GeM
Government
e Marketplace

Efficient • Transparent • Inclusive

तल्लीन कुमार, भा.प्र.से.
मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी
TALLEEN KUMAR, IAS
Chief Executive Officer

सत्यमेव जयते

DO No.214/CEO-GeM/2020   10ᵗʰ November, 2020.

Dear Sir / Madam,

As you are kindly aware, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has been established by the Government of India as the National Public Procurement Portal.

2.   In order to meet the aspirations of all the buyers and sellers and the other stakeholders, GeM is continuously working towards improvements and enhancements in existing features and functionalities and deployment of new features and functionalities that can address diverse procurement needs while ensuring the basic principles of transparency and efficiency in public procurement.

3.   I would like to inform you that in recent months GeM has introduced the following major features and functionalities:

A. **Implementation of the Unified Procurement System in which the next version of GeM, viz., GeM 4.0 is being anchored:** In accordance with OM dated 23/1/2020 issued by the Department of Expenditure, all Central Government buyers will be required to obtain a "**GeM Availability Report and Past Transaction Summary**" to take informed procurement decisions. GeM will prompt buyers of Ministry of Defence, Railways and CPSEs to publish a "**custom bid**" on GeM itself for estimated order value exceeding INR 50 lakhs if the goods or services that a buyer is looking for is not on the platform. If a buyer decides to publish the bid outside GeM on the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) for example, the corresponding ID of GeM Availability Report will be required as a mandatory input before publishing of a bid can be allowed on platforms such as CPPP. This ID will be validated in real time with GeM. After validation, a copy of the published tender will be returned to GeM for analysis. The integration of GeM with CPPP is live. The functionality of "**custom bid**" went live on October 7, 2020. The feature of "**custom bid**" will be in operation till all categories of products and services required by diverse buyers are made available on GeM. This feature will provide a single user experience to buyers under the Unified Procurement System mentioned in para 48 of the budget speech for FY 2020-21. This will also enable vendors to respond to bids for goods and services from GeM with the resultant advantages of better price discovery, economies of scale and dissemination of best practices.

B. **Seeking clarification from bidders:** It is now possible to seek clarifications from Bidders, on-line through GeM portal, with complete audit trail, if the Buyer is unable to decide on the technical suitability of a bidder based on the available information.

C. **Introduction of a challenge rejection window for transparency and for curbing unjust and unfair rejection during technical evaluation:** Visibility of reasons of rejections to all sellers has been provided with a 48 hour challenge rejection window after technical evaluation, thereby increasing transparency and avoiding possibly erroneous / unfair decision.

D. **Adding new specifications to categories at the time of creating bids:** Buyers in CPSEs, Railways and Defence can now add up to five new specifications parameters to create an instance of category with these new specifications for a particular bid. This will remove the constraint of not being able to add essential specifications in a category that a buyer might be looking for.

E. **Uploading drawings/ scope of work in bids:** Upload of drawings / scope of work in bids is now allowed in certain categories (need based).

F. **Staggered delivery**: Staggered Delivery is now enabled on GeM.

G. **Supplementary Bill/ Invoice/ CRAC**: Generation of Supplementary Bill/ Invoice/ Consignee Receipt and Acceptance Certificate (CRAC) is now enabled on GeM.

H. **Implementation of OM dated 23/1/2020 regarding timely payments**: As part of the implementation of this OM, generation of Auto PRC / Auto CRAC have been enabled. Milestone based payments will go live by November, 2020.

I. **Implementation of OM dated 3/7/2020 of Department of Expenditure regarding charging of interest on delayed payments:** The OM regarding charging of interest on delayed payments is also being implemented and the interest charged on account of delayed payments for orders placed on or after October 1, 2020 will be shown in the buyers' dashboard by November, 2020.

J. **Visibility of all contracts on GeM homepage:** In order to further enhance transparency and enable buyers to access details of all procurements happening on GeM and take informed procurement decisions, visibility of all contracts on GeM homepage has been provided.

K. **Introduction of advanced bid search module:** An advanced bid search module has been introduced to enable sellers to look for additional opportunities and diversify their businesses and grow with GeM, which, in turn, will result in wider seller participation and better price discovery for buyers due to increased participation of sellers.

L. **Single view of participants in a bid:** Buyers can now compare the technical specifications of all participants in a single view with a download option for an easier evaluation.

M. **Rating of sellers by including the feedback of buyers and consignees apart from the transaction history on the platform:** Buyers / consignees can now rate sellers based on their procurement experience. The feedback from buyers and consignees along with the transaction history on the platform will be taken into account while rating sellers on the platform in a transparent and objective manner. The model of rating of sellers of products has already been finalized. The model of rating of service providers is expected to be finalized shortly.

N. **Flexibility in procurement lifecycle**: Flexibility in procurement lifecycle has been introduced by allowing extension of Offer Validity, Bid Lifecycle and Delivery Period on Buyer dashboard.

O. **Invitation to certain sellers to participate in specific bids:** A separate module has been built on GeM to enable buyers to invite sellers to participate in bids thereby increasing competition, price discovery and savings.

P. **Revamping of bid module:** Introduction of pre-bid queries / clarification module, anonymizing complaints, queries, clarifications from sellers is planned to go live by November 2020.

Q. **Consignee Wise Item Wise bidding:** Consignee wise and item wise bidding will be enabled by December, 2020.

R. **Demand aggregation:** Demand Aggregation within an organization is expected to go live by December 2020 for economies of scale and more efficient price discovery.

S. **Seller invitation module:** GeM has created a seller invitation module to enable buyers to invite new sellers to onboard GeM and accelerate the process of onboarding of vendors on GeM.

T. **Crowd sourcing of categories and sellers:** GeM has created a separate module for enabling buyers and sellers to suggest the creation of a new category on GeM. This will help in a faster and focused creation of categories.

U. **Bypassing of email uniqueness validation when adding a secondary buyer:** This will enable the tagging of a secondary buyer with multiple primary buyers as the email uniqueness validation of a secondary buyer has been bypassed.

V. **Creation of categories in a time bound manner in GeM**: A system has been set up in GeM whereby a buyer can request for category creation on GeM with complete specifications, which will be acknowledged, and the category will be created within a pre-defined timeframe and notified to the buyer. This will be in addition to the requests for categories received through the module of "crowd sourcing of categories and sellers" which was went live in March 2020.

W. **Introduction of local filter for difficult areas:** As per OM dated 30/9/2020 of the Department of Expenditure, local filter is being enabled for difficult areas for one year subject to use by buyers in appropriate circumstances (by recording detailed justification) and where buyers found the prices of local sellers reasonable. This will enable a buyer to apply such a filter at district level. Further, in all cases before finalizing, the purchaser will be required to obtain and upload financial concurrences for buying the items at higher rates whenever required. This will go live by December, 2020.

X. **Introduction of caution money deposit**: In order to deter sellers from declining/ refusing orders up to INR 5 lakhs in the Marketplace, a provision for one time caution money from sellers on GeM to cover the requirement of Performance Security etc. in respect of contracts that are not governed by the requirement of Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) is being implemented with concurrence of the Department of Expenditure. This will go live by November, 2020. All sellers on GeM will be required to deposit a one-time amount as under as caution money:

    i.   Seller Turnover less than 1 Crore: Rs 5,000/-

   ii.   Seller Turn over > 1 Crore but < 10 Crore: Rs 10,000/-

  iii.   Seller Turn over > 10 Crore : Rs 25,000/-

Y. **Introduction of GeM Seller ID:** According to instructions contained in Department of Expenditure OM no. 6/9/2020 - PPD dated 24.08.2020, it is now mandatory for sellers providing Goods and Services to Central Government Organizations (except Railways and for order value exceeding INR 25 lakhs) to be registered on GeM and obtain a unique GeM Seller ID, at the time of placement of order / acceptance of contract. This ID shall invariably be incorporated in every Supply Order / Contract / Agreement / Purchase Order, while awarding any contract / order for procurement by any Central Government Organization wef 1/11/2020. All sellers registered on GeM have now been assigned with a Unique GeM Seller ID. Sellers can check their Unique GeM Seller ID in the 'My Profile' section on seller dashboard. This ID has to be used by the sellers in all bids outside GeM also in which they participate and in which they are awarded contracts.

4.   It is, requested that all Departments / CPSEs / other Buyer Organizations under your Ministry / Department may kindly be made aware of these features and functionalities to accelerate their onboarding on GeM, to enable them to derive the full potential of GeM and share their feedback through the SCoGeM meetings so that further improvements and enhancements of these processes can be taken up according to requirements.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

10|11|2020

(Talleen Kumar)

To all Secretaries to Government of India.