

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1**EOI Reference: SMFCL/Legal/Empanelment/2026-27/80 dated 06.10.2026****Subject: Amendments to eligibility and evaluation criteria and extension of application-submission deadline**

With reference to the Expression of Interest for **Empanelment of Law Firms for Comprehensive Legal Advisory and Execution Services**, the following amendments to the eligibility and evaluation criteria, along with the extension of the deadline for submission of applications are hereby notified:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Revised provision												
1	Minimum professional strength—Section 4 and Annexure C	The minimum professional strength requirements under Section 4 and the corresponding professional-strength evaluation criteria under Annexure C shall stand substituted by the following table. <table> <tr> <th>Category</th><th>Particulars</th><th>Marks</th></tr> <tr> <td>A</td><td>At least 5 partners and 20 associates</td><td> Total marks – 20 i. 10 marks: at least 5 partners and 20 associates. ii. 15 marks: at least 6 partners and 21 associates. iii. 20 marks: at least 9 partners and 30 associates. </td></tr> <tr> <td>B</td><td>At least 4 partners and 15 associates</td><td> Total marks – 20 i. 10 marks: at least 4 partners and 15 associates. ii. 15 marks: at least 5 partners and 16 associates. iii. 20 marks: at least 7 partners and 25 associates. </td></tr> <tr> <td>C</td><td>At least 3 partners and 10 associates</td><td> Total marks – 20 i. 10 marks: at least 3 partners and 10 associates. ii. 15 marks: at least 4 partners and 11 associates. iii. 20 marks: at least 6 partners and 20 associates. </td></tr> </table>	Category	Particulars	Marks	A	At least 5 partners and 20 associates	Total marks – 20 i. 10 marks: at least 5 partners and 20 associates. ii. 15 marks: at least 6 partners and 21 associates. iii. 20 marks: at least 9 partners and 30 associates.	B	At least 4 partners and 15 associates	Total marks – 20 i. 10 marks: at least 4 partners and 15 associates. ii. 15 marks: at least 5 partners and 16 associates. iii. 20 marks: at least 7 partners and 25 associates.	C	At least 3 partners and 10 associates	Total marks – 20 i. 10 marks: at least 3 partners and 10 associates. ii. 15 marks: at least 4 partners and 11 associates. iii. 20 marks: at least 6 partners and 20 associates.
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2	Turnover requirements across categories	The lower turnover threshold prescribed for each category shall continue to apply, without any upper turnover ceiling. Accordingly a firm having turnover exceeds the upper limit, if any originally specified for a prescribed category shall also be eligible to apply under that category, provided it satisfies all the other applicable eligibility criteria and requirements.	
3	Consideration under a lower category— Clauses 2.1 and 5.1	Applicants shall apply under one category only. Where an applicant does not qualify for the category applied for, SMFCL may consider the applicant for a the next lower category and where necessary, for successively lower categories, subject to fulfilment of the applicable eligibility requirements and minimum qualifying score for each such category.	
4	Maritime-sector assignment requirements	No change is proposed. Absence of maritime-sector experience shall not disqualify an applicant. Applicants with no eligible maritime-sector assignments shall receive zero marks under this criterion.	
5	Extension of submission deadline	Particulars	Proposed date and time
		Last date for submission of applications	30.10.2026 at 15:00 hours
		Opening of applications	02.11.2026 at 15:00 hours

This corrigendum shall form an integral part of the EOI. In case of any inconsistency, between the provisions of this corrigendum and those of EOI, the provisions of this Corrigendum shall prevail to the extent of such inconsistency. All other terms and conditions of the EOI remain unchanged and continue to be in full force and effect.

For Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited
Authorised Signatory



Sl. No.	Consolidated query	Reply
1	Whether the Annexure II Statutory Auditor/CA certificate may be accepted instead of audited financial statements.	The Annexure II certificate, issued by a Statutory Auditor/practising Chartered Accountant, bearing UDIN, suffice evidence of turnover. Separate audited financial statements need not be submitted. SMFCL may seek supporting records for verification, if required.
2	Whether turnover may be certified as exceeding a specified threshold instead of disclosing exact figures.	Certification that annual turnover for each relevant financial year and the three-year average as exceeding a specified threshold is acceptable, provided it establishes the applicable eligibility requirement and claimed scoring bracket. If a higher scoring bracket is not established, marks shall be restricted to the bracket supported by the Certificate.
3	Whether confidential details in audited financial statements may be redacted.	Confidential details may be redacted, provided sufficient information remains visible to verify eligibility and evaluation. Alternatively, the certificate referred to at Sl. No. 1 may be submitted.
4	Whether a signed and stamped copy of the complete EOI is required.	Submission of the complete signed and stamped EOI is not required. However, the application, prescribed annexures, declarations and undertakings must be duly signed and stamped by the authorised signatory.
5	Whether any one Founding Partner may sign the annexures.	Any one Founding Partner may sign the annexures, provided they are duly authorised to sign on behalf and bind the firm.
6	What evidence of authority is required where an Equity Partner signs.	The relevant extract of the partnership deed conferring such authority, or an authorisation letter/resolution duly executed in accordance with the firm's constitution, may be submitted. Unrelated confidential provisions may be redacted.
7	Whether a separate blacklisting declaration is required in addition to Annexure I.	The declaration in Annexure I shall suffice, provided it expressly covers both the applicant firm and its partners.



Sl. No.	Consolidated query	Reply
		Otherwise a supplementary declaration covering the remaining requirement shall be submitted.
8	Whether the minimum maritime transaction requirements may be relaxed.	No relaxation is proposed. The category-wise minimum maritime-sector assignment requirements prescribed in the EOI shall remain unchanged. However, Applicants with fewer assignments may submit their applications, however, scoring shall be limited to the eligible assignments completed, in accordance with the evaluation criteria.
9	Whether general maritime advisory, litigation, regulatory or corporate experience may replace maritime project-finance experience as Lenders' Legal Counsel.	General maritime-sector experience may be furnished as additional credentials but shall not substitute for the prescribed maritime-sector assignments undertaken as Lenders' Legal Counsel in maritime -project financing.
10	Whether maritime assignments from the preceding 10–12 years may be considered.	Only assignments falling within the period prescribed in the EOI shall be ~~counted~~ considered for eligibility and evaluation. Earlier assignments may be listed as additional credentials but shall not count towards eligibility or scoring.
11	Whether port connectivity, logistics, coastal/inland waterways, shipbuilding and container financing qualify as maritime-sector assignments.	Such assignments may qualify if they have a direct and demonstrable nexus with the maritime sector and satisfy the prescribed requirements concerning the firm's role as Lenders' Legal Counsel, completion status and relevant period, General logistics assignments lacking without a maritime nexus shall not qualify.
12	Whether maritime assignments may also count towards the total project-finance assignment requirement.	Yes. An eligible maritime project-finance assignment may be counted towards the total project-finance assignments and separately assessed under the maritime-sector criterion. subject to the applicable evaluation criteria.



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13	Whether execution of financing documents constitutes completion of an assignment.	An assignment may be treated as completed upon execution of the relevant financing documents, provided the substantive documentation scope entrusted to the firm has been completed. Loan repayment or completion of the underlying project is not required.
14	Whether final invoices/payment receipts may replace client completion letters.	A client-issued completion letter is not mandatory if the alternative evidence prescribed in the EOI is furnished. Final invoices/payment receipts may be submitted along with the engagement evidence and a declaration by the Managing Partner/Equity Partner's confirming completion. An invoice alone shall not suffice as proof of completion.
15	Whether engagement/mandate/appointment letters or lender emails may substitute for work orders/Letters of Award.	These documents shall be accepted where if they establish the engagement of the applicant firm, the relevant assignment and its role as Lenders' Legal Counsel. Emails accepting fee quotations may also be accepted, provided the engagement and scope of work are clearly identifiable.
16	Whether a partner's declaration alone may establish completed assignments because engagement documents are confidential.	A declaration alone shall not suffice and must be supported by engagement evidence or a client-issued completion/confirmation letter. Confidential information may be redacted, provided sufficient particulars remain available for verification.
17	Whether a prescribed format applies to the partner's completion declaration.	Where no format is prescribed in the EOI, the declaration may be furnished on the firm's letterhead, identifying each assignment, the firm's role, scope of work and completion date, and confirming the correctness of the information. It shall be signed by the Managing Partner/Equity Partner.
18	Whether client names and assignment values may be redacted or submitted confidentially.	Confidential particulars may be submitted separately in a sealed cover marked "Confidential—For Evaluation Only". Redactions shall not prevent verification of the client, assignment, relevant value where required, or the firm's role. Where material redactions prevent verification,



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		SMFCL may require supplementary evidence or confirmation.
19	Whether PSBs, government-owned financial institutions and CPSEs qualify as government agencies.	Public sector banks, government-owned financial institutions and CPSEs shall qualify for this requirement. Documentary evidence must establish that the relevant empanelment is valid as on the application-submission date.
20	Whether a redacted partnership deed and High Court registration are acceptable constitutional/registration documents.	A redacted partnership deed is acceptable, provided the firm's identity, constitution and relevant authority provisions remain visible. High Court registration may be furnished as registration evidence, wherever applicable, along with other constitution/registration documents applicable to the firm's legal form.
21	Whether GST registration establishes the Delhi/NCR office address.	A valid GST registration certificate reflecting the firm's Delhi/NCR office address shall be accepted as proof of address, provided the office is operational as on the application-submission date.
22	Whether Annexure II suffices for professional strength and what reference date applies.	Annexure II shall suffice without a separate certificate. The professional strength shall be determined on the actual application-submission date. If the CA certificate is issued earlier, any subsequent change shall be disclosed through an updated certificate or supplementary confirmation from the certifying CA.
23	How many physical copies are required.	One complete application, duly signed and stamped, along with the prescribed annexures and supporting documents, shall be submitted in a sealed envelope in accordance with the EOI instructions..
24	Whether the submission deadline may be extended.	The submission deadline is proposed to be extended to [31.10.2026] at 15:00 hours The revised date and time for opening is notified through a corrigendum.

