

MC² FOUNDATION RFP DOCUMENT (INCORPORATING SCOPE OF WORK)

Selection of a System Integrator for Design, Development, Implementation and Operation of the Integrated Startup Platform for Asset, Resource & Knowledge Exchange ("the Platform")

RFP No.	MC2P/IT-SI/2026-27/001
Procuring Entity / Authority	MC ² Foundation
Request for Quotation (RFQ)	Request for Quotation (RFQ)
Bid Evaluation Methodology	Evaluation on an appropriate mix of price, quality, delivery timelines and vendor credentials
Scope Structure	Two Phases — Phase 1: Closed Group (Pilot) Rollout; Phase 2: National-Level Rollout
Mode of Engagement	Turnkey IT services — phased development with post-launch Operations & Maintenance (O&M)
Contract Duration	Development: up to 3 months (Phase 1) + 12 months (Phase 2) + 12 months O&M
RFP Start Date	18.08.2026
RFP Close Date	25.08.2026

1. Introduction, Background & Objective

India's innovation ecosystem — startups, research institutions, national laboratories, academia, industry, incubators, accelerators and government departments — holds significant research infrastructure, IP and knowledge assets, but access remains fragmented, resulting in underutilized infrastructure, duplicated effort and delayed technology commercialization.

MC² Foundation intends to appoint a competent System Integrator ("the Bidder"/"the SI") to design, develop, deploy, host, support and operate a unified, secure, scalable digital platform connecting startups with research institutions, laboratories and mentors. Key objectives:

- Enable start-ups to discover and book institutional facilities, equipment and human resources via a self-service digital platform.
- Build a structured IP knowledge base with clear commercialization pathways.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing through a curated repository of research and collaboration opportunities.
- Serve as a one-stop information hub for the start-up ecosystem — policy, funding, mentorship and incubation support.

2. Project Requirement — What We Need from the Platform

At its core, MC² Foundation needs a single digital platform that allows start-ups to find and use what already exists in the innovation ecosystem — physical infrastructure (laboratory equipment), intellectual property, ongoing research, and human expertise. The platform's job is to make all of this discoverable, bookable and actionable in one place. The requirement, module by module, is set out below in plain terms; the corresponding technical specification is at Annexure I.

3. Key Deliverables

Solution Blueprint & Architecture Document; Production-Ready Platform (all 4 modules); Integration Report; Security & Compliance (VAPT) Certification; Pilot Onboarding Support (Phase 1); Training Materials & Sessions; Analytics & Reporting Dashboards; Operations & Support Documentation (SLA reports, incident logs, release notes) for the post-launch period. Full descriptions appear in Annexure I.

4. Vendor Eligibility & Credential Checks

As a threshold check before quotations are compared under Section 11, each invited vendor shall meet the following; these also inform the "Company Credentials" and "Experience" scoring parameters (Section 11.2):

- Registered company/LLP/Partnership Firm under applicable law; valid GST & PAN, MSME/DPIIT Registered
- Minimum 2 similar digital platforms delivered (innovation-management, research-collaboration, resource-booking) in the last 5 years, with at least one demonstrating payment-gateway/eKYC integration; client references to be furnished.
- Demonstrated experience hosting production solutions on a MeitY-empanelled cloud/NIC Cloud or equivalent government-empanelled infrastructure, or a comparable enterprise-grade cloud.
- Vendor to provide details of the security parameters/measures proposed for the portal.
- Confirmed availability of a dedicated team, along with CVs of key members.

5. Commercial Bid Structure

Vendors shall quote lump-sum/firm rates against each line item in the Financial Quotation, inclusive of all components (manpower, tools, licences, cloud pass-through where applicable). GST shall be quoted separately as a percentage against each line item.

Sr.	Line Item	Basis	Milestone / Payment
1	Phase 1 — Closed Group: Design, Architecture, Hosting, Development & Pilot Onboarding (including Security Audit & VAPT — pre-launch — and Training & Knowledge Transfer)	Lump Sum	On UAT sign-off / soft launch
2	Phase 2 — National Rollout: Full Development, Mobile Apps, AI Engine, Integrations & Public Launch	Lump Sum	On public go-live
3	Operations & Support — Year 1 (post go-live)	Per Annum (Recurring)	Quarterly, in arrears, subject to SLA
4	Operations & Support — Year 2 (post go-live)	Per Annum (Recurring)	Quarterly, in arrears, subject to SLA

5	Change Requests / Enhancements beyond agreed scope	Per Person-Day (Rate Card)	Provide rate for 10 person days initially
	Total Evaluated Price (TEP) — Sr. 1–4 (excl. Sr. 5 Change-Request rate card & pass-through cloud cost)		

6. Quotation Submission Requirements

MC² Foundation shall invite competitive quotations from prospective vendors, with the opportunity also posted on the MC² Foundation website. Each invited vendor shall submit, in English, in two separate parts:

- **Technical Proposal — vendors shall structure supporting documents against each of the four technical evaluation parameters at Section 11.2:**
 - Solution & Technology Envisaged: a written proposal describing how the vendor envisages the platform — proposed architecture, technology stack, selection of server with justification, module design, UI/UX approach, and security & integration approach.
 - Company Credentials: company profile, certifications, financial standing and CVs of the proposed team.
 - Committed Delivery Time Period: the vendor's proposed project plan and committed delivery timeline for Phase 1 and Phase 2, mapped to Section 6.
 - Experience in Similar Solutions: details and client references for at least 2 similar platforms delivered in the last 5 years, per Section 8.
- Financial Quotation: BOQ with line-item rates and GST shown separately. No pricing to be indicated in the Technical Proposal.

7. Quotation Evaluation Criteria — Tier 2 (Technical 60%: Financial 40%)

Quotations shall be evaluated on an appropriate mix of price, quality, delivery timelines and vendor credentials. For a structured, auditable comparison, this mix is operationalized below as a weighted Technical Score and Financial Score combined into a single Combined Score. The vendor with the highest Combined Score is the best responsive bidder and shall be recommended for award.

7.1 Evaluation Weightage (Detailed evaluation parameter is covered in Annexure VI)

Component	Weightage
Technical Score (Ts)	60%
Financial Score (Fs)	40%
Total	100%

7.2 Technical Evaluation Parameters (Total: 100 marks)

Parameter	Marks	Focus
A. Technical Presentation on Solution & Technology Proposed	25	Architecture, tech stack, module coverage, security & integration approach
B. Company Credentials	25	Firm profile, financial capacity, certifications, team strength

C. Committed Delivery Time Period	25	Realism and detail of project plan mapped to the Phase 1–2 roadmap
D. Experience in Similar Solutions (Past)	25	Number, scale and relevance of comparable platforms delivered; client references
Total	100	

8. Commercial & Contract Terms (Summary)

- **Payment:** payment shall be made directly by MC² Foundation to the selected vendor against the agreed milestones.
- **SLA & Penalties:** minimum 99.5% platform uptime and other KPIs per Annexure I; SLA credits/Liquidated Damages apply for shortfalls, capped at [10]% of the applicable quarter's O&M fee.
- **IP & Data Ownership:** all platform data and custom-developed source code/configurations vest in MC² Foundation; any proprietary base framework and its licensing terms must be disclosed in the Technical Proposal. SI to furnish a documented exit-management/knowledge-transfer plan.
- A Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) shall be signed between the vendor and MC² Foundation.
- Standard confidentiality, termination (for convenience/default), indemnity, limitation-of-liability, force-majeure and dispute-resolution (arbitration seat: [Delhi]; governing law: India) clauses apply per the General Terms & Conditions and the definitive Master Services Agreement.
- MC² Foundation reserves the right to reject any/all quotations or annul the procurement process at any stage, without assigning reasons and without liability to affected vendors.

9. List of Annexures

Annexure	Title
I	Detailed Scope of Work — the Platform
II	General (Contractual) Terms & Conditions
III	Service Level Agreement (SLA) Schedule & Penalty Matrix
IV	Vendor Forms — Credential Checklist, Similar-Work Certificate, Team CV Format, Undertakings
V	BOQ / Price Quotation Format
VI	Detailed Scoring Breakdown

ANNEXURE I

Detailed Scope of Work — the Platform

1.1 Stakeholder Ecosystem

Stakeholder	Category	Role on the Platform
Start-ups / Entrepreneurs	Primary Users	Book facilities, access IP, use the knowledge base, seek mentorship
PSUs & Government Departments	Resource Providers	List facilities, equipment, IP and human expertise; manage bookings
Academic Institutions	Resource & Knowledge Providers	Share labs, faculty expertise, research outputs and IP; manage bookings
Private Enterprises (Phase 2)	Resource Providers	List specialized facilities, tools and domain experts; manage bookings
Mentors & Experts	Human Capital	Register availability/expertise; engage with start-ups
Research Laboratories	Knowledge & Facility Providers	Share research, publish IP, offer equipment; manage bookings

1.2 Functional Modules — Detailed Feature Set

Module	Key Features Required
Module 1 — Resource & Facility Widget	Multi-category listing (labs, equipment, testing facilities, fabrication infrastructure, co-working spaces); dynamic availability calendar; transparent/concessional pricing; advanced search & filters; booking request/approval workflow with automated notifications; secure payments, invoicing and receipts; post-utilization ratings & feedback.
Module 2 — IP Knowledge Base & Commercialization Portal	Categorized IP listings; technology disclosure documents; TRL classification; commercialization modalities (licensing, joint development, sponsored research, assignment); EoI submission; IP expiry tracking.
Module 3 — Research & Knowledge Sharing Hub	Institutional research profiles; government R&D initiatives and policy-linked programmes; collaborative call board for joint research/pilots; publication and report repository; sector-tagged knowledge feed with subscription alerts; community feedback forums.
Module 4 — Mentor, Expert & HR Directory	Expert profiles (domain, sector, experience, availability); mentorship request & scheduling interface; sector-wise filtering; structured engagement models (one-time, ongoing advisory, board membership); post-engagement feedback/ratings.

1.3 User Roles & Access Levels

MC² Foundation | RFP No. MC2P/IT-SI/2026-27/001 | Selection of System Integrator — the Platform Administrator (MC²+ operations team) — full platform governance, IP management and commercialisation-workflow oversight.

- Institution Administrator — manages the organisation's listings, availability and bookings.
- Start-up / Registered User — browses, books, submits EoIs and accesses the knowledge base.
- Guest / Public User — limited, read-only access to non-confidential listings and the knowledge base.
- Mentor / Expert — profile management and engagement scheduling.

1.4 Key Operational Workflows

Institutional Onboarding: EoI/canvassing → credential verification & nodal-officer designation → execution of Institutional Participation Agreement → account creation → listing (Listing to be done by agency) → go-live.

Facility Booking: search & filter → view availability/pricing → submit booking request → institution confirms/proposes alternate slot within SLA → confirmation, invoice & compliance checklist generated → payment → utilisation → post-utilisation rating.

IP Commercialisation: EoI submitted on listed IP → routed to owning institution → negotiation of modality (licensing/joint development/sponsored research/assignment) → Technology Transfer Agreement execution → milestone tracking → post-deal commercialisation support.

Content Management & QA: two-stage moderation (institutional self-certification + MC²+ editorial review); minimum quarterly listing refresh; annual institutional audit; SLA-bound resolution of user-reported inaccuracies.

Charges & Revenue Model (platform to remain configurable, no code change required): institution-set facility booking charges with a platform service fee; free/nominal IP EoI processing fee (indicatively 2% of transaction value); tiered institutional membership fee; premium/featured listings; sponsored content slots.

5. Technical Scope — Architecture (Summary)

The Platform shall be a cloud-native, microservices-based solution hosted on Government of India-certified cloud infrastructure (MeitY-empanelled provider / NIC Cloud), compliant with applicable data-protection and cybersecurity frameworks.

Layer	Components
Presentation	Responsive web app
Application	API gateway; microservices for User Mgmt, Booking Engine, IP Repository, Knowledge Hub, Payments, Notifications, Search, Analytics
Data	Relational DB (transactional) + NoSQL (content) + search engine + document store
Integration	Payment gateways (UPI/net-banking); DigiLocker/Aadhaar eKYC; email/SMS/WhatsApp APIs
Security	End-to-end encryption; RBAC; VAPT per MeitY guidelines; audit logging & anomaly detection
Infrastructure	MeitY-empanelled cloud hosting; auto-scaling; load balancing; daily backups; 99.5% SLA uptime

6. Phased Roadmap (Two Phases)

The full detailed Scope of Work is annexed as Annexure I and shall be read as an integral, binding part of this document. For bid preparation and evaluation, delivery is structured into two phases only, as summarized below.

6.1 Phase 1 — Closed Group (Pilot) Rollout (to be integrated with existing cohort management system)

Timeline	Months 1–3 from contract effective date
Coverage	Closed, accessible to a group of startups backed by MC ² Foundation.
Key Scope	• Solution design, architecture finalisation and technology-stack confirmation • Development of core modules: Resource & Facility Widget, IP Knowledge Base • Legal-framework support (MoU templates, Terms of Use) and onboarding of anchor institutions • Internal testing, pre-launch security audit (VAPT) and soft launch to the closed group • Uploading of facility data of PSU R&D labs, IPs, Mentor details
Exit Criterion	UAT sign-off and soft launch to the closed pilot group, plus monthly maintenance of the portal and handholding support

6.2 Phase 2 — National-Level Rollout

Timeline	To be commenced after successful roll-out and stabilisation of Phase 1 (commencement of Phase 2 shall be at the sole discretion of MC ² Foundation, based on Phase 1 feedback)
Coverage	Full public launch — open onboarding across India; national network of incubators, institutions and start-ups
Key Scope	• Launch of remaining modules: Research & Knowledge Sharing Hub and Mentor/Expert Directory • Integrations: DPIIT start-up portal, payment gateway, DigiLocker/Aadhaar eKYC • Analytics portal; national expansion
Exit Criterion	Public go-live at national scale, followed by continuous Operations & Support (O&M)

7. Key Deliverables

Solution Blueprint & Architecture Document; Production-Ready Platform (all 4 modules); Integration Report; Security & Compliance (VAPT) Certification; Pilot Onboarding Support (Phase 1); Training Materials & Sessions; Analytics & Reporting Dashboards; Operations & Support Documentation (SLA reports, incident logs, release notes) for the post-launch period. Full descriptions appear in Annexure I.

ANNEXURE II

General (Contractual) Terms & Conditions

Clause	Summary
Payment	Payment shall be made directly by MC ² Foundation to the SI against the milestones agreed in the BOQ, per Tier 2 of the MC ² Foundation Procurement Policy dated 18 May 2026.
Confidentiality	Both parties shall keep confidential all technical, commercial and business information exchanged under this contract, and shall not disclose it to any third party without prior written consent, except as required by law.
Termination for Convenience	MC ² Foundation may terminate the contract, in whole or part, by giving [30] days' written notice, without assigning any reason, on payment for work satisfactorily completed till the date of termination.
Termination for Default	MC ² Foundation may terminate the contract, without compensation to the SI, if the SI fails to deliver any/all deliverables within the stipulated period, fails to perform any other contractual obligation, or is found to have engaged in corrupt/fraudulent practice — subject to a cure period of [15] days following written notice.
Indemnity	The SI shall indemnify MC ² Foundation against any loss, damage, claim or expense arising from the SI's breach of contract, negligence, infringement of third-party IP rights, or non-compliance with applicable law.
Limitation of Liability	Except for breaches of confidentiality, IP infringement, or wilful misconduct, the aggregate liability of either party shall not exceed the Total Contract Value. Neither party shall be liable for indirect or consequential damages.
Force Majeure	Neither party shall be liable for delay or failure in performance caused by events beyond its reasonable control (natural disaster, war, pandemic, government action). The affected party shall notify the other within [7] days and take reasonable steps to mitigate impact.
Assignment & Sub-contracting	The SI shall not assign or sub-contract the entire scope of work without prior written consent of MC ² Foundation. Sub-contracting of ancillary/support components, if disclosed and approved, shall not relieve the SI of overall responsibility.
Dispute Resolution	Disputes shall first be referred to good-faith negotiation between designated representatives. Unresolved disputes shall be referred to arbitration under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, seat at [Delhi], with proceedings in English. Governing law: India; courts at [Delhi] shall have exclusive jurisdiction.
Compliance with Law	The SI shall comply with all applicable Indian laws, including labour, taxation, data protection (DPDP Act) and MeitY/CERT-In guidelines, throughout the contract period.
Notices	All notices shall be in writing and delivered by registered post, courier or e-mail to the addresses specified in the definitive contract, and deemed served on actual receipt.

ANNEXURE III

Service Level Agreement (SLA) Schedule & Penalty Matrix

The System Integrator shall meet, at minimum, the following service levels during the Operations & Support period. Shortfalls attract SLA credits/Liquidated Damages as indicated, capped in aggregate at [10]% of the applicable quarter's O&M fee, without prejudice to MC² Foundation's right to terminate for persistent default.

Service Parameter	Target Service Level	Penalty / SLA Credit
Platform Uptime	≥ 99.5% monthly uptime	0.5% of quarterly O&M fee per 0.1% shortfall below target
Critical Incident Response Time	Acknowledge within 30 minutes; resolve within 4 hours	₹3,000 per hour of delay beyond target, per incident
High-Priority Incident Response	Acknowledge within 1 hour; resolve within 8 business hours	₹1,500 per hour of delay beyond target, per incident
Standard Support Requests	Acknowledge within 4 business hours; resolve within 3 business days	₹1,000 per day of delay beyond target
Scheduled Maintenance Window Adherence	Maintenance confined to pre-approved windows, ≤ 4 hours/month	1% of quarterly O&M fee per unauthorised-downtime breach
Security Patch Turnaround	Critical patches applied within 72 hours of disclosure	0.5% of quarterly O&M fee per breach
Monthly/Quarterly Reporting	SLA & incident reports submitted within 5 working days of period-end	₹3,000 flat per report delayed beyond 5 working days
Change Request Turnaround	Effort estimate within 5 working days of a raised CR	No penalty; tracked for performance review

ANNEXURE IV

Vendor Forms — Credential Checklist, Similar-Work Certificate, Team CV Format, Undertakings

Form A — Vendor Credential Checklist

#	Document / Criterion	Enclosed (Y/N)	Page Ref.
1	Certificate of Incorporation / Registration (Companies Act / LLP / Partnership)		
2	GST Registration Certificate & PAN		
3	Basic financial standing document (latest audited statement / CA certificate), if sought by MC² Foundation		
4	Similar-work project citations (minimum 2), with client certificates/testimonials		
5	ISO 27001 certificate (or commitment letter)		
6	VAPT capability documentation / empanelled auditor details		
7	Team availability confirmation with CVs (per Form C)		

Form B — Similar-Work Certificate Format

Client Name & Address	
Work Order / Contract Reference No. & Date	
Scope of Work (brief summary)	
Contract Value (₹)	
Project Duration (Start – End / Ongoing)	
Modules / Technologies Used	
Completion / Go-Live Certificate or Client Testimonial (attach)	

Client Contact Person, Designation, Phone & E-mail (for verification)	
--	--

Form C — Key Personnel CV Format

Name	
Proposed Role	
Total Experience (Years)	
Relevant Experience (Years)	
Qualification	
Similar Projects Worked On (name, role, duration)	
Certifications (if any)	

Form D – Proposal

- **Proposal**

Form E — Undertakings

- **Land-Border-Country Compliance:** We certify compliance with the Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order and applicable Press Note / Land-Border-Country restrictions, where applicable to this EFP.
- **Quotation Validity Undertaking:** We undertake that our quotation, if accepted, shall remain valid for 90 days from the quotation due date, or as extended.
- **Authorised Signatory:** This quotation and all enclosed forms are submitted by an authorised signatory of the vendor, with a Power of Attorney / Board Resolution enclosed.

ANNEXURE V

BOQ / Price Quotation Format

To be submitted as part of the Financial Quotation. Rates shall be inclusive of all components as per Annexure I RFP Document; GST to be quoted separately as a percentage against each line item.

Sr.	Line Item	Basis	Rate (₹)	GST %	Amount (₹)
1	Phase 1 — Closed Group: Design, Hosting cost, Architecture, Development & Pilot Onboarding (including Security Audit & VAPT — pre-launch — and Training & Knowledge Transfer)	Lump Sum			
2	Phase 2 — National Rollout: Full Development, AI Engine, Integrations & Public Launch	Lump Sum			
3	Operations & Support — Year 1 (post go-live)	Per Annum (Recurring)			
4	Operations & Support — Year 2 (post go-live)	Per Annum (Recurring)			
5	Change Requests / Enhancements beyond agreed scope (propose rate considering 10 per person Day)	Per Person-Day (Rate Card)			
	Total Evaluated Price (TEP) — Sr. 1–4 (excl. Sr. 5 Change-Request rate card & pass-through cloud cost)				

ANNEXURE VI

1.1 Technical Evaluation

Parameters (Total: 100 marks)

Parameter	Marks	Focus
A. Technical Presentation on Solution & Technology Proposed	25	Architecture, Server choice and hosting, tech stack, module coverage, security & integration approach
B. Company Credentials	25	Firm profile, financial capacity, certifications, team strength
C. Committed Delivery Time Period	25	Realism and detail of project plan mapped to the Phase 1–2 roadmap
D. Experience in Similar Solutions (Past)	25	Number, scale and relevance of comparable platforms delivered; client references
Total	100	

Marks are indicative and may be revised by MC² Foundation within a comparable structure prior to issue; any revision shall be pre-disclosed to all invited vendors and not altered thereafter.

1.2 Detailed Scoring Breakdown

Each parameter is broken into sub-criteria whose marks sum to the parent parameter's total, so evaluators score at a granular, comparable level.

A. Solution & Technology Proposed (25 Marks)

Focus: Architecture, tech stack, module coverage, security & integration approach

#	Sub-Criterion	Max Marks
1	Proposed solution architecture & design approach	6
2	Technology stack, scalability & performance	6
3	Functional/module coverage against Scope of Work	6
4	Security architecture & data protection compliance	4
5	Integration approach (APIs / third-party / legacy systems)	3
	Total	25

Documents / Evidence to be submitted:

- Solution architecture diagram / design document
- Technology stack write-up with justification and scalability approach
- Requirement-to-module traceability matrix (RFP scope vs proposed modules)
- Security design note (data protection, encryption, access control, compliance standards followed)
- Integration/API approach note covering third-party and legacy system connectivity

B. Company Credentials (25 Marks)

Focus: Firm profile, financial capacity, certifications, team strength

#	Sub-Criterion	Max Marks
1	Firm profile, legal status & years in IT services business	5
2	Financial capacity (average annual turnover, net worth)	8
3	Quality & security certifications	6
4	Team strength, key personnel qualifications & availability	6
	Total	25

Documents / Evidence to be submitted:

- Certificate of incorporation / registration and company profile
- Audited financial statements for the last 3 years (turnover, net worth statement, CA certificate)
- Valid copies of quality/security certifications
- Organogram, CVs of proposed key personnel, and a manpower deployment/availability plan

C. Committed Delivery Time Period (25 Marks)

Focus: Realism and detail of project plan mapped to the Phase 1–2 roadmap

#	Sub-Criterion	Max Marks
1	Phase 1 roadmap — detailing, milestones & deliverables	15
2	Phase 2 roadmap — detailing, milestones & deliverables	10
	Total	25

Documents / Evidence to be submitted:

- Detailed project plan / Gantt chart mapped to the Phase 1–2 roadmap
- Milestone and deliverable schedule with dependencies and resourcing
- Risk mitigation plan for schedule slippage

D. Experience in Similar Solutions (Past) (25 Marks)

Focus: Number, scale and relevance of comparable platforms delivered; client references

#	Sub-Criterion	Max Marks
1	Number of comparable platforms/projects delivered (last 5 years)	7
2	Scale of deployment (users, transaction volume, data volume)	6
3	Relevance to sector (accelerator / incubation / startup ecosystem / EdTech platforms)	6
4	Client references, completion certificates & testimonials	6
	Total	25

Documents / Evidence to be submitted:

- Project citations sheet: client name, project name, scope, value, and completion date
- Scale evidence: user base / transaction volumes / data volumes for each cited project
- Brief case studies establishing sector relevance
- Client completion certificates and/or signed reference letters with contact details for verification

1.3. Minimum Qualifying Criteria

- A bidder must score at least 60 out of 100 overall to be considered technically qualified.
- A bidder must also score at least 40% of the marks allotted to each individual parameter (A, B, C, D — i.e., at least 10 out of 25 each) — a bid failing this threshold on any single parameter is liable to be rejected even if the overall score is ≥ 60 .
- Only technically qualified bidders' financial bids will be opened, the RFP follows a two-envelope (technical + financial) process.