**सेंट्रल ट्रांसमिशन यूटिलिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड**

**CENTRAL TRANSMISSION UTILITY OF INDIA LIMITED**

**(Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited)**

**(A Government of India Enterprise)**

**Section – I: Request for Proposal (RfP)**

**for**

**Appointment of Consultant For feasibility study of India – Saudi Arabia grid interconnection through undersea cable, assess technical and economic aspects.**

**Specification No.: CC/NT/S-CONS/DOM/A37/25/03188**

**SECTION-I: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RfP)**

**FOR**

**Appointment of Consultant For feasibility study of India – Saudi Arabia grid interconnection through undersea cable, assess technical and economic aspects.**

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| **Mode of bidding** | **:** | **Global Competitive Bidding** |
| **Bidding process** | **:** | **Single Stage Two Envelope** |
| **Tender invitation procedure** | **:** | **Open Tender Invitation** |
| **Financing/Funding** | **:** | **Domestic** |
| **Date of Issuance of RfP** | **:** | **10.03.2025** |
| **Specification Number** | **:** |  |
| **Name of e-Tendering portal** | **:** | **PRANIT portal** |

1. This Request for Proposal (RfP) for the subject package have been published on **10.03.2025** on CTUIL’s website, e-procurement portal given at para 5.0 below and on Government of India’s Central Public Procurement Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in>). Any Corrigendum and/or amendments, etc. shall also be published only on the above website/portals.
2. In view of the recent developments in the region driven mainly by the decarbonization of the domestic economy and in line with the long-term vision of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia KSA 2030, the government has shifted the power sector generation in the (KSA) towards 50% renewable energy resources (RES) and 50% Gas dependent thereby displacing liquid fuels in the power sector. Furthermore, given the immense potential of RES, notably wind and solar, the Kingdom is exploring the possibility of exporting the clean energy abroad with an objective of net-zero emissions by 2060. Therefore, to exploit the techno-economic potentials to export and exchange the clean energy with multiple strategic countries, the power sector has invested heavily in the cross-border interconnections with Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the ongoing study with Greece and European union. On the South-East Asia side, KSA has determined the Republic of India (India) to be the most advanced system and strategic partner, where India has already set the One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative aiming to connect the world.

Indian grid is presently connected to Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. Further, discussions are under way for establishing high voltage high-capacity interconnection with Sri Lanka through undersea cable.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of India have signed a MoU on 08-10-2023 A.D. in the fields of electrical interconnection, clean / green hydrogen, and supply chains. The cooperation is agreed across the power and energy sector and the direct electrical interconnection between the two countries. The foreseen interconnection shall provide many paybacks including optimal utilization of energy resources, spinning reserve sharing, along with enhancement of the respective grid reliability, stability, security and resilience and supply chain.

The initial set of studies indicate that the new electrical interconnection between KSA and The Republic of India shall present greater benefits including the following:

· Increasing reliability and resilience of both systems

· Decrease Capital investment by sharing reserve margin

· Ensuring economical operation

· Ensuring energy exchange and trading

Subsequently an agreement was signed between CTUIL & NG-SA on 28.10.2024 for carrying out the feasibility study of electricity interconnection between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and The Republic of India.

CTUIL and NG-SA shall bear the cost of the Consultancy Contract equally (50:50) and shall jointly be responsible to pay the fees due to the consultant as agreed pursuant to the Consultancy Contract.

1. Central Transmission Utility of India Limited (CTUIL), (wholly Owned Subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited) a Government of India Enterprise incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, having its Registered Office at “Saudamini”, Plot No.-2, Sector 29, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana (hereinafter referred to as ‘CTUIL’/’Owner’/’Employer’), has decided to Engage Consultant For feasibility study of India – Saudi Arabia grid interconnection through undersea cable, assess technical and economic aspects.
2. CTUIL, therefore, invites Proposals through e-procurement portal given at para 5.0 below for **Appointment of Consultant For feasibility study of India – Saudi Arabia grid interconnection through undersea cable, assess technical and economic aspects** through Open tender on Global Competitive Bidding (GCB) basis using **Least Cost Section (LCS)** procedures under secured e-procurement procedure.

This Invitation for Bids extended through media, website or written communication or by any other means, and issuance of Bidding Documents as per para 5.0 below shall not be construed to mean that the prospective bidders to whom the Invitation for Bids has been extended and/or Bidding Documents have been issued is deemed to be an eligible bidder. The eligibility of the bidders shall be determined as per the provisions of Bidding Documents. Some of the salient points in that respect are:

1. This Invitation for Bids, issued by the Employer is open to all firms including company(ies), Government owned Enterprises from all countries in the World, who are registered and incorporated in their respective countries as per the local act, barring Government Department as well as those firms from the countries against whom sanction for conducting business is imposed by Government of India and barring those firms with whom business is banned by the Employer.
2. Compliance to order no. F.7/10/2021-PPD (1) dated 23.02.2023, issued by Public Procurement Division, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (DoE Order) and amendment any amendment thereof, regarding restriction on Bidders sharing Land Border with India.

4.1 Bidding will be conducted through the Global Competitive Bidding procedures as per the provisions of the Bidding Documents and the contract shall be executed as per the provisions of the Contract. Bidders may note that the Employer has uploaded its ‘Works and Procurement Policy and Procedures’ (WPPP) document along with its Modification/Amendment on “Ineligibility of Firms for Participation in the Bidding Process” and on “Black-Listing of Firms / Banning of Business” and its updates on POWERGRID’s website. It shall be noted that no other party, including the Bidder/consultant, shall derive any right from this ‘Works and Procurement Policy and Procedures’ (WPPP) document or have any claim on the Employer on the basis of the same. The respective rights of the Employer and the Bidder/consultant shall be governed by the Bidding Documents/Contract signed between the Employer and the consultant for the package. The provisions of the Bidding Documents shall always prevail over that of ‘Works and Procurement Policy and Procedures’ (WPPP) document in case of contradiction.

1. The scope of works covered under the package inter-alia includes the following:
   1. The analyses will address the feasibility of a direct power interconnector between KSA and India through undersea cable.

The scope of the analyses is to investigate the detailed feasibility of this interconnector examining its economic profitability and the technical viability, considering environmental and technical constraints on the sending and receiving areas along with the challenges across the proposed transmission corridor. The study will allow to identify the expected revenues from exchange of energy in both the countries, the amount of RES energy traded across the interconnector and the risk of its curtailment, the most appropriate terminal substations on both sides, the routing of the interconnector, preferred business model and funding mechanism ,the preliminary estimate of upfront investment and operation costs and timeline of its construction, as well as the Levelized Cost of Transmission (LCOT).

* 1. The study is required to cover the following main activities:

1. Addressing the different options for interconnections and identify the connection substations in the two countries by carrying out power system study for the two electric systems.
2. Perform a high-level assessment of the transmission routing considering environmental and ecological factors
3. Recommend the optimal option based on the technical, economic, legal, political and environmental analysis.
4. Establish the design parameters, capacity and cost estimation for the link including the most suitable routing, based on above studies and existing data.
5. Provide list of subsea cable manufacturer/service provider (including constraints, if any) and list of service provider for subsea cable laying (including constraints, if any) along with estimated execution time for subsea cable supply and its laying & commissioning.
6. Assess the legal, regulatory and environmental impediments, considering Indian and KSA legislations and propose the most appropriate and viable way forward for the Project from an operational and legal framework point of view in the two countries, and to highlight if there are any legal blocking issues.
7. Address any expected operational obstacles limiting the maximum utilization of the link based on detailed power system technical study for the two electric systems.
8. Recommend the best trading scenario after thorough analysis that maximizes the benefits of the two countries, considering existing market rules and regulatory framework.
9. Analyse in detail the financial and economic feasibility of an interconnector considering benefits and costs for the parties, and external effects such as public benefits and costs. Analyse the socio-economic benefits arising from the commissioning of the project, in terms of benefits for the society (consumers, producers, suppliers, TSOs) in both countries and taking into consideration Indian and KSA framework (legal & energy strategy stated).
10. Assess suitable possibilities to finance the Project including ownership structure.
11. Propose a time schedule for project implementation.
12. Propose an applicable business plan considering the above and the international best practices.
13. Develop the draft agreements required to implement, operate and trade energy through the Electrical Interconnection project based on the international best practices.

The above scope of work and deliverables are indicative, and the detailed scope of work and deliverables are given in Section – II: Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Bidding Documents.

1. The **Technical Evaluation Criteria** (i.e., Qualifying Requirement) for the subject package is attached at *Annexure-I to Section-III\_QR*. Bidders are advised to check their prima-facie eligibility/responsiveness as per the specified Evaluation criteria before participating. However, Bidders may note that the Employer shall carry out techno-commercial evaluation of the submitted bids inter-alia including ascertaining responsiveness to stipulated evaluation criteria in line with the provisions of the Bidding Documents post First Envelope Bid opening.
2. The **completion period** for the subject package shall be 06 months.
3. This Request for Proposals extended through media, website, written communication or by any other means, and issuance of RfP Documents shall not be construed to mean that the prospective Bidders to whom the Request for Proposal has been extended and/or RfP Documents have been issued is deemed to be an eligible Bidder. The eligibility of the Bidders shall be determined as per the provisions of RfP Documents.
4. The complete Bidding Documents are available for downloading on e-procurement portal [***https://etender.powergrid.in***](https://etender.powergrid.in)subject to submission of:

i) a request letter for issuance of Bidding Documents as per format attached at **Annexure-II** to this RfP,

ii) a signed copy of Non-Disclosure Agreement (hereinafter called ‘NDA’) as per format attached at **Annexure-III** to this RfP, and

iii) the Power of Attorney (POA) of the person signing the NDA.

The aforesaid request along with the documents mentioned above needs to be submitted **through e-procurement portal** [***https://etender.powergrid.in***](https://etender.powergrid.in) **(under ‘Bid Document Request’ button on ‘Display RFx’ page)** up to 5 (five) days prior to First Envelope bid submission deadline (soft copy part) i.e. on or before **05/04/2025.**

Upon receipt of such request along with the aforesaid requisite documents, the access of complete Bidding Documents will be provided to the requesting party except for the firms rendered ineligible on grounds like firm is blacklisted/banned in POWERGRID; The Employer shall be sole judge in regard to considering the request for issuance of Bidding Documents or otherwise. No firm shall have any claim on the Employer on the basis of the same.

* 1. The applicant(s) may note that the request for issuance of Bidding Documents shall be submitted in line with the formats as provided along with this RfP. In case of erroneous/non-submission of documents as identified under Para 9.0 above by the applicant, the Employer may seek rectification of such documents and may also seek certain additional documents as deemed appropriate. To this effect, the Employer may give the applicant not more than 2 days’ notice to rectify/furnish such documents, failing which the application is liable to be rejected. The request for clarification and the response shall be **through e-procurement portal** [***https://etender.powergrid.in***](https://etender.powergrid.in) **(under ‘Bid Document Request’ button on ‘Display RFx’ page). Detailed SOP/User Manual are available under ‘Manuals & Videos’ tab on e-procurement portal.**
  2. In case of rejection of request of an applicant for issuance of Bidding Documents, the rejected applicant can appeal to ED (C&M-CTUIL) at the address given at Para 14.0 below within one (01) day of receiving the communication regarding rejection of their request from CTUIL.

1. Interested bidders have to necessarily register themselves on the portal [***https://etender.powergrid.in***](https://etender.powergrid.in) to participate in the bidding under this invitation for bids. It shall be the sole responsibility of the interested bidders to get themselves registered at the aforesaid portal.

The said registration shall be free of cost. On completion of registration process, the registering bidders will be provided with User ID and Log-In password.

Kindly **note that to submit the bids electronically, bidders must have a valid Class 3B Digital Certificate (signing and encryption / decryption certificate).**

Interested bidders may obtain further information regarding this RfP from the office of **DGM (C&M)/ Manager (C&M),** CTUIL at the address given at para 14.0 below from 15:00 hours to 17:00 hours on all working days.

For proper uploading of the bids on the portal namely [***https://etender.powergrid.in***](https://etender.powergrid.in) *(hereinafter referred to as the ‘portal’)*, it shall be the sole responsibility of the bidders to apprise themselves adequately regarding all the relevant procedures and provisions as detailed at the portal as well as by contacting from CTUIL, as and when required, for which contact details are mentioned above below. The Employer in no case shall be responsible for any issues related to timely or properly uploading/submission of the bid in accordance with the relevant provisions of *Section III – Conditions of Contracts* of the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are requested to read the ‘Bidders Manual and Pre-Requisite Document’ available on **‘POWERGRID Reverse Auction and Integrated Tendering (*PRANIT*)’** portal through website [*https://etender.powergrid.in*](https://etender.powergrid.in) before proceeding for submission of bids. It is important to note that bidders can submit their bids online only through[*https://etender.powergrid.in*](https://etender.powergrid.in)

* 1. Bidders shall ensure that their bids, complete in all respects, are submitted online through e-tendering portal ([*https://etender.powergrid.in*](https://etender.powergrid.in)) only. **No DEVIATION in this regard is acceptable.**
  2. A pre-bid meeting will be held at the office of the Employer at Gurgaon (Haryana), India or through online (link shall be communicated later via e-mail to parties with whom complete bidding document has been issued in line with cl. 9.0 above) on **24.03.2025** at **1130 Hrs. (IST)** to clarify the bidders’ various issues raised in accordance with cl. 5.1, Section-III of RfP document.

1. A Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure will be adopted and will proceed on e-procurement portal [***https://etender.powergrid.in***](https://etender.powergrid.in)as detailed in the Bidding Documents.
2. **Soft Copy Part of the Proposals** must be uploaded under Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure on the portal at or before **11:00 hours** on **10.04.2025**. The e-Procurement system would not allow any late submission of proposals through the portal after the due date & time as specified.

The documents required to be submitted as part of Hard Copy Part of the Bid shall be scanned and uploaded as part of First Envelope in Soft Copy Part of the Bid as per provisions of Clause 8 (II).

Document Fee must be paid online only in line cl. 3.2, Section-III of RfP document.

**The first** Envelope i.e. Techno-Commercial Part shall be opened on **10.04.2025** in the presence of the bidders’ representatives who choose to attend in person at the address at para 14.0 below at **11:30 hours** or may be viewed by the bidders by logging in to the portal. Second Envelope i.e. Price Part of qualified bidders shall be opened in the presence of the bidders’ representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address given in the intimation for opening of Second Envelope in accordance with **Clause 20.0 of Section – III: Conditions of Contracts** or may be viewed by the bidders by logging in to the portal.

1. CTUIL reserves the right to cancel/withdraw this Request for Proposals without assigning any reason and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such a decision.
2. All correspondence with regard to the above shall be to the following address:

(By Post/In Person)

Central Transmission Utility of India Limited

(A wholly owned subsidiary of POWERGRID)

10th floor, IRCON International Tower-1, Plot No. 16

Sector-32, Gurugram – 122003, Haryana.

Kind Attention: Mr. Maneesh Jharwal, DGM (C&M) /

Mr. Rahul, Manager, (C&M)

Mobile: +91- 9560690625/ 9205472328

Email: [maneesh.jharwal@powergrid.in](mailto:maneesh.jharwal@powergrid.in); [rahul.prasad@powergrid.in](mailto:rahul.prasad@powergrid.in)

1. Bidders are requested to open the following link for pre-requisite system settings of PRANIT portal and manual/video tutorial regarding information for bid submission:

<https://etender.powergrid.in/new_logon2/User_Help_Menu.html>

In case any technical issue remains unresolved, Bidder may contact the ERP SRM Helpdesk support as per the details below:

* PRANIT Helpdesk Number - +91 124-2823456 / +91 124-5063900
* Working Time - 09.30 am to 05.30 pm
* Working days - Monday to Friday
* Holiday calendar of POWERGRID Corporate office Gurgaon shall be followed.

Bidders are advised to contact the Helpdesk minimum 2 working days before Bid Submission Deadline for assistance.

**Note-** At the time of submission of the bid as per the provisions of the Bidding Documents, Bidders are required to make sure that:

1. The First Envelope excel with file named **“First Envelope and Bid Forms”** must be uploaded alongwith the bid.
2. The Second Envelope excel with file named **“Price\_schedule”** must be uploaded alongwith the bid.

**As per the provisions of the portal, it is mandatory to upload aforesaid excel file with title as indicated above (*Bidders may refer user manuals at the portal*** [***https://etender.powergrid.in***](https://etender.powergrid.in) ***regarding submission of bid*).**

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