

Gujarat Fiber Grid Network Limited

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Law Firms and Advocates

Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL) invites applications from qualified & experienced Advocates & Law Firms for defending Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL) in the court cases on contractual disputes/Services matters. The requirements and other details can be seen in the Expression of Interest document can download free of cost from the website <https://www.dst.gujarat.gov.in> , <https://bharatnet.gujarat.gov.in> , <https://gil.gujarat.gov.in>, and will be published on GeM/Newspaper/nProcure .The last date for submission of applications is 07-September,2026, 3:00 PM (15:00 Hrs).

Registered Office:

Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL)

A Government of Gujarat Company Block No: 6,

5th Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar 382010

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) FOR EMPANELMENT OF ADVOCATES/LAW FIRMS
FOR GUJARAT FIBRE GRID NETWORK LIMITED**

The Gujarat Government has setup an SPV namely “Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL)” to implement Phase-II of BharatNet Project in Gujarat. It was established in 2016 and It is registered under the Companies Act, 2013 This SPV has been created to synergize with the efforts of Government of India under the National Optical Fibre Network and Digital India initiative and make focused efforts to actualize a state-to-village fibre grid and to facilitate building common Government owned infrastructure to provide internet facilities to residents of State of Gujarat.

The ‘Amended BharatNet Phase-III Program’ in Gujarat, commanded by Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL), is a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionizing rural connectivity and strengthening digital inclusivity. This comprehensive project encompasses the integration, expansion, and technological upgrade of BharatNet Phase-I and Phase-II networks, laying the foundation for a robust broadband infrastructure. The project endeavors to connect approximately 4,400 additional villages over and above the existing rural connectivity, empowering rural communities through enhanced digital services. Leveraging IP-MPLS technology, ring topology, and strategic network design, the upgraded BharatNet Network is poised to bridge the digital divide, drive socio-economic development, and propel Gujarat into a new era of digital empowerment.

Taking into consideration the complex needs in this direction, the Gujarat fibre Grid Network Limited (hereinafter referred as GFGNL) is looking for empanelment of competent & experienced Advocates & Law firms at its registered office at Ahmedabad/ Gandhinagar. The services of Advocates/Law firms will be mainly utilized in the matters/litigation work being contemplated at various forums i.e. Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, Hon’ble High Court of Gujarat, District Courts, Industrial Tribunals, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, State Consumer Commission, District Consumer Forum and various Commissions & Other Quasi-judicial bodies in matters relating to contract made with vendors and contractual employees, Arbitration matter, RTI matter at SIC, etc., within Gujarat as well as outside Gujarat region.

The practicing advocates who are registered with Bar Council of India/State Bar Council are eligible for empanelment. The qualification, experience, fees, other terms and condition and the application format in which the application has to be made, have been attached.

Application for empanelment at GFGNL does not confer any right/assurance whatsoever, to an applicant that he/ she will be empaneled on the panel of GFGNL. Letters to advocates confirming their empanelment will be issued by GFGNL separately

1.Scope of Work (SoW) which inter-alia includes the following

- 1.1 Rendering legal services and providing opinion, as and when referred, on matters related to contract made with vendors and contractual employees , Arbitration matter, RTI matter at SIC and Disciplinary proceedings , GST/Income tax/Labour cess/EPF matter , Labour, Company & Industrial Law matter , legal matters of GFGNL associates or other agencies etc. besides other litigation matters.
- 1.2 Handling notices and other legal queries, as and when referred.
- 1.3 Representing the GFGNL before any Court of Law or Tribunal or Statutory Body or Quasi-judicial authority or Arbitrators/Arbitral Tribunals under the relevant act(s) and any other proceedings, as and when referred.
- 1.4 Conducting legal due diligence, as and when referred.
- 1.5 Providing legal opinion, advice related to Legal matters of the GFGNL as and when referred.
- 1.6 Legal Vetting of draft notices, agreements, bidding documents, MoAs, MoUs Response on media complaints etc.

- 1.7 Notice to be sent to respective customers for cheque return case and legal remedy available with GFGNL for further action.
- 1.8 Providing legal advisory, drafting, vetting, compliance, dispute resolution, and litigation support in matters relating to cyber security, information security, data protection, privacy, digital governance, cyber incidents, cybercrime, information technology laws, intellectual property rights in digital systems, electronic evidence, and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines issued by Government authorities, regulatory bodies, CERT-In, MeitY, and other relevant agencies.

2. Essential Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 The responding Advocates & Law Firms should be registered under the Statutes of India.
- 2.2 They must be having office at Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar.
- 2.3 Advocates/Law Firms should possess minimum experience of Seven/Ten years respectively in representing PSU/Autonomous Bodies/ Govt. Departments on Contractual Disputes.
- 2.4 Advocates/Law Firms must have the requisite infrastructure and in-house capability.
- 2.5 Advocates/Law Firms should possess professional expertise especially in handling cases in the areas stated above.
- 2.6 Advocates/Law Firms should not have been debarred by any Central/State Government/Government Departments/SPV.

3. Expected expertise/inputs

- 3.1 Understanding of the scope of work;
- 3.2 Domain specific experience in each of the areas relevant to SoW; and Adequate in-house capacity to meet the SoW

4. Expected Deliverables

Timely opinions on the referred issues; and Prompt legal services

5. Correspondence with Applicant

Given and except as provided in EoI, the GFGNL shall not entertain any correspondence with any applicant in relation to the acceptance or rejection of any application. GFGNL, in its sole discretion and without incurring any obligation or liability, reserves the right, at any time to:

- 5.1 Suspend and/or cancel the EOI process and/or amend and/or supplement the EOI process or modify the dates or other terms & conditions relating there-to.
- 5.2 Consult any applicant in order to receive clarification or further information.
- 5.3 Empanel or not to empanel any applicant.
- 5.4 Retain any information and/or evidence submitted to the GFGNL, on behalf of, and/or in relation to any applicant and/or.
- 5.5 Independently verify, disqualify, reject and/or accept any and all submissions or other information and/or evidence submitted by or on behalf of any applicant.

6. Fee Schedule:

- 6.1 The schedule of fee payable for services rendered, shall be applicable as decided by the GFGNL from time to time.
- 6.2 No retainer fee shall be paid to any panel Advocate merely because such advocate has been empaneled

7. Procedure for Empanelment

- 7.1 The applications received will be evaluated & the Advocates/Law Firms will be empaneled on the basis of their expertise and experience in litigation.
- 7.2 The applicant advocate/Law Firm must apply in the format prescribed by the GFGNL only. No other format will be entertained.

- 7.3 Any application received after the last date prescribed in the advertisement shall not be entertained.
- 7.4 No applicant advocate shall be called for interview/interaction unless he/she satisfies the eligibility conditions and is shortlisted for the same.
- 7.5 Depending upon the requirement and number of applications received, GFGNL reserves the right to shortlist the candidates to be called for interview/interaction and to be empaneled. Merely fulfilling the eligibility criteria will not confer any right on an applicant advocate to be called for interview/interaction and to be selected.
- 7.6 The decision of the competent authority regarding short listing and selection of the candidates shall be final.
- 7.7 Canvassing in any form shall be treated as a disqualification. The candidature of such applicants shall be cancelled forthwith. The applicant advocate shall bring original documents at the time of interview.
- 7.8 Letter to the applicant advocates confirming their empanelment will be issued by GFGNL separately.
- 7.9 The Advocates/Law Firms shall be solely responsible for the correctness of the details provided in their applications. In case of any misrepresentations noticed at any time, the Advocate/Law Firm shall be removed from the list of empanelment and the cases in hand will be withdrawn and the advocate/firm shall be debarred from entrustment of any work of GFGNL.
- 7.10 GFGNL reserves the right to allot matters/cases to the advocates/law Firms from the empaneled list or outside the list, in its sole discretion.

8. Duties of Empaneled Firm/Advocate

- 8.1 The Advocate/Law Firm shall not advise any party or accept any case against the GFGNL in which he/she has appeared or is likely to be called upon to appear for or advise which is likely to affect or lead to litigation against the GFGNL.

- 8.2 Timely appearance of the Counsel to contest the cases for GFGNL in the court is a must. His/her absence in the Court, without any reasonable ground and notice in advance, will not be accepted.
- 8.3 GFGNL sends the information to the panel advocates through email regarding entrustment of a case and after receiving the e-mail, it is duty of the panel Advocates to collect the brief/copy of petition along with assignment letter from the concerned office of GFGNL at the earliest.
- 8.4 GFGNL is free to engage any advocate of its own choice and an empaneled Advocate shall make no claim that he/she alone should be entrusted with GFGNL's legal matter(s).
- 8.5 Refusal by any advocate/Law Firm to accept any work without any reasonable cause (e.g. on grounds of conflict of interest) may entail removal of such advocate from the panel, forthwith without waiting for the empanelment period to expire.
- 8.6 The advocates/Law Firms shall accept the terms and conditions of the empanelment as determined by the GFGNL from time to time.
- 8.7 In order to ensure that there is effective check on the cases being conducted, the Advocates/Law Firms on the panel must report the status of the cases after each date of hearing. Failure to submit status report will be a ground for removal of the name from the panel.
- 8.8 In cases where on the request of the Department of Science and Technology, GOG have also to be represented, no extra fee shall be paid to the advocate. i. If required render all assistance to special or senior Counsel engaged in a particular case before the High Court and other judicial bodies.
- 8.9 To Keep GFGNL informed and updated on all-important developments in the designated cases, dates of hearing, order of the court on the date of its pronouncement, supplying copy of orders /judgment etc.
- 8.10 Furnish statement about the cases represented by him/her before the concerned courts or any other authority and their outcomes.
- 8.11 When any case attended by him/her is decided against the Organization, the Advocate/Law firm concerned must give considered opinion regarding the reasons for such adverse order and the advisability of filing an appeal from such a decision not later than 5 working days of the order (kuchha copy). 30% of the fees payable to the counsel shall be deducted if the certified copy of the

judgment is not handed over to the concerned section of GFGNL within five days (excluding the time taken by the court in preparation of the copy) from the date of judgment

9. Removal from Panel

- 9.1 GFGNL reserves the right to terminate the empanelment of a Advocate/Law Firm with one month's notice in writing without assigning any reason. The Advocate/Law Firm may also withdraw his services from the Organization by serving one month's notice.
- 9.2 Empanelment shall be liable to be cancelled due to occurring of any of the following disablements on the part of the Advocate/Law firm
 - 9.2.1 Giving false information in the application for empanelment;
 - 9.2.2 Failing to attend the hearing of the case without any sufficient reason and/are prior information;
 - 9.2.3 Not acting as per GFGNL's instructions or going against specific instructions;
 - 9.2.4 Threatening, intimidating or abusing any of the GFGNL's Employees, officers, or representatives;
 - 9.2.5 Passing on information relating to GFGNL's case on to the opposite parties or their advocates or any third party which is likely to cost any damage to the GFGNL's interests;
 - 9.2.6 Giving false or misleading information to the GFGNL relating to the proceedings of the case;
 - 9.2.7 Seeking frequent adjournments or not objecting the adjournment moved by other party without sufficient reason;
 - 9.2.8 Frequent absence from the Court proceeding even if "pass over" or "proxy" is obtained by an advocate

10. Validity of Empanelment:

The empanelment shall be valid for two years. Performance of empaneled advocates/law firms shall be reviewed at regular intervals for continuance in the panel of Advocate. However, GFGNL reserves the right to modify the validity period at its sole discretion, without assigning any reasons.

11. Submission of Application

All EOI applications shall be addressed to the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) & Admin. Officer, Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL), Block No: 6, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar: 382010 and deliver at the address given above . All EOI applications should include the details mentioned in the format which may be downloaded from the website <https://www.dst.gujarat.gov.in> , <https://bharatnet.gujarat.gov.in> , <https://gil.gujarat.gov.in> . Eligible & interested Advocates/Law Firms are invited to submit their hard copy of applications so as to reach at the following address mentioned below before due date/time i.e., 07-Sep-2026, 3:00 PM (15:00 Hrs.)

Chief Finance Officer (CFO) & Admin. Officer,
Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL),
Block No: 6, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhavan,
Sector-11, Gandhinagar: 382010
Email:- cfo@bharatnet.gujarat.gov.in

Applications received late shall be summarily rejected.
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Disclaimer: This EOI is not an agreement and is neither an offer nor invitation by the GFGNL to the prospective Applicants or any other person. The purpose of this EOI is to provide interested parties with information that may be useful to them in the formulation of their Applications pursuant to this EOI. The GFGNL may, in its absolute discretion but without being under any obligation to do so, update, amend or supplement the information, assessment or assumptions contained in this EOI. The GFGNL reserves its rights to reject any or all of the applications without assigning any reason thereof.

Form 1: FORMAT OF APPLICATION FOR ADVOCATE

Affix
Photograph

1. Name: _____ :
2. Date _____ of Birth (Age as _____ on : application due date)
3. Educational Qualifications: (most recent First)

Sr. No.	Degree/Courses	Institute/University/College	Year of Passing	Marks/CGPA

4. Address, Contact Nos. & E-mail _____ :
5. Date of Enrolment, Name of Bar Council: (enclose _____ :
copy of Enrolment certificate)
6. Date of enrolment as an Advocate – on – Record of _____ :
the Supreme Court and Registration No _____
7. The courts _____ where the Advocate is regularly _____ :
practicing(Enclose Bar _____ Association
Membership Certificate)
8. Period of practice & Area of Specialization _____ :
9. Brief _____ list of clients _____ e.g. Govt. Departments :

/Autonomous Body/PSUs etc

10. Whether Counsel/Pleader of any Govt. Departments/Autonomous Body/PSUs/Govt.SPV/Govt. Trust/ Listed company/Govt.Society(indicate period):

Name of Deptt/Autonomous Body etc. : _____

On Panel : From_____ to_____

Avg. No. of matters assigned by in a Year: _____

11. Details of Experience/practice in relevant field :

Sr. No.	Area of Practice	Courts/Tribunals/Authorities before which practiced	Period of practice
A.			
B.			
C.			

12. Details of landmark cases defended by the Advocate on behalf of Govt. Departments/Autonomous Body/PSUs/Govt.SPV/Govt. Trust/ Listed company/Govt.Society etc.

(a) Before Central/State Administrative Tribunals/Quasi-Judicial Bodies

Sr. No.	Title of matter	Date of Judgement	Details of Tribunal	provide copy of Brief (attach the proof of sociation with this matter)

(b) Before Hon'ble High Court

Sr. No.	Name of the Advocate/Junior/Associate	Name of University/Law College/Institute/ year of Law Graduation	Year of Enrolment & Bar Membership No.	Total Cases handled	Years of Experience in the relevant field

(c) Landmark Judgment :

Sr. No.	Title of matter/Case details	Citation	Date of Judgment	Name of Court & details of Bench (Single/DB)

(d) Before Hon'ble supreme Court

Sr. No.	Name of the Advocate/Junior/Associate	Name of University/Law College/Institute/ year of Law Graduation	Year of Enrolment & Bar Membership No.	Total Cases handled	Years of Experience in the relevant field

(e) Landmark Judgment :

Sr. No.	Title of matter/Case details	Citation	Date of Judgment	Name of Court & details of Bench (Single/DB)

13. (i) Details of Juniors/Associates available for Legal Work (with more

Sr. No.	Name of the Advocate/Junior/Associate	Name of University/Law College/Institute/ year of Law Graduation	Year of Enrolment & Bar Membership No.	Total Cases handled	Years of Experience in the relevant field

than five years of experience):

(ii) Details of Juniors/Associates available for Legal Work (with below five years of experience):

Sr. No.	Name of the Advocate/Junior/Associate	Name of University/Law College/Institute/ Year of Law Graduation	Year of Enrolment & Bar Membership No.	Total Cases handled	Years of experience in the relevant field

14. Any other information you may like to give :

15. A brief note on suitability for empanelment :

List of Enclosures : (a) Ref. EOI

(b) Others as required

DECLARATION

- (i) I declare that I have never been penalized by any Bar Council/Courts of Law in any Disciplinary and Judicial Proceedings.
- (ii) I undertake that the information given above is true and correct. I also undertake to maintain absolute secrecy about the cases of the University of Delhi.
- (iii) I agree to the terms and conditions for engagement and placement on panel.

Signature of Advocate

Address (office & residence / chamber)

Tel. No.....

Mobile No.....

Fax

No..... E-mail.....

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Form 2: FORMAT OF APPLICATION FOR LAW FIRM

1. Name of the Law Firm :
2. Constitution :
3. Address :
4. Contact Nos. :
5. E-mail addresses :
6. Names of Partners/Associates :
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
7. Date of Incorporation :
8. Number of Advocates employed :
9. Period of practice & Areas of Specialization :
10. Brief list of clients e.g. Govt. Departments/Autonomous Body/PSUs/Govt.SPV/Govt. Trust/ Listed company/Govt.Society:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

11 Whether on Panel of any Govt. Departments /Autonomous Body/PSUs etc (Pl indicate period against each name & Average number of matters assigned) :

Name of Dept./Autonomous Body/University etc :

On Panel: From_____ to _____

Avg. Nos. of matters assigned by the above in a Year:_____

12 Details of Experience / practice in the :
relevant field

Sr. No.	Area of Practice	Courts/Tribunals etc. before which practiced	Period of practice

13. Details of landmark cases defended on behalf of any /Govt. Department/PSUs etc..

(a) Before Central/State Administrative Tribunals

Sr. No.	Title of matter	Date of Judgement	Details of Tribunal	Pl provide copy (attach the proof of association with this matter)

(b) Before Hon'ble High Court

Sr. No.	Title of matter/Case details	Citation	Date of Judgment	Name of Court & details of Bench (Single/DB)

Landmark Judgments

Sr. No.	Title of matter/Case details	Citation	Date of Judgment	Name of Court & details of Bench (Single/DB)

(c) Before Hon'ble Supreme Court

Sr. No.	Title of matter/Case details	Citation	Date of Judgment	Details of the Bench

Landmark Judgments

Sr. No.	Title of matter/Case details	Citation	Date of Judgment	Details of the Bench

14. Details of profiles of Partners/Sr. Associates/Associates

Sr. No.	Name of the Partners/Sr. Associates/Associates	Name of University/Law College/Institute/ year of Law Graduation	Year of enrolment & Bar Membership No.	Total cases handled so far	Years of experience in the relevant field

15(i) Details of Juniors/Associates available for Legal Work (with more than five years of experience):

Sr. No.	Name of the Advocate/Junior/Associate	Name of University/Law College/Institute/ year of Law Graduation	Year of Enrolment & Bar membership No.	Total Cases handled	Years of experience in the relevant field

15(ii) Details of Juniors/Associates available for Legal Work (with below five years of experience):

Sr. No.	Name of the Advocate/Junior/Associate	Name of University/Law College/Institute/ year of Law Graduation	Year of Enrolment & Bar membership No.	Total Cases handled	Years of experience in the relevant field

16. Any other information you may like to give:

17. A brief note on suitability for empanelment :
18. List of Enclosures : a. Partnership deed/Certificate of Incorporation/registration
b. Details of all Partners individually
c. Ref. EOI
d. Others as required