

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (NEWDELHI)

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Academic or Research Institutions and Research Organisations for providing Consultancy Services to the Commission

I. Introduction

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (“the Commission”) has introduced the regulatory framework for “empanelment of academic/research institutions and organisations for providing consultancy services to the Commission vide Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Appointment of Consultants) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2025 dated 7th January, 2025. Relevant provision is extracted below:

“6C. Academic and Research Institutions/Organisations.

(1) The Commission, on being satisfied that there is a need for availing consultancy services for regulatory research which, in its opinion, can be more effectively performed by an academic or research institutions/ organizations, having research profile considered necessary for an assignment, may decide to engage academic or research institution or organisations of repute engaged in research in the power sector or regulatory matters;

(2) For the purpose of sub-regulation (1) above, the Commission will initiate a process of engagement on receiving a proposal from the Secretariat of the Commission comprising terms of reference indicating the broad scope of work and the experience/qualification required for obtaining consultancy services.
...”

2. Accordingly, the proposals are invited from academic or research institutions and organisations for providing consultancy Services to the Commission on “Regulatory Research and Analysis for the Energy Sector”.

Scope of Regulatory Research

3. The scope of regulatory research shall include —

- a. any topic or subject relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading (including e-platform and exchanges etc.) and use of electricity and generally for taking measures conducive to development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies.

- b. research and analysis of the any topic or subject from the entire value chain of the power sector which includes technology, different type of energy, mining generation, distribution, transmission, trading (including e-platform) retail consumers;
- c. The topic or the subject will be identified by the Secretariat of the Commission. Academic/research institutions and organisations can also propose the research topic or subject and submit to the Commission.

Category for Empanelment

4. The panel will be prepared from eligible academic or Research Institutions and Organisations separately under two different categories: (i) academic institutions; and (ii) research institutions or research organisations. Further based on core areas of expertise and research profile, empanelled institutions or organisations will be considered for the award of assignment.

5. Based on competencies, Core areas of expertise / will be identified among the following : (i) electricity generation, (ii) transmission of electricity, (iii) distribution of electricity, (iv) electricity markets and economics, (v) power system operation, (vi) energy fuel (used for power generation), (vii) legal research, (viii) financial (including tariff) research in the power sector, and (ix) research related to retail consumer of electricity, (x) quantitative techniques, and (xi) any other area in energy sector (new and emerging technologies).

6. The topic or assignment for regulatory research will be identified by the Secretariat of the Commission. The Terms of Reference for specific research assignment will be prepared as per the requirement of the Commission.

Eligibility Criteria for Academic Institutions

7. The academic institutions shall —

- a. be duly recognized by the University Grant Commission or All India Council for Technical Education.
- b. not be under the control of any person resident outside India, or not more than fifty per cent of the members of Governing council, directly or indirectly, as persons residing outside India; and
- c. be of repute, and actively involved in the research and analysis related to the energy sector;

8. The academic institutions shall fulfil following technical criteria:

- a. Three years' experience of research and analysis in one or more area of the of the entire value chain of the power sector, which includes technology employed in the power sector, different type of energy, mining, generation, distribution, transmission, retail consumers of electricity;

- b. Knowledge of the power sector, regulatory and legal framework of the power sector, energy policies, Rules, Regulations and guidelines issued under the Act and actively involved in formulating the regulatory or policy matters; and
- c. Academic or research institutions and organisations should not have been debarred by the Central Government, State Government or statutory regulator.
- d. The academic institutions should provide a list of the affiliated research professionals. The institution should have a minimum of three research professionals in different field of expertise with regulatory, economics, engineering and/or financial experts engaged on research and analytical work for the power sector; and
- e. the project in-charge should have PhD qualification in Economics or finance or engineering or legal or infrastructure regulation or related field with more than 10 years of post-qualification experience.

Eligibility Criteria for Research Institutions or Research Organisations

9. The research institutions or organisations should fulfil the following criteria —

- a. The research institution or research organisation should be registered under the Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 or Societies Registration Act, 1860 or Indian Trust Act, 1882.
- b. The institution should not be under the control of any person resident outside India;
- c. Not more than forty-nine per cent of its share capital should be held, directly or indirectly, by persons residing outside India, and it should not be a subsidiary of a body corporate through more than one layer;
- d. Its promoters, its directors and its shareholders, members of the Governing council should qualify the criteria of fit and proper persons laid down by the Commission;
- e. Research institutions or organisation, as the case may be, or its members of the council or shareholder, promoter or directors, as the case may be, should not be in conflict with any of its present obligations to any party with whom he/ she/ it has association; and
- f. Clauses (b) and (c) above shall not be applicable for the research institutions or organisations under the control of the Central Government, State Government or statutory regulator. For this purpose, the control means the more than 51% shareholding of Central Government, State Government or statutory regulator.

10. The research institutions or organisation, as the case may be, should also fulfil the following technical criteria:

- a. Not less than 5 years' experience of research and analysis in one or more area of the of the entire value chain of the power sector which includes

- technology employed in the power sector, different types of energy, mining, generation, distribution, transmission, retail consumers of electricity;
- b. Not less than 3 years' experience of research and analysis for the research institutions or organisations under the control of the Central Government, State Government or statutory regulator. For this purpose, the control means the more than 51% shareholding of Central Government, State Government or statutory regulator; and
 - c. Knowledge of the power sector, regulatory and legal framework of the power sector, energy policies, rules, regulations and guidelines issued under the Act, and is actively involved in formulating the regulatory or policy matters;
 - d. The research institutions or academic institutions should provide the list of research professionals. The research institutions or organisation should have minimum three research professionals in different field of expertise regulatory, economics, engineering, legal and/or Finance or related field engaged on research and analytical work for the power sector; and
 - e. The project in-charge should have PhD qualification in Economics or Finance or Engineering or legal or infrastructure regulation or related field with more than 5 years or more post qualification experience.

Evaluation for Empanelment

11. The evaluation shall be carried out based on the expression of interest received by the Commission and on the basis of the following criteria :-

- a. relevant experience as per the eligibility criteria complied by the academic institutions or research institutions or organisations;
- b. list of reports, publication, research projects, dissertations, consultancy projects, training, existence of the relevant department or branch in the academic institutions or such other reports submitted with the expression of interest;
- c. presentation or interaction with the evaluation committee, on the proposed understanding of the regulatory research of the power sector;
- d. relevant document(s) or publications as the outputs of the successful completion of the research projects or analysis submitted with the expression of interest; and
- e. composition of the team and the experience of the core team members proposed for the empanelment.

12. For the purpose of evaluation, the minimum qualifying marks for empanelment is 70 to be assessed based on the Detailed criteria for technical evaluation as per Annexure-I.

Empanelment Period

13. The empanelment period will be for two years and extendable up to two years. The CERC will review the empanelment every year for continuation or addition or removal of the name from panel. The academic institutions or research institutions or research organisation have liberty to withdraw their name from the panel.

Additional Terms and Conditions

14. Following additional terms and conditions shall be applicable for empanelment: -

- a. The empanelment of the academic or research institutions or research organisation does not confer any rights for awarding the research assignments. The empanelled academic or research institutions or research organisation will be eligible to participate in the bidding based on their core area of expertise.
- b. No confidential information relating to this assignment (i.e., information other than what is already available in the public domain) shall be divulged by the empanelled academic institutions or research institutions or research organisation to any other person or agency at any time without the written consent of the Commission. The empanelled institution shall enter into non-disclosure agreement (NDA) before commencement of any assignment and no content of the research output/ reports and data shall be published without permission of the Commission.
- c. The academic institutions or research institutions or research organisation have to submit undertaking that the scope of work is not in conflict with any of its present obligations to any party with whom he/ she/ it has association. On discovery of any conflict of interest will result into cancellation of empanelment.
- d. In respect of any dispute between the parties or any legal proceedings arising as a result of or relating to or incidental to the contract, the courts in Delhi/New Delhi alone shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

Important Dates

15. The application for empanelment is to be made as per Form-A. Last date of submission is **2nd May 2025**. The address for submission of the proposal is given below:

The Dy. Chief (Adm.),
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission,
8th Floor, Tower B, World Trade Centre,
Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi- 110029
Ph: 011-26189709
E Mail: rajiv@cercind.gov.in

16. Queries, if any, on the TOR shall be submitted within seven days of the publication of the expression of interest at e-mail ID: satwek.mishra@nic.in by **15th April 2025**.

Technical Evaluation Criteria

1. The technical evaluation criteria for the purpose of empanelment of the academic institutions or research institutions or research organisation will be carried out based on experience, research works, publications and reports, understanding of the regulatory research of the energy sector, relevant contribution in terms of the completed assignments in past and strength/profile of research of team as under: -

| Sr. No | Particulars | Requirements as per EOI | Criteria for Scoring | Weightage |
|--------|---|---|---|-----------------|
| A. | Experience Profile (length of research experience) of the organisation | | | 20 marks |
| 1 | Relevant research experience (of energy sector) | 5 years. However, minimum 3 years' experience of research and analysis for the research institutions or organisations under the control of the Central Government, State Government or statutory regulator | | |
| 2. | Area of core competencies area as per para 5 of EOI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Electricity generation, ii. Transmission, iii. Distribution of electricity, iv. Electricity markets and economics, v. Power system operation, vi. Energy fuel (used for power generation), vii. Legal research, viii. Financial (inc tariff), ix. Retail Electricity, x. Quantitative techniques, and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Three core areas to be indicated based on available expertise (mandatory) ii) Remaining areas in the order of preferences (optional) iii) For each competency, provide the details of the Research carried out | Unscored |

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------------|--|
| | | xi. Any other area in energy sector (new and emerging technologies) | | |
| B. Details of Research Reports & Contributions | | | 40 marks | |
| i) | Number of Publications in high impact Journals (Impact factor more than 4 onwards) in the core area | Min 3 for core area | | |
| ii) | Number of consultancy /projects undertaken in the core area | Min 3 for core area | | |
| iii) | Whether specialized branch or dept related to energy sector | Yes or No | | |
| iv) | Number of training/conferences organized for the energy sector or relevant allied area in last 5 years | Minimum 3 in five years | | |
| v) | Any assignment/ assignments related to policy formulation to the Government of India or Electricity Regulatory Commissions in last 5 years | Optional | | |
| C. Strength or Profile of Research Team | | | 20 marks | |
| 1) | Number of research professionals (permanent) in the inter-disciplinary expertise with a minimum experience of 5 years in the Power sector | Resume of in house professionals to be attached Area of expertise are (a) Regulatory and Policy, b) Economics, c) Engineering, d) Finance, e) Legal, and f) Inter-disciplinary or any other | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------|-----------------|
| 2) | Qualification of Project in charge (PhD) | Minimum qualification PhD and 5 years experience | | |
| D. Understanding on future research requirements and regulatory research | | | | 20 marks |
| 1) | Interaction with the Team to make a presentation before CEC | Presentation on strategic research requirements in the power sector, team strength etc | As per CEC | |

Applicants not fulfilling minimum requirements as per the parameters above shall not be considered for empanelment

Form A

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR

Empanelment of Academic or Research Institutions and Research Organisations for providing Consultancy Services to the Commission

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|--------------------|--|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Name of Applicant and Type (Academic or Research Institutions and Research Organizations) | | | |
| 2 | Registration | Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 or Societies Registration Act, 1860 or Indian Trust act 1882 | | |
| 3 | Date or year of Incorporation | | | |
| 3 | PAN No | | | |
| 4 | GSTIN | | | |
| 5 | DIN/DPIN | | | |
| 6 | Registered address, email and contact number | | | |
| 7. | Whether Public or Private institution | | | |
| 7 | Ownership or Shareholding | Name and address of the shareholder | Resident status | % of shareholding |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 8 | Whether research institutions or organizations is under the control of the Central Government, State Government or statutory regulator? | i. Name ii. Shareholding (%) | | |
| 9 | Whether research institutions or organization, as the case may be, or its members of the council or shareholder, promoter or directors is in conflict with the scope of work ? | Submit undertaking or disclosure in this regard | | |
| Eligibility | | | | |
| | Sr. No | Particulars | Number | Remarks, if any |
| 10 | A | Relevant experience (of energy sector) (Number of years) | | |
| 11 | B | Research Profile (in energy sector) (In area of Core competencies) | | |
| | | Number of Research Reports | | |

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| | | | | | | | of the person | |
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Declaration

I hereby: -

- a. confirm and declare that the information given herein above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and express my interest to empanelment for **providing Consultancy Services to the Commission.**
- b. undertake that if institution or organization is included in the Panel, I shall abide by the CERC (Appointment of Consultant) Regulations, 2008 and the terms and conditions laid down by the CERC
- c. undertake that I shall actively participate in regulatory research as envisaged by the Commission on being empanelled by the Commission;
- d. understand that non-performance in terms of active contribution in regulatory research may attract disqualification from the empanelment.

(Signature of Authorised Person)

Place:

Date: