

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF IAF TEST FACILITIES BY PRIVATE ENTITIES

INTRODUCTION

1. Impetus on 'Make in India' and opening of FDI in defence sector are certain steps taken by the government to build up a robust indigenous Defence Production Base. This has given major boost with regard to participation of Indian Private Sector in Defence Manufacturing. In order to further encourage these private players to ensure that their product sees the light of the day, it has been decided by the Government of India to extend the test facilities and assets available at various government organisations to private sectors for design, development and manufacturing of defence equipment/ weapon platforms.

AIM

2. The aim of these guidelines is to outline the modalities for use of IAF assets (testing & evaluation establishments, labs, ranges, aircraft, helicopters, radars and ground equipment etc.) by Private Sector/ entities to test equipment and systems being designed and developed to meet IAF requirements.

TEST FACILITIES WITH IAF

3. IAF has specialised establishments dedicated to test aviation equipment and systems. Apart from these, various Air to Ground/small arms ranges, aircraft, helicopters, radars and any other ground equipment required for testing purposes could be sourced by the Private Sector/entities for testing & evaluation of equipment and systems developed by them for defence applications/use.

PROCEDURE

4. The following procedure would be adopted for availing IAF test facilities/assets by the Indian Private Sector/entities.

Testing Coordination Cell (TCC)

5. A Testing Coordination Cell (TCC) has been set up at Air HQ under the Deputy Chief of Air Staff (DCAS). TCC will be the single point of contact between the Private entities and the IAF test establishments/facilities. The TCC will be headed by Director Projects & Inductions handling IAF's trials and testing. The tasks of TCC would be as follows:-

- (a) Maintain and update the approved list of test facilities and assets that can be offered to the Private sector/entities from time to time on the MoD & IAF websites.
- (b) Expediently action the request submitted by the Private sector/entities.
- (c) Coordinate/ facilitate discussion between the IAF Testing Agencies and the Private sector/entities, as required.
- (d) Allot time slots/assets for testing & evaluation by Private sector/entities with due approval of the DCAS.
- (e) Workout testing modalities in consultation with the IAF test centres & Private sector/entities.
- (f) TCC will work out the cost of testing taking into account the approved usage rates of assets and facilities being utilised, likely usage of consumables and other associated costs, in consultation with the Private sector/entities. An MoU/Agreement will be signed that stipulates the terms and conditions including Payment Terms by the Pvt sector/entities and indemnities to safeguard the interests of the Government of India.
- (g) The TCC will coordinate the security clearances of Private sector/entities interested in testing their equipment at IAF establishments.
- (h) Prepare a detailed Task Directive for conduct of the trials.

Approval for Utilisation of IAF Test Facilities/Assets

6. Pvt sector/entities desirous of utilising IAF test facilities/assets would submit an application with the following details to the Nodal officer at TCC, Dte of Projects, Air HQ (VB), Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110106. The requisition Proforma for utilising the test facilities is available on the web portal.

7. On receipt of request from the Pvt sector/entities, the nodal officer at TCC will ascertain that the system/equipment to be tested using IAF facility is being developed for meeting IAF requirement. He will ascertain the availability of test facility/assets and seek approval of the DCAS for conduct of trials utilising IAF test facilities/assets.

8. On approval by the DCAS, the TCC would inform suitable main and standby dates for conduct of the trials to the Pvt sector/entities and organise a meeting to discuss all issues related to the trials.

Scope of Availability of IAF Test Facilities to Pvt Entity

9. The test facilities/assets would be provided for use by the Private sector/entities when not in use by the IAF. All efforts would be made to adhere to the time slot allotted to the Private sector/entities. However, IAF reserves the right to change the time slot/deny usage of the test facilities due to operational/security/weather/ unserviceability reasons.

Trial & Evaluation

10. Certain tests may require modification of the platform. Such modification if deemed unsuitable by the IAF will be denied. Further, Pvt sector/entities will bear the cost of any modification and de-modification that may be required for carrying out testing. Such modification will however be carried out by authorised agency only following due clearances and certifications.

11. A trial coordination meeting will be conducted at Air HQ or on site to formulate a Trial Directive. All issues with respect to the trial methodology, payment for the trials, security, Non-Disclosure Agreement, safety issues and duties and responsibilities of various stakeholders etc are to be discussed and finalised during the meeting. The meeting is to be attended by all stakeholders.

12. Subsequently TCC would issue a Trial Directive duly approved by the DCAS addressing all issues related to the trials and exercise command and control over the conduct of the trials.

13. The TCC on conclusion of the trials would settle the final bill with the Pvt sector/entity.

Cost of Testing

14. Ascertaining the cost of testing is a complex procedure as it will involve many elements like cost of labour, cost of expendables, resource cost, duration of trials etc. In case, any aircraft is planned to be used for the trials the cost of operation of the aircraft and other associated services will be added to the cost of testing. The approved rates of usage of IAF assets, as available with Dte of Fin P, shall be used as the basis of all cost calculation. The cost of carrying out test procedures will be calculated on case to case basis and approved by the DCAS.

Non-Disclosure Agreement

15. Since most of the testing facilities in the IAF are associated with critical weapon system/ High tech equipment, adequate safeguards are to be incorporated so as to avoid any leakage of information by the Private sector/entities. Similarly, information with respect to the equipment of the Private sector/entities also need to be protected by the IAF and other participating agencies. Therefore, the Private sector/entities would sign Non-Disclosure Agreement with all stakeholders which will prohibit sharing of information with regards to testing and test equipment with any other agency. A sample Non Disclosure Agreement is available on the web portal.

Accident Coverage & Indemnity Bond

16. During the process of testing & evaluation there could be a possibility of damage to the equipment of the Private sector/entities or the Government property. The Private sector/entities in such a situation would not claim any compensation from the IAF/MoD. However, damage to service property due to negligence on part of the Private sector/entities would be paid in full by the Private sector/entities. Damage to Government property not attributable to the Private sector/entities would be written off against loss to the GoI. Further, Air Force personnel involved in testing & evaluation will have immunity in case the equipment of the Private sector/entities gets damaged during the process of testing & evaluation.

17. All the personnel involved in testing & evaluation activities need to be covered with proper indemnity bond/ insurance cover. It would be the responsibility of the Private sector/entities as well as the IAF to ensure insurance cover for their personnel/representatives before the conduct of any trial/evaluation. Further, the participants of the Private sector/entities would also sign the indemnity bond to absolve the IAF/GoI of any damage/harm caused to them during the process of trials & evaluation. A sample Indemnity Bond is available on the web portal

CONCLUSION

18. There is no precedence of Pvt sector/entities utilising IAF facilities for testing their equipment. The Guidelines would therefore be revised on receipt of feedback from the environment. Extending the usage of IAF test facilities including aviation assets to Pvt sector/entities would boost the indigenous aviation defence industry thereby reducing dependence on foreign suppliers.