



**Expression of Interest
For**

**Beneficiation & Concentration Plant Partner Full-Scale Plant EPC for the
Gujarat Rare Earth Elements (REE) Processing Plants**

EOI NO: GMDC/KEP/EOI-02/25-26

Response to Queries

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation

March 2026

Sr.No.	Clause	Area / Description	Query	Response
1	5.3	Proposed Roles & Responsibilities	<p>It is mentioned in section 5.3- Proposed Roles & Responsibilities that Engineering partner will confirm design basis and develop PFDs, Also, vide section 5.3 it is stated that GMDC will provide flow sheet. Please confirm whether GMDC intends EPC partner to verify the flowsheet provided by GMDC by undertaking additional Test works. Based on that design basis /criteria and PFD to be developed.</p>	<p>GMDC hereby clarifies that the EPC Partner is not required to verify/validate the flowsheet provided by GMDC, and no additional test work is envisaged or required under the present scope.</p> <p>GMDC shall undertake Basic Engineering/FEED for the full-scale plant, and the key inputs from these studies will be shared with bidders during the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to appropriately assess the scope of work, estimate the quantum of effort involved, determine delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP process.</p> <p>If a bidder is interested in the assessment or comparison of flowsheets, based on its capabilities and experience, it is encouraged to share the proposed engagement model as part of its response to this EoI. Bidders are also encouraged to share suggestions on whether the Basic Engineering/FEED should be included as part of the larger EPC scope or conducted separately before the EPC tender.</p>
2	5.3		<p>EPC partner will provide lumpsum offer. In case of any design change arising out of verification of flowsheet, please address the methodology through which the EPC provider will be compensated for any change in flowsheet, equipment sizing, performance parameters, etc. that may arise from the above test work and flowsheet verification.</p>	<p>GMDC shall undertake Basic Engineering/FEED for the full-scale plant, and the key inputs from these studies will be shared with bidders during the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to appropriately assess the scope of work, estimate the quantum of effort involved, determine delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP process. The commercial implications of any scope deviations, if approved by GMDC, will be governed by the clauses of the RFP document issued by GMDC during the RFP stage.</p> <p>As clarified above, the EPC Partner is not required to verify/validate the flowsheet provided by GMDC, and no additional test work is envisaged or required under the present scope.</p>
3	5.3	Plant Design & Engineering: Flowsheet & Ore Supply	<p>Please provide the Material Data sheet of the Ore sample to understand whether the material can be shipped to a foreign lab.</p>	<p>GMDC shall undertake Basic Engineering/FEED for the full-scale plant, and the key inputs from these studies will be shared with bidders during the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to appropriately assess the scope of work, estimate the quantum of effort involved, determine delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP process.</p>
4	5.11	Performance KPIs	<p>As mentioned, GMDC will provide flowsheets, in that case performance guarantee by EPC partner is not applicable. Please clarify.</p>	<p>Performance Guarantees shall be based on the functional performance of the equipment and systems. The scope and responsibilities related to inspection, testing, and Performance Guarantees shall be specified in the RFP documents issued by GMDC during the RFP stage.</p>
5	5.8	Information to be Provided	<p>It is mentioned that the applicant should provide Investment plan & funding strategy. Please clarify this point from a EPC service provider's point of view. However, in Allocations of responsibility table, it is mentioned that CAPEX and payment are funded by GMDC. Please clarify.</p>	<p>"CAPEX and payments funded by GMDC" implies that GMDC shall make payments to the EPC Contractor in accordance with the payment terms specified in the RFP documents issued by GMDC during the RFP stage.</p> <p>The "Investment Plan & Funding Strategy" section is intended to understand the bidder's typical approach and philosophy for managing cash flows during the development and execution phase.</p>
6	General		<p>Please provide the plan for downstream REE separation plant. In case of delays in start up of downstream plant, please indicate how the EPC contractor shall be contractually protected from such eventuality.</p>	<p>The downstream REE separation plant is outside the current EPC scope. Accordingly, the EPC contractor shall not be subject to any penalties or liabilities for delays or changes arising from matters outside the EPC scope and/or beyond the EPC contractor's control.</p>

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7	4.3	Key timelines for beneficiation & concentration full scale plant development (tentative): • Vendor finalization: Nov-2026 to Feb-2027 • Engineering for full scale plant: Feb-2027 to Aug-2027 • Procurement & Construction for full scale plant: Aug-2027 to Aug- 2028 • Testing & Commissioning of full-scale plant: Sep-2028 to Dec-2028	The timeline for Engineering, Procurement & Construction and for Testing & Commissioning are indicated as independent timelines despite these can be overlapped. However, the total no. of months indicated for this kind of facilities is very stringent and may please be reviewed.	The timelines mentioned are indicative. The detailed milestone-based plan for the EPC stage shall be developed after the DPR/TEFR is finalized by GMDC. However, participants are encouraged to share their comments/suggestions as part of their response to this EOI. Any changes, if required, shall be considered and incorporated after due diligence during the RFP stage.
8	4.5	Opportunities for EPC Partners in Beneficiation & Concentration	We understand that under model B, the Engg. & Design (E&D) bidder and Procurement, Construction & Commissioning / Testing (PC&C) bidder will form a consortium; And the members of the consortium will nominate a lead member of the consortium; The lead member will be responsible for the interfacing with all the consortium members; pls confirm	Participants may submit the response to the EOI as a consortium. However, the Lead Member shall act as the single point of accountability and shall be responsible for managing all interfaces and coordination with the consortium members.
9	5.2	Value proposition for partners	We understand that the reference flowsheet will be provided by GMDC to all the bidders; And if the bidders / vendors intend to develop their own flowsheet, then GMDC will provide ore to all the bidders at free of cost for testing and developing the flowsheet; Or else bidders can follow GMDC's flowsheet. Pls confirm our understanding	GMDC hereby clarifies that EPC vendors are not required to develop the flowsheet under current scope. GMDC will not provide ore to all bidders free of cost for testing and flowsheet development. GMDC shall undertake Basic Engineering/FEED for the full-scale plant, and the key inputs from these studies will be shared with bidders during the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to appropriately assess the scope of work, estimate the quantum of effort involved, determine delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP process.
10	5.9	Eligibility, General Conditions and Disqualifications	We request GMDC to consider experience in engineering / procurement / construction & commissioning of at least one beneficiation & concentration plant / one bulk material handling system of concentration /pellet plant/steel plant of capacity 0.5 Million ton per annum / one metallurgical plant of 2000 tpa. This will allow wider participation	The final qualification criteria (technical and financial) for the evaluation of firm experience shall be specified in the RFP documents issued during the RFP stage. However, participants are encouraged to share their comments/suggestions on the proposed criteria as part of their response to this EOI.
11	5.9	Eligibility, General Conditions and Disqualifications - In the case of applicants participating as a JV or consortium, both partners are required to have a minimum revenue of \$25 Mn (for foreign players) / INR 250 crore (for Indian players).	We request to consider combined value of the partners of the JV or consortium for Engg. & Design Vendor (E&D) and Procurement, Construction & Commissioning Vendor (PC&C) vendor to have minimum average combined revenue of \$25 Mn (for foreign players) / INR 250 crore (for Indian players) participation under Model B.	The final qualification criteria (technical and financial) for the evaluation of firm experience shall be specified in the RFP documents issued during the RFP stage. However, participants are encouraged to share their comments/suggestions on the proposed criteria as part of their response to this EOI.
12	Document 2	1 Lab Accreditations / Certifications 2 Pilot Unit Operations / Technology Available 3 Pilot Capacity Range (kg/h or t/d) 4 Analytical Capabilities 5 Utilities & Infrastructure	We understand that bidders participating in Mode A or in Mode B need not have these facilities inhouse. If required they can get the ore tested through any reputed / NABL accredited lab. Pls confirm our understanding	An in-house laboratory is not mandatory. The requirements and applicable clauses for inspection and quality control, including relevant standards, shall be specified in the RFP documents issued during the RFP stage.
13	Document 5	Model-2 Separate coordinated packages -Engg. & Design (E&D) -Procurement, Construction & Commissioning / Testing (PC&C)	Under Model 2 - Engg. & Design (E&D) vendor shall be allowed to participate in the EOI independently. Please confirm	Yes. The Engineering & Design (E&D) vendor may participate separately.

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14	Document 6	Investment plan & funding strategy	Please elaborate on the Mode of funding (Debt & Equity) and Tentative allotted %age. We understand that the above is not applicable for Engg. & Design (E&D) vendor. Please confirm.	Yes. This is not applicable where an Engineering & Design (E&D) vendor is bidding independently, i.e., without EPC scope.
15	Document 7	Previous experience with publicsector work in India	The experience of Engg. & Design (E&D) vendor of working with reputed domestic & global clients/ manufacturers in metal & minerals sector shall also be considered. Please confirm.	The final qualification criteria (technical and financial) for the evaluation of firm experience shall be specified in the RFP documents issued during the RFP stage. However, participants are encouraged to share their comments/suggestions on the proposed criteria as part of their response to this EOI.
16	Section 4.3	EOI Document – Section 4.3 / Page-10. Throughput (Input) – Full Scale: 5000 – 6000 TPD. Page-14 / Section 5.3 Testing, Data & Scale-up	a) Please clarify whether the full-scale Beneficiation & Concentration (B&C) plant (throughput of 5,000-6,000 TPD) is planned in a single installation, or in a phased manner. b) If phased installation is considered, kindly indicate the number of phases envisaged, throughput per phase, timelines proposed to achieve the full capacity. c) Also, please clarify whether any pilot-scale demonstration plant is included as part of the phased installation in this proposed project	The full-scale Beneficiation and Concentration plants will be developed together in a single stage. Exact details on throughput capacity, including the number of phases (if multiple) and the throughput for each phase, will be shared during the RFP stage. Pilot studies will be conducted separately before the full-scale Beneficiation & Concentration (B&C) plant. However, if bidders are interested in developing and operating a pilot- or demonstration-scale plant, they are encouraged to include this in their response to the Eoi.
17	Section 3.7	EOI Document – Section 3.7 / Page-9	a) Kindly clarify whether the proposed project is primarily focused on recovery of Mixed Rare Earth Concentrate (MREC) only, or whether it also includes recovery of any other associated valuable minerals, as by-products.	The project will include recovery of Mixed Rare Earth Concentrate (MREC) as well as other minerals as by-products. The exact mineral recovery requirements and targets will be finalized during the Basic Engineering phase, based on the flowsheet. The necessary Basic Engineering inputs will be shared with bidders in the RFP documents issued by GMDC during the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to appropriately assess the scope of work, estimate the quantum of effort involved, determine delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP process.
18	Section 5.2	EOI Document – Section 5.2 / Page-12. Value Proposition for Partners	a) Please clarify whether the flowsheet (not attached in EOI) developed by GMDC constitutes the complete technology know-how for the REE Beneficiation & Concentration (B&C) plant, or whether technology provider / EPC partners are expected to provide additional process development. b). Please confirm whether the above referred flowsheet developed by GMDC is conceptual, or whether it also covers details of equipment sizing, selection, and mechanization of material handling systems for the full-scale throughput of 5,000 to 6,000 TPD c). Kindly clarify whether the above referred flowsheet has been developed based on laboratory scale studies or pilot scale studies on bastnasite ore (1-2% TREO). d). Kindly share us the flowsheet developed by GMDC for our understanding.	Key inputs emerging from the Basic Engineering/FEED (including equipment sizing, selection, etc.) shall be specified in the RFP documents issued by GMDC during the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to assess the scope of work, estimate the effort involved, determine delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP process. No additional process development is expected from the EPC contractor under the current scope. Currently, the flowsheets are at the lab scale, but the necessary pilot studies will be conducted separately before the development of the full-scale Beneficiation and Concentration (B&C) plant. If a bidder is interested in supporting the Basic Engineering/FEED, based on its capabilities and experience, it is encouraged to share the proposed engagement model as part of its response to this Eoi. Additionally, if a bidder is interested in developing and operating a pilot- or demonstration-scale plant, it should also include this in its Eoi response.
19	Section 5.3	EOI Document – Section 5.3/Page-13 Commercials & guarantees	Kindly clarify whether any Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) / Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared for the full-scale 5,000–6,000 TPD Beneficiation & Concentration (B&C) plant. If not available, we recommend GMDC to carry out a Detailed Project Report (DPR) as an initial stage of the project to enable detailed validation of technical and economic feasibility.	GMDC shall undertake Basic Engineering/FEED for the full-scale plant and shall also prepare the techno-economic feasibility report / Detailed Project Report (DPR/TEFR). Requisite inputs from the DPR/TEFR shall be shared with bidders at the RFP stage. If a bidder is interested in participating in Basic Engineering/FEED and/or DPR/TEFR preparation, based on its capabilities and experience, it is encouraged to share the proposed engagement model as part of its response to this EOI.

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20	Section 4.5	EOI Document – Section 4.5 / Page-11 Applicants are encouraged to propose any other partnership model.	<p>We suggest to consider the following,</p> <p>a) GMDC shall engage a Technology Provider to conduct test work to develop process flowsheet, equipment specification, prepare the basic design of the main process packages, and define the performance guarantees for each package which will form the basis for Consulting engineers to proceed on further engineering activities.</p> <p>We suggest to modify Model B considering the scope of Consulting engineers and package supplier/contractor as mentioned below,</p> <p>b) Development of Basic Engineering, Services during procurement, Detailed Engineering, Inspection services, Project management and site supervision services shall be covered under Consulting engineers' scope of work.</p> <p>c) For remaining activities like Supply, erection, supervision, commissioning, and demonstration of performance guarantees shall be executed through multiple EPCM packages /EPC packages.</p>	<p>GMDC has already engaged reputed agencies for development of the process flowsheet. GMDC shall undertake Basic Engineering/FEED for the full-scale plant prior to the EPC stage.</p> <p>Bidders are encouraged to share their preferred engagement model and indicate their interest in participating in Basic Engineering/FEED and/or DPR/TEFR preparation, based on their capabilities and experience, as part of their response to this EOI.</p> <p>Bidders may also partner with suitable engineering and/or EPC firms and participate as a consortium, in accordance with the EOI provisions.</p>
21	Section 5.9	5.9. Eligibility, General Conditions and Disqualifications	For Consulting Engineers, kindly consider to revise the Minimum last 3-year average revenue as INR 115 Crores.	<p>The final qualification criteria (technical and financial) for the evaluation of firm experience shall be specified in the RFP documents issued during the RFP stage.</p> <p>However, participants are encouraged to share their comments/suggestions on the proposed criteria as part of their response to this EOI.</p>
22	General		Any preference in Technology or Licensor to be considered while designing Beneficiation & Concentration Plant.	Relevant technical details shall be provided at the RFP stage to enable bidders to assess the scope, estimate the quantum of work, propose delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP submission.
23			Plot Area available need to be considered for designing.	<p>The plot area requirements will be in line with industry practices. Key inputs from the Basic Engineering, including the plant area requirement, will be shared with bidders as part of the RFP document at the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to appropriately assess the scope of work, estimate the quantum of effort involved, determine delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP process.</p> <p>Bidders are encouraged to share their preferred engagement model and indicate their interest in participating in Basic Engineering/FEED and/or DPR/TEFR preparation, based on their capabilities and experience, as part of their response to this EOI.</p>
24			Availability of Utilities & Raw Material like Electricity, Raw Water, Sulphuric Acid, etc. Tie-In Points and Battery limits conditions.	<p>GMDC will facilitate site access, enabling works, utility corridors, and coordination for offsite tie-ins (power, water, effluent, etc.). The necessary inputs in this regard will be shared with bidders during the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to assess the scope, estimate the quantum of work, propose delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP.</p> <p>However, bidders are encouraged to share their inputs on the proposed division of roles and responsibilities for the offsite utility tie-ins.</p>
25			Geotechnical Report for the proposed location with contour plan.	<p>Details of the land selected for development of the Beneficiation & Concentration Plant will be provided by GMDC during the RFP stage.</p> <p>However, bidders are encouraged to share any specific requirements, along with appropriate supporting rationale, as part of their response to this EOI.</p>

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26			Proposed Plant Layout.	Key inputs emerging from Basic Engineering, including the plant layout, will be shared with bidders as part of the RFP document at the RFP stage. These inputs will enable bidders to appropriately assess the scope of work, estimate the quantum of effort involved, determine delivery timelines, and accordingly submit their Commercial Offer as part of the RFP process.
27			Any Statutory requirement and approvals required, if applicable.	All applicable statutory requirements shall be provided in detail as part of the RFP document at the RFP stage.
28			Acceptability of Proposed Execution Model i.e. EPCCSS (Engineering & Support Service for Procurement, Construction & Commissioning)	GMDC is open to discussing engagement models that are suitable for the project. Participants are encouraged to share their comments/suggestions as part of their response to this EOI.
29			Any Land, Border Sharing Concern.	Details of suitable land for development of the Beneficiation & Concentration Plant shall be provided by GMDC as part of the RFP stage.