

FAQs: Pre-Bid Meeting dated 10.02.2021 regarding Expression of Interest (EOI) issued on 03.02.2021 for setting-up Mega Food Parks

Q1. Whether the EOI issued for setting up of Mega Food Park is for uncovered states or it can be setup anywhere in the country?

A. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is inviting proposals/ Expression of Interest (EOI) from potential promoters under the Mega Food Park Scheme for setting up Mega Food Parks anywhere in the country. EOI issued on 03.02.2021 for setting up of Mega Food Park is not specifically for uncovered states.

Q2. What is minimum land requirement for setting-up Mega Food Parks?

A. Minimum land requirement is 50 acres of contiguous land free from any kind of encumbrance. The selection of land needs to be justified in terms of connectivity and availability of basic infrastructure such as approach road, power, water etc as also in terms of availability of raw materials/market.

Q3. Whether freehold land is necessary or it can be leasehold land or mix of leasehold and freehold land?

A. Land can either be purchased or can be taken on long term lease. In case of lease, the minimum period should be 75 years.

Q4. Whether land use need to be changed from Agricultural to Industrial?

A. Yes, it is mandatory to have Change of Land Use (CLU). CLU is not required in case the land is already in a designated industrial area.

Q5. When a Company itself is holding the land in its own name, whether it is necessary to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)?

A. Yes, it is mandatory to form an SPV under the Companies Act to execute the project. This condition is not applicable in case of State Government/State Government Entities/Cooperatives implementing the project. Land for the project has to be transferred in the name of SPV.

Q6. Whether possession of land is necessary at the time of submitting the proposal against Expression of Interest (EOI)?

A. Possession of land for the project at the stage of EOI is not mandatory. The EOI proposals having possession of land with Change in Land Use (CLU) will be given due weightage during the evaluation and selection process.

It is mandatory for SPV / Implementing Agency to meet the condition of possession of a minimum 50 acres of continuous land with CLU for according Final approval to such project.

Q7. Whether government is providing any assistance in arranging the land for the project.

A. No. Requisite land for the project has to be arranged by the SPV. Government does not provide any assistance in procurement of land for the Mega Food Park projects. However, interested companies/individuals may approach the concerned State Government to check availability of industrial land in the State.

Q8. Whether separate Equity need to be brought in for this project or it can be done under the existing company?

A. The existing company has to form a separate SPV. The SPV will be responsible for execution, maintenance and management of Mega Food Park. All the funds relating to the project will have to be in the accounts of the SPV.

Q9. What is “eligible project cost”?

A. The “eligible project cost” is the total project cost but excludes cost of land, pre-operative expenses and margin money for working capital. However, interest during construction(IDC) as part of pre-operative expenses and fee to PMC up to 2% of the approved grant would be considered under eligible project cost (refer para. 4.1 of guidelines).

Q10. Whether it is mandatory to set up an anchor unit in the name of promoter with an investment of Rs. 10.00 crore or an arrangement can be made with other industry for setting up the Food Processing Unit in the Park?

A. Lead promoter will be the Anchor Investor in the SPV who shall, with or without other promoters of the SPV, be required to set up at least one food processing unit in the park with an investment of not less than Rs. 10 crore. The Anchor Investor shall have at least 51% stake in such processing unit(s). State Government/ State Govt. Entities/ Cooperatives would not be required to set up processing unit(s) in the park. The said unit has to be completed and commissioned along with the MFP. SPV is not allowed to set up any unit.

Q11. Whether Central Government will participate in Equity Subscription if a separate SPV is made for the Mega Food Park?

A. Central Government agencies may hold up to 26 percent of equity in the SPV. No such restriction is there on State Govt./State Govt. entities/Cooperatives.

Q12. What are the criteria on formation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)?

A. The responsibility of execution, ownership and management of the Mega Food Park would vest with a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The criteria of forming the SPV are given below:

- i. SPV shall be a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act. State Govt./State Govt Entities/ Cooperatives intending to set up Mega Food Park project will be exempted from the condition of forming SPV.
- ii. The combined net worth of the shareholders of the SPV should not be less than Rs. 50 crore. Each member in SPV should have a minimum net worth of 1.5 times of its proposed equity contribution in SPV.
- iii. The Anchor Investor in the SPV, with or without other promoters of the SPV, will be required to set up at least one food processing unit in the park with an investment of not less than Rs. 10 crore, with minimum 51% stake in the unit.

Q13. In the event of SPV having possession of minimum 50 acres of land along with permission for Change in Land Use, how the net worth of such SPVs shall be considered for ascertaining eligibility on net worth criterion?

A. The duly registered SPV having possession of minimum 50 acre of land along with permission for Change in Land Use would be awarded maximum marks for criterion pertaining to possession of land. Possession of land would be ascertained on the basis of registered Sale Deed/Lease Deed and relevant documents related to CLU status. In case of land allotted by State Govt., possession of land shall be ascertained on basis of Lease Deed or Possession Certificate issued by concerned Department of State Govt.

In the above case, the combined net worth of SPV would be ascertained taking into consideration the net worth of individual promoters (existing as well as proposed) in the SPV. In case of individual promoters and Partnership Firms, net worth would be ascertained on the basis of CA certificate while in all other cases, the Net Worth would be ascertained on the basis of audited Balance Sheets and certificate of Statutory Auditor. For details may also refer Annexure-B of scheme guidelines.

Q14. Does SPV need to register the land in its name before consideration of final approval to the project?

A. Yes. The SPV must ensure possession of land along with permission of Conversion of Land Use (CLU) for Industrial purposes in its own name. The land

should be registered in the name of the SPV and cost of land would be considered as a part of total project cost based on registered Sale Deed/Lease Deed.

In case of land acquired on long term lease, the minimum period of lease shall be 75 years. The Registered Lease Deed must provide for relevant Clause related to provision of "sub-lease" of developed plots in the Park to prospective units. Similar provisions for Sub Lease must also be mentioned in lease Deeds of the land allotted by the State Govt.

Q15. In case SPV furnishes an Agreement to Sale for project land, will the same be considered as land in possession at the time of consideration of the proposal.

A. No. As per the guidelines of the Scheme, the SPV should have the land duly transferred and registered in its name for consideration of Final approval. At the stage of EOI submission/In-principle approval, the proposals confirming possession of land would qualify for additional weightage during evaluation process.

Q16. In case of one (or more) of the SPV members having the requisite land for the project in possession, will this be considered as land in possession?

A. The member(s) of the SPV should transfer the land in the name of the SPV. However, SPV has the option to purchase land from such member(s) and allot requisite equity in proportion of the registered value of land, as per the Sale Deed/Lease Deed, to such members based on mutual agreement. In case of SPV member possessing the land, it will not be considered possession by SPV.

Q17. Is there any maximum cap on the equity to be held by the members in SPV?

A. There is no cap on maximum equity that can be held by a member in the SPV. As per the revised Guidelines w.e.f 21.07.2016, SPV may also be promoted by a single entity. In case the SPV is promoted by a single entity, the entire 100% equity shall be held by this entity. Minimum 20% equity in general areas and 10 % equity in North East and difficult areas is required to be held by the promoter.

Q18. How the SPV should engage the Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the project?

A. Ministry has approved a panel of Project Management Consultants (PMC) having required experience in preparation of DPRs and in project implementation of infrastructure projects with requisite exposure to food processing sector. Any of these empaneled agencies may be engaged by SPVs/Applicants as Project Management Consultant. The list is annexed with the scheme guidelines.

Q19. Whether Project Management Consultant (PMC) is required to be engaged before the submission of proposal against EoI? Whether engaging PMC is necessary?

A. No, it is not necessary to engage PMC before the submission of proposal against EoI. However, appointment of PMC as per scheme guidelines is one of the condition which has to be fulfilled by project implementing agency / SPV before Final Approval is accorded to the project.

Q20. Can the SPV set up processing units in the MFP?

A. No. SPV cannot set up processing units in the MFP. The SPV should only be responsible for ownership, development and management of the Mega Food Park and the revenue streams for SPV shall include income from long term lease of developed plots to units, income from rentals of Standard Design Factory Sheds for Micro and Small Enterprises and income from user charges of common facility by tenants in the Park.

However, members/promoters in SPV are allowed to set up units in the Park. The Lead Promoter in SPV shall need to set up a food processing unit in the Park with a minimum capital investment of Rs.10 Cr.

Q21. What types of industries/units are permitted in Mega Food Park?

A. Only food processing industries/units that make food products fit for human and animal consumption are permitted to be set up in the Mega Food Parks. Packaging facilities of food products as ancillary to the food processing industries will also be eligible for setting up in the Mega Food Parks. However, setting up of alcoholic beverage unit as an anchor unit will not be allowed

Q22. Can foreign investors, Private Equity arms of foreign firms become members in SPV and invest in creation of common infrastructure in form of equity.

A. Yes. Such firms can join hands with Indian promoters to form the Special Purpose Vehicle and invest in the project by way of contributing equity. It may also be noted here that foreign direct investments in food processing sector is allowed under automatic route in India. However, adequate documents with regard to net worth and other relevant financial details in respect of such firms must be provided with the EOI proposal.

Q23. Is there any minimum requirement of land for PPCs/ CCs ?

A. There is no minimum requirement of land for PPCs/ CCs. However, the land for the purpose shall be arranged by the SPV either by purchase or on registered lease. The land and / or infrastructure taken on lease for PPCs / CCs should be for a period of at least 25 years.

Q24. Whether SPV/IAs is permitted to sell the plots in Mega Food Park?

A. SPVs/IAs are permitted to sell the plots in Mega Food Park in addition to the existing provision for leasing of plots. The sale or leasing of plots may be permitted in the MFPs subject to compliance of the following:

(a) The SPV would submit an affidavit confirming their responsibilities as per the provisions of the MFP scheme guidelines including under clause 5.1.1.

(b) SPV would include two clauses in the sale agreement that the plot would be utilized only for setting up of food processing units and sale will happen only with consent of lending bank.

However, subsequent conversion of leasehold to freehold may be allowed in Government sponsored MFPs as per state policy in force.

Q25. What is the criterion for valuation of immovable assets?

A. The valuation of the immovable assets will be on the basis of circle rates (as on date of application) declared by the concerned State Government, which should be duly certified by the competent State Revenue Authority. This valuation must be carried out within a period of 30 days preceding EoI bid submission date (Please refer para. 4(b) & 4(f) in Annexure-B of guidelines).

Q26. What are the documents required in support of net worth?

A. Please refer para.4 in Annexure-B of scheme guidelines.

Q27. Are ownership documents required for backward and forward linkage?

A. Details of backward and forward linkages along-with documents in support of such linkage like ownership, existing facilities etc has to be submitted along with the proposal (refer para 2.10 of Annexure-B and C2 of Annexure-C).

Q28. Whether the data on marketable surplus of the focused crops in the catchment area available on website can be used?

A. Latest authentic data available in respect of marketable surplus of the focused crops in the catchment area has to be mentioned in the proposal. These may also be obtained from local concerned authorities of the catchment area like Agriculture Department/ Horticulture Department.

Q29. What is the criteria of awarding marks for food processing experience and backward/forward linkages prescribed in Annexure-C of the scheme guidelines dated 21.07.2016?

A. The food processing and backward / forward linkages experience of only those promoters having at least 10% of equity individually in the proposed project / SPV will be considered for awarding marks.

Q30. Whether land for proposed Mega Food Park situated at the distance of 20 Kilo Meter(KM) from the Government notified difficult and hilly area will be considered as difficult and hilly area or not and benefits of difficult areas will be given to that land as per the scheme guidelines dated 21.07.2016?

A. No, Land situated at a distance of 20 KM from the government notified difficult and hilly area will not be considered at par with the difficult and hilly areas. Only difficult and hilly areas as defined in scheme guidelines will be considered for such benefits i.e. North East Region including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and ITDP notified areas of the States as per the scheme guidelines dated 21.07.2016.

Q31. Whether proposal under the proposed EoI will be submitted online or in physical form?

A. No proposal in physical form will be considered. Only online proposal will be considered At present, the willing investors/promoters may submit their proposals through online portal: sampada-mofpi.gov.in/mfp_eoi/login.aspx as per the Mega Food Park Scheme Guidelines dated 21.07.2016. The detailed guidelines of the scheme may be seen at "www.mofpi.nic.in". The proposals/ Eols, addressed to Deputy Secretary(MFP Division), Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Panchsheel Bhawan, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110049 should be submitted on or before 5:00 PM on 03.03.2021 through above mentioned online link as detailed in EoI published on 03.02.2021.

Q32. Will the Anchor unit to be implemented with Mega Food Park?

A. Yes, Anchor unit has to be implemented and commissioned with Mega Food Park.

Q33. Is the CEFPPC scheme grant is allowed to avail for setting up of Anchor unit?

A. No, CEFPPC scheme grant are not allowed to avail for setting up of Anchor unit under the Mega Food Park.

Q34. Is the GST part of the project cost?

- A. The components of eligible project cost is defined in the para 4.1 of the Mega Food Scheme Guidelines dated 21.07.2016

Q35. Will any district having Agro Processing Cluster(APC) eligible to set up Mega Food Park Project?

- A. No, any district containing APC will not be eligible for setting up of Mega Food Park project.

Q36. Is the NGO eligible to apply against the EoI?

- A. The promoter may be NGO but SPV would have to be formed as per scheme guidelines before seeking the final approval to the project.

Q37. Will the SPV composition allowed to be change during the implementation of project?

- A. The aggregate equity of the proposed shareholders at the time of approval of the Project, and as per the equity structure proposed in the shareholder's agreement, in the issued and paid up equity share capital of the SPV shall not be less than 51% (fifty-one per cent) until expiry of 5 (five) years following Commencement Date.

Q38. Will there be any difference in subsidy for setting of 50 Acres and 100 Acre of Mega Food Park project?

- A. As per para 4.3.8 of scheme guidelines, atleast 50 acres of contiguous land is required to be arranged for CPC. The pattern of assistance is mentioned in para 4 of the scheme guidelines. The pattern of assistance through capital grant is based on the eligible project cost and not on the area of the CPC.

Q39. What is the timeline for completion of Mega Food Park Project?

- A. As per para 10.1 of scheme guidelines, the time schedule for completion and operationalization of project will be 30 months from the date of issue of final approval letter unless extended by IMAC for the reasons to be recorded.

Q40. Will there be any preference for the uncovered states under the current EoI?

A. EoI has been invited for setting up of Mega Food Park in the country.

Q41. If the CPC is proposed to be set up in ITDP area then, will the PPCs also required to be set in ITDP area?

A. No, PPCs may be proposed in any region in the catchment area of the park but the grant will be calculated as per the criteria mentioned in para 4 of the scheme guidelines.