

BRIC-Translational Health Science and Technology Institute
(An institute of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council,
Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

FOR

**Transfer of Technology for Commercialization of a Consortium of
Genetically Defined *Lactobacillus paragasseri***

‘REOI’ document can be downloaded from following websites:

www.thsti.res.in

www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app

(REOI No: THSTI/S&P/REOI/03/25-26)

Dated: 22nd August, 2025

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

**Subject: Transfer of Technology for Commercialization of a Consortium of
*Genetically defined Lactobacillus paragasseri***

BRIC-Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (BRIC-THSTI) Faridabad (herein after referred as 'the Institute' or 'THSTI') is an institute of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

The Executive Director of BRIC-THSTI invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested agencies/firms that meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the REOI document.

Schedule for the Request for Expression of Interest:

Date of Publication	:	22/08/2025 at 1100 Hrs.
Date and time for Pre-EOI meeting	:	28/08/2025 at 1100 Hrs.
Last date for receipt of queries from the bidders (if any)	:	29/08/2025 at 1800 Hrs.
Last date to notify the amendments in the EOI	:	02/09/2025 at 1800 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of EOI by the bidders	:	12/09/2025 at 1500 Hrs.
Date and time of opening of the EOI	:	12/09/2025 at 1600 Hrs.
Estimated Reserve Price	:	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	:	2% of the Estimated Reserve Price i.e. Rs.1,00,000/-
Validity of the Proposal in response to REOI	:	120 days from the date of opening

Note:

- In case, the last date of receipt of EOIs and/or the day of opening of EOIs is declared as a Public Holiday or there is non- functioning of the institute due to any unavoidable reason, the next working day will be treated as the last date of receipt of EOIs and/or the day of opening of EOIs. The time will remain the same. No separate intimation will be given in this connection.

- ii. Kindly note that only offline submission of EOI will be considered against this REOI. Requests for extension of date and time for submission will not be entertained. The Executive Director, THSTI reserves the right to accept/ reject any or all EOI either in part or in full without assigning any reasons thereof.
- iii. The EMD mentioned above should be deposited with THSTI at the time of submitting the EoI in the form of DD/TDR in favour of THSTI payable at Faridabad or by online mode through payment gateway link available at <https://thsti.res.in/en/Tender> . For bidders who are found to be ineligible on scrutiny, the EMD amount will be returned within 30 days after publication of the result of EOI assessment process.
- iv. In case of any clarification with regard to submission of EOIs, please contact to Sh. Manoj Kumar ,Section Officer (S&P) (Tel: 0129-2876300/437) manoj.kumar@thsti.res.in and purchase@thsti.res.in.
- v. Interested bidders should submit their EOI in the prescribed format to the following address in hard copy:

To,
Sh. V. S. Rao,
Administrative Officer (S&P),
BRIC-Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)
Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)
NCR Biotech Science Cluster,
3rd Milestone, Faridabad–Gurugram Expressway,
Faridabad- 121001 (Haryana)

Sd/-
Administrative Officer (S&P)
THSTI, Faridabad

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1. Background:

The institute has established a consortium focused on *Lactobacillus paragasseri* for both nutraceutical and therapeutic applications. This unique, indigenous consortium consists of genetically defined and well-characterized strains that exhibit resistance to pathogens associated with the reproductive, respiratory, and gastrointestinal tracts, as well as anti-steatosis properties.

Our recent findings indicate that *Lactobacillus paragasseri* also play a key role in reducing the risk of preterm birth (PTB). As part of this initiative, we will provide two complete genome sequenced well-characterized, active, and viable *Lactobacillus paragasseri* cultures, along with comprehensive data on their genomes and phenotypic characteristics.

2. Scope of Work:

The institute is willing to collaborate with eligible agencies/ firms for undertaking Transfer of Technology for commercialization of a consortium of *Lactobacillus paragasseri* as proposed below:

- i. The potential use of a consortium for commercialization should be submitted by the agencies/firms.
- ii. The consortium may also be used for developing biotherapeutics against infections, metabolic disorders such as obesity, Type 2 diabetes, Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) etc.
- iii. The same consortium can be explored to develop biotherapeutics against antibiotic associated diarrheal disease and Pre-Term Birth (Reference: Talukdar et al., 2024, iScience)
- iv. Eligible agencies or firms shall submit a detailed proposal outlining the pathway to commercialize the technology.

3. Role of the Institute & Bidder:

- i. **Role of the Institute:** Based on the mutual interests, institute is poised to make further contributions in the following areas:
 - A. **Characterization of *Lactobacillus paragasseri* strains:** THSTI may evaluate strains produced in a GMP facility for their viability, pathogen resistance, and therapeutic potency against metabolic and infectious diseases.
 - B. **Genome Engineering:** THSTI aim to perform genome engineering on *Lactobacillus paragasseri* to develop the next generation recombinant biotherapeutics.
 - C. **Biofactory Development:** THSTI may explore the potential of *Lactobacillus paragasseri* as a biofactory for producing and secreting peptides of human or microbial origin, which have therapeutic applications.
- ii. **Role of the Bidder:**

- A. The bidder shall have the required infrastructure, material, manpower, technical know-how, experience and regulatory understanding required for product development either directly or otherwise.
- B. The bidder shall agree to share the technical data and participate in all discussions in a professional and mutually agreed-upon manner.
- C. The bidder shall be responsible for obtaining all the regulatory approvals required for manufacturing from R&D for product development to its commercialization.
- D. The technology should only be used for product development and commercialization not for sub licencing to any third party.

4. Eligibility Criteria:

The following will be the Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC).

S. No.	Pre-Qualification Criteria	Supporting copy of documents required (All documents must be self-attested by the authorized person of the bidder)
1.	The bidder shall be a legal entity.	Registration of firm / organization/Company Incorporation Certificate from Registrar of Companies (ROC) /Partnership deed etc. whichever is applicable.
2.	The bidder must be registered in India with taxation and other administrative authorities.	GST registration and PAN card
3.	The bidder should have commercialize similar product/ technology in any regulated market in India/overseas	Attach appropriate proof
4.	The bidder should not have incurred overall loss in the past three (3) years. (applicable on commercial firms/organizations only)	Certificate from the Chartered Accountants / Audited Balance sheets for last three financial years or income tax return.
5.	The bidder should have good track-record and currently not be black-listed/ barred by any Central / State Government/ Public Sector Undertaking, Govt. of India, (applicable on commercial firms/organizations only)	Undertaking on the letterhead of the bidder duly signed & stamped by authorized signatory.
6.	The bidder should have a manufacturing unit in India.	Registration copies /factory license / DSIR certificate, if any.
7.	The bidder should not be involved in any major litigation that may have an impact of affecting or compromising the conditions required under this EoI.	Undertaking on bidder's letterhead, duly signed and stamped by the authorized signatory.

8.	The bidder should have manufacturing unit to produce the consortium for commercial use.	Undertaking on bidder's letterhead, duly signed and stamped by the authorized signatory/ attach appropriate proof.
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5. Terms and Conditions:

- i. The bidder is required to submit a copy of this REOI document, with all pages signed by the authorized person, to confirm that bidder has read and understood the conditions of this REOI document and that the proposal is submitted in full understanding and agreement of the requirements of BRIC-THSTI.
- ii. The complete EOI shall be without alteration or erasures, except those to accord with instructions issued by the BRIC-THSTI or as necessary to correct errors made by the bidder, in which case, such corrections shall be initialled by the person or persons signing the EOI.
- iii. Wherever a specific form is prescribed in the REOI document, the bidder shall use the form to provide relevant information. If the form does not provide space for any required information, space at the end of the form or additional sheets shall be used to convey the said information. For all other cases, the bidder shall design a suitable format to hold the required information.
- iv. BRIC-THSTI reserves the right to call for any clarifications confined in the broad scope, wherever such a clarifications become necessary for proper judgment in evaluation.
- v. The institute would reserve the sole right to publish or not to publish the technology.
- vi. The existing data rights shall be solely owned by the institute.

6. Default or Failure: In the event of the occurrence of any of the following, including but not limited to the circumstances listed below, the same shall constitute a good and sufficient reason for initiating action for default and/or failure:

- i. If the bidder is incapable of carrying out the work.
- ii. If the bidder misconducts in any manner.
- iii. If there is any change in the constitution of the bidder (if a firm) or in the circumstances or organization of the bidder, which is detrimental to the interests of BRIC-THSTI.
- iv. Dissolution of the bidder (If a firm or commencement of liquidation) or winding up (whether voluntary or compulsory) of the bidder (if a company or appointment of a receiver or Manager of any of the bidder's assets and / or insolvency or the bidder (if a sole proprietorship) or of any partner of the bidder (if a firm).
- v. Distress, execution, or other legal process being levied on or upon any of the bidders goods and /or assets.
- vi. Death of bidder (if an individual).
- vii. If the bidder or any person employed or engaged by him shall make or offer for any purpose connected with the contract any gift, gratuity, royalty, commission, gratification or other inducement (whether money or in any other form) to any employee or agent of BRIC-THSTI.

7. **Termination:** BRIC-THSTI may terminate the contract at any time by written notice, without affecting its right to claim damages for delay, bad workmanship, or any other breach of the contract.
8. **Arbitration:** Any claim, dispute or difference arising out of or in connection with this REOI and the subsequent RFP and which cannot be settled by mutual consultations, shall be referred to sole Arbitration or an Arbitrator to be appointed by mutual consultations. The award of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding between the parties as per the terms and conditions of the Agreement to be executed on award of contract. The Arbitration proceeding shall be governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and the seat of arbitration shall be Haryana, India.
9. **Jurisdiction of Dispute:** All dispute(s) under this REOI shall be subject to the jurisdiction of Punjab and Haryana High Court, India.
10. **Terms not expressly provided for:** In case this REOI document does not contain provisions or terms for dealing with a situation that may arise during the execution of the works, the relevant provisions contained in the General Financial Rule 2017 or other relevant rules of the Govt. of India shall be followed and the same will be binding on the bidder.
11. **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) & Licensing:**
 - i. Intellectual Property (IP) shall mean patents, rights to inventions, copyright and related rights, moral rights, rights in designs, rights in trademarks, rights to preserve the confidentiality of information (including know-how and trade secrets) and any other intellectual property rights, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including all applications (or rights to apply for and be granted), divisional, continuations, continuations-in-part, reissues, renewals or extensions of, and rights to claim priority from, such rights and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world regarding subject matter disclosed in Licensed patents.
 - ii. In case of Transfer of Technology, institute is the sole owner of the said Technology, including any underlying Intellectual Property(ies) and commercialization rights.
 - iii. Institute is lawfully entitled to enter into any form of non-exclusive License Agreements with selected agencies/ firms including transfer of the Technology through suitable Agreement(s). Background Intellectual Property ("BGIP") shall always remain the sole property of the Party generating the BGIP.
 - iv. The institute is lawfully entitled to enter into any form of non-exclusive License Agreements with selected agencies/firms, including Transfer of the Technology through suitable Agreement(s).
 - v. In additions to the above, all the IPR related terms and conditions will be decided based on the IPR guidelines issued by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India vide its O.M No. PID-14011/1/2022-MED-DBT dt. 06.09.2023 as amended time to time.

12. Process involved in Technology Transfer: Active cultures of genetically defined two strains of *Lactobacillus paragasseri* will be provided to the selected bidders for culturing appropriate growth conditions for their subsequent commercial use after execution of agreement.

13. Assessment Process:

- i. All EOI documents must be submitted and received by BRIC-THSTI on or before the due date specified in the REOI.
- ii. The EOIs will be evaluated strictly as per the pre-qualification criteria outlined in the REOI document.
- iii. All applicants will be formally notified of the outcome of the assessment process.

14. Authorized Signatory: The 'Applicant' mentioned in the REOI document shall mean the one who has signed the EOI document forms. The applicant should be the Head of the laboratory/institution/organization or a duly Authorized Representative, for which a Certificate of Authority shall be submitted. All certificates and documents (including any clarifications sought and any subsequent correspondence) submitted thereby, as far as possible, shall be furnished and signed by the Authorized Representative.

15. Documents to accompany EOI: The following documents are to be submitted with the EOI, in the format of which is provided as enclosed to this REOI:

S. No.	Documents to accompany EOI	Attachment No.
i.	Letter of Proposal Submission	1
ii.	General Information sheet of the bidder	2
iii.	Authorization Letter	3
iv.	Undertaking with regard to laboratory facility	4
v.	Financial information and solvency certificate	5
vi.	Technical capabilities	6
vii.	Undertaking with regard to Blacklisting	7
viii.	Undertaking with regard to Non-Litigation	8
ix.	EOI document with each page duly stamped and signed by the Authorized signatory	9
x.	MSME Certificate (if applicable)	10
xi.	Copy of cancelled cheque	11
xii.	Any other information which bidder may like to provide	12

16. Rejection of EOI:

The EOI is liable to be rejected if:

- i. The proposal is not submitted as per the requirements indicated in the EOI.
- ii. Including the financial bid/quotation along with EOI.
- iii. Not in the prescribed format.
- iv. Not properly stamped and signed as per requirements.
- v. Received after the expiry of due date and time.
- vi. Joint ventures/consortia are not allowed to submit EOI.

- vii. All relevant supporting documents are not furnished with the PQC.
- viii. Applications not fulfilling the terms of the document will be summarily rejected.
- ix. Any other non-compliance.

17. Technology Details: -

I. About Technology: -

The bacterial consortium comprises two distinct strains of *Lactobacillus paragasseri*, both isolated from the reproductive tract of pregnant Indian women enrolled in the GARBH-Ini cohort. This particular strain has been completely sequenced, revealing its unique genomic characteristics that contribute to its beneficial properties. *Lactobacillus paragasseri* demonstrates significant antimicrobial activity against a broad range of pathogens, including those responsible for urinary tract infections, respiratory tract infections, bloodstream infections, gastrointestinal infections, and skin infections. This antimicrobial potential plays a vital role in supporting a healthy vaginal microbiome and providing protection against infections. Additionally, studies suggest that these strains help reduce the risk of preterm birth, highlighting its potential as a preventive agent in maternal and neonatal health. By promoting a balanced microbiota, *Lactobacillus paragasseri* not only supports reproductive health but also contributes to better pregnancy outcomes. The comprehensive genomic analysis of these strains, along with relevant laboratory experiments, deepens our understanding of its mechanisms and lays the groundwork for its use in probiotic therapies designed to enhance maternal and infant health across diverse populations.

II. Need and utility of the Technology from Public Health Perspective: -

The bacterial consortium comprising two distinct strains of *Lactobacillus paragasseri* address critical public health needs. With rising concerns over maternal and neonatal health, particularly the incidence of preterm births and infections during pregnancy, this technology offers a promising solution. The complete genomic sequencing of these strains has unveiled their unique characteristics, demonstrating significant antimicrobial activity against various pathogens. Furthermore, these strains have demonstrated the ability to reduce hepatic and visceral fat accumulation, along with exhibiting cardioprotective effects, highlighting their strong potential for development as therapeutic agents against various metabolic disorders, including metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD). This innovative approach to probiotic therapy not only supports reproductive health but also aligns with public health goals to enhance maternal and infant well-being across diverse populations, ultimately contributing to healthier communities.

III. Product Features: -

Whole genome sequenced, genetically characterized indigenous microbial isolates exhibit both pathogen resistance and anti-steatosis properties, making them valuable in promoting human health. These isolates have been significantly associated with positive term birth outcomes and demonstrate a reduced risk of preterm birth, highlighting their potential role in enhancing reproductive health. Additionally, this consortium has shown promising anti-steatosis functions in preclinical animal models,

suggesting that these microbial strains may also play a beneficial role in metabolic health. The *Lactobacillus paragasseri* isolates successfully produced curd from both cow and buffalo milk under optimal growth conditions.

IV. IP Filling Status/Publications: - The details of publications from THSTI is stated as below: -

IP:

- a. **Bhabatosh Das**, Lekshmi N, Wadhwa N, Banerjee S. Genetically defined consortium of *Lactobacillus paragasseri* strains with antimicrobial, anti-steatosis, cardioprotective properties and development method. **Application Number: 202511069724. Year 2025**

Publications:

- a. Talukdar D, Raju YJ, Jana P, Sharma K, Babele P, Kothidar A, Ahrodia T, Narendrakumar L, Shyam KR, Singh U, Tanwar S, Harle S, Chaudhuri S, Raghavan S, Wadhwa N, Mukherjee S, Bhatnagar S, **Das B**; GARBH-Ini study group. Genomic insights into the potency and functional roles of *Lactobacillus* species in term and preterm births. *Genomics*. 2025 Jul;117(4):111063.
- b. Talukdar D, Sarkar M, Ahrodia T, Kumar S, De D, Nath S, Jana P, Verma J, Mehta O, Kothidar A, Yodhaanjali Y, Sharma K, Bakshi S, Singh U, Kshetrapal P, Wadhwa N, Thiruvengadam R, GARBH-Ini study group, Nair GB, Bhatnagar S, Mukherjee S, **Das B**. (2024) Preterm birth in early pregnancy through vaginal microbiome signatures using metagenomics and dipstick assays. Volume 27, Issue 11111238 November 15, 2024 *iScience*.
- c. Kumar S, Kumari N, Talukdar D, Kothidar A, Sarkar M, Mehta O, Kshetrapal P, Wadhwa N, Thiruvengadam R, Desiraju BK, Nair GB, Bhatnagar S, Mukherjee S, **Das B**. The Vaginal Microbial Signatures of Preterm Birth Delivery in Indian Women. *Front Cell Infect Microbiol*. 2021;11:622474. doi: 10.3389/fcimb.2021.622474. eCollection 2021.
- d. Mehta O, Ghosh TS, Kothidar A, Gowtham MR, Mitra R, Kshetrapal P, Wadhwa N, Thiruvengadam R, Nair GB, Bhatnagar S, **Das B**. Vaginal Microbiome of Pregnant Indian Women: Insights into the Genome of Dominant *Lactobacillus* Species. *Microb Ecol*. 2020 Aug;80(2):487-499. doi: 10.1007/s00248-020-01501-0.

18. Format of Technical bid including Organizational Capability.

ATTACHMENT #1

**Letter of Proposal Submission
(To be submitted on facility's Letterhead)**

[Location, Date]

To: [Name and address of Employer]

Dear Sir(s):

We, the undersigned, offer to participate in the EOI for Transfer of Technology for Commercialization of a Consortium of Genetically Defined *Lactobacillus paragasseri* in accordance with your REOI dated [Insert Date]. We are hereby submitting our EOI, which includes this Technical Proposal sealed under a separate envelope.

We hereby declare that all the information and statements made in this EOI are true and accept that any misinterpretation contained in it may lead to our disqualification.

Our EOI is binding upon us and subject to the modifications resulting from Technical discussions.

Name of Firm
Authorized Signature [In full and initials]
Name and Title of Signatory
Address

ATTACHMENT #2

General Information sheet of the Bidder

1.	Name of Bidder	
2.	Address	
3.	Telephone Number	
4.	Fax Number	
5.	Email	
6.	Web Site	
7.	Legal status a. Government/ Public Sector Undertaking b. Propriety firm c. Partnership firm (if yes, give partnership deed) d. Limited company or limited corporation e. Member of a group of companies (if yes, give name and address, and description of other companies) f. Subsidiary of a large corporation (if yes give the name and address of the parent organization) If the company is subsidiary, state what involvement if any, will the parent company have in the project.	
8.	Is the firm a registered company? If yes, submit Documentary proof. Date of Establishment	
9.	Correspondence Address Name Address E-mail Phone Fax	
10.	Submit valid GST registration certificate	
11.	Income Tax PAN Card	
12.	Number of years of experience in the relevant field? Submit documentary evidence.	
13.	Have bidder/ its sister concern ever been blacklisted by any govt. or quasi govt. /PSU in India during the last five years. Necessary declaration to be submitted along with the technical bid.	

Signature and Seal of the Bidder

ATTACHMENT #3

**Authorization Letter
(To be submitted on Facility's Letterhead)**

To,
Executive Director
Translational Health Science and Technology Institute
NCR Biotech Science Cluster, 3rd Milestone,
Faridabad-Gurgaon Expressway, Faridabad

Subject: Letter for Authorized Signatory
Ref: EoI No. THSTI/EoI/..... /202X dated.....

Sir,
This has reference to your above-mentioned Expression of Interest (EoI) for Transfer of Technology for Commercialization of a Consortium of Genetically defined *Lactobacillus paragasseri*.

Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr is hereby authorized to submit the EoI documents and participate in the processing on behalf of M/s..... (Laboratory/Facility Name), whose signature is below.

(Specimen Signature of Representative)

Date:

Place:

Yours faithfully,

(Signature of the Authorized signatory)

Name:

Designation:

Seal:

Place:

ATTACHMENT #4

Undertaking with regard to laboratory facility (To be submitted on Facility's Letterhead)

To,
Executive Director
Translational Health Science and Technology Institute
NCR Biotech Science Cluster, 3rd Milestone,
Faridabad-Gurgaon Expressway, Faridabad

Subject: Undertaking regarding laboratory infrastructure.
Ref: THSTI/EoI/.....dated.....

Sir,

It is hereby confirmed and declared that M/s (Laboratory/Facility Name)
do have

i. Adequate laboratory infrastructure and

ii. Adequate no. of experienced staff/skilled manpower to undertake the Transfer of
Technology for Commercialization of a Consortium of Genetically Defined *Lactobacillus*
paragasseri.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature of the Authorized signatory)

Name:

Designation:

Seal:

Place:

ATTACHMENT # 5

Financial Information and Solvency Certificate

S. No	Name of the bidder	Turnover (Rs. Crores)			Net worth (Rs. Crores)
		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2023-24

Note:

- i. Submit the audited financial statement/ audited annual report of the last three financial years.
- ii. The bidders should submit the solvency certificate indicating an amount equal to or not less than 40% of the advertised value of this REOI. Copy of Fresh Solvency Certificate issued by any scheduled Bank is required to be submitted. The date of solvency certificate issued by bank should not be prior to 03 months from the date of submission of bid.

ATTACHMENT # 6

Technical Capability

Please provide your capabilities and infrastructure related to Transfer of Technology for commercialization of a consortia of Live-Biotherapeutics. (not more than 5 pages).

ATTACHMENT # 7

Undertaking with regard to Blacklisting Declaration Letter (To be submitted on facility's Letterhead)

To, Executive Director
Translational Health Science and Technology Institute
NCR Biotech Science Cluster, 3rd Milestone,
Faridabad-Gurgaon Expressway, Faridabad

Dear Sir,

We hereby confirm and declare that we, M/s is not blacklisted/..... De-registered/ debarred by any

Government department/ Public Sector Undertaking/ Private Sector/ or any other agency for which we have Executed/ Undertaken the works/ Services during the last 5 years.

For -----

Authorized Signatory
Date:

ATTACHMENT # 08

**Undertaking with regard to Non-Litigation
Declaration Letter
(To be submitted on facility's Letterhead)**

Sir/Madam,

This is to notify you that our Company/LLP/Partnership/Society/Proprietorship < Please delete whichever is not applicable> intends to submit a proposal in response to , we also declare that our Company/LLP/Partnership/Society/Proprietorship has during the last three years, neither failed to perform on any agreement, nor has been evidenced by imposition of a penalty by an arbitral or judicial authority or a judicial pronouncement or arbitration award, nor been expelled from any project or agreement nor have had any agreement terminated for breach by us.

Sincerely,

(Signature of the Authorized Person)

Name:
Designation:

ATTACHMENT # 9

EOI Document with each page duly stamped and signed by the authorized signatory.

ATTACHMENT # 10

MSME Certificate (if applicable)

ATTACHMENT # 11

Copy of cancelled cheque.

ATTACHMENT # 12

Any other information which bidder may like to provide.

End of the Document

.....