

No. A-04/004/2020-21/NISE/Admn/(EC)
National Institute of Solar Energy
 (An autonomous Institute of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy)
 Gwal-Pahari, Gurugram

Minutes of the 54th Meeting of the Executive Committee of National Institute of Solar Energy

The 54th Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) was held on 25 September, 2024 (Wednesday) at 03:00 PM in Conference Room, 1st Floor, Surya Bhawan, NISE Gurugram-122003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mohammad Rihan, Director General, NISE. The meeting was attended by following:

S.No	Name of Member	Designation	Remark
(i)	Dr. Mohammad Rihan, DG NISE	Chairman	Present
(ii)	Dr. Chandan Banerjee, DDG NISE	Member	Present
(iii)	Dr. Jai Prakash, DDG NISE	Member	Absent
(iv)	Shri. Anil Kumar Yadav, Director (Admin), NISE	Member	Present
(v)	Shri. Sandeep Sehrawat, Dy. Director (Admin), NISE	Member Convener	Present
(VI)	Dr. Avadhesh Yadav, DDG NISE	Special Invitee	Present

DG, NISE welcomed all the members of the Executive Committee of NISE. The item-wise agenda was taken up for discussion and the decision taken by EC are as follows:

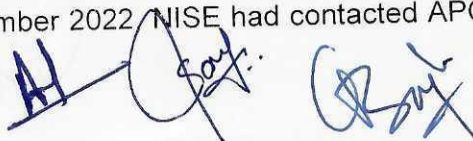
Agenda Item No.1: To grant leave of absence to the Members, not present in the meeting

Leave of absence was granted to Dr. Jai Prakash, DDG, NISE.

Agenda Item No.2: Approval of EC is sought for issuing work order to M/s Prodir Air Products India Pvt. Ltd., India (APC, India) for troubleshooting, repair, replacement of faulty components & re-commissioning of the Hydrogen Production cum Dispensing Facility at NISE, as per their re-validated budgetary offer vide ref: 60812669 dated 23.08.2024, for a total cost of Rs 3,76,71,572/- including import duties but excluding any applicable taxes (Annexure-I) as per rule 166(i) of GFR 2017 (Certificate submitted at Annexure-II) on single tender enquiry basis.

Dr. Chandan Banerjee, DDG, NISE presented the proposal before the EC members and briefed about project status of the MNRE funded RD&D project titled 'Setting Up of a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen Energy at National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gwal Pahari, Haryana,' under which the Hydrogen station is to be operated and maintained by NISE. Dr. Chandan Banerjee apprised that based upon request from NISE, MNRE Vide letter No. 353/1/2018-New Technology dated 11th July 2024 granted extension of the project duration up to 31st March 2025 (**Annexure-III**).

The hydrogen dispensing station was not in continuous operation since 2017 and hence would require extensive overhauling, calibration and safety audit. Upon receipt of project duration extension from MNRE dated 30th December 2022 NISE had contacted APC, USA for providing



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technical support for making the station operational. APC, USA informed that NISE may contact its India subsidiary M/s Prodair Air Products India Pvt. Ltd. (APC, India) for technical support related to Hydrogen setup at NISE. Subsequently, NISE contacted APC, India and after much discussions and negotiations, APC, India has agreed to provide technical support for addressing the technical issues, replacement of necessary components, its installation, re-commissioning and making the station operational. Accordingly, APC, India Team along with their US expert carried out detailed assessment of the plant at NISE on 23rd & 24th January 2023, to assess the current operational state of the station. Post assessment, APC, India has provided NISE a budgetary quote vide ref: 60812669 dated 06th Dec 2023 of Rs 2,97,08,453/- including import duties, Freight charges, transit insurance and packing & forwarding charges but excluding any applicable GST and local taxes towards spares, man-hours and recommissioning of the station to make it operational.

Meanwhile the validity of the project ended on 31st Oct 2023 and NISE requested MNRE for extension of project timeline with a re-appropriation of budget under GIA-Capital: Equipment for Rs 5.68 Crore for Repair, recommissioning and operation of the existing Green Hydrogen production cum dispensing station at NISE, including procurement of necessary spares, batteries and inverter. MNRE dated 11th July 2024 granted extension in project timeline till 31st March 2025. In view of this, NISE requested APC to re-validate the budgetary quote to issuing of Work Order. The re-validated budgetary quote submitted by APC vide ref: 60812669 dated 23.08.2024, for a total cost of Rs 3,76,71,572/- (including import duties but excluding any applicable taxes) towards replacement of necessary components, its installation, re-commissioning and making the station operational.

The committee enquired justification in increase cost from 2.97 Cr to 3.76 cr. The division made presentation to the committee members stating the effective increase of 26.8% is with below justifications:

1. **Spare Part:** APC, India conveyed that the station was installed in 2014 and most of the systems & sub-systems have been outdated or not in production. Hence, some of the spare parts needs to be manufactured specifically for this project. The earlier submitted quotation was an estimate only and the latest submitted quotation includes actual quote of the spares. Therefore, the total cost towards spare parts has increased by 48% in the latest quote compared with the earlier estimated figures.
2. **Manpower/Visit charges:** The system installed at NISE is an older version and only few skilled manpower is having experience in handling that design of the system. Therefore, engineers involved during such time shall be specifically deputed from abroad for repair and re-commissioning of the system. Therefore, the total cost towards visit/manpower charges has increased by 11.2% in the latest quote compared with the earlier estimated figures.

In view of this justification, the committee stated that the actual invoices of spares by the manufactures may be sought from APC for processing the payment. EC further stated that since fund from the Ministry is still awaited, the Work Order may be issued after receipt of the same.

Decision: After much deliberation, EC approved for issuing work order to M/s Prodair Air Products India Pvt. Ltd., India (APC, India) for troubleshooting, repair, replacement of faulty components & re-commissioning of the Hydrogen production cum dispensing facility at NISE, as per their budgetary offer vide ref: 60812669 dated 23-Aug-2024, for a total cost of Rs 3,76,71,572/- including import duties but excluding any applicable taxes.

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Agenda Item No.3: Any other Agenda with the permission of Chair.

With the permission of Chair, the below agenda item is also discussed.

Agenda: 3.1 – Review of Bus services at NISE

NISE hired 01 No. of bus service for conveyance of its staff (other than regular staff) from Guru Dronacharya Metro Station to NISE Campus in the morning and back in the evening since many years.

2. CAG Local Audit Party in its Memo (Annexure- B) has mentioned that " *Suitable remedial steps may be taken to avoid extra expenditure on hiring of bus facility.*" Reply of NISE to the above said para has a mention that " *proposal to charge monthly bus fee from staff will be submitted in upcoming meeting of EC*" (Annexure-C).

3. The matter was discussed in the 50th meeting of Executive Committee of NISE (Annexure-D) and EC observed that due to remote location of NISE campus and non-availability of public transport, bus service is utmost important. Therefore, in the interest of institute with several contractual, outsourced staff, Interns and Training students, NISE should continue the bus service. EC directed to maintain status-quo and justified requirement be informed to LAP in future.

Admin division is in process to hire bus service with new contract on Gem portal. EC is requested to take cognizance of above and give further directives in this regards.

Decision: EC discussed the matter in length and agreed on the requirement of the service but the observations of audit party are to be accounted for also. Therefore, the EC directed the division to explore the options which are in line with genuine requirement of bus, as observed by EC, as well as addressing the concerns of audit party.

With no other agenda, meeting ended with thanks to chair.


(Sandeep Sehrawat)
Member Convener


(Anil Kumar Yadav)
Member


(Dr. Chandan Banerjee)
Member


(Dr. Mohammad Rihan)
Chairman