



11th May 2015

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed
Chairman,
Higher Education Commission
Islamabad.

Sub: Objections on the Rs. 20 Billion Phase- II of the Prime Minister's Laptops Scheme for 4 year
Procurement of the 400,000 Laptops/Tablet.

Refer TIP Letter dated 27.4.2015 and HEC letter dated 29.4.2015

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan recommended following to HEC ,

TI Pakistan recommendations.

Splitting of 400,000 in Four Years is not allowed in PPRA Rules.

HEC can not split the Laptops/Tablet quantity of 400,000 in four years with unknown specifications of 2,3,and 4th year.

One years requirement shall be tendered.

Elimination Condition of Assembly Plant in Pakistan.

1. This procurement shall only be treated as suppliers contract for Lap top Scheme for Students , initiated and started by CM Punjab in 2013.
2. Any effort to tie the procurement with assembly plant in Pakistan will make this procurement doubtful as majority of Laptops are manufactured in China . The assembly plant concept in Pakistan for Automobile Industry in 1980 has failed to achieve results, as Cars made in Pakistan did not comply with approved deletion plans. And the Cars Made in Pakistan are at least 30 % costlier than the compatible Cars Made in India.
3. Secondly, no manufacture will set up Laptop plants in Pakistan as it is commercially not viable.
4. GoP can get highly competitive rates if open competition is invited from all OEM suppliers. This will surely reduce the price of per item significantly.
5. An analysis of the evaluation criteria shows that this has been developed such that it appears to be favoring a particular company which already has an assembly plant in Pakistan or is planning to have one, this restricts competition from other larger brands like dell, HP, ASUS, ACER, TOSHIBA, APPLE, who do not have any such plants or plans for Pakistan but who may/can supply better and lower cost products for the same specs.
6. Many international branded computer suppliers in Pakistan usually have offices or service center only in major cities of Pakistan and services the smaller cities through their major service centers.
7. A minimum requirement of presence of OEM's offices in 5 cities for technical support should suffice the service requirements of HEC.

Very High End Specifications of Laptop.

It appears from the High End Specifications of Laptop/Tablet that HEC requires Matlab , software to operated on these Laptops/Tablets.



The e Matlab software is required only for engineering students and those doing statistics. Quoted from software supplier website.

“MATLAB® is the high-level language and interactive environment used by millions of engineers and scientists worldwide. It lets you explore and visualize ideas and collaborate across disciplines including signal and image processing, communications, control systems, and computational finance. The Hardware requirements for Matlab requirements are provided on their website http://www.mathworks.com/support/sysreq/current_release/”

Based on the purpose of these laptops prescribed by HEC, GoP does not need very high end specifications for all students. Because not all of them are engineering students requiring specialized mathematical software.

Even if HEC insist on very high end specifications, a RAM of 4 GB is not necessary, and 2GB is sufficient to operate MATLAB®. This will be very cost effective measure.

The entire order for one year only, should be delivered 6-8 weeks from the date the PO is issued to HEC designated destinations and not from LC date, that is the responsibility of the supplier.

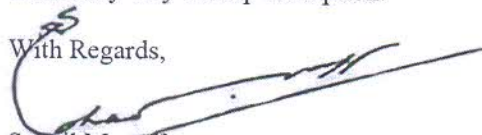
The following laptops are available from well-known International Brands in USA Stores for less than US \$225-\$ 199 (against HEC Cost of US \$ 414), and are a very good option to consider if the HEC decides to opt laptops:

1. Acer Aspire E 15 ES1-512-C88M > \$249
<http://us.acer.com/ac/en/US/content/model/NX.MRWAA.001>
2. Acer Aspire E 11 ES1-111M-C40S > \$199
<http://us.acer.com/ac/en/US/content/model/NX.MRSAA.001>
3. ASUS X551MAV-EB01-B Laptop > \$219
http://www.asus.com/Notebooks_Ultrabooks/X551MAV/

Note. Import directly from supplier in China will be at least 40%-45% less then market prices in USA

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across the board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption.

With Regards,


Sohail Muzaffar
Chairman

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Secretary to Prime Minister, Islamabad.
2. Chairman, NAB, Islamabad.
3. Chairman, Prime Minister's Inspection Commission, Islamabad.
4. Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad.
5. Managing Director, PPRA, Islamabad