

Memorandum of Understanding

**For ensuring quality in
Procurement of Goods & Services
through Government eMarketplace (GeM)**

Between



Quality Council of India

(An autonomous body set-up by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

&



Government eMarketplace

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

Introduction

1st Party:

QCI: The Quality Council of India (QCI) was established as the national body of accreditation on recommendations of expert missions of the European Union after consultations in the inter-Ministerial Task Force, the Committee of Secretaries and the Group of Ministers in 1996. The council came into existence in 1997 through a Cabinet decision as an autonomous non-profit organization. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is the nodal department for QCI; QCI's role is to establish and operate a national accreditation structure and to promote quality through the National Quality Campaign. It functions through its own resources through fees from accreditations and investments in quality promotion. It plays the role of the National Accreditation Body (NAB) as per the eco-system of quality around the world with the task of creating a mechanism for third-party assessment of products, services and processes.

QCI has been engaged by several ministries and Government institutions including NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of MSME (for ZED), Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Skills as well as a number of State Governments such as Gujarat, Jharkhand, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh among others on variety of projects dedicated to improvement in quality.

2nd Party:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKETPLACE (GeM), Ministry of Commerce and Industry:

GeM (Government eMarketplace) owes its genesis to the recommendations to the Hon'ble PM in January 2016 of two Group of Secretaries meeting. Based on these recommendations the Government decided that a GeM SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) will create a one stop Government eMarketplace (GeM) to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organizations / PSUs. GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement. It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money. The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorized and made mandatory by Ministry of Finance by adding a new Rule No. 149 in the General Financial Rules, 2017.

ABOUT GeM SPV

A Special purpose Vehicle of Ministry of Commerce & Industry is to be called Government e-marketplace (GeM SPV) as the National Public Procurement



Portal as section 8 Company registered under the companies Act, 2013 for providing procurement of goods and services required by Central & State Government organizations. GeM SPV shall provide an end-to-end online Marketplace for Central and State Government Ministries / Departments, Central & State Public Undertakings (CPSUs & SPSUs), Autonomous institutions and Local bodies, for procurement of common use goods & services in transparent and efficient manner.

Strategic intent

The intent of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the **QCI and Government eMarketplace, Ministry of Commerce and Industry** is to outline the way in which the two parties will collaborate in order to devise & recommend frameworks for assuring quality in e-procurement strategy of various products and services, review existing processes and formulate strategies for effective end-to-end implementation.

The scope of activities will focus on successful implementation of GeM through promoting & enhancing quality, building capacities, developing strategies, including, but not limited to, creating a strategic framework for identification and validation of relevant Seller/product/services Certifications for both goods and services. The scope would also look at developing an ecosystem to drive the GeM SPV for continuous improvement.

Framework: Scope, Roles & Responsibilities

Quality Council of India will be recognized as the official Knowledge Partner for GeM and also be its Lead Consultant.

To provide an operating framework to this agreement, the following MoU has been agreed upon on 29.12.2017.

1. This MoU shall be operated by Quality Council of India, New Delhi.
2. The initial scope of this alliance will cover activities related to, but not limited to, the areas outlined below.
 - a. Setting up of a Project Management Unit (PMU) at GeM Headquarters. The financials involved will be discussed mutually and taken up separately.
 - b. QCI will conduct research on global best practices in the relevant domain and assist in its adaptation by GeM.
 - c. QCI will identify and coordinate and design execution of on-line collaboration with accredited Certification Bodies and accredited Labs to



create a framework for validation of relevant Certifications and for testing various products, if required.

- d. GeM will recognize QCI as a Partner organization of GeM, on its website and/or in other publications.
- e. GeM will explore incorporating ZED Certification as a “preferred seller” tag for MSMEs on GeM, which may become a qualifying criterion in the long run for seller MSMEs.
- f. GeM to share necessary resources and information and extend all possible assistance to QCI in its endeavour to create robust mechanism for the SPV.

Governance and Management of MoU

To maintain focus on fulfillment of its objectives:

1. A Steering Committee comprising of 2 nominees from each party, as under:

CEO-GeM or her Nominee

Additional CEO

CEO, NABCB or his nominee

CEO, NABL or his nominee

Sr Director, ZED – Convenor/Member Secretary

The role and responsibility of the steering committee will be, but not limited to, the following:

- Set objectives and frame strategy & operating plans for the alliance
- Resource the alliance adequately
- Review progress
- Be accountable for the success of the alliance in meeting its objectives

2. One champion from both parties who will own all tactical aspects and day-to-day operations including, but not limited to, the following:

- Identifying opportunities
- Competitive assessment
- Escalating issues & focusing matters for resolution

QCI side: Sr. Director/Director, ZED

GeM side: Dy.CEO

It is proposed that to begin with the Steering Committee (SC) meets once a month, virtually or physically, to review progress & ensure proper focus and resource utilization. Thereafter, the steering committee may meet at-least 4 times every year, once every quarter to monitor progress.



Validity of the relationship

The framework of the agreement would be initially valid for a period of 3 years & would be renewed after mutual review of progress. This agreement can be extended by means of an addendum referring to this agreement as the base agreement to set the revised period and terms if any.

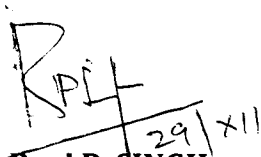
Termination clause

The MOU can be terminated from either end, with 60-days prior notice based on mutual consensus on completion of pending engagements and fulfillment of all commercial obligations.

Non-compete / Non-conflict/ Engagement protocols

QCI and Government eMarketplace, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, agree not to mutually compete or conflict for each other's resources (human resource and other resources) and follow an engagement protocol that is ethical and professional during the delivery of the programs covered under this MOU.

Authorized signatory:

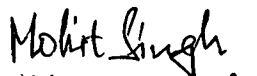


Dr. Ravi P. SINGH
Secretary General
Quality Council of India

Date: 29.12.2017

Place: New Delhi

Witness:


(MOHIT SINGH)
Deputy Director

Quality Council of India

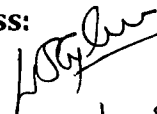


Shri. S Suresh Kumar, IAS
Addl.Chief Executive Officer,
Government eMarketplace
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Date: 29.12.2017

Place: New Delhi

Witness:


L. STEEPHEN
Dy. CEO (GEM)

Government eMarketplace
Ministry of Commerce and Industry