1.0 Code of Integrity for Public Procurement

1.1 Employer as well as bidders, suppliers, contractors and consultants should observe the highest standard of ethics and should not indulge in the following prohibited practices, either directly or indirectly, at any stage during the procurement process or during execution of resultant contracts:

i) "Corrupt practice": making offers, solicitation or acceptance of bribe, rewards or gifts or any material benefit, in exchange for an unfair advantage in the procurement process or to otherwise influence the procurement process or contract execution;

ii) "Fraudulent practice": any omission or misrepresentation that may mislead or attempt to mislead so that financial or other benefits may be obtained or an obligation avoided. This includes making false declaration or providing false information for participation in a tender process or to secure a contract or in execution of the contract;

iii) "Anti-competitive practice": any collusion, bid rigging or anti-competitive arrangement, or any other practice coming under the purview of The Competition Act, 2002, between two or more bidders, with or without the knowledge of the Employer, that may impair the transparency, fairness and the progress of the procurement process or to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels;

iv) "Coercive practice": harming or threatening to harm, persons or their property to influence their participation in the procurement process or affect the execution of a contract;

v) "Conflict of interest": any personal, financial, or business relationship between the bidder and any personnel of the procuring entity who are directly or indirectly related to the procurement or execution process of the contract, which can affect the decision of the procuring entity directly or indirectly.

vi) "Undue Advantage": improper use of information obtained by the bidder from the procuring entity with an intent to gain an unfair advantage in the procurement process or for personal gain. This also includes if the bidder (or his allied firm) provided services for the need assessment/ procurement planning of the tender process in which it is participating;

vii) "Obstructive practice": materially impede the Employer's investigation into allegations of one or more of the above mentioned prohibited practices either by deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering; or by concealing of evidence material to the investigation; or by making false statements to investigators and/or by threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation; or by impeding the Employer's rights of audit or access to information.

1.2 Obligations for Proactive Disclosures

i) POWERGRID as well as bidders, suppliers, contractors and consultants, are obliged under Code of Integrity for Public Procurement to suo-moto proactively declare any conflicts of interest (coming under the definition mentioned above – pre-existing or as and as soon as these arise at any stage) in any procurement

process or execution of contract. Failure to do so would amount to violation of this code of integrity; and

ii) Any bidder must declare, whether asked or not in a bid document, any previous transgressions of such a code of integrity with any entity in any country during the last three years or of being debarred by any other procuring entity. Failure to do so would amount to violation of this code of integrity.

iii) To encourage voluntary disclosures, such declarations would not mean automatic disqualification for the bidder making such declarations. The declared conflict of interest may be evaluated and mitigation steps, if possible, may be taken by POWERGRID. Similarly voluntary reporting of previous transgressions of Code of Integrity elsewhere may be evaluated and barring cases of various grades of debarment, an alert watch may be kept on the bidder's actions in the tender and subsequent contract.

1.3 Punitive Provisions: Without prejudice to and in addition to the rights of POWERGRID to other penal provisions as per the Bidding Documents or Contract, if POWERGRID comes to a conclusion that a (prospective) bidder/supplier, directly or through an agent, has violated this code of integrity in competing for the contract or in executing a contract, POWERGRID may take appropriate measures including one or more of the following:

i) if the bid(s) is under consideration in any procurement
   a) Forfeiture or encashment of Bid Security
   b) calling off of any pre-contract negotiations, and;
   c) rejection and exclusion of the bidder from the procurement process

ii) if a contract has already been awarded
   a) Cancellation/termination of the contract in question;
   b) Forfeiture or encashment of Contract Performance Guarantee (CPG) of the contract in question;

iii) Provisions in addition to above:
   a) Removal from the list of registered suppliers and banning/debarment of the bidder/contractor from participation in future procurements in line with POWERGRID's policy for *"Black-Listing of Firms / Banning of Business*".
   b) In case of anti-competitive practices, information for further processing may be filed with the Competition Commission of India;
   c) Initiation of suitable disciplinary or criminal proceedings against any individual or staff found responsible.

1.4 In pursuance to this policy, the Employer will have the right to require that the provision be included in Bidding Documents and in contracts, requiring Bidders, suppliers, and contractors and their sub-contractors to permit the Employer to inspect their accounts and records and other documents relating to bid submission and contract performance under this project only and to have them audited by auditors appointed by the Employer.

-----End of Appendix-I to SCC-----

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