is our understanding that the Bidder is required to provide an OEM letter confirming the End-of-Life (EOL) and End-of-Support (EOS) dates of the proposed products. However, based on industry experience and common OEM practices, obtaining such specific commitment letters is often not feasible, as OEMs generally do not issue such documentation.<br><br>Therefore, we kindly request the DIE to reconsider and remove this requirement as this is not practical at all. | No change to the requirement |

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| 16 | Volume 1 & 3 | Bid Data Sheet ITB 20.5(a) | | Clarification Provided in Query Set 16-17- Page 17 last question<br><br>All Goods, Software or Services supplied outside Sri Lanka shall be quoted on Delivered Duty Paid (DDP), inclusive of all taxes, stamps, custom duties, levies & fees imposed in Sri Lanka, except VAT (as applicable at the bid submission deadline). | Under DDP (Delivered Duty Paid) terms, kindly clarify which party will act as the importer of record?<br><br>If DIE is designated as the importer of record, please confirm how the VAT paid at Customs, including VAT applicable to customs duty, should be separately disclosed in the Pricing Schedule? | 1. Contractor will act as the importer of the record<br>2.DIE is not the importer of the record, Contractor is the importer of record |
| 17 | Volume 1,3 | | Appendix 7. Terms and Procedures for Payment | | Kindly confirm whether DIE will deduct or withhold any taxes from payments made to foreign suppliers for the supply of goods, services, software licences or personalisation services. If applicable, please specify the relevant tax types and rates. | Supply of goods does not require any tax to be withheld. Services/ software licenses or personalization services withholding taxes will be deducted as per applicable regulation. |

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| 18 | Volume 1,3 | Page 18 of Clarification Set 16-17 | Clarification on Page 18 of Clarification Set 16-17 ( First query on this Page, no serial numbers are provided) | Clarification Provided in Query Set 16-17 - Page 18 the authority has clarified as below: ( First Query on this Page , no serial number mentioned)<br>- The Bidder shall include in the Bid Price all other costs; only VAT applicable in Sri Lanka shall be paid separately as indicated in the Price Schedule | 1. If VAT and/or SSCL become applicable to foreign digital services after the contract award, how will these taxes be administered and accounted for in payments to foreign contractors?<br><br>2. Would foreign contractors be required to register for VAT and/or SSCL in Sri Lanka, or would DIE be responsible for accounting for the applicable taxes?<br><br>3. Should foreign contractors separately disclose potential VAT and SSCL in the current Pricing Schedule?<br><br>4. If separate disclosure is required, kindly specify the relevant section or line item in the Pricing Schedule where VAT and SSCL should be included.<br><br>If these taxes become applicable after the bid closure, will the contract price be adjusted to accommodate the additional tax liability, or will such taxes be borne by the contractor? | 1. Any new taxes introduced by the GOSL will be paid by the DIE<br>2. Any supplier should comply with tax authority requirement in Sri Lanka<br>3. No<br>4. Not applicable<br>5. Any new taxes introduced by the GOSL will be paid by the DIE |
| 19 | Volume 1,3 | | | | In the previous tender, the Specific Experience requirement stipulated that bidders must have successfully delivered or operationalized at least one (01) e-Passport personalization project, including a PKI solution, with a minimum project value of USD 10 million, and involving a bidder operated issuance service. However, under the current tender, Table 3.2 (Criteria 1.1 and 1.2) adopts a scoring-based evaluation approach, awarding marks according to the number of qualifying contracts completed within the last seven (7) years, with the maximum score of 100 marks allocated to bidders demonstrating experience in three (3) or more contracts.<br>In this regard, we kindly request the Procuring Entity to clarify the rationale behind this change in the evaluation methodology and confirm whether the revised criteria are intended to broaden bidder participation while ensuring fairness, transparency, and effective competition, without compromising the required technical experience and project implementation capabilities | Bidders are required to demonstrate compliance with the specified requirements of the bidding document, and they will be evaluated only referring to the criteria stipulated in the bidding document. |