Minutes of Meeting

Subject: Pre-Bid Meeting for Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW) tender GEM/2025/B/6762576
Date: 16th Oct 2025
Venue: NCBS Technical Building 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Participants:

- K. Bharani Nath (Aishan Technologies India Private Limited)

- Naveen Kumar (Aishan Technologies India Private Limited)

- K. A. Narayana (Protech Microsystems India Pvt Ltd)

- SM Narayana ((Protech Microsystems India Pvt Ltd)

- Amit Kumar (Frontier Business systems Pvt)

- Sai Kumar R (Frontier Business systems Pvt)

- Mr. Prasanta K Baruah, Engineer-F, IT-NCBS

- M/s Mounika M, Scientific Officer-C, IT-NCBS

- Mr. Manish Bharti, Scientific Officer-C, IT-NCBS

1. Specifications & Features Discussion

- **MIA Preference & Mix-and-Match:**

    - Vendor raised concerns about specifications and MII preference. NCBS clarified that the specifications are required as mentioned in tender document.

- **Port Density & Type:**

    - Vendor raised a query regarding the required ports and number of slots. NCBS clarified that it is ports, not slots. Each appliance must provide a total of 8 ports — 4 x 10GBASE-T copper ports (Cat6a/Cat7) with transceivers and 4 x SFP/SFP+ ports for multimode fiber with transceivers. All ports must be fully populated with the respective transceivers, and each port must support compatibility with both copper and SFP transceivers, as specified in the tender.

- **Storage Requirements:**

    - Vendor asked about centralized storage for logging. MII provides built-in SSD storage for 180 days logs; external storage possible via SIEM. NCBS justifed the requirnment for NVMe for operational needs.

- **Concurrent Users:**

    - Vendor queried expected users. NCBS stated expected usage will be typical for enterprise environments, with provisions for temporary increases, justifying support for 1000+ users and multi-device connections.

- **Hardware Acceleration:**

- Vendor explained MII solution uses x86 chipset with built-in chip for hardware acceleration. NCBS emphasized the need for efficient processing for peak load management to prevent slowdown.

- **NAT Support:**

  - Vendor queried NAT46/NAT64/NAT66 requirements. NCBS confirmed all NAT features should be supported by the solution.

- **VPN Licenses & MFA:**

  - Vendor queried VPN licensing and MFA. NCBS requested no user license restrictions in VPN; licenses should be transferable to other device as mentioned in tender doc. MFA must be included in the firewall as mentioned in tender doc.

- **ZTNA Feature:**

  - NCBS explained ZTNA should be present but not enabled; may be required in future as mentioned in tender doc.

- **Security Certificates:**

  - Vendor confirmed MII will have MTCTE and other relevant certificates. NCBS requested proof for at least one additional certificate as mentioned in tender doc.

2. Network & Migration Discussion

- NCBS provided a high-level overview of the existing network and traffic flow, including:

  - ISP links, LACP configuration, traffic flow from client to Internet.

  - Existing firewall rules and policies to be migrated to the new firewall.

  - BGP setup and public IP usage.

3. Other Technical Clarifications

- **Firewall Throughput & Acceleration:** NCBS emphasized NVMe SSD and hardware acceleration to handle high load during events.

- **VPN License Management:** Vendor clarified licenses counted even if disabled; time-based expiration configurable possible.

Mr. Prasanta K Baruah

Engineer-F, IT

M/s Mounika M   24/10/25

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Scientific Officer-C, IT

24/10/25

Mr. Manish Bharti

Scientific Officer-C, IT