

# PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

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Islamabad, 6th December, 2021

## **SUBJECT:- PRE-BID MEETING (Procurement of Computer Based Examination Services including Operational System)**

Pre-Bid meeting for the said subject was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 in the Executive Board room of Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC). List of participants is placed at (Annex-A).

Member IT, Member Admin and Member Legal of the National Medical Authority (NMA), of Pakistan Medical Commission answered the queries raised by the participants. As specified in tender, written queries from bidder were supposed to reach PMC team at least 3 days before the meeting. Agenda of the meeting was shared through tender document *"To answer any queries that potential bidders may have"*.

Following table indicates written queries received before the pre-bid meeting, discussions held during the meeting and NMA's response. Also, it includes queries received from few bidders after the Pre-Bid meeting.

<b>Sr.</b>	<b>Bidder Queries</b>	<b>Discussion During the Meeting</b>	<b>NMA's Response</b>
1	<b>National Testing Service</b> "Competitive examinations are held simultaneously and at one time. Continuous examination process within a period of 30 days will arise questions on difficulty index of the papers"	a) NTS highlighted that conducting a competitive exam over a period of say 30 days does not come under the definition of "Simultaneous" as simultaneous means conducting single test for all students on same day/time.  b) NTS highlighted that if the test is conducted for 30 days, it shall	a) NMA responds that "Simultaneously" means a continuous exam process held within a period of 30 days. This has been clearly mentioned in the tender and is in accordance with legal framework of PMC and further affirmed by the superior courts.

		<p>arise questions on difficulty index of the papers</p> <p>NMA clarified both a) and b) to the participants and informed all to send a written response.</p>	<p>b) NMA clarified that in tender document, requirements explain that a strong algorithm to randomize questions based on difficulty index assigned to questions shall be demonstrated by the bidder and is part of evaluation criteria.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the explanation the structure or method of conduct of exam in terms of number of days etc. is not the domain of the service provider.</p>
2	<p><b>National Testing Service</b></p> <p>“Currently no testing agency/Computer Based Examination Service providers has capability to conduct CBT for 150,000 candidates simultaneously in Pakistan, therefore, this clause may be reconsidered. Ref: PPRA Rule 10, 32,50”</p>	<p>It was highlighted by NTS during the meeting that such magnitude of competitive tests could be gracefully planned using non-Computer based testing rather than computer-based testing or more appropriate time should be given to bidders to ensure readiness for computer-based exams of this magnitude.</p> <p>NTS commented that NMA should consider amending their criteria otherwise the tender will find coverage in the media and will be challenged in court.</p> <p>NMA explained the rationale of requirements mentioned in the tender and informed all that a</p>	<p>NMA responds that as per PMC Act and the decision of the Medical and Dental Council, it has to be Computer Based Exam and our requirements of timelines for readiness are in accordance with the annual calendar of Examination already approved by the Medical &amp; Dental Council of PMC.</p> <p>It is clarified that it is not the bidder’s domain to determine the methodology of the exam or the services required by PMC.</p>

		written response shall be sent in more detail.	
3	<p><b>National Testing Service</b></p> <p>“Currently no testing agency/service providers in Pakistan is conducting computer-based examination at large scale and having stock of 3,500 to 4,000 tablets/computer/laptops with 20 dedicated servers on its inventory. Also, as per tender document clause 2.1.7 fully operational complete examination system should be capable of immediate deployment to hold examination by 15th January, 2022 which seems ambitious timeline since complete procurement process after awarding of contract needs appropriate time Therefore, timeline for bid submission may be reconsidered because of complexity of the project (international examination test centers) to prepare technical proposal. Ref: PPRA Rule 10, 27,32,50”</p>	<p>It was mentioned by NTS that considering the complexity of the requirement (magnitude of equipment, readiness of international centers etc.). timelines of bid submission must be revised. It was mentioned that if given appropriate time, they can ensure the required readiness for the conduct of the examination as per the requirements in the tender.</p> <p>NMA explained the rationale of requirements mentioned in the tender and informed all to send a written response.</p>	<p>NMA responds that timelines are critical for the conduct of different upcoming examinations as per the approved examination calendar. Also, we look for a service company that has the capacity and capability in providing the necessary technology and services to enable PMC for conducting computer-based examination both locally and internationally as indicated in Technical evaluation Criteria. Timelines for bid submission remain to be the same.</p>
4	<p><b>National Testing Service</b></p> <p>“Experience in number of years, Company Profile,</p>	<p>NTS raised a query that tender does not contain any parameters</p>	<p>NMA responds that section 5 of the tender documents</p>