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**Secretary IT**

No: DIT-13/FILE/08/55/39  
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7th Floor, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

**Subject: Advisory to all Govt. Department in Maharashtra regarding Website Development**

Dear Sir / Madam,

As you are aware, presently most of the Departments are moving ahead in a digital era by providing information / services to citizens by developing the websites. Departments have been facing challenges in terms of compliance with standards and selection of the developers for developing the websites/applications.


In view of the same, Directorate of Information Technology has been receiving various requests from the Government Departments for seeking the necessary guidance / advisory for the Development of Websites.

In order to address the challenges faced by the Departments, Directorate of Information Technology has developed a Website Development Guidelines including the checklist which can be referred by all the departments for Website/Application development. The guidelines have been duly approved during the PIC meeting held on 25/11/2013.

In view of the above, attached herewith is the document on Website Development Guidelines to ensure that all the existing and new websites/applications developed, right from the conceptualization and design stage, should adhere to the Website Guidelines.

You are requested to advise all administrative units within your departments, divisional & district offices, directorates, state public undertakings, corporations, etc. to comply with this Advisory.

Yours Sincerely,

  
(Rajesh Aggarwal)

निर्गमित  
20 NOV 2013

**Enclosed: Website Development Guidelines**

To,

- 1) All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of Departments
- 2) All Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors

**Website Development Guidelines**

Directorate of Information Technology is receiving multiple requests from the Various Government Departments for the Development of Websites. Hence, in view of the same, the attached document must be referred for the Development of Website.

Department will ensure that any work of amount greater than Rs.10 Lakhs but less than Rs.5 Crore, approval from Project Implementation Committee (PIC) of department is obtained.

Department will ensure that for any work of amount more than Rs.5 Crore, approval from High Power Committee (HPC) is obtained as detailed in eGovernance Policy of GoM dated 23rd September 2011.

**For Small websites** which are having approximately value of upto Rs. 2 Lacs including 1 year maintenance/support and static websites, small database component, mobile application, etc the criteria must be set so as to encourage local developers, companies, and entrepreneurs to be able to participate in the website development. Normal procurement procedure of quotations/tender (whichever applicable) may be followed. All the small websites may be hosted in a shared hosting environment without SAN allocation at MH-SDC. However, the tape backup for the same would be maintained at MH-SDC. In case a separate hosting environment is required by the Department, then the same shall be chargeable as per the applicable SDC Rate Chart. Entire development checklist as mentioned in Website Development checklist is applicable for small websites.

**For Medium websites** which are having approximately value of Rs.2 Lacs to 10 Lacs and medium Database connections such as publishing of official data, complex reports, field based reports, MIS, etc the RFP criteria that may be set for eligibility of bidder can be factored as below. Normally the expected time for the development of medium websites is to be within 3 to 6 months from the date of issuance of Work Order. Cost of AMC should be included in the bid/proposal. The criteria set herewith are tentative. :

Sr.	Pre-qualification Criteria
1	The bidder should be a Company registered in India under the Companies Act 1956 or a partnership registered under the India Partnership Act 1932 with their registered office in India.
2	The bidder should be operating in the field of software development and providing software solutions in last three years.
3	The bidder shall have minimum annual turnover of Rs. 10 Lacs in each of the last three years for Software Development.
4	The bidder must have completed 3 assignments of websites/ portals/application development in a Private / Government environment with a value of Rs. 1 Lakhs each, in previous three years.
5	Bidder should have min 3 Full Time Application development professionals with necessary skillset as per the requirement of website on bidder's own payroll.
6	The bidder should not currently have been blacklisted by any Government Agency or under a declaration of ineligibility for fraudulent or corrupt practices or inefficient/ineffective performance.
7	The bidder should be an individual organization. Consortium shall not be allowed.

**For Larger websites** wherein the expected cost is Rs.10 Lacs or more, the web pages are more complex, integration with payment gateway, sms gateway, other systems as a part of project requirements then the relevant RFP needs to be floated as per the project requirements after approval of PIC/HPC as the case may be. The minimum criteria such as Turnover of the Company, Assignment value, Net Profit, Manpower, etc to be discussed in PIC/HPC meeting.

Hosting of website at MH-SDC is not mandatory; however, if Departments wishes to host the websites outside MH-SDC, then the websites should be hosted in a Tier-3 Data Centre environment within India. If Department wishes to host the website in MH-SDC, then the hosting shall be charged as per the SDC Rate Chart, however, prior permission from MH-SDC team and DIT needs to be taken for hosting such websites. The cost of hosting the website in MH-SDC should be factored in the proposal provided by bidder/developer.

**Website Development Checklist****Pre-Development Phase**

1. Detailed CV of the developer needs to be shared by the bidder company prior to starting the development of the website.
2. For small and medium website, AMC for the website should be 1 or 2 year from the date of acceptance / go-live.
3. Department will clearly define the milestone for making payments to the software developer.
4. Development environment to be provisioned by the Bidder/Developer.
5. DIT will have it's own State Software repository of the successful projects and will ensure there is no duplication in efforts for software development.
6. Before starting the development/coding of the website, the developers are required to complete eGovernance 0.0 certification and the 5 Day eGovernance Standards (Localization, GIGW and Accessibility) training to be mandated in all the website development RFPs. Awareness for the staging environment and the APIs used as a part of SDC such as Name/Address Databases, SMS gateway, Payment Gateway, GIS, etc shall be provided as a part of the training. The training certificate shall be valid for 3 years. Renewal of certificate shall be made available online. Training would be provided free of cost, however, travel/lodging expenses, etc. will be borne by the developer/bidder.
7. GIGW training course (3 days/5 days) including Marathi Unicode & Accessibility mandatory for all developers (atleast one developer/team leader for small sites, at least two for medium sites and three for large sites). The training will be held in MahaOnline office in Mumbai/Pune/Nagpur/Aurangabad centers. Training to also include Level 0 check for Top-10 vulnerabilities as per OWASP. Training would be provided free of cost, however, travel/lodging expenses, etc. will be borne by the developer/bidder.
8. Intellectual Property Rights(IPR) of the source code will vest solely with the Government of Maharashtra. However, such a system will not be allowed to be misused by quoting same software to other districts or departments, as DIT may provide the same free of cost to other Departments.
9. Representatives of software developers working on the project must sign the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with project owner of concerned department.
10. Departments to adhere to the Advisory that has been provided to All Government Departments on 30th September 2013 for :
  - Hosting of Government Websites, use of Official Email IDs and other Cloud based services, connecting to NIXI & Sec. 43A compliance audits
  - Adoption of Technical Standards for Interoperability Framework and other standards published by GoI for various eGovernance Projects
11. Use of Standard Components such as Payment Gateway, SMS Gateway, Email, etc would be provided as per SDC Rate Chart.

**Development Phase**

1. Website needs to be Bilingual i.e. Marathi and English. By default, the webpage should open in Marathi language.
2. Website should be developed with gov.in or maharashtra.gov.in extension.
3. Website should run independent of IP Address. i.e. IP Addresses should be not be hard coded in the source code/configuration.
4. Website should be IPv6 compliant.
5. Website should be able to open in all six ways. For example,
  - a. <https://www.maharashtra.gov.in>
  - b. <http://www.maharashtra.gov.in>
  - c. [www.maharashtra.gov.in](http://www.maharashtra.gov.in)
  - d. <https://maharashtra.gov.in>
  - e. <http://maharashtra.gov.in>
  - f. [maharashtra.gov.in](http://maharashtra.gov.in)
6. Website should be running on SSL i.e. http request should automatically get redirected to https
7. Website should be compatible to run on multi server environment for load sharing
8. Website should be compatible for accessibility from any device, any Operating System and any browser.
9. Platform used for Website such as OS, DB, Java, etc. software should be N-1 where N is the latest version prevailing.
10. CAPTCHA should be present for web pages with form field such as feedback form, registration form etc.
11. Logging to be enabled for Web Server / DB Server.
12. Password should not be hardcoded in any website configuration files or stored in plain text.
13. Website should be in compliance with :
  - eGovernance Standards of Government of India :
    - a. Technical Standards for Interoperability Framework for e-Governance (IFEG) in India Version 1.0
    - b. MDDS- Demographic Standards
    - c. Character Encoding
    - d. Font Standard
    - e. eGov.BIDS
    - f. eGov.BIDS
    - g. eSAFE-ISF01, eSAFE Framework (and associated documents)
    - h. Guidelines for Usage of Digital Signatures in e-Governance
    - i. FMG
    - j. Policy on Open Standards for e-Governance
  - Framework for Mobile Governance
  - e-Governance policies of Government of Maharashtra
  - Guidelines of Indian Government Website (GIGW)
  - WCAG 2.0
  - W3C
  - Other e-Governance standards of Government of India ([egovstandards.gov.in](http://egovstandards.gov.in))

**Post-Development Phase**

1. Level 0 check to be complied by the developer for GIGW compliance and address Top-10 vulnerabilities as per OWASP.
2. Security Audit :
  - a. For small website, guidance to developers and the Security Audit of website shall be done by DIT free of cost.
  - b. Medium and Large website needs to be Security Audited by the Cert-In empanelled Security Auditors. The Security Audit clause should be part of the RFP, wherein the bidder will bear the cost of security certification.
3. Security Audit Certificate to be mandated along with Hash5 code. Source code along with Hash5 code of the website to be submitted by Developer. Documentation of Source Code along with Administration/User Manuals needs to be submitted.
4. DIT would also facilitate the checks for GIGW compliance and Accessibility of the website.
5. The project will be treated as "complete" only if:
  - UAT / FAT is completed
  - Handover to the Department is completed
  - Final Source code along with Security Audit Certificate (with Hash5) of the project along with detailed documentation and IPR is being transferred to DIT for State Software Repository.
6. It is advisable to host the Website in the Maharashtra State Data Centre for which below compliance needs to be adhered. To get the security audit carried out by DIT, below process needs to be followed:
  - Details of the website such as Operating System, Database used, Web Servers used, Data Storage required, etc. needs to be provided to DIT for due scrutiny.
  - After due scrutiny of the details provided to start the audit process, developer needs to visit MH-SDC for making site available in staging area.
  - Security Auditor would perform Level-1 Audit of the website. After Level-1 audit completion, if any vulnerability found then developer needs to rectify and revert to security audit team for further checking. This process will be repeated until known vulnerabilities gets rectified.
  - Security audit Certificate will get issued by security audit agency & a copy will be provided to the concerned department.
  - Department/developer will copy the audited code to the production environment. He will install SSL certificate provided by DCO on production server. Developer will ensure port redirection from port 80 to 443.
  - Department will fill CRF for opening port 80 & 443 for the public IP already assigned to the URL. This will be taken as standard request. All email communication will be accepted only from government email ids.
  - DCO will test URL and if it is working successfully then generates the hash code.
  - Department has to submitted declaration letter from department (Sign & Stamp) regarding website security audit along with all the contact details.

