Special CBM Bid Round-2022

Replies to the queries raised during Pre-bid Conference held on 18-04-2022

	Query	Response
1.	Waiver of the INR 75,000 Tender Fees (p10 of the Notice Inviting Offers);	Tender fee is a very nominal. NIO provisions shall prevail.
2.	Waiver of the fees for use of NDR's data rooms (p38 of the Notice Inviting Offers)	Special CBM Bid Round-2022 has been launched under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). Therefore, data room charges are in line with OALP bid rounds. NIO provisions shall prevail.
3.	Waiver from submitting hard copies of bid documents and requiring only online (digital) submissions; while these requests would be favorable to Galilee, we understand if they are not accepted and will continue to evaluate regardless.	Since submission of physical bid includes submission of Bank
4.	In addition, Galilee has some questions regarding the bidding process.	Bidder needs to submit consortium or association agreement in accordance with Annexure-I_IX(i) of NIO.

	Query	Response
	If a joint bid is entered as a "consortium" does, that require a formal joint venture to have been established an evidence provided as part of the bid submission or can both parties submit a joint bid without a format joint venture in place and then formalise the joint venture agreement upon bidding success?	
5.	Can a clear timeline with milestones be provided for the administrative process with respects to the sequence of events from notification of bidding success for a block, through to payment of the Liquidated Damages Bond? Clarity on this order and timing of payments will greatly help in securing internal corporate approvals for the release of funds in a timely fashion.	Operator is required to provide BG within 30 days from the date of
6	The Mandatory Data Package purchased from NDR for some Blocks does not contain any data except the map showing the boundary of the Block. Are any other DATA for such Blocks available with NDR for purchase separately? (Clause 07)	and can be purchased as per NDR
7	 Article No. 4(i) & 4(III) Provisional under Draft NIO Payment of Tender Fees of INR 75,000 (as per clause 8(iv)) must be made by the Bidder on or before the bid closing date. Bid Bond of requisite value (in USD or equivalent INR) in the format as per Annexure III. 	Bid Bonds are to ensure that only serious bidders participate in the tender and it is a returned after a certain time. NIO provisions shall prevail.

	Query	Response
	Issue/ Description	
	Payment_of_both Tender Fees and Bid Bond is detrimental for the investors	
	<u>Suggestions</u>	
	Only the Tender Fees may be retained and the value of Bid Bond may be removed for National oil companies	
8	Article 8 vi	Currently, this issue is under
	<u>Provisional under Draft NIO</u>	consideration of the Government.
	The LD shall be paid by the Contractor to the Government within thirty (30) days of the receipt of its demand from the Government. In the event of any failure to pay LD value within the due date, the Contractor shall pay interest compounded on daily basis for the entire period of delay at applicable LIBOR plus two percent (2%) points.	
	Issue/ Description	
	LIBOR is discontinued on December 31, 2021 and is getting replaced by SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate).	
	<u>Suggestions</u>	
	Accordingly, it is suggested that the word LIBOR may be replaced by SOFR at relevant Articles of RSC	

		Response	
9	Article No. VII <u>Provisional under L</u> Net-worth Certifica Under Special CBM is to be provided in	ate: I Bid Round-2022, the Net-worth certificate	The suggestions on the standardization of format have been noted.
	SL.NO	SUB -CRITERIA	
	A	Equity	
	В	Other Equity	
	С	Misc. expenditure to the extended not written off	n
	D	Net-worth = $A+B+C$	
		ns for submission of Net-worth certificate ex M, OALP) and DSF. Paid up capital	

		Query	Response	
	(b)		Reserve and surplus	
	©		Misc. expenditure to the extent n written off	ot
	(d)		Net-worth = $(a) + (b) + (c)$	
	Unifo	<u>estions</u> rm format of Net-worth ng regimes	n certificate may be allowed for all	
10	Article No.VI <u>Provisional under Draft NIO</u> The Data Room charges are as follows:		Special CBM Bid Round-2022 has been launched under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). Therefore, data room charges are in line with	
	SI.	Time schedule	Charges	OALP bid rounds.
	No		Charges	NIO provisions shall prevail.
	1	First 3 slots	US\$ 250 or equivalent INR p slot	
	2	Fourth slot	US\$ 500 or equivalent INR	

	Quer	y	Response
3	Fifth slot onwards	US\$ 1250 or equivalent INR per slot	
	e/ Description		
		re high compared to data room nds which are as follows:	
Tim	ne Schedule	Charges	
Firs	st 2 days	NIL	
Thi	rd day	US\$ 250 or equivalent INR	
Fou	ırth day	US\$ 500 or equivalent INR	
Fift	h day onwards	US\$ 1250 or equivalent IN per slot	
Sug	gestions		
The Roui	_	ay be aligned in line with DSF Bid	

	Query	Response
11	Article No. Annexure III	Suggested changes have been noted.
	Provisional under Draft NIO	
	Proforma of Bid Bond to be submitted by the Bidder	
	Issue/ Description	
	ONGC requests for modification in the BG format of OALP future rounds, in view of BG issuing banks seeking discharge letters in writing from GoI, as per the terms of existing BG format. Draft modified format of the same is attached as Appendix-A.	
	<u>Suggestions</u>	
	The BG format may be revised as suggested in Appendix-A	
12	Suggestions/Comments on Geoscientific Information / Data Viewing of Special CBM Bid Round-2022	Such data, if available at DGH, can be viewed at NDR.
	Issue/ Description	
	Maps of Barakar Top, Bottom and Gas content were shared in the Geo-Scientific information. However, the well / Corehole data based on which the maps were prepared was not shared for all the blocks, during data viewing	
	<u>Suggestions</u>	
	There is paucity of CBM specific data for most of the offered CBM blocks. In this view, whatever data is available, may be	

	Query	Response
	shared with the possible bidder, so that a proper evaluation can be carried out by the bidder	
13	Article No. 3.2 Provisional under Draft MRSC	CWP needs to be completed within the Exploration Period. Further,
	Exploration Period	exploration is allowed throughout the contract period.
	3 years for CBM Contract Areas	MRSC provisions shall prevail.
	Issue/ Description	
	3-year exploration period is too short. The objective shall be to encourage exploration and de-risk the basins	
	The issue of increase in Exploration Period is raised by the Industry on several occasions earlier too.	
	Suggestions	
	As the blocks are located in Category-III, the Exploration Period for CBM block is proposed to be increased, preferably to 6 years, for benefit of the Operator	
14	Article No. 3.4	The fee is levied to ensure timely
	Provisional under Draft MRSC	completion of CWP.
	Extension of Exploration Period	MRSC provisions shall prevail.

	Query	Response
	Maximum 9 months extension for CBM Blocks allowed by paying @ USD 25,000 or equivalent INR per month	
	Issue/ Description	
	Extending the exploration period upon payment discourages investments	
	<u>Suggestions</u>	
	The extension may be allowed by paying USD 25,000 for the entire 9 months duration. Also, the extension period may be increased from 9 to 12 months.	
15	Article No. 5	As per Article 5.7 of the MRSC,
	Provisional under Draft MRSC	"If Contractor completes CWP ahead
	Work Program	of stipulated timelines, then the time saved or differential duration will be
	Committed Work Program (CWP) in terms of Core Wells and Test Wells	adjusted/ added to the subsequent Assessment period. However, the
	Issue/ Description	overall Exploration and Assessment Period will remain unchanged."
	Non completion of CWP invites penalties. Likewise, early / expeditious completion of CWP should attract rewards. This will encourage expeditious project execution	
	<u>Suggestions</u>	
	If Contractors completes CWP ahead of stipulated timelines, then time saved may be added to other statutory timelines	

	Query	Response
	(Assessment Period /FDP submission/ commencement of commercial production etc.)	
16	Article No. 10.7 & 10.8	Suggestion noted. MRSC provisions
	Provisional under Draft MRSC	shall prevail.
	LD in case of delay in commencement of Development/ Commercial Production	
	In the event the Contractor does not commence Development Operations for Discovery (ies) for which FDP has been submitted, within one (1) year from the date of grant of Petroleum Mining Lease (PML), then the Contractor shall be liable to pay liquidated damages equal to one time fixed payment of USD 1,000,000 (USD one million) and USD 250 per day over and above the fixed payment, till the date it commences Development Operations.	
	In the event the Contractor does not commence Commercial Production within two (2) years from the date of grant of Petroleum Mining lease (PML), then the Contractor shall be liable to pay liquidated damages equal to one time fixed payment of USD 2,000,000 (USD two million) and USD 2000 per day over and above the fixed payment, till the date it commences Commercial Production subject to a maximum delay of two years.	
	Issue/ Description	

	Query	Response
	A lump sum LD imposed is quite hefty and will put a financial burden on the contractor. Additionally LD is also imposed on a per day basis. Thus, such double LD will result in substantial outgo from the contractor and may hamper the E&P activities	
	Suggestions	
	It is proposed to remove per day LD amount. Also, the LD amount under both 10.7 and 10.8 may be reduced to 1 million USD only.	
17	Article No. 16.2	The Article 16.2 of CBM Bid Round-2021
	Provisional under Draft MRSC	has already been incorporated in the current MRSC.
	Section 42 under Income Tax Act, 1961 has been left blank	
	Issue/ Description	
	The issue is briefly explained below:-	
	In accordance with section 42(1) of Income Tax act, the allowances under section 42 shall be computed and made in the manner specified in the Agreement.	
	In absence of the manner or methodology for claiming deduction for expenditure incurred in the blocks awarded under RSCs (i.e. the agreement), it would be difficult to claim deduction for expenditure incurred in respect of exploration, development and production operations.	

	Query	Response
	Suggestions	
	The section may be elaborated further, incorporating the manner/ methodology for claiming deductions. This will facilitate the Contractors to avail the benefits under section 42 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.	
	The Article 16.2 of CBM Bid Round-2021 may be incorporated.	
18	Article No. 19.2	SCBM-22 is offered under Category-
	Provisional under Draft MRSC	III fiscal regime for OALP Blocks, wherein there is no revenue share
	Valuation of Petroleum	with the Government until windfall
	Price arrived through competitive bidding on arm's length basis, or calculated/ prescribed by the Govt/ Govt nominated agency, whichever is higher.	gain.
	Issue/ Description	
	The price of crude/ gas sold is based on the market dynamics. Hence, the revenue sharing based on the actual sale price realized will adequately remunerate the contractors, as well as the Govt	
	<u>Suggestions</u>	
	Government's share of Revenue in RSC's should be based on actual price arrived through competitive bidding process on arm's length basis only	

	Query	Response
19	Article No. 27.1	Suggestion noted.
	Provisional under Draft MRSC	MRSC provisions shall prevail.
	Bank Guarantee Amount	
	BG equivalent to LD value worked out by applying LD rates	
	Issue/ Description	
	In recent DSF Bid Round-III, the LD amount has been reduced to 25% of the LD amount of earlier DSF Bid Rounds.	
	Suggestions	
	The amount of BG to be provided by the contractors may be reduced, preferably in line with DSF Bid Round-iii	
20	Article No. 27.3	Noted.
	Provisional under Draft MRSC	MRSC provisions shall prevail.
	Bank Guarantee submitted pursuant to FDP	
	The Contractor shall submit a Bank Guarantee, valid for the duration of the Contract, for an amount equal to USD 300,000 within 30 days from the submission of FDP. Such guarantee shall be delivered by the Contractor in a form provided in RSC.	
	Issue/ Description	

	Query	Response
	The submission of Bank Guarantee after submission of FDP is not required as the CWP will be completed by the time the FDP is submitted	
	Suggestions	
	The clause may be removed.	
21	Provisional under Draft MRSC	Suggestion noted.
	Fiscal Stability	MRSC provisions shall prevail.
	Such clause is missing under RSCs of OALP	
	Issue/ Description	
	This will provides predictability - stable fiscal systems encourage investment. Such fiscal stability clause was available in the PSCs of NELP regime.	
	Suggestions	
	Introduce a fiscal stabilization clause to address any potential material change to expected economic benefits accruing to any parties.	
22	Article No. Appendix-G	Suggestion noted.
	Provisional under Draft MRSC	
	Issue in BG format	

	Query	Response
	Issue/ Description	
	ONGC requested for modification in the BG format of DSF and OALP future rounds, in view of BG issuing banks seeking discharge letters in writing from GoI, as per the terms of existing BG format. Draft modified format of the same is attached as Appendix-B.	
	Suggestions	
	The BG format may be revised as suggested in Appendix-B.	
23	Additional Comments/Clarifications:	There is provision of 3 years of
	Sl.no 1	Assessment Period after the expiry of exploration period and before
	Provisional of MRSC	submission of FDP.
	Retention of Acreages	MRSC provisions shall prevail.
	Issue/ Description	
	The OALP I, II & III RSC had a provision of "retention period" of maximum 5 years after completion of the appraisal program for deep water/ultra-deep water and frontier basins. The retention period was to be provided on account of unavailability of suitable technology for exploitation in deep waters/ultra-deep waters and lack of transportation infrastructure/ markets in frontier basins	
	Suggestions	

	Query	Response
	Provision for retention of acreages for infrastructure bottlenecks & acquiring of suitable technology in case of CBM blocks, in line with OALP I-III	
24	SI. No. 2	Suggestion noted.
	Provisional of MRSC	
	Inclusion of Appendix	
	Issue/ Description	
	In the MRSC, there is mention of Appendix-K (Format for notification of Discovery). However, the Appendix-K is blank.	
	<u>Suggestions</u>	
	May be considered for review.	
	APPENDIX-A	
	To,	
	The Secretary to the Government of India	
	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	
	Shastri Bhawan	
	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Marg,	
	New Delhi- 110001, India	

Query	Response
1. Whereas Government of India (hereinafter referred to as "Government") has announced Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy ("HELP").	
2. Whereas[Name of Company submitting the Bid/ Name of each company submitting the Bid as a consortium] having registered office at(hereinafter referred to as "Company"/"Companies", which expression unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof include all its/their respective successors, administrators, executors and assigns), is/ are desirous to submit a Bid for the Block pursuant to Notice Inviting Offer (hereinafter referred to as "NIO") in relation to entering into Revenue Sharing Contract for the said Block.	
3. Whereas Company/Companies is/are required to submit a Bank Guarantee as per terms and conditions set out in NIO.	
4. In consideration of Government having agreed to consider Bank Guarantee towards Bid Bond, in relation to entering into Revenue Sharing Contract for the Block, to be submitted pursuant to NIO, by the Company/Companies, the Company /Companies has/have agreed to adhere to terms and conditions as set out in NIO for the Block and to furnish to the Government a Bank Guarantee (hereinafter referred to as	

	Query	Response
hereinafter referr	wards its/their obligations as per NIO, red to as the "Obligations" for an amount of uivalent toIndian Rupees for uch Obligations.	
Law of expression shall thereof includes	(name of the Bank) registered under the and having its registered office at (hereinafter referred to as "the Bank", which unless repugnant to the context or meaning all its successors, administrators, executors hereby guarantee and undertake	
	ning thereof includes all its successors, xecutors and assigns) do hereby guarantee	
money(s) to the figures) (Indian F demur, reservati reference to the made by Governr shall be conclusi Bank as rega notwithstanding tribunal, arbitrat	ely on the first demand in writing and any/all extent of Indian Rupees / US\$(in Rupees / US\$ in words) without any on, contest or protest and/or without any e Company/Companies. Any such demand ment on the Bank by serving a written notice ve and binding, without any proof, on the rds the amount due and payable, any dispute(s) pending before any court, for, sole expert, conciliator or any other any other matter or thing whatsoever, as	

Query	Response
liability under these presents being absolute We agree that the Guarantee herein co irrevocable and shall continue to be enfo discharged by Government in writing, o , whichever is earlier. This Guara determined, discharged or affected by the li up, dissolution or insolvency of the Compa Companies and shall remain valid, bindi against the Bank.	ontained shall be rceable until it is r till expiry date antee shall not be quidation, winding ny/ any or all the
6. The Bank also agree that Government at entitled to enforce this Guarantee agains principal debtor, in the first instance, w against the Company/Companies and not security or other guarantee that Governm relation to the Company's/Companies' liabil	st the Bank as a ithout proceeding twithstanding any nent may have in
7. The Bank further agree that Government liberty without our consent and without manner our obligations hereunder to vary and conditions of the NIO or to extend tim by the said Company/Companies from tim postpone for any time or from time to time the powers vested in Government a Company/Companies and to forebear or e terms and conditions of the NIO and we sh	affecting in any any of the terms ne of performance me to time or to exercise of any of against the said enforce any of the

Query	Response
from our liability by reason of any such variation, or extension being granted to the said Company/ Companies or for any forbearance, act or omission on the part of Government or any indulgence by Government to the said Company/Companies or any such matter or thing what so ever which under the law relating to sureties would, but for this provision, have effect of so relieving us.	
8. The Bank further agree that the Guarantee herein contained shall remain in full force during the period that is taken for the performance of Obligations and all dues of Government under or by virtue of such Obligations have been fully paid and its claim satisfied or discharged or till Government discharges this Guarantee in writing, or till expiry date, whichever is earlier	
9. This Guarantee shall not be discharged by any change in our constitution, in the constitution of Company/that of the any or all of the Companies	
10. The Bank confirms that this Guarantee has been issued with observance of appropriate laws of the country of issue.	
11. The Bank also agrees that this Guarantee shall be governed and construed in accordance with Indian Laws and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Indian courts at**, India	
12. Notwithstanding anything contained herein above, our liabilities under this Guarantee is limited to Indian Rupees /	

	Query	Response
US\$ (in figures) (Indian Rupees / US\$ in words) and our Guarantee shall remain in force upto 20 ('Expiry Date') and including ninety (90) days after the Expiry Date /extended date. Any claim under this Guarantee must be received before the expiry of ninety (90) days from the Expiry Date or before the expiry of ninety (90) days from the extended date, if any. If no such claim has been received by us within ninety (90) days after the said Expiry Date /extended date the Government's right under this will cease. However, if such a claim has been received by us within and up to ninety (90) days after the said Expiry Date / extended date, all the Government's rights under this Guarantee shall be valid and shall not cease until we have satisfied that claim.		
Dated	at DELHI for Bank Ltd	
Notwithsta	nding anything contained herein above:	
	lity under this Bank guarantee shall not exceed Rs	
(Rupees	Only).	

Query	Response
discharged from any liability whatsoever under this guarantee.	
4. All claims under this Guarantee shall be payable atBANK Ltd,	
5.This Guarantee will be returned to us as soon as the purpose for which it is issued is fulfilled.	
6.The BG confirmation No GTEE/ is an integral part of BG No and must be attached thereto.	
In witness whereof, the Bank through its authorized officers has set its hand and stamp on this day of 20at The seal ofwas hereto duly affixed bythis day of 20 in accordance with its bye-laws and this Guarantee was duly signed by and as required by the said bye-laws.	
Secretary	
President & Director	
Witness 1:	
(Signature)	
Full name and official address (in legible letters)	
Date:	

Query	Response
Witness 2:	
(Signature)	
Full name and official address (in legible letters)	
Date:	
Note: The points highlighted in Yellow Colour pertains to points ONGC wants to insert and point in Red Colour is proposed for deletion	
APPENDIX-B	
PROFORMA OF BANK GUARANTEE TO BE PROVIDED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 27	
1. In consideration of Government of India (hereinafter referred to as "Government") having entered into a Revenue Sharing Contract for the Block dated (hereinafter referred to as "Contract", which expression shall include all the amendments agreed to between the Government and the Contractor, thereto), with M/s having its registered office at (hereinafter referred to as, which expression unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof include all its	

	Query	Response
a co agre to G	essors, administrators, executors and assigns), which is notituent of the Contractor, and the Government have ed that the (Member) shall furnish overnment a bank guarantee (hereinafter referred to as rantee") towards its obligations as provided in the	
in In	ract for US\$(for Foreign Company (ies))/US\$ equivalent dian Rupees (for Indian Members) for the performance of oligations under the Contract.	
the L	e(name of the Bank) registered under aw of	
whic mean exect pay mon US\$_ Rupe resen to th the B bindi	having its registered office at (hereinafter referred to as "the Bank", n expression shall unless repugnant to the context or hing thereof includes all its successors, administrators, utors and assigns) do hereby guarantee and undertake to immediately on the first demand in writing and any/all ey(s) to the extent of Indian Rupees/ (in figures) and (Indian res/US\$ in words) without any demur, vation, contest or protest and/or without any reference e Member. Any such demand made by Government on Bank by serving a written notice shall be conclusive and ng, without any proof, on the Bank as regards the unt due and payable, notwithstanding any dispute(s)	

Query	Response
pending before any court, tribunal, arbitrator, sole expert, conciliator or any other authority and/or any other matter or thing whatsoever, as liability under these presents being absolute and unequivocal. We agree that the Guarantee herein contained shall be irrevocable and shall continue to be enforceable until it is discharged by Government in writing or till expiry date whichever is earlier. This Guarantee shall not be determined, discharged or affected by the liquidation, winding up, dissolution or insolvency of the Contractor and shall remain valid, binding and operative against the Bank.	
3.	
The Bank also agrees that the Government at its option shall be entitled to enforce this Guarantee against the Bank as a principal debtor, in the first instance, without proceeding against the(Member) and notwithstanding any security or other guarantee that Government may have in relation to the(Member's) liabilities	
4.	
The Bank further agrees that Government shall have fullest liberty without our consent and without affecting in any manner our obligations hereunder to vary any of the terms and conditions of the said Contract or to extend time of performance by the said(Member) from time to time or to postpone for any time or from time to time exercise of any of the powers vested in Government against	

Query	Response
the said Member and to forebear or enforce any of the terms and conditions relating to the said Contract and we shall not be relieved from our liability by reason of any such variation, or extension being granted to the said Member or for any forbearance, act or omission on the part of Government or any indulgence by Government to the said(Member) or any such matter or thing whatsoever which under the law relating to sureties would, but for this provision, have effect of so relieving us.	
5.	
The Bank further agrees that the Guarantee herein contained shall remain in full force during the period that is taken for the performance of the Contract and all dues of the Government under or by virtue of this Contract have been fully paid and its claim satisfied or discharged or till Government discharges this Guarantee in writing, or till expiry date, whichever is earlier.	
6.	
This Guarantee shall not be discharged by any change in our constitution, in the constitution of (Member) or that of the Contractor	
7. The Bank confirm that this Guarantee has been issued with observance of appropriate laws of the country of issue.	
8.	

Query	Response
The Bank also agree that this Guarantee shall be governed and construed in accordance with Indian Laws and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Indian courts at**India.	
9. Notwithstanding anything contained herein above, our liabilities under this Guarantee is limited to Indian Rupees/US\$ (in figures) Indian Rupees/US\$ (in words) and our Guarantee shall remain in force up to and including sixty (60) days after the expiry date/extended date. Any claim under this Guarantee must be received before the expiry of sixty (60) days or before the expiry of sixty (60) days from the extended date if any. If no such claim has been received by us within sixty (60) days after the said date/extended date the Government's right under this will cease. However, if such a claim has been received by us within and up to sixty (60) days after the said date/ extended date, all the Government's rights under this Guarantee shall be valid and shall not cease until we have satisfied that claim.	
Dated at DELHI for Bank Ltd	
Notwithstanding anything contained herein above:	
1. Our liability under this Bank guarantee shall not exceed Rs (Rupees Only).	

Query	Response
2. This bank Guarantee shall be valid up to	
3. We are liable to pay the guaranteed amount or any part thereof under this bank guarantee only and only if you serve upon us a written claim or demand in terms of the guarantee lodged at our bank counter on or before(claim period) failing which the Bank shall stand released and discharged from any liability whatsoever under this guarantee.	
4. All claims under this Guarantee shall be payable atBANK Ltd, (Address)	
5.This Guarantee will be returned to us as soon as the purpose for which it is issued is fulfilled.	
6.The BG confirmation No GTEE/ is an integral part of BG No and must be attached thereto.	
In witness whereof, the Bank through its authorized officers has set its hand and stamp on this	
this day of20	
at	
The seal of was hereto duly affixed by	
this day of20_ in accordance	
with its bye-laws and this Guarantee was duly signed by and as	
required by the said bye-laws.	

Query	Response
Secretary	
President & Director	
Witness:	
Note: The points highlighted in Yellow Colour pertains to points ONGC wants to insert and point in Red Colour is proposed for deletion.	