

Awareness session on Public Procurement Policy for MSEs

To explore opportunities for MSEs and small businesses in public procurement through NPCIL and Government E-Marketplace (GeM) portal, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd., Rawatbhata Rajasthan Site, in collaboration with World Trade Center Jaipur, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., Jaipur and The SSI Association Kota, organized a webinar on Thursday, 28th March 2024.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Ram Bahadur, Head (Contracts & Materials Management), NPCIL, Rawatbhata, said, "The virtual event is an exercise by NPCIL and collaborative associations to bring on board new entrepreneurs and familiarize them with GeM Portal from which NPCIL majorly sources goods and services. NPCIL believes that the indigenization efforts are a continuous process and complement the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Make in India) of the Government of India."

Distinguished guest speaker, Mr. Anil Kumar Uniyal, Sr. Manager (Contracts & Materials Management), NPCIL, Rawatbhata while delivering a presentation on the procurement policy and GeM portal informed about the core activities of NPCIL RR (Rawatbhata) Site. He said, "NPCIL is responsible for design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power reactors and is presently operating 23 commercial nuclear power reactors with an installed capacity of 7480 MW. The reactor fleet comprises two Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs), and 19 Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) including one 100 MW PHWR at Rajasthan which is owned by DAE, Government of India, and two VVER reactors of 1000 MW capacity each. NPCIL has 9 more reactors under construction with a total capacity of 7500 MW and currently, there are ten reactors under various stages of construction totaling 8200 MW capacity."

Sharing a few salient features of the procurement policy, Mr. Uniyal remarked, "For all MSEs registered on the Udyam portal, benefits of purchase preference is being provided under Public Procurement policy irrespective of relevance of product or service category. As the policy, EMD and Tender Fee are exempted for MSEs whereas, 2% of estimated amount is required against EMD from non-MSE bidders. For tenders of estimated cost of INR100.0 lakhs and above, bidders who meet minimum criteria will be qualified only if their available bid capacity is more than the bid value."

Chief guest Mr. Sunil Gadgil, Site Director, RR Site, NPCIL, Rawatbhata, said, "Amongst the numerous objectives that we today strive for at NPCIL, the foremost is to maximize the power generation and profitability from nuclear power stations with the motto safety first and production next. Additionally, our objectives include increasing nuclear power generation capacity in the country, consistent with the available resources in a safe, economical, and rapid manner, in alignment with the growth of energy demand. We also aim to continue and strengthen QA activities relating to the nuclear power program within the organization and those associated with it. Furthermore, our goal is to develop personnel at all levels through an appropriate Human Resource Development (HRD) program in the organization, with a view to further improving their skills and performance consistent with high technology.

Mr. Gadgil also explained, "NPCIL is also among the major buyers of products reserved for procurement from MSEs on the GeM Portal. Every year, NPCIL organizes regular Vendor Development Programs (VDP) through online and offline modes to promote MSEs and to ensure them about the fairness of the procurement process which not only fosters healthy competition but

also increases transparency and highlights the professionalism in the public sector procurement process.”

While deliberating on the support schemes of NSIC, Mr. D. D. Maheshwari, DGM & Branch Head, NSIC Jaipur informed, “Through its Raw Material Assistance Scheme, NSIC assists MSME units in procuring raw materials tailored to their specific needs and requirements. Any manufacturing or service MSME holding an Udyam Registration Certificate is eligible to apply for assistance under the scheme. It aims to aid MSMEs by providing financing for their raw material purchases, both indigenous and imported, thereby enabling them to focus more effectively on manufacturing quality products. Additionally, MSMEs may benefit from credit support for up to 180 days, as well as various indirect advantages such as cash discounts resulting from NSIC’s bulk purchases of raw materials.”

Mr. Amit Singhal, President, SSI Association, Kota urged young entrepreneurs to come forward to understand the process of procurement, become suppliers to government entities, and supply good quality products at competitive rates.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Assistant Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, expressed appreciation for the initiative of the NPCIL team and extended gratitude for the support provided by Mr. Sunil Gadgil, Site Director, RR Site, NPCIL, Rawatbhata, in organizing the program.

The webinar was held on Thursday, 28th of March 2024



In the picture: Mr. Sunil Gadgil (seated in the center) with NPCIL team and Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Assistant Director, World Trade Center Jaipur