

केन्द्रीय उपोष्ण बागवानी संस्थान

रहमानखेड़ा, पो0 आ0 काकोरी लखनऊ — 226 101

Central Institute For Subtropical Horticulture Rehmankhera, P. O. Kakori, Lucknow – 226 101

STANDARD BIDDING DOCOUMENTS OF ICAR FOR PURCHASE OF GOODS

IFB REFERENCE NO. 13-9/2014-15-SP, DATED 14.09.2015

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS: 12.10.2015

UPTO 3.30 P.M.

DATE OF OPENING

1. Technical Bid open on: 13.10.2015 at 11.00 A.M.

2. Financial Bid open on: The date for opening the financial bid shall

Be intimated to the successful bidder

who qualify the technical bid.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE

(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)

PO KAKORI, REHMANKHERA, LUCKNOW-226101

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

<u>Important</u>: Non-compliance of any of the following terms & conditions will tantamount to rejection

of the Tender in question.

1.(i) Tender shall be sealed in an envelop. The envelop shall be addressed to the **DIRECTOR**, **Central Institute For Subtropical Horticulture**, **PO-Kakori**, **Rehmankhera**, **Lucknow-226 101** and it should also bear the tender enquiry No. and the words "**DO NOT OPEN BEFORE 13.10.2015 (11:00 AM)**.

(ii) Two Bid System

- (a) Technical bid consisting of all technical details along with commercial terms and conditions and
- (b) Financial bid indicating item-wise price for the items mentioned in the technical bid. Note: Below Three Tenders Bids will not be open.

The Technical bid and the financial bid should be sealed by the bidder in separate cover duly super scribed. The Technical bids are to be opened by the designated Committee of the Institute. At the second stage, financial bids of only those who was qualify the technical bid, will be opened. The outer envelop will bear the full address as mentioned above. The supplier must ensure that the tender duly sealed as above, reaches the Institute on 12.10.2015 by 3.30 PM. The tenderer may, at his choice, send the tender by registered post, speed post or drop the tender in the tender box.

- 1. Separate tender documents shall be required for each item.
- 2. The tender will be accepted only on the prescribed tender form.
- 3. The Firms/ parties quoting/offering on downloaded tender form from website will have to submit the tender cost of Rs. 500/- only in the shape of Bank Draft in favour of "ICAR Unit CISH" Lucknow for each item seperately, failing which the tender will be liable to be rejected.
- 4. The tender form should accompany with an Earnest Money @ 2% of the actual cost of the item in from of a crossed Demand Draft/Bank Guarantee drawn only in favour of "ICAR UNIT CISH" payable at Lucknow. EMD in the from of Fixed Deposit will not be accepted. Consolidated amount of EMD for more than one tender will NOT be acceptable. EMD of the party whose tender is accepted for procurement of goods, would be refunded only after the receipt of goods in satisfactory condition /installation but subject to receipt of performance security certificate. However, the EMD of the parties, whose rates will not be accepted, would be refunded in due course of time. Each Tender must accompany Earnest Money as shown against each item in the tender notice.
- <u>5.</u> The Tender/ Bids should be submitted alongwith the enclosed Annexure I to V duly signed, failing which the tender shall be liable to be rejected.

6. Documents establishing good's eligibility and conformity to bidding document

- (a) The documentary evidence of conformity of the goods and services to the bidding documents may be in the form of literature, drawings, data, etc. and shall consist of:
- (i) a detailed description of the goods essential technical and performance characteristics,

- (ii) a list giving full particulars including the available sources and current prices of all the spare parts, special tools etc, necessary for the proper and continuous functioning of the goods for a period of two years (or more if specified in the schedule) following the commencement of the use of the goods by the purchaser and
- (iii) a clause-by-clause commentary on the purchaser's Technical Specifications demonstrating substantial responsiveness of the goods and services to those specifications or a statement of deviations and exceptions to the provisions of the Technical Specifications should be included.
- (b) For purpose of the commentary to be furnished to ITB clause 6(a) above, the bidder shall note that the standards of workmanship, material and equipment and references to brand names or catalogue numbers, if any, designated by the purchaser in its Technical Specifications are intended to be descriptive only and not restrictive. The bidder may substitute determinative standards, brand names and/or catalogue numbers in its bid, provided that it demonstrates to the purchaser's satisfaction that the substitutions are substantially equivalent or superior to those mentioned in the Technical Specifications.

7. Bid sent by Telegram, Fax, Cable or facsimile are not acceptable and will be rejected out rightly. Clarification of bids

During scrutiny and evaluation of bids, the purchaser may, at is discretion, ask the bidder for a Clarification of its bid. The request for clarification and the response shall be in writing and no change in the price or substance of the bid shall be sought, offered or permitted.

8. Delivery schedules

The purchaser requires that the goods mentioned in the "Schedule of Requirements" shall be delivered at the destination within the time schedule specified therein. As and if necessary, the estimated time of arrival of goods from ex-works/port of entry to the destination will be calculated by the purchaser for each bid after allowing for reasonable transportation time based on the published tariff of Railways, appropriate Road Transport Agencies etc. Bids offering deliveries (as worked out on the above lines) which are later than the specified delivery but within the allowable range (as specified in the schedule of requirements) will be adjusted during the evaluation by adding a factor equal to the percentage specified in the Schedule of Requirements to the FOB price per week of variation from the specified delivery schedule.

- 9. Purchaser reserves the right to vary quantities at the time of award.
- 10. The tenders received telegraphically, conditional, without earnest money and tender fee or after due date will not be entertained in any case. Further, the purchaser does not accept any liability and responsibility for the tenders in case the same are not properly sealed & marked and/or sent as above.
- 11. The Tender must reach this office on or before 12.10.2015 by 3.30 PM otherwise it will not be considered, at any cost. The technical bid of the tender shall be opened on 13.10.2015 (11:00AM) in the presence of the intending tenderers or their authorized representatives.
 - 12. The representative of the bidder, who intends to attend the bid opening, shall bring with him/ her a letter of authority from the bidder on the bidder's letter head, duly authorizing him/her to attend the bid opening. In the absence of such a letter of authority, the representative(s) will not be allowed to enter and attend the bid opening. The bidder's representatives, who attend the bid opening, shall mark attendance in a register available in the institute.

13. Price structure:

- (a) The tenderer shall quote for the complete requirement of goods & services and for the full quantity.
- (b) For domestic goods, prices shall be quoted in Indian rupees only. For imported goods, prices shall be in the currency of the country of origin of goods. Bids where prices are quoted in any other way shall be treated as non responsive and rejected.
- (d) Central excise/custom duty, if any, <u>may not be included</u> in quoted price as the Institute is exempted from the same vide DSIR Registration No. TU/V / RG-CDE (618)/2006, dated 27-09-2006.
- (e) All the quoted rates should be F.O.R. at CISH, Rehmankhera, Lucknow
- (f) The rates and prices quoted by the supplier shall remain firm and fixed during the currency of the contract and shall not be subject to variation on any account, whatsoever, including statutory variations, if any.
- (g) The comparison shall be **on CIF destination basis**, duly delivered and commissioned at the destination.
- (h) The documents/information in respect of imported item shall be received by the purchaser at least one week before the arrival of goods at the port or place of arrival and, if not received, the supplier will be responsible for any consequential expenses.
- **Liquidated Damage Clause:** If at any time during the performance of the contract, the supplier 14. encounters the conditions hindering timely delivery of the goods, the supplier shall promptly inform the purchaser in writing the fact of the delay and likely duration of supply of the same. After receipt of supplier's communication, the purchaser shall decide as to whether to cancel the contract for the unsupplied portion after the existing delivery period or to extend the delivery period suitably by issuing an amendment to the contract. If the supplier fails to deliver the goods and/or perform the services within the contractual delivery period for reasons other than the circumstances beyond supplier's control (which will be determined by the purchaser), the purchaser extends the delivery period and will also deduct from the contract price, its liquidated damages of a sum equivalent to 0.5% (half per cent) price of the delivery of the delayed goods or unperformed services for each week of delay or part thereof until actual delivery or performance. The maximum limit of such deduction will, however be 10% of the contract price of the delayed goods or services.
- 15. The bidder/tenderer shall have to furnish the Check List/Questionnaire duly signed and stamped by the party concerned. Otherwise Tender will be ignored.
- 16. If a Firm is to submit tender for more than one item, tender for each item has to be sealed in a separate cover with the fulfillment of Terms & Conditions at Sr. No.1 and EMD's in the form of Bank Draft of the required amount. All such sealed envelops can be sent in a suitable size and sealed cover supported with a forwarding letter giving details of such covers.

- 17. The tender/offer shall remain valid for acceptance for a period of not less than 180 days after the specified date of opening of the offers. An offer valid for a shorter period shall be rejected as non-responsive.
- 18. The successful bidder will have to deposit 5% of the total bids as performance security in the shape of <u>Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in favour of ICAR Unit, CISH, Lucknow,</u> which will be effective from the date of receipt of the ordered material in good condition & installation and remain valid for a period of 15 months beyond the date of completion of all contractual obligations by the supplier including the warranty.
- 19. Cuttings/over writings in tender should be avoided, otherwise these should be properly initialed with the stamp of the party.
- 20. The party who submits the tender, will have to ensure after sale- service facility and billing by the same party, (and not by some other sister establishment etc.) Period of "after sale-service" may specifically be mentioned to consider the item failing which the tenderer may forego its priority.
- 21. The documentary evidence of conformity of the goods and services to the bidding documents may be in the form of literature, drawings, data etc. and shall consist of a detailed description of the goods, essential technical and performance characteristics,
 - i.) a list giving full particulars, including available sources and current prices of all the spare parts, special tools, etc., necessary for the proper and continuous functioning of goods for a period of **Five years** following commencement of the use of the goods,
 - ii.) a clause-by-clause commentary on the purchaser's 'Technical Specifications' demonstrating substantial responsiveness of the goods and services to those specifications or a statement of deviations and exceptions to the provisions of the 'Technical Specifications'.

Note: No cognizance will be given for tender without documentary proof of literature/leaflets/ / data etc. in support of the product i.e. equipment/instrument.

- 22. It would be desirable to attach a **User list**, if any.
- 23. If the party fails to supply/install the ordered equipment/ instrument within a stipulated period, the **EMD** and **SMD** is liable to be forfeited.
- 24. The supplier shall not arrange part-shipments and/or transshipment without the prior written consent of the purchaser at any cost.

25. Payment:

Payment of the bill shall be made within 30 days after the receipt and installation, commissioning of the equipment satisfactorily. It is not possible for the Institute either to negotiate documents through bank/wire transfer or to make payment in advance.

26. Equivalent equipments/instruments approximately fulfilling the enclosed specifications can also be tendered.

- 27. If the closing/opening date of tender happens to be the closed holiday, next working day will be treated as closing/opening day for the tender.
- 28. The departmental rules/instructions shall be binding on tenderer. The preference will be given to the tenderers/manufacturers having ISO-9001 certification (with documentary proof to this effect) and giving 18 months warranty of their product.
- 29. Not withstanding the above, the Director, Central Institute For Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow Reserves the right to accept or reject any tender/bid or annule the tendering process and reject all tenders/quotations, at any time prior to award of the contract, without assigning any reason whatsoever, and without incurring any liability or obligation, whatsoever, to the affected tenderer or tenderers.

Central Institute For Subtropical Horticulture

(Indian Council of Agricultural Research) LUCKNOW-226101. U.P.(INDIA)

TENDER FORM No. 5/2015

Tender Serial No. 5 /2015-16

Full name and address of the Tenderer, in addition to post Box No, if any, should be quoted in all communications to this office	Tenderer's Address :
FROM :	Telephone No.: Code No.: FAX No.:
То	
THE DIRECTOR, Central Institute For Subtropical Horticulture Lucknow- 226 101 (U.P.)	<u>,</u>
Sir	
and other technical details as required in the tender equipments/instruments as detailed in the Schedule h the price given in the said schedule and agree to hold dispatched within the prescribed time.	s/instruments and confirm that the same will meet the description, specification enquiry. Further, I/ We hereby undertake the installation at site in respect of ereto or such portion thereof as you may specify in the Acceptance of Tender at this offer till I/We shall be bound by communication of acceptance are Tender placed by the Central Institute For Subtropical Horticulture and have
	the schedule thereto and I/We am/are fully aware of the nature of the said
The following pages have been added to and	form part of this tender.
	Yours faithfully,
Encl : Tender	(SIGNATURE OF TENDERER)
Full nameAddress :	
Dated	
Signature of WitnessAddress :	

Telephones: 0522-2841022, 2841023, 2841024, Fax :(0522)-2841025,

E-mail – director@cishlko.org, Website: www.cishlko.org.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE

(Indian Council of Agricultural Research) LUCKNOW- 226 101 (UP)

CHECK LIST (MUST BE ATTACHED WITH THE TENDER)

1.	Item No.:		
2.	Name of the equipment tendered for :		
3.	Total No. of pages of the Tender: (including catalogues etc.)		
4.	Whether Indigenous or Imported :		
5.	If imported, whether Original certificate of the principal enclosed or not?		
6.	Amount of EMD, Bank Draft No. and date, enclosed with the tender (Cheques/BGs/FDs etc. are not acceptable).		
7.	Whether Unit is registered with the Small Scale Industries for the Tendered Item or not. If so, whether the required certificate enclosed or not?		
8.	Whether list of "already users" enclosed or no	t?	
9.	Whether Technical Specifications, Literature given, alongwith catalogues, (in original) or not?		
		SIGNATURE	
		Stamp of the party	

CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE

(Indian Council of Agricultural Research) PO KAKORI, REHMANKHERA, LUCKNOW-226101

OUESTIONNAIRE

BIDDERS SHOULD FURNISH SPECIFIC ANSWERS TO ALL THE QUESTIONS GIVEN BELOW. IN CASE A QUESTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A BIDDER, THE SAME SHOULD BE ANSWERED WITH THE REMARKS "NOT APPLICABLE" BIDDERS MAY PLEASE NOTE THAT IF THE ANSWERS SO FURNISHED ARE NOT CLEAR AND /OR ARE EVASIVE, THE BID WILL BE LIABLE TO BE IGNORED.

1.	Bid No.	Opening on bid
2.	Offer is open for acceptance	
3.	Brand of goods offered	
4.	Name & address of manufacturer	
5.	Station of Manufacture	
6.	What is your permanent Income Tax A/C No.	
7.	Confirm whether you have attached your latest/current ITCC or certified photocopy thereof.	
8.	Status: (a) Are you currently registered with the Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS & D) for the item(s) quoted? If so, indicate the date up to which you are registered and whether there is any monetary limit on your registration. (b) Are you a small scale unit currently registered with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) under single point Registration Scheme for the item(s) quoted? if so, indicate the date up to which you are registered and whether there is any monetary limit on your registration. (c) If you are not registered either with NSIC or DGS&D, please state whether you are currently registered with directorate of Industries of the State Government concerned. If so, indicate the date up to which you are registered and whether there is any monetary limit on your registration. (d) Are you registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 or any other Act?	

Please attach certified copy (copies) of the relevant registration certificate(s) in confirmation to your above answer(s).

9.	Please indicate: A) Name & Full address of your Banker(s) B) Bank Account No. of the firm C) IFSC Code No. of the Banker	
10.	Whether you are: i) Manufacturer of the goods quoted or ii) Manufacturer's authorized agent for these goods	
11.	State whether business dealings with you have been currently banned by any Ministry/Deptt. of Central Govt. or any State Govt.	

Signature of Bidder

Signature of witness

Name & Address of Witness.

Full name, designation & Address of the persons signing above for and on behalf of M/s._____

(Name and address of the bidding firm)

CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) PO KAKORI, REHMANKHERA, LUCKNOW-226101

PRICE SCHEDULE FOR GOODS TO BE IMPORTED FROM ABROAD.

Schedule	Item	Country	Accounting	Price per unit				Overall	Total	Indian	Indian	Shipment
No.	description	oforigin	unit & Quantity	Unit price FOB port of loading	Unit price CIF at port of entry	Inland transportation charges, insurance and other local costs incidental to delivery, if specified	Incidental services including supervision	unit price (b+c+d)	Price 4x6	Agent's name	agent's commission as a % of FOB price included in quoted price	weight and volume
1.	2.	3.	4.	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Total bid price in foreign currency: (in figures)_	
(in words)_	

Name		

Business address	
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Note:

- 1. In case of discrepancy between unit price and total price, the unit price shall prevail.
- 2. The bidder shall give list of spare parts for two years operation separately indicating the description of quantity, unit price and total price in the above format for those items whose scope of supply includes spare parts.
- 3. Indian agent's commission shall be paid in Indian Rupees only. No change due to exchange variation shall be allowed.

Annexure-IV

CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE

(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
PO KAKORI, REHMANKHERA, LUCKNOW-226101

PRICE SCHDULE FOR DOMESTIC GOODS OR GOODS OF FOREIGN ORIGIN LOCATED WITHIN INDIA

			10 1 1C GOO!	1			1	ILD WIIIIII III	1		1	
Schedule	Item	Country of	Accounting	Ex-factory/ex	Excise	Packing and	Inland	Insurance /other	Incidental	Overall	Total	Sales
No.	description	origin	unit &	ware house/	duty if	forwarding	Transportation	duties and taxes, if	service	unit	price	tax
	_		Quantity	show room of	any		charges	any (other than	(including	price	-	payable,
				the shelf				sales tax) and	supervision)	unit		if
								incidental all costs	,	((a+b+c)	4x6	contract
										+d+e+f)		is
										,		awarded
1	2.	3.	4.	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	6.	7.	8.
1.		J.	•••	(4)	(0)	(0)	(4)	(6)	(1)	· · ·	, ,	o.
												[
1		1										

Total bid	price in Ruj	pees: (In fig	gures)							
		(In Wo	ords)	 	 					
								Sign	nature o	f bidder
						N	Name			
							Business addr	ess		
Place:										
Date:										

Note:

- 1. In case of discrepancy between unit price and total price, the unit price shall prevail.
- 2. The bidder shall give list of spare parts for two years operation separately indicating description, quantity, unit price and total price in the above format for those items whose scope of supply includes spare parts.

MANUFACTURER'S AUTHORISATION FORM

То					
(Name and address of the purchaser)					
Dear Sirs,					
Ref. your Bidding Documents No					
We	nd concl	ude the contract	and addres	s of the ag	gent) to
No company or firm	or	individual	other	than	M/s
agent) is authorized to bid, negotiate and conclusion for the above mentioned goods manufactured by			and address specific Bi		
We hereby extend our full guarantee and against this Bidding Documents by the above fir		y for the goods a	nd services of	offered for	supply
				Yours fair	thfully,
		(Sig	nature, name	e and desig	nation)
	1	for and on behalf	of M/s		
Note: This letter of authorization should be on signed by a person competent and having the portion of the port		head of the manu		m and shou	

SECTION VI/1 BID FORM AND PRICE SECHDULES

Date.....

To,
The Director Central Institute For Subtropical Horticulture, Rehmankhera, P. O. Kakori, Lucknow – 226 101
(Designation and address of the purchaser) Ref: Your bidding documents NoDate
Having examined the above mentioned bidding documents, including Addenda Nos
We agree to abide by this bid for the bid validity period specified in the TTB Clause 15 (read with modification, if any, in the bid Data Sheet) or for the subsequently extended period. If any, agreed to by us and it shall remain binding up on us and may be accepted at any time before the expiration of that period.
Until a format contract is prepared and executed, this bid together with your written acceptance thereof and your notification of award, shall constitute a biding contract between us.
Dated this day of
Signature
(In the capacity of) Duly authorized to sign bid for and on behalf of

SECTION VII/2 BANK GUARANTEE FORM FOR BID SECURITY

	(name of bidder) (hereinafter called "the . (date) for the supply of (brief hereinafter called "the bid").
having the registered office at	ts that WE
Sealed with the Common Seal of the said	bank this
Day of	
THE CONDITION	NS of this obligations are:
(ii) Does not accept the correction of error2. If the bidder having been notified of the a of bid validity:(i) Fails or refuses to execute the contract	Sbid validity specified by the bidder on the bid form; or or in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders OR acceptance of its bid by the purchaser during the period of form, if required: or nance security, in accordance with the Instructions to
demand, without the purchaser having to subs	p to the above amount upon receipt of its first written stantiate its demand, provided that in its demand the it is due to it, owing to the occurrence of one or both of the occurred condition or conditions.
Date : Place :	Signature of the Bank SEAL of the Bank

SECTION VII/5 CONTRACT FORM

Address of the purchasers Office issuing the contract

	Contract No
	Date :
This is continuation to this office Notification of Award No	dated
1 Name & address of the Sumplier	

- 1. Name & address of the Supplier
- 2. Purchasers bidding documents No. Dated (followed by further communication No. and date, if any, from the purchaser to the supplier)
- 3. Suppliers bid No. dated (followed by further communication No. date) if any, from the supplier to the purchaser).
- 4. The documents, which are deemed to form and be read and construe as part of this contract are:
 - (a) The Bid Form and the price Schedule submitted by the bidder;
 - (b) The Schedule of Requirements;
 - (c) The Technical Specifications and Quality Control Requirements
 - (d) The General Conditions of Contracts; and
 - (e) The purchasers Notification of Award

Certain stipulation out of the above documents are reproduced below for ready reference. However, the words and expressions used in this contract agreement shall have the same meanings as are respectively assigned to them in the Conditions of Contract referred to;

- 5. Details of Performance Security
- 6. Brief particulars of the goods and services which shall be supplied/ provided by the supplier are as under:

Schedule No.	Brief descripti on of goods/ services	Accounting unit	Quantity to be supplied	Unit price	Total price	Delivery terms (FOB/CI F/Free/ Del. At site / CIF etc.)

Total value (In figure) (in words)

- 7. Delivery schedule
- 8. Details of inspection, test and quality assurance
 - (a) Designation and address of inspection agency.
 - (b) Mode(s) and place(s) conducting inspections and tests.
- 9. Dispatch Instructions
- 10. Details of consignee (including port consignee, if any)

11. Payment terms 12. Paying Authority	
13. Warranty clause	
	(Signature, Name and address of the purchasers authorized functionary
	Signature the contract For and on behalf of
Received and accepted the contract Ag	
(Signature, name and address of the sup For and on behalf of(Name and address of the supplier)	ppliers authorized executive
(Seal of the supplier)	
Date :	
Place:	

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION OF ITEMS

Tender No. 5/2015

Wet Sensor along with 200 access tubes

Detailed specifications:

- 1. Simultaneous profiling of soil moisture, pore water conductivity and soil temperature @1% accuracy; with serial port for data transfer to computer, built-in battery with recharging instrument for field use; external battery pack and auxiliary power supply.
- 2. Profile probe upto 1 m long comprising of 6 × integral soil moisture sensors at depth of 10, 20, 30, 40, 60, 100 cms. Supplied with user manual, protective tube and other accessories.
- 3. Theta probe and compatible data logger with necessary software.
- 4. WET sensor with portable moisture meter for data recording at various depths, instantaneous probes, theta probe with replacement rods with other essential kits.
- 5. Suitable extension cables for profile probes
- 6. Access tubes long (1154mm × 28mm diameter), 200 numbers, fibre glass tubes for installation in augured hole including cap, bung, collar for use in 100 cm profile probes.
- 7. Access tube spacer to adjust profile probe to correct depth when access tubes are installed with soil surface.
- 8. Complete access tube installation tool kit.
- 9. Portable data analysis system with necessary softwares

NOTE:-1. Our institute will not provide Custom Duty Exemption Certificate because DSIR, New Delhi has not issued Custom Duty Exemption Certificate for this Institute kindly mention the Indian currency.

2. Original Literature must be attached along with the Tender

<u>Technical bid consisting of all technical details alongwith commercial terms and conditions and</u> Financial bid indicating item-wise price for the item mentioned in the technical bid.

The Technical bid and the financial bid should be sealed by the bidder in separate cover duly super scribed. The Technical bids are to be opened by the Committee. At the second stage financial bids of only the technical acceptable offers should be opened for further evaluation and ranking before awarding the contract.