



राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, राउरकेला

National Institute of Technology, Rourkela

MINUTES OF THE 57th MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, ROURKELA THROUGH CIRCULATION

FC-57(2021)-01: Proposal to engage M/s. Integrated Learning Solution Pvt. Ltd. (Wheebox) to get the services of Proctored software for smooth and proper conduct of End Semester examination of students in online mode.

The online mode examinations will be conducted for all students of all programmes (nearly 6000 students) for Autumn and Spring Semester of the Academic Year 2020-21. The services of online examinations of three hour duration may cost approximately Rs.24.00 lakhs plus any other tax applicable. In this regard, the quotation received from M/s. Integrated Learning Solution Pvt. Ltd. (Wheebox) is attached as **Annexure-A1(a) [Pg.1-9]** for kind reference. This expenditure shall be met from the fee collected from the students @Rs.5000/- per student per semester under the head "**Other Fees**" (which includes examination fee, library fee, electricity fee etc.).

In this connection the work orders issued to the Firm "**M/s. Integrated Learning Solution Pvt. Ltd. (Wheebox)**" by IIT, Bhubaneswar, Delhi Technical University, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, Savitribai Phule Pune University and Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women Kashmere Gate, Delhi are enclosed as **Annexure-A1(b) [Pg 10 - 17]** for kind perusal.

To meet the time line of examination by the end of May, 2021, it is suggested to approve to go for **single tender (in off-line mode)** basis to engage M/s. Integrated Learning Solution Pvt. Ltd. (Wheebox) to entrust this work.

Keeping this agenda in view and its urgency, the following background information is placed for kind perusal of all Hon'ble members.

*None of the examinations for the current academic year 2020-21 could be conducted till date as the students were out of the campus due to covid19 pandemic. The Senate had decided to conduct all the examinations only in **off line mode** expecting that the prevailing covid19 situations may improve by end of the year. It had also approved the detailed schedule of calling back students in 5 batches for attending laboratory classes and giving end semester examinations in offline mode. The first two batches of students (total around 2500) had already arrived at the campus during Feb-Mar, 2021. The first end semester examination for first batch of students was scheduled to commence from April 5, 2021.*

All of a sudden, Covid cases were detected in the campus and the number got increased. In view of the rise of Covid19 cases

among students, on 25.03.2021 students put their request before the administration for conducting examinations in online mode and allowing them to leave the campus immediately. It is also observed that there has been rise in covid19 cases in most of the parts of the country. There are students from almost all states/UTs of the country and also from outside the country. On 26-03-2021, an emergency senate meeting was convened to reconsider its earlier decisions wherein it was decided to conduct all the end semester examinations for all the programmes in online mode and to constitute a committee headed by Dean (Academic) to frame the modalities in conducting online examinations.

After detailed discussion, the committee suggested to hire the services of proctor based software agency for smooth and proper conducting of examinations in online mode which would facilitate the real time monitoring on online examinations.

Dean(Ac), Chairman of the Committee independently explored the availability of suitable firms for providing the proctor based solutions for conducting online examinations and it came to know that **M/s. Integrated Learning Solution Pvt. Ltd. (Wheebox)** has been providing such type of services to IIT Bhubaneswar, IIM Ahmedabd, IIIT Bengaluru, University of Pune, Institute of Physics and few other institutes. The committee was requested to watch the presentation given by that firm and to evaluate. The committee also interacted with them in video conferencing mode. The committee analyzed all the features of their software and felt that this could be one of the options for conducting online examinations. Each student will appear for around 10 theory papers (includes Autumn and Spring semester examinations of an academic year). In total, there are around 6000 students who will appear for examinations.

Every year, the examinations are completed by end of April and the results are published in 3rd week of May so that the final year students can join their jobs starting from June 1st. Now, at least one month of time is required to complete all the examinations of both Autumn and Spring semesters. Then, the evaluations of answer scripts and publication of results will take 3 weeks. Therefore, it is felt that there is hardly any time left to conduct examinations and publish results in time unless the service of proctor based software is available immediately.

Considering the above mentioned need and prevailing situations, the committee recommends to hire the services of any agency providing proctor based software on urgent basis.

[Annexure – A1(a) & A2(b), Pg. 1-17]



FC-57(2021)-02: Expenditure of Rs.95 lakhs (approx.) towards conduct of MCQ/MSQ type computer based written examination for recruitment of Non-Teaching Post.

The Board resolution No.BOG-65(2019)-18, dated 01.10.2019 and BOG-72(2021)07, dated 07.01.2021 are enclosed for kind perusal of all Hon'ble members with regards to recruitment of Non-Teaching Post. In accordance with the instruction issued by DOPT vide their office Memorandum No.39029/01/2013-Estt(B)-Part dated 29.12.2015 and in line with this MHRD circular vide F.No.35-4/2016/S.III, dated 11.12.2019, it is mandatory to conduct written test for all Junior/Lower level posts carrying the Grade Pay of Rs.4600/- or less (up to Level-7).

Keeping in view the number of scrutinized applications around 15189 in response to the Advt. No.ES/03/2018 and Advt.ES/01/2020, received across the country for different category of posts advertised, it is proposed to have MCQ/MSQ type computer based written examination through a reputed professional agency, at least in three centres, namely at Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. The post-wise & state-wise number of applicants received is enclosed as Annexure-1 for information.

For the applicants above Pay Level-7, it is suggested to have Trade Test/interview or both, apart from the written test, as is applicable.

Under this circumstances, the followings are placed for kind information of the members.

- 1) In this connection, officials of Ed.CIL (New Delhi), PSU, was contacted over telephone for conducting written examination. The charges per applicant to conduct MCQ/MSQ test is approx Rs.670/- per candidate and it was told that the agency shall not participate in any tendering process, rather to be nominated for receiving this services.
- 2) In the meantime, Director, NIT Rourkela contacted Director, NIT, Trichy and came to know that they are opting for open tender mode to give the work of written test for non-teaching staff recruitment of her institute to the professional agency.

So, it is suggested that NIT, Rourkela may be allowed to go for open tender mode to identify the agency based on their credibility and experience in conducting such type of examination.

Though the charges for such services per applicant is not known at this stage, taking the rate of Ed.CIL (New Delhi), as an bench mark, the expenditure towards written test may be around Rs.95 lakhs (approximately). Institute has received Rs.22 lakhs as an application fee taking together the applications received in response to the advertisement vide Advt. No.ES/03/2018 and Advt.ES/01/2020.

Apart from this, for setting two sets of questions consisting 100 questions for ten categories of posts, the expenditure may be around Rs.2.8 lakhs.

It is suggested to form a three member **"Institutional Committee"** (confidential) to coordinate with the outside agency for the computer based



MCQ/MSQ test. The committee shall set the questions taking the help from the external sources on remunerative basis.

Other expenditure towards logistic including remuneration to the 3 members committee (confidential) for successful conduct of examination shall be around Rs.6.0 lakhs.

The final selection process of candidates from qualified shortlisted candidates from MCQ/MSQ test shall be in adherence to NITs Statutes.

This was circulated to all the members of FC on 1st April, 2021 for its recommendation to BOG. But no response were received. But with telephonic discussion with Mr. Indrajit Kuri, Under Secretary, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, he advised to put these agenda in next FC for its recommendation to BOG as the proposals have financial obligation.

Annexure- A2, Page 18-24]



[Prof. P. K. Das]
Registrar and Secretary
BOG, NIT, Rourkela



[Prof. Animesh Biswas]
Chairman (Acting)
BOG, NIT, Rourkela