



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Electronics & Information Technology Department - Operation and Maintenance of the State Data Centres - Sanction for issuing the work order to M/s. RailTel Corporation of India Limited- Orders issued.

ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.117/2025/ITD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 11-06-2025

- Read 1 G.O.(Rt).No.92/2018/ITD dated 27.03.2018.
2 G.O.(Rt.)No.11/2024/ITD dated 25.01.2024.
3 G.O.(Rt)No.29/2025/ITD dated 07.02.2025.
4 G.O.(Rt)No.60/2025/ITD dated 26.03.2025.
5 Judgement dated 16.04.2025 in Civil Writ Jurisdiction
No.1292 of 2025 of Bihar High Court.
6 Representation from M/s. Sify dated 21.04.2025 and
15.05.2025.
7 Letters No. SDC/9/2024-KSITM dated 03.04.2025 and
20.05.2025 from the director, Kerala State IT Mission.
8 Office Memorandum No. F1/20/2018-PPD dated 2-11-2021
issued by the Ministry of Finance, Govt of India

ORDER

As per the Government Order read as 1st paper above, sanction was accorded to the Director, KSITM to issue the work order for the operations and maintenance of State Data Centre 1 & 2 to M/s Sify Digital Services Limited for a period of five years. The contract was subsequently extended vide Government Orders read as the 2nd to 4th papers above. The term so extended expired on 31.05.2025.

2. Kerala State IT Mission invited an e-tender on 12.06.2024, for the selection

of a Data Centre Operator for the State Data Centres. Since, only one bidder is qualified in the pre-qualification evaluation, the RFP was revised and re-tendered on 09/10/2024 with approval of the Technical Committee (TC) meeting held on 26.09.2024. The last date of bid submission was 06.12.2024, and technical bids were opened on 07.12.2024. As per the RFP terms, technical evaluation was conducted, and M/s.RailTel Corporation of India Ltd, M/s. Sify Digital Services Limited and WAIS Limited were found qualified.

3. M/s.RailTel Corporation of India Ltd informed Kerala State IT Mission that M/s. Sify Digital Services Limited was blacklisted by the Department of Education, Government of Bihar, on 31/12/2024. The Technical Committee held on 10.03.2025 considered this and sought legal opinion on whether the bid of M/s. Sify Digital Services Limited can be considered since it was blacklisted. It was opined in the legal advice that the financial bid may be opened and if M/s Sify Digital Services Limited emerges as the L-1 bidder but remains blacklisted at the time of finalizing the tender, their bid shall be disregarded and the next bidder will be considered as L1 in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Office Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Based on legal opinion and clarifications from M/s. Sify, the Technical Committee held on 17.03.2025 decided to open the financial bids. The financial bids were opened on 20.03.2025, and were evaluated using the QCBS (Quality-cum-Cost Based Selection) method. The summary of the score is as follows:

| Sl. No. | Name of Bidder | Amount Quoted | Position |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. | M/s.Sify Digital Services Limited | 35,41,16,040.00 | L1 |
| 2. | M/s. RailTel Corporation of India Ltd | 34,99,85,628.00 | L2 |
| 3. | M/s. WAIS Ltd | 33,00,08,139.51 | L3 |

4. Although M/s. Sify Digital Services Limited secured the highest

composite score under QCBS, based on the recommendation of the Technical Committee meeting, held on 29.03.2025, the Director, KSITM has recommended disregarding the L1 bidder and for awarding the work to the next highest scoring bidder (L2), M/s. RailTel Corporation of India Limited.

5. M/s.Sify Digital Services Limited submitted representation stating that the Hon'ble High Court of Patna as per their Judgment dated 16.04.2025 in Civil Writ Jurisdiction No.1292 of 2025 had set aside the order blacklisting them, and directing the Department of Education, Bihar to issue a fresh order within 15 days in the matter. However, as on date, the Department of Education, Bihar, has not issued any fresh order excluding M/s. Sify from the blacklist or otherwise. Therefore it is not possible to conclude that M/s. Sify Digital Services Limited was removed from the blacklist on the ground that the Bihar Government has not taken any decision even after 15 days. Furthermore, as per the provisions of the Kerala Store Purchase Manual, work orders cannot be issued to blacklisted entities, irrespective of the nature of the blacklisting.

6. Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to accord sanction to the Director, Kerala State IT mission to issue the work order to M/s. RailTel Corporation of India Limited for the operation and maintenance of the State Data Centres for a period of five years at a total cost of **₹34,99,85,628.00 (Rupees Thirty-Four Crore Ninety-Nine Lakhs Eighty-Five Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty-Eight Only).**

(By order of the Governor)
RAJESH KUMAR M
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

To:

The Director, Kerala State IT Mission.

Principal Accountant General (G&SSA). Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Principal Accountant General (A&E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

The Finance Department
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