

**TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF STANDARD DEFINITION (SD), HIGH DEFINITION (HD) SET TOP BOX
ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS**

TENDER REFERENCE NO. 002/TACTV/Set Top Box/2019 DT.12.3.2020

QUERIES OF VENDORS AND TACTV'S REPLY

Sl.no	Query	TACTV reply
1	We request you to kindly postpone the last date of submission of the bid to 30th June 2020 in view of the restrictions imposed by the State and Central Govts under the lock down directives which will enable us and our bidding partners to participate in this tender.	The last date of submission already extended to 10.6.2020
2	We request you to kindly amend/remove the Qualification Criteria # 3g of the Tender to encourage the Indian vendors and development organisations for STB product and CAS software which is in line with the GOI directives of Make in India.	<p>The Clause 3(g) of the Tender states "The single bidder/consortium partners should have firm tie-up with a leading and reputed CAS provider who are in operation in India for at least 3 years as on 31st December 2019. The CAS provider should have a minimum of 3 Lakhs active installations (as embedded in STB) each in 3 leading Indian Digital Cable Systems/DTH operators. Upon award of the contract, the CAS should be provided by the same vendor on whose tie-up the tender got qualified.</p> <p>Hence there is no restriction for any Indian Company in participating in the Tender. Since Full digitalisation of India was mandated by Government of India on 31.3.2017, there are ample manufacturers of Set Top box in India with more than 3 years experience.</p>

		Moreover, as TACTV is having huge number of subscribers, for reliability and quality, these minimum standards are prescribed.
3	We believe that the Tenders with a value of less than Rs 200 Crores are to be floated only for the Indian players/ vendors to participate hence request you to please amend the tender accordingly, and help the local organisation. (No Global Tender, please)	This Tender was floated on 12th March 2020 as Global Tender as per the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and The Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tender Rules, 2000 the Act. Hence, the vendors citation of recent guideline is not applicable to this tender.
4	One additional request for your kind consideration is to knock off all the predatory and restrictive clauses which prohibit local Indian products developed and manufactured, so that the STB developed and manufactured locally only be permitted OR highest priority preferential treatment being granted.	The request is very generic and not specifying any particular clause of the Tender and there are no predatory or prohibitory clauses in the Tender. In fact, in line with Make in India initiative, TACTV has specified that the Prime Bidder should be registered with India with minimum 2 years operation in India.
5	Regarding the AV Port, TACTV requested "RCA" for both SD & HD, could we use MiniAV (3 in 1) port for both SD & HD? Or could we use RCA for SD and MiniAV for HD?	Since TACTV has already procured 3.6 million STBs which are in use, in order to have uniformity and inter operability of the accessories like AV cables, RCA cable is specified in the Tender for both SD and HD STBs. Hence, no change in specifications of Tender.
6	Regarding the Loop Out port, TACTV requested "Loop Out: IEC female" for both SD & HD, could you please confirm whether this is mandatory or optional?	Loop out feature should be provided in all SD and HD STBs. It is mandatory.

7	Regarding the Input Frequency Range, TACTV requested "47-862 MHz" for both SD & HD, should we consider to filter the low frequency EOC range? If needed, kindly clarify the final available frequency range for both SD & HD.	BIS standard frequency range should be 47-862 MHz. Hence no change.
8	Regarding VC-1 decoding, could you please confirm whether this is mandatory or optional?	VC-1 decoding is mandatory
9	Regarding the HD memory, TACTV requested "128 MB NAND + 256 MB DDR3", as per our R&D evaluation, "16 MB FLASH + 128 MB DDR" is enough for HD features so could we use this "16 MB flash+ 128 MB DDR" for HD?	Regarding the HD memory, "128 MB NAND + 256 MB DDR3 should be provided. For DDR, DDR1/2/3 may be used (Corrigendum 7)
10	Regarding the HD audio decoding, kindly confirm whether "AC-3, E-AC-3, AAC, DTS" decoding is mandatory or optional, because it involves Dolby/AAC/DTS royalties. If its not mandatory then its royalties can be excluded.	AC-3, E-AC-3, AAC, DTS" decoding is mandatory
11	Regarding the CAS, could we use the Cardless CAS (SoftCAS), and without the card slot?	Cardless CAS (Soft CAS) can be used
12	Regarding the "Mosaic Function & Push VOD", kindly share the detailed specifications for these two features.	Mosaic function means it should support multi channels in the screen to select the channels. Support pre-process scrambling for push VOD service.

13	<p>We request you to consider us an eligible bidder without applying the clauses 3b and 3d of the qualification criteria with respect to experience of manufacturing only set top boxes</p>	<p>Clause 3 (b) of the tender states that "The single bidder/ anyone of the consortium partner should have minimum 3 years of experience (as on 31st December 2019) in the manufacture of Set Top Boxes. Clause 3(d) of Tender states that "The single bidder/ anyone of the consortium partner should have successfully completed supply of at least 2 Lakh units of set top boxes in any one of the last three financial years i.e. 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 of which at least One Lakh units should have been supplied and seeded in India. Since Full digitalisation of India was mandated by Government of India on 31.3.2017, there are ample manufacturers of Set Top box in India with more than 3 years experience. Moreover, as TACTV is having huge number of subscribers, for reliability and quality, these minimum standards are prescribed.</p>
14	<p>ITI being a public sector company may be exempted from providing EMD of Rs 25 lakh in the form of bank guarantee and instead our corporate guarantee may be accepted.</p>	<p>No exemption.</p>
15	<p>SD STBs - DDR1. We don't understand what's the rational for that, for performance, for price, some specific feature ? Suggestion : Our suggestion here is to add options for DDR1/2/3 for both SD/HD. DDR2/3 is widely used in STB today, they serve better in terms of performance & is comparatively cheaper than DDR1. Industry is not using DDR1 today.</p>	<p>For SD and HD stbs DDR1/DDR2/DDR3 memories can be used -Corrigendum-7.</p>

<p>16</p>	<p>HD STBs - System memory 256mb DDR3 with 128mb NAND Flash. What's the rational behind using NAND and not NOR? Why do you want to use Linux with 256 mb on a standard HD zapper box ? We believe there is no plan to use MW ? Which applications required that high memory allocation ? Suggestion : An HD zapper box today can easily function in 128mb memory on RTOS with all the major AS features, PVR etc. In case you do not want to run any specific Linux application on HD box, then 256mb will increase your total cost. It is, therefore, recommended to use 8/16mb SPI NOR & 128mb RTOS box in HD segment.</p>	<p>As per the tender specification for HD stbs should have 256 MB DDR1/2/3 with 128mb nand flash. Corrigendum-7,</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>What about the Pre-bid meeting? We highly recommend having a discussion once together with other vendors to clarify our doubts on this tender.</p>	<p>In view of the Covid-19 lockdown and travel restrictions, in- person pre-bid was not possible and hence, queries in electronic form was solicited. This was intimated through our Corrigendum and scrolls in our website www.tactv.in and Government of Tamil Nadu Tender website www.tenders.tn.gov.in.</p>

18	<p>Page 17. Section iii: Solution Components. Sub section: C Tender Point: The CAS must support at least 5 brands of STB's which should have been deployed in India and Overseas countries. Question: a. Does this mean that CAS has to be integrated with 5 different STB vendors? Is document referring to different chipset from different vendors or same chipset used in STBs manufactured by different STB vendors. b. Is there any variation in this requirement, i.e., if CAS is integrated with 3 different STB vendors, will it cause any issue.</p>	<p>The CAS has to be integrated with 5 different STB vendors. The document doesnot specify same or different chipset by the STB vendors and it is up to the vendor.</p>
19	<p>Page 20. Section 3: Set Top Box. Subsection: 3 Tender Point: The STB OEM must support at least 5 leading CAS OEM's Question: Can we get the list of leading CAS OEMs that TACTV has used as reference when preparing the tender document. If there is no such list, is TACTV looking at volume of STBs (with CAS) deployed across India for getting the CAS OEMs list.</p>	<p>TACTV has only specified that the STB must support at least 5 leading CAS OEMs'. It is up to the bidder to shortlist the CAS companies fulfilling the tender condition.</p>
20	<p>Annexure-1, 3.1.4, Page 17 The system shall have standards based API's to tranfer purchase information to logistical and billing systems. Details needed</p>	<p>CAS system should have API to transfer purchase information of STB no's/ CA id's and other required details with billing system (SMS).</p>

21	Annexure-1, 3.1.22, Page 18, The STB and Viewing card (VC) shall be paired from SMS to ensure security of the content. More details on the Viewing card needed from TACTV, is it mandatory? Is it a Smartcard with active chip?/ Expected use case of VC is required in scenario of embedded CAS	Viewing card is required for only if the STB is card based STB. In case of Embedded CAS / soft CAS Viewing card is not mandatory.
22	Annexure-1, 3.3.37, Page 22 The timeout play for the STB should be minimum of 8 hours (even if the CAS is shut down, the signal should last for 8 hours in the STB). Details on usecase/scenario is needed. May be contradictory to some of the other CAS features.	This time duration is used to ensure to provide the un interrupted service to the subscribers while CAS is down due to technical failures. So this option has to be provided.
23	Annexure-1, 3.3.11.x, Page 25 Loop out Feature : Loop out feature is optional in BIS Specs: Hence here also it may be put as Optional	Loop out feature should be provided in all SD and HD STBs. It cannot be modified as optional.
24	Annexure-1, 3.3.11.x, Page 25 Audio output : Digital audio out put :SPDIF is optional in BIS, Hence here also, it is to be kept as optional. Also as HDMI is there, a separte digital audio output does not seems to be of much practical usages.	Digital audio out SPDIF option is required for only HD STBs.
25	Annexure-1, 3.3.III page 27: Memory: a. memory configurations (Size) shall be given as Minimum not as exact size. B. Also exact memory technologies (Such as DDR1, DDR3) should not be mentioned and to be left to the bidder/ equipment supplier for both SD & HD boxes. Only DDR can at best be mentioned.	a. Memory configurations (Size) higher than the Specification will be accepted. B. any Memory technologies (Such as DDR1, DDR2 , DDR3) can be used in both SD and HD STBs - Corrigendum-7

26	Annexure-1, 1, ii page 4: Ericsson multiplexer: Details of Ericsson Mux/ Scrambler and ITP SMS is needed for estimation of efforts involved	Ericsson multiplexer: Model No MX8400-4 no's and C2 - No's. ITP SMS: Make Ezybil, Version 1.4, url:sms.tactv.in
27	Annexure-1, 3.3.ii.iii page 26: RF input channel bandwidth. RF input channel BW of only 8 mhz should suffice... 7 Mhz may be removed.	As per BIS standard both 7 Mhz and 8 Mhz is specified.

Managing Director