

VU/P9/Chem/148

Date 27-03-2015

An emergent DC meeting will be held today i.e. 27-03-2015 at 1:30 PM at HOD office.

Agenda : Regarding Audit Report on
FIST programme of the dept.

w.r. to the letter Ref. No.

A.Q. No. : PAG/LA/SS-III/VU2012-14/09
dated 20-03-2015

1. Sd/-
2. Red Sonja
- 3.
- 4.
5. Sumita Ray
6. Maidul Hossain 27/3/15
- 7.

v/pa/chem/148

27-03-2015

Members present

1. ~~Syabi~~
- 2.
3. ~~Syabi~~ 27/03/15
4. ~~Sid. Syabi~~
5. ~~Sunila Bha~~
6. ~~Maidul Hossain 27/3/15~~
- 7.

In the emergent meeting the following resolutions were taken unanimously -

W.r to the letter A.Q. No. : PAQ/CA/CC-B/W/2012-14/09 dt. 20.3.2015

Response to Issue no. 1 (Procure materials worth Rs. 1.88 crore without inviting tender):

The Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology urgently needed two sophisticated instruments namely NMR and SEM for its ongoing teaching and research activities and a thorough survey of the instruments installed in this region of India was carried out by the Faculty Members of the Department before presentation at the FIST meeting held at the Tezpur University, Assam in October, 2011. As the NMR and SEM's installed in this region of India were from Bruker and Zeiss respectively, we requested the FIST Expert committee members for the instruments from those Manufacturers only (**Attachment I**) for a better **after-installation-service**. Being impressed by our scientific presentations, the FIST committee recommended both the sophisticated instruments and the Department received the offer letter from DST-FIST (ref SR/FST/CSB-065/2011 dated December 20, 2011, **Attachment II**). This, we believe, is an achievement of our Department and the University.

The offer letter from FIST clearly stated that "One Budgetary Quotation from Equipment supplier (all inclusive i.e. Custom Duty, Bank & other Charges) for all Equipment recommended

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for support....." Also it stated that "The support for the specifications/configurations finalized now by the Department/Centre/School would not be possible to change during the course of implementation of the said project." The Department was also asked to submit the Budgetary Quotations latest by before 16th January, 2012 (Monday). Accordingly, the Department negotiated with the manufacturers of the Equipments Bruker and Zeiss (as mentioned in the DST-FIST presentation) for the best possible price. Also we enquired with IACS Kolkata, IIT Kharagpur, Bose Institute Kolkata, IICB Jadavpur, Jadavpur University, Kalyani University, Viswabharati University, Tezpur University, etc. for the recent installations of those equipments and their price. We requested the manufacturers for the best possible discount and indeed, our University being situated at a remote area, they offered us the maximum possible discount. All those exercises were carried out within a very short span of time (in about a week) to meet the deadline of submission of the Budgetary Quotations by January 16, 2012 at their New Delhi office and the letter was sent on January 11, 2012 containing all the descriptions and the budgetary quotations of Bruker NMR and Zeiss SEM (**Attachment III**).

The Department received a letter from FIST (ref. SR/FST/CSI-235/2011(C) dated 21st May, 2012 for the purchase of those equipments (**Attachment IV**). The allotment for NMR was 138 L (126L + 12L) and for SEM (basic) was 65L. Even though the sanctioned price was lower than the offer price from both the manufacturers (Bruker and Zeiss) we negotiated for the price again with the manufacturers and at last they agreed to supply the instruments. Moreover, Bruker agreed to supply liquid Helium which is imported and extremely difficult to import on a regular basis by only one institution.

Till that time (beginning of 2012), the purchase protocol of the University was that if the purchase is made directly from the manufacturer, then a single quotation is enough. Accordingly, the final quotations were placed before the purchase committee of our University and the Purchase Orders were released (**Attachment -V**).

All the above responses and the attachments (which are self-explanatory) clarify (i) why we have purchased the equipments from Bruker and Zeiss, (ii) their price and (iii) why single quotation. All the activities have been done by the Faculty Members of the Department in addition to their regular teaching and research activities. The purchases have been made by exactly following the guidelines of the FIST program and the University (till then) and also to the best of our abilities, knowledge and belief.

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Response to Issue no. 2 (Machines installed without entered any annual maintenance contract):

AMC are generally done after the warranty period of the instruments. Since the warranty of both the instruments is over few months back, the AMC agreements are in the process pipeline. We thank the Audit authorities for raising the issue of AMC. Currently we are in negotiations with the companies and we are expected to finalize it soon.

Response to Issue no. 3 (Delay in installation resulted in loss of warranty period of the machines):

We thank the Audit authorities for raising the issue of warranty period. On our request, both the companies have provided us extended warranty and they have provided the best support possible (effective from the date of installation).

Response to Issue no. 4 (Not availing the exemption regarding customs duty resulted in excess expenditure of 3.01 lakh in connection with importing carl zeiss electron microscope):

We are indeed aware that Vidyasagar University is eligible for exemption from the Custom Duty for the items utilized for teaching and research activities. However, the minimum duty has to be paid (as per Government rules) and it varies for item to item. The Custom Duty paid to Custom Department for Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) is as per Government rules (**Attachment VI**). The authorities are requested to enquire with the Custom Department to verify the rule for SEM.