

AS-CFMS

Assam Society for Comprehensive Financial Management System

(A Registered Society under Finance Department)

F Block, Assam Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati-781006 (Assam, India)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

For Development of an Artificial Intelligence Enabled Public Procurement
Assistance, Compliance and Analytics Platform

Project Title: Assam Public Procurement Intelligence (APPI)

Tender No.: FD/PROCUREMENT/AI/2026/01 Date: 15 / 03 / 2026

1. Introduction

Public procurement constitutes one of the most significant components of public expenditure. Governments routinely procure goods, works and services in order to deliver public infrastructure, maintain public administration and implement development programmes. The effectiveness and integrity of procurement systems therefore have a direct impact on public service delivery and the utilisation of public funds.

In the Government of Assam, procurement activities are undertaken by a wide range of entities including Departments, Directorates, Autonomous Bodies, District Offices and other implementing agencies. These procurement activities vary widely in scale and complexity. Some procurements involve relatively small purchases of office supplies or equipment, while others involve major infrastructure projects requiring large-scale financial commitments and multi-year implementation.

Over the past decade, the Government of Assam has taken several steps to improve procurement transparency and efficiency through digitisation, enacting of Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017 and Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020. Electronic procurement platforms have been introduced to facilitate online publication of tenders, electronic submission of bids and improved access to procurement opportunities for vendors.

The principal procurement platforms presently used include:

- Government e-Marketplace
- AssamTenders (GePNIC)
- State Public Procurement Portal (SPPP)

These systems have significantly improved transparency and accessibility in procurement processes. Vendors across the country can now access procurement opportunities issued by Government departments, and departments can receive bids electronically in a secure and structured manner.

However, while these platforms have improved transactional efficiency, they primarily function as platforms for publishing tenders and receiving bids. They do not actively assist procurement officers in drafting procurement documents, identifying potential compliance issues or analysing procurement trends across departments.

At present, much of the work involved in preparing procurement documents, reviewing tender conditions, evaluating bids and analysing procurement outcomes continues to be carried out manually by officers and committees. This can result in significant administrative effort and may also lead to inconsistencies in procurement documentation across departments.

Recognising these possibilities, the Government of Assam proposes to explore the development of an AI-enabled procurement intelligence platform titled: Assam Public Procurement Intelligence (APPI) Platform.

The APPI platform is envisioned as a comprehensive digital system capable of supporting procurement stakeholders at multiple stages of the procurement lifecycle. The platform may assist departments in drafting procurement documents, verifying compliance with procurement rules, supporting evaluation committees and generating analytics that help policymakers understand procurement trends across the State.

This Request for Information (RFI) is being issued in order to obtain inputs from technology providers, artificial intelligence companies, system integrators and other stakeholders regarding the design and implementation of such a platform.

The Government seeks to engage with the technology ecosystem in order to understand the range of solutions available in the market and to identify practical approaches for implementing an AI-enabled procurement intelligence system within the Government of Assam.

Any agency so onboarded and any initiatives thereof would be made part of the World Bank supported project, Assam Governance and Service Delivery Program.

2. Current Challenges in Public Procurement in Assam

Public procurement in the Government of Assam is governed by established rules and procedures designed to ensure transparency, fairness and value for money in the utilisation of public funds. Over the years, the Government has introduced electronic procurement platforms and standardised documentation formats in order to improve procurement processes.

Despite these improvements, several operational and systemic challenges continue to arise in the day-to-day implementation of procurement processes across departments. These challenges arise partly from the complexity of procurement procedures and partly from the large volume and diversity of procurement activities undertaken by the procuring entities.

One of the most common challenges relates to the preparation of procurement documents. Procurement officers are often required to prepare bidding documents using standard templates and previous tender documents. While this approach allows flexibility, it can also result in variations in document structure, drafting style and clause selection across departments. In some cases, procurement documents may inadvertently omit certain clauses or include conditions that are inconsistent with applicable procurement guidelines.

Another challenge arises in ensuring that procurement conditions do not unintentionally restrict competition. Technical specifications, eligibility criteria or evaluation conditions included in bidding documents may sometimes be drafted in a manner that limits participation by potential bidders. Detecting such issues during the drafting stage can be difficult because procurement officers must review lengthy documents and consider multiple regulatory / statutory requirements.

Procurement processes also generate large volumes of documentation, particularly during the evaluation stage. Evaluation committees must often review extensive bid submissions, verify compliance with eligibility criteria and prepare detailed evaluation reports. This process requires considerable administrative effort and may lead to delays in procurement timelines.

Bidder participation also presents challenges in certain sectors. In some cases, tenders receive limited participation due to factors such as restrictive technical specifications, limited awareness among vendors or perceived complexity of tender documentation. Increasing vendor participation is therefore an important objective for improving procurement outcomes.

Another area where challenges arise relates to the analysis of procurement data across departments. Government departments issue a large number of tenders each year, and the data generated through these procurements can provide valuable insights regarding procurement trends. However, such analysis is often difficult because procurement data is distributed across multiple platforms and systems.

For example, procurement activities may occur through platforms such as:

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM)
- AssamTenders (GePNIC)
- State Public Procurement Portal (SPPP)

Each of these platforms contains valuable information regarding procurement activities, but analysing procurement patterns across platforms requires significant manual effort. In addition, the State Financial Management Information System (FMIS) which is called “FinAssam” also is treasure trove of vendor, contract and payment information, which may help in identifying patterns useful for decision making.

In addition, oversight authorities often require tools that enable them to monitor procurement activities across departments and identify potential areas of concern. Such monitoring may include identifying unusually high bid prices, detecting restrictive tender clauses, analysing vendor participation patterns and identifying potential indicators of bid rigging, collusive bidding or other anti-competitive practices.

The Finance Department, Government of Assam therefore recognises the need to strengthen procurement governance through the use of modern technologies capable of assisting officers in performing these tasks more efficiently.

Artificial Intelligence technologies offer promising capabilities in this regard. AI systems can analyse large volumes of documents and data, identify patterns and generate structured insights that may assist procurement stakeholders. The data may be related to tender notices, bidding documents, corrigendum, bid submissions, evaluation reports, contract agreements, etc.

3. Purpose of the RFI

The purpose of this Request for Information is to conduct a structured market consultation exercise prior to issuing a formal procurement tender for the proposed APPI platform.

The Government recognises that artificial intelligence technologies are evolving rapidly and that several different architectural approaches and implementation models may be possible for such a system. It is therefore important to obtain inputs from industry participants and technology providers before finalising the scope of work and procurement strategy for the project.

Through this RFI, the Government intends to obtain insights regarding the technological capabilities currently available in the market, as well as the experience of technology providers who have implemented similar systems for governments or large organisations.

The Government is particularly interested in understanding how artificial intelligence technologies can be applied to address specific challenges encountered in public procurement processes. These challenges include the preparation of procurement documents, verification of compliance with procurement rules, evaluation of bid submissions and analysis of procurement outcomes.

In addition to technical insights, the Government also seeks to obtain suggestions regarding implementation models, commercial structures and evaluation methodologies that may be appropriate for the eventual procurement process.

The responses received through this RFI will assist the Government in refining the scope of work for the project and designing a Request for Proposal that reflects both the Government's objectives and the capabilities of available technology solutions.

It is emphasised that this RFI is issued solely for the purpose of obtaining information and suggestions from the market. The issuance of this RFI does not constitute a commitment by the Government to procure any system or award any contract.

Following the review of responses received through this RFI, the Government may conduct further consultations with stakeholders and subsequently issue a detailed Request for Proposal for selection of an implementation partner.

4. Government Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Public Procurement

The Government of Assam recognises that effective public procurement systems are essential for ensuring value for money in public expenditure and maintaining public trust in government institutions.

Procurement systems must not only comply with applicable rules and procedures but must also encourage competition, minimise administrative delays and ensure fairness in vendor participation.

Digital procurement platforms have played an important role in improving transparency in procurement processes. However, the next stage of digital transformation in procurement requires the use of intelligent systems that can actively support procurement governance.

Artificial Intelligence offers the potential to transform procurement systems from passive transaction platforms into intelligent governance tools that assist decision making.

Through the proposed Assam Public Procurement Intelligence platform, the Government aims to create a digital ecosystem in which technology actively supports procurement processes and decision making.

The platform may assist officers in preparing procurement documents, including assistance in the preparation of cost estimates through analysis of market trends, verifying compliance with procurement rules and analysing bid submissions. It may also provide dashboards and analytics that enable policymakers to monitor

procurement activities across departments, analyse vendor participation patterns and identify potential indicators of bid rigging, collusive bidding or other anti-competitive practices.

Over time, the platform may evolve into a comprehensive procurement intelligence system capable of supporting evidence-based policymaking and continuous improvement in procurement practices.

The Government's vision is therefore not merely to digitise procurement processes but to create a procurement governance ecosystem in which artificial intelligence enhances transparency, efficiency and accountability.

5. Procurement Data Landscape in Assam

Public procurement processes generate significant volumes of data across multiple systems and departments.

Understanding the nature and structure of this data is an important step in designing an artificial intelligence system capable of supporting procurement governance.

Procurement processes typically generate several types of documentation including notices inviting tenders, bidding documents, corrigenda, technical and financial bid submissions, evaluation reports and contract agreements.

Many of these documents are hosted on procurement portals such as:

- Government e-Marketplace
- AssamTenders
- State Public Procurement Portal

These platforms collectively host a large number of procurement documents issued by departments across the Government of Assam.

In addition to procurement portals, procurement processes are also linked with financial management systems maintained by the Finance Department. These systems contain information relating to budget allocations, financial sanctions and payments to vendors.

Historical procurement data accumulated across these systems represents a valuable resource that may potentially be used by artificial intelligence systems for generating procurement analytics.

For example, historical procurement data may be analysed to identify typical price ranges for commonly procured goods or services. It may also be used to analyse vendor participation patterns and identify sectors where competition may be limited.

Respondents to this RFI are requested to indicate how such procurement data may be utilised within an AI-enabled procurement intelligence platform and what types of data integration mechanisms may be required.

6. Expected Outcomes of the Proposed System

The proposed Assam Public Procurement Intelligence platform is expected to enhance procurement governance in several important ways.

One of the primary expected outcomes is the improvement in the quality and consistency of procurement documents prepared by departments. At present, procurement documents are often prepared manually by officers using templates and past documents. While this approach allows flexibility, it can also result in variations in document quality and structure across departments. In some instances, manual preparation of procurement documentation may also lead to incomplete recording of critical information, such as the reasons for rejection of a particular bidder or the justification for selection of the successful bidder, which may be required for audit purposes later.

Another expected outcome is the reduction of restrictive or non-compliant tender conditions. AI systems capable of analysing procurement documents may be able to identify clauses that may unintentionally restrict competition or deviate from procurement guidelines.

The system may also contribute to improved bidder participation by assisting vendors in preparing technically compliant bids. Vendors sometimes face difficulties in ensuring that their submissions meet all documentation requirements. AI-based tools may assist bidders in verifying the completeness of their submissions before final submission.

In addition, the platform may generate procurement analytics that provide insights into procurement activities across departments. Such analytics may help policymakers understand procurement trends, identify sectors where competition may be limited and assess the effectiveness of procurement policies.

Overall, the APPI platform is expected to contribute to improved transparency, efficiency and accountability in public procurement processes.

7. Indicative Functional Scope of the Proposed System

The proposed Assam Public Procurement Intelligence (APPI) platform is envisioned as a comprehensive digital system capable of supporting multiple stages of the procurement lifecycle. The system is expected to assist procurement officers, vendors and oversight authorities by providing intelligent tools that improve the efficiency, consistency and transparency of procurement processes.

The functional scope of the proposed system may extend across several key stages of procurement, including procurement planning, preparation of estimate, bidding documents, tender publication, bid submission, evaluation of bids, contract management and procurement analytics.

An AI-enabled drafting system may assist officers by generating draft bidding documents based on inputs such as procurement category, estimated value, type of procurement and technical requirements. The system may incorporate standard bidding document templates and automatically populate required sections such as eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology and contractual terms.

In addition to document drafting, the system may provide automated compliance checks before publication of tenders. Such checks may verify whether mandatory clauses and annexures have been included in the procurement documents. The system may also identify clauses that appear inconsistent with procurement guidelines or that may potentially restrict competition and assess compliance with the provisions of the Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017 and the Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020. In cases where procurement is undertaken through the Government e-Marketplace, the system may also assist in verifying compliance with the applicable provisions of the General Financial Rules.

The proposed platform may also support bidders by providing tools that help vendors verify whether their submissions comply with tender requirements. Vendors sometimes face difficulty in ensuring that all required documents have been uploaded or that the documentation provided meets the requirements specified in the tender document. AI-assisted tools may allow vendors to review their submissions prior to final submission and identify potential issues.

Another important component of the system may be support for procurement evaluation processes. Procurement committees are typically required to review technical and financial bids and prepare evaluation reports summarising their findings. This process often involves manual preparation of comparative statements and evaluation summaries.

Finally, the platform may include analytics capabilities that enable the Government to analyse procurement data across departments to estimate the bid capacity of participating bidders based on their existing contractual commitments. Such analysis may assist procuring entities in assessing whether bidders possess adequate capacity to undertake additional contracts. This may help reduce the risk of contract non-performance or delays arising from over-commitment of contractors. (in case of work procurement).

Respondents to this RFI are requested to provide suggestions regarding additional functional capabilities that may enhance the effectiveness of the APPI platform.

8. Expanded Artificial Intelligence Use Cases

The Government of Assam is interested in exploring a wide range of applications of artificial intelligence in the context of public procurement. The proposed APPI platform may incorporate several AI-enabled capabilities designed to improve different aspects of procurement governance.

Another potential use case involves the drafting of scope of work for procurement of services or works. Drafting detailed scopes of work can require specialised knowledge and experience. AI systems may assist officers by generating draft scope descriptions based on the nature of the procurement and inputs provided by the department.

Artificial intelligence may also be used to analyse tender documents and detect clauses that may unintentionally restrict competition. For example, AI systems may identify

technical specifications that appear to correspond to a particular brand or vendor. They may also detect eligibility criteria that appear unusually restrictive relative to the nature of the procurement.

Another important use case involves the verification of procurement compliance before tender publication. AI systems may review tender documents and verify whether required clauses, declarations and annexures are present. Such systems may help departments avoid issuing tenders that are incomplete or inconsistent with procurement guidelines.

Artificial intelligence tools may also support vendors during the bid preparation process. Vendors often face difficulties in interpreting complex tender requirements or ensuring that their submissions include all required documentation. AI-enabled systems may assist vendors by verifying the completeness of their submissions and highlighting missing documentation.

Analytics capabilities may also form an important component of the proposed platform. Artificial intelligence systems may analyse procurement data across departments in order to identify trends in vendor participation, procurement pricing and procurement timelines.

For example, AI systems may identify procurement sectors where only a small number of vendors regularly participate in tenders. They may also detect procurement processes in which bid prices appear unusually high relative to historical benchmarks.

The Government encourages respondents to propose additional use cases that may further enhance procurement governance through the application of artificial intelligence technologies.

9. Problem Statements for Technology Providers

In order to obtain meaningful inputs from technology providers, the Government has identified several practical challenges that are commonly encountered in procurement processes. Respondents are requested to propose technological approaches for addressing these challenges.

One of the key challenges relates to the preparation of procurement documents. Officers must often prepare complex tender documents using templates and past documents. This process requires careful attention to ensure that required clauses and

annexures are included. Respondents are requested to propose AI-enabled tools that can assist officers in preparing procurement documents in a structured and compliant manner.

Another challenge involves the identification of restrictive tender clauses. In some cases, tender conditions may unintentionally limit competition by specifying technical requirements that correspond closely to a particular product or vendor. Respondents are requested to propose systems capable of analysing procurement documents and identifying such clauses.

Bidder compliance verification represents another important challenge. Vendors sometimes submit bids that are rejected during technical evaluation due to incomplete documentation or failure to meet specified eligibility criteria. Respondents are requested to propose systems that assist vendors in verifying the completeness of their submissions before final submission.

Another challenge relates to monitoring procurement activities across departments. The Government issues a large number of tenders each year, and analysing procurement trends across departments can be difficult. Respondents are requested to propose analytics tools capable of generating dashboards and reports that summarise procurement activities.

Respondents may also propose additional problem statements and solutions that may improve procurement governance.

10. Pilot Implementation Framework

The Government of Assam recognises that implementation of an artificial intelligence enabled procurement platform is a complex undertaking that may require phased deployment.

In order to minimise risks and evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed system, the Government may initially implement the APPI platform through a pilot deployment.

The pilot may involve implementation of selected components of the system in a limited number of departments or procurement categories. During this phase, the system may operate alongside existing procurement processes.

The objective of the pilot deployment will be to evaluate the functionality, usability and scalability of the system. The Government may assess whether the system effectively assists officers in preparing procurement documents, supports vendors during bid preparation and generates useful procurement analytics.

The pilot may also provide an opportunity to identify operational challenges and refine system features before statewide rollout.

Respondents are requested to provide suggestions regarding the scope and duration of the pilot deployment. They may also propose evaluation criteria that may be used to assess the success of the pilot.

11. Proposed System Architecture

While the final architecture of the APPI platform will depend on the technical approach adopted by the implementation partner, it is expected that the system will consist of several integrated components designed to support procurement processes.

At a high level, the architecture may include a procurement drafting engine, a compliance verification engine, bidder assistance tools, analytics modules and governance dashboards.

The procurement drafting engine may utilise natural language processing techniques to generate draft procurement documents based on templates and departmental inputs. Such a system may analyse historical procurement documents in order to learn typical structures and language used in procurement documentation.

The compliance verification engine may analyse procurement documents before publication in order to identify potential compliance issues. This module may verify the presence of mandatory clauses and detect conditions that appear inconsistent with procurement guidelines.

Bidder assistance tools may provide vendors with guidance during the bid preparation process. These tools may verify whether all required documents have been uploaded and may highlight potential issues before final submission.

The analytics module may analyse procurement data across departments in order to generate dashboards and reports that summarise procurement activities. These

dashboards may provide insights regarding procurement volumes, vendor participation and procurement timelines.

Respondents are requested to propose system architectures that support scalability, integration with existing procurement platforms and robust security frameworks.

12. Data Governance and Security Framework

The proposed Assam Public Procurement Intelligence platform will operate on procurement-related data generated by multiple departments and agencies of the Government of Assam. Such data may include procurement notices, bidding documents, bid submissions, evaluation reports, contract details and financial sanction information.

Given the sensitive nature of procurement data, it is essential that the proposed system incorporate robust data governance and security mechanisms. The Government expects that the system will ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of procurement data while enabling authorised access for legitimate users.

The system architecture should therefore incorporate appropriate role-based access controls. Different categories of users, including procurement officers, evaluation committee members, departmental administrators and oversight authorities, may require access to different types of information. The system should therefore allow access permissions to be configured in accordance with user roles and responsibilities.

In addition to access control mechanisms, the system should maintain detailed audit logs recording all significant actions performed within the system. Such logs may include document uploads, modifications to procurement documents, system-generated alerts and user access events. Maintaining a comprehensive audit trail is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in procurement processes.

The Government also expects that appropriate encryption mechanisms will be implemented in order to protect procurement data both during storage and during transmission across networks. Secure communication protocols and encryption standards should be adopted to ensure that procurement data cannot be accessed by unauthorised entities.

Another important aspect of data governance relates to the management of historical procurement data used by artificial intelligence systems for analytics and learning

purposes. Respondents should describe how such data will be processed and stored, and how potential risks relating to data misuse or unintended data exposure will be mitigated. The platform may also include a module for monitoring procurement-related payments, including invoice submission, payment tracking and status updates, through integration with the FinAssam

Respondents are therefore requested to describe the data governance framework that would be implemented for the APPI platform. This description should include proposed security measures, data access policies, logging mechanisms and compliance with relevant government policies relating to data security and digital governance.

13. Commercial Model Options

The Government of Assam is open to exploring different commercial models for implementing the APPI platform. The objective is to identify a commercial structure that ensures long-term sustainability of the system while maintaining cost efficiency and accountability.

One possible approach is a system development and operations model in which the selected vendor develops the platform and subsequently provides operations and maintenance services for a specified period. Under this model, payments may be structured around project milestones such as system design approval, prototype development, pilot deployment and full implementation.

Another possible approach is a Software-as-a-Service model in which the vendor provides access to the AI platform as a hosted service. Under such an arrangement, the Government may pay subscription fees based on system usage or number of departments using the system.

A hybrid approach may also be considered in which certain components of the system are developed specifically for the Government while other components are provided through cloud-based services.

The Government is interested in understanding the advantages and limitations of each of these approaches. Respondents are therefore requested to provide recommendations regarding the most suitable commercial model for implementing the APPI platform.

Respondents may also provide indicative cost structures for similar projects implemented elsewhere, along with suggestions regarding payment mechanisms such as milestone-based payments, subscription-based payments or transaction-based pricing models.

14. Evaluation Methodology Options for the Future Tender

The responses received through this RFI will assist the Government in determining the most appropriate evaluation methodology for selecting an implementation partner.

Technology procurements involving artificial intelligence systems often require careful consideration of both technical capability and financial proposals. The Government therefore wishes to obtain inputs regarding appropriate evaluation methodologies that may be used during the eventual Request for Proposal stage.

One commonly used approach is Quality and Cost Based Selection. Under this method, bidders are evaluated based on a combination of technical capability and financial proposal. Technical proposals may be assessed based on factors such as experience in similar projects, proposed system architecture and understanding of procurement processes.

Another approach is technical qualification followed by financial evaluation. Under this model, bidders meeting specified technical criteria are shortlisted and evaluated based on their financial proposals.

In some cases, the Government may also consider empanelment of multiple vendors capable of providing AI-based procurement solutions. Such vendors may subsequently be engaged for specific modules or pilot implementations.

Respondents are requested to provide recommendations regarding the most appropriate evaluation methodology for the APPI project and to explain the rationale for their recommendations.

15. Capacity Building and Training Framework

Successful implementation of the APPI platform will require that procurement officers and other stakeholders are able to effectively use the system. The introduction of

artificial intelligence tools into procurement processes will represent a significant change in the way procurement activities are conducted.

The Government therefore expects that the implementation partner will provide comprehensive training and capacity-building support to departmental users.

Training programmes may include workshops conducted for procurement officers, evaluation committee members and departmental administrators. These workshops may provide hands-on training in the use of system features such as procurement document drafting tools, compliance verification modules and analytics dashboards.

In addition to in-person training, the implementation partner may also develop digital training resources such as online tutorials, user manuals and video demonstrations. Such materials may enable users to familiarise themselves with the system and address operational questions during day-to-day use.

Another important aspect of capacity building involves providing technical support during the initial phases of deployment. The implementation partner may be expected to maintain a helpdesk or support system capable of responding to user queries and resolving technical issues.

Respondents are requested to describe the training and capacity-building mechanisms they would propose for supporting adoption of the APPI platform across departments.

16. Implementation Roadmap

The Government recognises that development of an artificial intelligence enabled procurement platform is a complex undertaking that may require phased implementation.

A phased approach allows the system to deliver practical benefits at an early stage while gradually expanding its capabilities over time.

The first phase of implementation may focus on developing core procurement assistance tools. During this phase, the system may provide AI-assisted drafting of procurement documents, automated generation of tender forms and verification of compliance with procurement guidelines before publication of tenders.

The second phase may introduce tools that support procurement evaluation processes. These tools may assist committees in preparing technical evaluation reports, generating financial comparison tables and drafting approval notesheets.

The third phase may focus on procurement analytics and monitoring capabilities. The system may generate dashboards that allow policymakers to analyse procurement volumes, vendor participation patterns and procurement timelines across departments.

In the final phase, the system may incorporate advanced procurement intelligence capabilities such as predictive analysis of procurement timelines, identification of procurement sectors with limited competition and automated alerts regarding potential procurement risks. The platform may also include features for monitoring contract validity periods and generating notifications to procuring entities regarding upcoming contract expirations and potential extension or renewal requirements in accordance with contract provisions._____

17. Pre-RFP Consultation Workshop

The Government of Assam recognises that development of an Artificial Intelligence enabled procurement platform requires careful consultation with technology providers, procurement experts and industry stakeholders. In order to obtain deeper insights beyond written responses to this Request for Information, the Government may organise a Pre-RFP Consultation Workshop with interested stakeholders.

The objective of this consultation exercise will be to discuss potential system architectures, implementation strategies and commercial models that may be suitable for the proposed APPI platform. The consultation workshop will provide an opportunity for respondents to present their proposed approaches and engage in structured discussions with Government officials and subject matter experts.

During the consultation workshop, the Government may present its preliminary vision for the APPI platform and outline the key functional areas identified in this RFI. Respondents may be invited to make short presentations describing their proposed technological approaches and implementation strategies.

The discussions during the workshop may focus on several aspects including system architecture, integration with existing procurement platforms, implementation

timelines and data governance considerations. Particular attention may be given to understanding the practical challenges involved in implementing AI systems in government environments and identifying strategies to address such challenges.

The consultation workshop will also provide an opportunity to discuss commercial and contractual frameworks that may be appropriate for the project. Respondents may share their experience in implementing similar systems and provide recommendations regarding procurement models that balance innovation with accountability.

Participation in the consultation workshop will not confer any advantage in the eventual procurement process. The purpose of the workshop is solely to obtain inputs that will help the Government refine the scope of work and procurement strategy for the APPI platform.

Details regarding the date, venue and format of the consultation workshop will be communicated to respondents after the review of RFI responses.

18. Information Requested from Respondents

Respondents to this Request for Information are requested to provide comprehensive information regarding their capabilities, experience and proposed approaches for implementing the APPI platform.

The Government is particularly interested in understanding the experience of respondents in developing artificial intelligence systems, digital governance platforms or procurement technology solutions. Respondents should therefore provide details of relevant projects implemented for government agencies or large organisations.

In addition to organisational information, respondents are requested to describe their proposed technical approach for developing the APPI platform. This description should include an overview of the proposed system architecture, the types of artificial intelligence models that may be used and the mechanisms for integrating the platform with existing procurement systems.

Respondents should also provide suggestions regarding the functional scope of the system and indicate which of the use cases described in this document they consider feasible. Where possible, respondents should provide explanations of the technological approaches that may be used to implement these use cases.

The Government also seeks recommendations regarding implementation models and commercial structures that may be appropriate for the project. Respondents may provide insights regarding system development approaches, subscription models or hybrid commercial arrangements.

Another important aspect of the response relates to data governance and security. Respondents should describe the mechanisms they would propose for ensuring that procurement data is protected and used in accordance with applicable policies.

Respondents are also encouraged to provide suggestions regarding implementation timelines, pilot deployment strategies and training requirements for departmental users.

19. Framework for Evaluation of RFI Responses

The Government intends to review responses received through this Request for Information in order to extract insights that will inform the design of the eventual procurement tender.

It is important to emphasise that responses to this RFI will not be evaluated for the purpose of selecting vendors. Instead, the evaluation exercise will focus on identifying useful ideas, technological approaches and implementation strategies that may be incorporated into the design of the APPI platform.

An internal review committee may be constituted to examine the responses received. The committee may include representatives from the Finance Department, Information Technology Department and other relevant agencies.

The review of responses will focus on several key aspects. One important aspect is the extent to which respondents demonstrate an understanding of the practical challenges encountered in public procurement processes.

Another aspect is the quality and clarity of the proposed system architecture. Responses that provide detailed explanations of system components and data flows may provide valuable insights for the Government.

The committee may also review the feasibility of the proposed artificial intelligence use cases. Particular attention may be given to proposals that appear practical and implementable within the context of government procurement processes.

The proposed commercial models and implementation strategies described by respondents may also be analysed in order to identify approaches that balance innovation with financial sustainability.

Following the review process, the committee may prepare a summary report highlighting key insights obtained from the RFI responses. This report may include recommendations regarding system architecture, scope of work and procurement strategy for the APPI project.

20. Submission Details

Responses to this Request for Information should be submitted to the Finance Department of the Government of Assam within the deadline specified in the RFI notice.

Respondents may submit their responses electronically via email or submission of hard copy as specified in the RFI notice.

Each response should clearly identify the organisation submitting the response and provide contact details for a designated representative who can respond to any clarifications requested by the Government.

Respondents are encouraged to structure their responses in accordance with the annexures provided in this document. Using the specified response formats will assist the Government in reviewing and comparing responses efficiently.

The Government reserves the right to seek additional clarifications from respondents if required during the review process.

Responses to this RFI may be submitted either by email or in hard copy.

Email submissions:

Responses may be sent to **sup-procurement@assam.gov.in** with the subject line *“Response to RFI – Assam Public Procurement Intelligence (APPI)”*.

Hard copy submissions:

Responses may also be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked *“Response to RFI – APPI Platform”* addressed to:

Project Director,

AS-CFMS, 9th Floor, ASPIRe Office,
New Kar Bhawan, Ganeshguri, Guwahati, Assam - 781006

21. Next Steps

Following the review of responses received through this Request for Information and the consultation workshop described earlier, the Government will undertake further analysis in order to finalise the design of the APPI platform.

This process may involve refinement of the scope of work, identification of priority use cases and determination of appropriate implementation strategies.

Based on the insights obtained during this process, the Government may prepare a detailed Request for Proposal that will describe the system requirements, evaluation methodology and contractual framework for the project.

The Request for Proposal will then be issued through an open procurement process in accordance with applicable procurement rules.

22. Structure of Annexures and Vendor Response Forms

The annexures included in this document provide structured formats through which respondents may submit their responses to this RFI.

These annexures are intended to ensure that responses contain consistent information that can be reviewed efficiently by the Government.

The annexures include forms for providing information regarding the organisation, details of relevant project experience and descriptions of proposed system architectures.

Additional annexures request feedback on the proposed artificial intelligence use cases and problem statements described in this document.

Respondents are also requested to provide suggestions regarding commercial models, evaluation methodologies and pilot implementation strategies through the specified annexure formats.

The Government encourages respondents to provide detailed and thoughtful responses through these annexures in order to assist the Government in designing an effective procurement intelligence platform.

ANNEXURES

Annexure I

Vendor Information Form

Respondents are requested to provide basic information regarding their organisation using the format below.

Field	Details to be Provided
Name of Organisation	
Registered Address	
Corporate Office Address	
Contact Person Name	
Designation	
Email Address	
Telephone Number	
Website	
Year of Incorporation	
Ownership Structure (Public / Private / Startup / Consortium)	
Number of Employees	
Number of Employees working in AI / Data Science	
Presence in India (Cities / Offices)	

Respondents may also provide a brief description of their organisation including major areas of expertise and technology capabilities.

Annexure II

Relevant Project Experience

Respondents should provide details of relevant projects implemented for government agencies, large enterprises or public sector institutions.

Project Name	Client Organisation	Country	Project Description	Year of Implementation	Contract Value
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Respondents may attach additional pages if necessary.

The Government is particularly interested in projects involving:

- Artificial Intelligence systems
- Digital governance platforms
- Procurement technology solutions
- Data analytics systems for large organisations.

Annexure III

Proposed System Architecture

Respondents are requested to provide a description of the architecture they propose for implementing the APPI platform.

The response should include:

1. Overall system architecture
2. Key system components
3. Artificial intelligence models proposed
4. Data integration mechanisms
5. Hosting and deployment model
6. Security architecture.

Respondents may attach architecture diagrams and explanatory notes where appropriate.

Annexure IV

Feedback on Proposed AI Use Cases

Respondents are requested to review the proposed use cases listed below and provide feedback regarding feasibility and implementation approach.

Sl No	Proposed AI Use Case	Feasible (Yes/No)	Proposed Approach	Implementation Complexity (Low/Medium/High)
1	AI-assisted preparation of bidding documents & estimate			
2	Drafting of scope of work			
3	Selection of appropriate tender clauses			
4	Detection of restrictive tender conditions			
5	Verification of mandatory tender clauses			
6	Bidder compliance verification			
7	Automated preparation of technical evaluation reports			
8	Automated financial bid comparison			

9	Contract drafting assistance, contract expiry / extension tracking			
10	Procurement analytics dashboards			
11	Vendor participation analytics			
12	Price benchmarking using historical procurement data			
13	Detection of unusual procurement patterns			
14	Monitoring procurement across multiple portals			
15	Procurement risk alerts			

Respondents may add additional use cases that they believe are relevant.

Annexure V

Commercial Model Suggestions

Respondents are requested to provide feedback regarding possible commercial models for implementing the APPI platform.

Commercial Model	Suitable (Yes/No)	Advantages	Limitations
System Development + Operations and Maintenance			
Software-as-a-Service Subscription Model			
Transaction-Based Pricing Model			
Hybrid Model (Development + SaaS Components)			

Respondents may also suggest alternative commercial models if appropriate.

Annexure VI

Suggested Evaluation Methodology

Respondents may provide suggestions regarding evaluation approaches that may be used during the eventual Request for Proposal stage.

Evaluation Approach	Comments / Recommendations
Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)	
Technical Qualification followed by Financial Evaluation	
Empanelment of Multiple Vendors	

Respondents may also recommend scoring methodologies and technical evaluation parameters.

Annexure VII

Pilot Implementation Proposal

Respondents are requested to provide suggestions regarding the design of a pilot implementation for the APPI platform.

The proposal should address the following aspects:

1. Suggested scope of the pilot deployment
2. Departments or procurement categories that may be included
3. Proposed duration of the pilot
4. Key success indicators for evaluating the pilot
5. Suggested transition from pilot deployment to statewide implementation.

Respondents may provide a short concept note describing their recommended pilot implementation approach.

Annexure VIII

Additional Recommendations

Respondents may use this annexure to provide any additional recommendations regarding the design and implementation of the APPI platform.

Such recommendations may include suggestions relating to system architecture, implementation strategies, governance frameworks or emerging technologies.

Annexure IX

Detailed AI Problem Statements

Respondents are requested to provide proposed technological approaches for addressing the following problem statements.

Problem Statement	Proposed Technological Approach	Implementation Complexity	Expected Benefits
Preparation of procurement documents			
Drafting of scope of work			
Identification of restrictive tender clauses			
Compliance verification before tender publication			
Bidder submission verification			
Automated preparation of evaluation reports			
Financial bid comparison			
Contract document preparation			
Procurement analytics			
Vendor participation analysis			

Price benchmarking			
Monitoring procurement across departments			
Identification of procurement risks			
Procurement knowledge assistant			

Respondents may add additional problem statements and solutions where appropriate.

Annexure X

Implementation Roadmap Feedback

Respondents are requested to review the proposed phased implementation roadmap and provide their feedback.

Implementation Phase	Respondent Feedback	Suggested Timeline
Phase 1 – Core Procurement Assistance Tools		
Phase 2 – Procurement Evaluation Support		
Phase 3 – Procurement Analytics and Monitoring		
Phase 4 – Advanced Procurement Intelligence		

Respondents may propose alternative implementation strategies if they believe a different approach would be more effective.

Other provisions:

1. Any procurement process arising from this consultation shall be undertaken strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017 and the Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020.

The proposed system is intended to function as a decision-support and analytics platform and will not replace the existing e-procurement portals used for tender publication and bid submission.

All procurement data, documents and analytics generated through the proposed system shall remain the property of the Government of Assam.