

Offers invited from firms specializing in IPR laws

APEDA, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Commerce invites offers from the law firms specialized in registration and protection of Intellectual Property to assist APEDA in the task of registration and protection of Intellectual Property in respect of Basmati rice in India and abroad. The selected firm will be engaged initially for a period of three years. The contract may be renewed for agreed period thereafter.

Bids in two parts, technical and financial, in separate sealed covers super scribed as 'Bid for registration and protection of Intellectual Property in respect of Basmati Rice' are to be submitted by March 27, 2017 (3.00 p.m.) to Shri A K Gupta, Director (BEDF), APEDA at the given address. The bids will be opened at 4.00 p.m. same day in the presence of bidders who wish to be present.

Scope of Work:

- 1) To advise APEDA on the protection of Basmati vis-à-vis the entire spectrum of Intellectual Property laws and assist in registration/protection of Basmati in India and abroad;
- 2) To monitor the national and international registers of trademarks and geographical indications on third party efforts to register the Intellectual Property in Basmati name and take requisite action in India and abroad;
- 3) To initiate action against potential threats to the name Basmati in India and abroad through cease and desist notices, oppositions, cancellations, court actions or other modes of action;

- 4) To represent APEDA before the Courts of law in India and abroad, including the Geographical Indications Registry and the Trade Marks Registry and the Intellectual Property Appellate Board in India and abroad.

Qualifying Requirements:

Applicants who qualify the following requirements should only apply:

- a) An established law firm for more than 5 years with minimum annual revenue of Rs 5 crore in the field of IPR in each of the 3 preceding financial years. In support of this, a certificate from Chartered Accountant may be provided along with the technical bid.
- b) Experience of more than 5 years in handling matters relating to geographical indications. To substantiate this requirement, the applicant must provide details of the cases handled in India and abroad. (First cease and desist letters should be disregarded).

Case title	Jurisdiction	Associate foreign law firm	Current status	Name of the attorney on record
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On a separate sheet of paper list out experience on dealing with issues relating to Geographical indication and involvement in setting out the strategy for various Products with a special focus on Agricultural commodities

- c) At least three attorneys of the applicant firm must have at least 15 years of the standing at the Bar and should have domain knowledge of the international treaty, WTO Agreement and other regional agreements on the subject of geographical indications. Please provide the resume of each of the attorneys concerned listing out, *inter alia*, the years of experience in dealing with the issues,

publications on the topic, books written ,presentations in international conferences and any other kind of work done in the area;

- d) Adequate facilities and infrastructure to monitor national and international trademark and geographical indication registers. Details to be provided
- e) Applicant must have a network of associate law firms or lawyers in major countries to facilitate carrying out assignments in the field of geographical indications and other IP laws. A list of the foreign law firms, associates should be provided with nature of relationship and whether the relationship is exclusive

Financial Bids:

The financial bids must be quoted in terms of a minimum retainer ship amount on monthly basis for a fixed number of hours to be dedicated to APEDA work by the senior and junior lawyers respectively. The hourly rates for senior and junior lawyers separately may be quoted to be charged for the hours in excess of the hours committed under the retainer ship amount.

Format for submission of Financial Bid on letter head of law firm.

S.No.	Description of Fee Head	Criteria of fee	Amount in Rupees
1	Monthly Retainer fee	First 20 hours on in-station attorney work per month	
2	In-Station Services	Beyond 20 hours of work per month for Senior Lawyers	

3	In-Station Services	Beyond 20 hours of work per month for Junior Lawyers	
4.	Out-Station Services for Senior Lawyer	Per day basis	
5.	Out-Station Services for Junior Lawyer	Per day basis	

All out of pocket expenses and disbursements/counsel fee including Foreign Associates will be reimbursed separately. Service tax will be payable extra as applicable from time to time

**Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export
Development Authority,
Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India,
NCUI Building,
3 Siri Institutional Area,
August Kranti Marg ,
New Delhi 110 016**