

Request for Proposals: Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Quality Audit for India

September 12, 2019

Reply deadline: October 4, 2019

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I. Background:

In order to reduce air pollution from on-road vehicles, India has adopted stringent vehicle emission standards. Bharat Stage VI will be applicable from April 1, 2020¹. The emission standards are accompanied by corresponding fuel quality specifications. Compliance with the stringent emission norms can only be possible if both vehicles and fuels meet or exceed their corresponding standards.

In view of the nationwide rollout of BS VI emission standards and fuel quality, the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) wishes to undertake a comprehensive survey of motor gasoline and automotive diesel fuel quality across India.

II. Objectives and scope of work:

II.A Reference specifications:

The objective of this project is to sample motor gasoline and automotive grade diesel across India, and compare the specifications of key parameters with their respective standards as described in Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) documents. The BS fuel quality specifications are described in IS 2796:2017 Motor Gasoline - Specification (Sixth Revision) and IS 1460 : 2017 Automotive Diesel Fuel - Specification (Sixth Revision).

II.B Testing frequency and period:

The fuel quality testing work shall be carried out in two phases. For the first phase, samples shall be gathered between late October and December, 2019. The second phase of fuel samples shall be gathered between early June to mid-July, 2020.

¹ <http://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2016/168300.pdf>

II.C Number of samples:

During each phase, the consultant will gather at least two gasoline and two diesel fuel samples from retail fuel outlets in each of the following cities and along national highways for a total of 60 samples:

- National Capital Territory, Delhi
- Ahmedabad
- Thane
- Mysuru
- Kochi
- Visakhapatnam
- Nagpur
- Ranchi
- Patna
- Kanpur
- Shimla
- Along golden quadrilateral (NH 4 near JNPT, NH 8 near Udaipur, NH 5 near Bhubaneshwar, and NH 2 near Varanasi)

The consultant may propose alternative cities and locations for consideration in the proposal. The proposed sampling locations should minimize the possibility of taking multiple samples from a single refinery or centralized distribution center. Thus, consultant needs the knowledge of local exchange agreements and distribution systems, in order to select retail fuel outlets that constitute a representative set of refineries across India. It is not necessary to sample the fuels from the same retail stations for Phase I and II.

II.D Sampling protocol:

The consultant should describe the sampling protocol, and the precautions taken during sampling, transport and testing of fuel samples in the proposal. In particular, the consultant should describe any steps taken to prevent contamination of the sample. A portion of the tested fuel sample from each location should be saved until the project is complete. Samples should be taken from at least 2 different retail outlets within each region, and it is acceptable to take gasoline and diesel sample from the same refueling station.

II.E Parameters to be tested:

The following fuel quality parameters shall be tested as per the test method specified in the BIS standards. If the BIS standard specifies multiple protocols, or if a protocol is not specified for one of the following parameters, then the consultant shall propose a testing method consistent with international standards. Only regular grade fuels shall be tested. Visual appearance of the sample should be noted.

	Required parameters	Desired parameters
Motor Gasoline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aromatic Content• Octane number (RON and MON)• Sulfur content• Ethanol content• RVP• Density	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benzene content• Olefin content• Metallic additives (such as MMT)
Automotive Diesel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cetane number• Sulfur content• Density	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poly-aromatic content• Lubricity• Ash content• Water content

Table 1 Required and desired fuel quality parameters to be tested

II.F Reporting:

The consultant shall prepare periodic (every other week) status updates on sampling progress. At the end of each testing phase, the consultant shall provide results of the two testing phases in a tabular format. Each table should have the analysis results for all tested parameters in each fuel sample during each phase, at all locations. The exact format of data delivery will be agreed upon during project kick-off. Each table should also be accompanied by an executive summary that provides a description of samples taken, as well as key methodological information including the testing laboratory and equipment specifications. The Phase I testing report shall be submitted by January 30, 2020, and Phase II testing report shall be submitted by July 30, 2020.

III. RFP guidelines

In addition to the detailed proposal that describes how the consultant is going to implement the project to achieve the objectives outlined above, the RFP responses should address and include the following:

1. Please provide a brief history, of your firm and any parent organization(s) including an explanation of any ownership changes in the last five years.
2. Please provide brief biographical information (education and experience) of the management group and key professionals that would be assigned to this project.
3. Describe any actions taken against your firm by any regulatory authorities. Discuss if any actions are expected in the future.
4. Describe the various services you have provided to clients in testing motor vehicle fuel specifications.
5. Describe the frequency, location and method of regular communications regarding project status with client.
6. Describe your firm's risk management process related to data accuracy, data security, project cost controls and timeline adherence.
7. Please provide key assumptions used in formulating your cost estimates of delivering results and timelines.

Please do not include generic marketing materials.

IV. Fees

1. Given the proposed project requirements, what is your proposed fee structure for the project. Please provide a breakdown of ALL fee areas and fee rates by individual process step and deliverable. [Fees should be all-inclusive.]
2. The bidder should provide a quotation for the fees of testing all the required parameters, and another quotation for testing the required and desired parameters as an option.
3. Describe the frequency and timing of your preferred fee payment requirements.

V. Terms and Conditions

The written RFP responses and any subsequent bids made during the procurement process will be considered binding commitments by the prospective vendor. The ICCT may request additional information or clarification of any obligation, if a contract is awarded.

The bidder agrees to be bound by this RFP response for a period of 60 calendar days from the RFP response due date, during which the ICCT may request clarification or correction of the RFP response for the purpose of evaluation.

The cost of preparing the RFP response is the sole responsibility of the bidder, whether or not any award results from solicitation. Any costs associated with any oral presentations to the ICCT will be the responsibility of the bidder and in no way billable to the project.

The ICCT reserves the right to add provisions to the contract consistent with the contractor's bid and to negotiate with the contractor other additions to, deletions from, and/or changes in the language in the contract — provided that such additions, deletions, or changes would not affect the evaluation criteria set forth herein, or give any bidder a competitive advantage.

VI. Proposal format requirements

Letter of Transmittal

Please submit a transmittal letter, which shall be in the form of a standard business letter on the vendor's letterhead, signed by an individual authorized to legally bind the vendor, and shall include:

- The name, title, address, email address and telephone number of the individual(s) who can be contacted during normal business hours for questions regarding the RFP response.
- Disclosure of any real or potential conflict of interest must be provided based on the firm's clients, proposals to pending clients, direct business or significant personal relationships.

Attachments

Any relevant supporting information or attachments should be reduced to letter size and attached to the transmittal letter. Please do not include generic marketing materials.

Submit the RFP response package to Yihao Xie (y.xie@theicct.org) no later than 10:00 pm IST on October 4, 2019. Faxes are not acceptable.