
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR EMPANELMENT OF INVESTMENT ADVISORY FIRMS

ISSUED BY: Maharashtra State Warehousing Corporation (MSWC)

ENTITY: MSWC Contributory Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Trust

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Date 21.09.2026 by 3:00 PM (IST)

1. Institutional Profile and Regulatory Framework

1.1. Institutional Profile

The Maharashtra State Warehousing Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "MSWC" or the "Corporation"), headquartered in Pune, is a statutory body constituted under the provisions of the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, operating as an undertaking of the Government of Maharashtra. As a premier state-level logistics and warehousing institution, MSWC's core mandate encompasses the development and administration of an extensive network of scientific storage infrastructures. In fulfilment of its fiduciary obligations pertaining to employee welfare, the Corporation formally administers the MSWC Contributory Employees' Provident Fund Trust (hereinafter referred to as the "EPF Trust").

1.2. Regulatory Framework

The financial investments and portfolio management of the MSWC EPF Trust are strictly governed by the statutory provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Regulations, 1972. All capital deployment must meticulously adhere to the prescribed investment pattern for provident funds, as formally stipulated in the Ministry of Finance (MoF) Notification dated 2nd March 2015, and must concurrently satisfy the statutory investment criteria under Rule 67 of the Income Tax Rules, 1962, to preserve the Trust's tax-exempt status, inclusive of all subsequent statutory amendments."

1.3. "Objective and Scope of Empanelment."

The MSWC Contributory EPF Trust invites EOI from experienced and reputed Investment Advisory Firm having valid SEBI RIA (Registered Investment Advisor) registration and BASL (BSE Administration & Supervision Limited) Membership. The Trust proposes to appoint up to six Advisory Firms—three for Equity and three for Debt—on a pro bono basis. The advisors will provide professional, research-based, transparent, and regulatory-compliant investment advice with a focus on capital protection and better risk-adjusted returns.

2. Explicit Scope of Professional Services

The selected Advisory Firms will be required to perform all necessary fiduciary responsibilities, including:

2.1. Portfolio Construction and Asset Allocation Advisory

The Advisory Firms shall recommend optimized and risk-adjusted investment strategies in compliance with the MoF Notification dated 2nd March 2015 and Rule 67 of the Income Tax Rules, 1962, to maintain the Trust's tax-exempt status. All recommendations shall follow the Trust's governance and risk guidelines. The Advisors shall also assist the Board of Trustees in the periodic preparation, review, and updating of the Investment Policy Statement (IPS) as per changes in applicable laws and regulations.

2.2. Macroeconomic Research and Actionable Recommendations

The Advisory Firms shall conduct continuous, data-based research on the economy, sectors, and individual investment instruments. Every investment recommendation must be supported by properly documented research, covering credit quality, yield curve, liquidity, and risk-return analysis.

2.3. Continuous Portfolio Management and Rigorous Monitoring

The Advisory Firms shall continuously monitor and manage the portfolio, including timely rebalancing of investments to ensure compliance with all applicable statutory limits. They shall regularly monitor portfolio performance, manage downside risks, and assess the quality of investments by comparing them with relevant market benchmarks.

2.4. Comprehensive Due Diligence and Credit-Risk Evaluation

The Advisory Firms shall conduct complete and independent due diligence before recommending the purchase, holding, or sale of any financial instrument. They shall not rely only on external Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) and must carry out their own quantitative risk assessment for every transaction. Each investment must be carefully evaluated to ensure that the Trust is not exposed to unnecessary credit or liquidity risks.

2.5. Preservation of Trustee Discretion and Ultimate Decision-Making Authority

The Advisory Firms shall provide only advisory and non-discretionary services, including professional recommendations, independent research, and analytical support. The Board of Trustees shall have the final authority to approve, reject, modify, or defer any investment recommendation. The Advisory Firms shall not execute any transaction or use Trust funds without the written approval.

3. Fiduciary Duty and Absolute Compliance

3.1. Paramount Fiduciary Obligation

The Advisory Firms shall act only in the best interests of the MSWC EPF Trust and its beneficiaries, with honesty, proper due diligence, and professional care. All investment recommendations must be based solely on the financial interests of the Trust and its beneficiaries.

3.2 Zero Remuneration Policy – The Advisory Firm shall provide advisory services on a strictly pro-bono basis, without any remuneration from the MSWC EPF trust.

3.3. Immediate Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

The Advisory Firm shall work with complete transparency and must immediately inform the Board of Trustees in writing of any actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest. This includes any direct or indirect business, ownership, or personal relationship with banks, bond issuers, brokers, or Asset Management Companies (AMCs) whose financial instruments are being considered or recommended to the Trust.

3.4. Mandatory Self Declarations

Before empanelment, the Advisory Firm shall submit an irrevocable and legally binding self-declaration/affidavit confirming compliance with the zero-remuneration policy and conflict-of-interest disclosure requirements. The declaration must also confirm that the firm and its key personnel are not blacklisted, debarred, or under investigation by SEBI, RBI, EPFO, or any other statutory authority.

3.5. Statutory and Periodic Reporting

The Advisory Firm shall prepare and submit accurate and auditable reports covering monthly performance, quarterly strategic reviews, and annual statutory statements. These reports shall include asset allocation compliance, mark-to-market valuations, and yield deviations. The Advisory Firm shall also conduct and present quarterly portfolio review meetings before the Board of Trustees covering portfolio performance, yield variations, and market outlook.

4. Technical Qualification Criteria and Document Submission Framework

Applicant firms must submit complete and valid documents to prove that they meet all the requirements mentioned below. The documents must be genuine and verifiable. Failure to provide valid proof for any mandatory statutory requirement will result in immediate technical disqualification.

Technical Qualification Criteria	Required Documentary Evidence
1. Registration & Experience: Continuous 15 Years of active operational experience as a SEBI-registered entity.	Valid SEBI RIA (Registered Investment Adviser) Registration Certificate, BASL(BSE Administration & Supervision Limited) Membership Certificate.
2. Institutional Clientele: Served a minimum of 3 Central/State PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, or Exempted PF Trusts during the last three (3) financial years. (FY 2022-23,FY 2023-24 & FY 2024-25).	Official Letter of Appointments / SLAs (Service Level Agreement)/Engagement letters along with completion or subsistence certificates from the respective clients.
3. Assets Under Advisory (AUA)Managed a minimum average AUA of ₹100 Crore specifically for PSU/Autonomous/Exempted PF Trust	Statutory Auditor / CA Certified AUA Certificate with UDIN.

clients over the last 3 financial years. (FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 & FY 2024-25).	
4. Financial Strength: Minimum Net Worth of ₹5 Crore for FY 2024–25.	CA Certified Net Worth Certificate with UDIN along with Audited Financial Statement of FY 2024–25.
5. Qualified Professional Team: Minimum of 2 core team members holding valid and active SEBI-mandated NISM (National Institute of Securities Management) Series X-A & X-B (Investment Adviser) certifications with at least 5 years of relevant investment advisory experience.	Valid NISM Series X-A and Series X-B (Investment Adviser) Certificates of the designated team members along with their detailed professional resumes and experience logs.
6. Local Presence: The bidding firm must maintain a fully functional office in Pune, Maharashtra .	1) For own office: -Copy of a recent Electricity Bill, Property Tax Receipt or Valid Shop act License, 2) For rented office: -Registered Rent/Lease Agreement.
7. Regulatory Clean Record: The firm, its directors, and promoters must not be blacklisted or debarred by SEBI, RBI, EPFO, or any State/Central Government bodies/PSU's.	Self-Declaration on the firm's official letterhead, signed by an authorized signatory.
8. General Declarations: Comprehensive confirmation of regulatory compliance.	Self-Declaration Certificate signed by an authorized signatory on the firm's letterhead (as per Annexure A).
9. Statutory Tax Documents	Copies of the firm's PAN Card and GST Registration Certificate.
10. Non-Blacklisting Status Confirmation of an unblemished corporate and operating history.	Non-Blacklisting Certificate / Affidavit executed on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.500.
12. Technical & Strategic Presentation: 12.1. Current Equity Market Scenarios & Analysis 12.2. National & Global Economic Outlook 12.3. Interest Rate Trends & RBI Policy Directions 12.4. Sectoral Opportunities & Structural Growth Spaces 12.5. Asset Allocation Strategy Optimized for MSWC 12.6. Key Risk Factors (Systemic, Credit, and Liquidity Risks) 12.7. Experience and Expertise in Managing Exempted PF Trust Portfolios	Hardcopy and PDF version of the presentation (PPT) to be submitted on the day of the Technical Evaluation Committee meeting.

5. Evaluation and Scoring Matrix

Eligible Advisory Firms will be evaluated for a maximum of 100 marks based on the documents submitted and strategic presentation. Firms must score at least **40** marks to qualify for the presentation stage. The final score will be based on both the technical evaluation and presentation. Firms scoring **60** marks out of 100 will be eligible for empanelment.

Sr.No.	Evaluation Parameter	Scoring Breakdown & Marking Methodology	Max Marks
1	Registration & Experience	• 15 Years of active operations: 5 Marks	10
		• Above 15 to 20 Years of active operations: 7 Marks	
		• Above 20 Years of active operations: 10 Marks	
2	Institutional Clientele Served a minimum of 3 Central/State PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, or Exempted PF during the last 3 financial years. (FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 & FY 2024-25).	• Minimum 3 eligible Central/State PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, or Exempted PF Trusts served: 10 Marks	20
		• More than 3-5 eligible Central/State PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, or Exempted PF Trusts served: 15 Marks	
		• Above 5 eligible Central/State PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, or Exempted PF Trusts served PSU / Trust clients served: 20 Marks	
3	Assets Under Advisory (AUA) last 3 financial years. (FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 & FY 2024-25).	• Average AUA of ₹100 Crores: 10 Marks	15
		• Average AUA above ₹100 to ₹200 Crores: 12 Marks	
		• Average AUA above ₹ 200 Crores: 15 Marks	
4	Financial Strength (Net Worth) Net Worth Certificate with UDIN	• Net Worth of ₹5 Crore: 10 Marks	15
		• Net Worth above ₹5 to ₹7 Crore: 12 Marks	
		• Net Worth above ₹7 Crore: 15 Marks	
5	Qualified Professional Team	• 2 core members with valid NISM X-A & X-B: 5 Marks	10
		• More than 2 core members with valid NISM X-A & X-B: 10 Marks	
6	Technical & Strategic Presentation	Comprehensive live presentation before the Board of Trustees across:	30

		• 6.1. Current Equity Market Scenarios & Valuation Analysis • 6.2. National & Global Economic Growth Outlook • 6.3. Interest Rate Trends & RBI Monetary Policy • 6.4. Sectoral Opportunities & Structural Growth Spaces • 6.5. Asset Allocation Strategy Optimized for MSWC Fund Caps • 6.6. Key Risk Factors (Systemic, Credit, and Liquidity Risks) • 6.7. Practical Experience in Managing Exempted PF Trust Portfolios	
		(Bidders must score a minimum of 20 marks in this presentation segment to qualify)	
TOTAL	Total Score	Total 60 Marks aggregate required to qualify for panel inclusion.	100

6. Legal, Liability, and Operational Provisions

6.1. Absolute Indemnity and Uncapped Liability

The Investment Advisory Firm shall fully protect and compensate the MSWC EPF Trust and its Trustees for any direct financial loss, legal expenses, or regulatory penalties caused by the Advisor's professional negligence, fraud, incorrect or biased advice, breach of fiduciary duty, or violation of SEBI/MoF regulations. The Advisor's liability for such failures shall be unlimited, and this obligation shall continue even after the empanelment ends.

6.2. Unfettered Audit and Inspection Rights

The MSWC, its appointed internal or any other auditors, the EPFO, and the retain the full, unfettered right to conduct audits and inspect the Advisor's books of accounts, research rationales, credit assessment notes, and electronic records pertaining to the Trust's portfolio. The Investment Advisory Firm is legally obligated to provide unhindered access to all requested documentation immediately of receiving formal written requirement.

6.3. Confidentiality and Data Protection

The Investment Advisory firm is contractually bound to maintain absolute confidentiality and data security regarding all Trust portfolio data, financial records, and sensitive Member information accessed during the tenure of the engagement.

6.4. Immediate Disqualification / Termination of Empanelment

The empanelment shall be immediately voided, bypassing any notice period, upon: the formal declaration of insolvency or bankruptcy; the cancellation of SEBI Registration; the discovery of undisclosed commissions; or any conviction or formal implication of the Advisory Firm or its personnel in any criminal offense

involving moral turpitude, financial fraud, embezzlement, or forgery. Any violation of applicable laws, SEBI Regulations, Ministry of Finance guidelines, Rule 67 of the Income-tax Rules, or any other statutory or regulatory requirements governing the Trust's investments.

7. GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

1. The Investment Advisory Firm shall be solely responsible for submitting the application on time. Applications shall be submitted in physical form only.

2. Eligibility shall be decided based on the prescribed criteria and the information and documents submitted by the applicant.

3. MSWC EPF Trust may ask for clarifications or additional documents/information from any applicant whenever required.

4. MSWC EPF Trust may accept or reject any application, fully or partly, or cancel the entire process at any stage without giving any reason. The decision of the MSWC Evaluation Committee shall be final and binding.

5. MSWC EPF Trust may issue clarifications, amendments, or corrigenda before the last date of submission. Applicants must consider them while preparing their proposals and regularly check the MSWC website(www.mswarehousing.com) for updates.

6. Any application received by MSWC EPF Trust after the scheduled closing date and time will not be accepted.

7. Bidders are required to submit only the Technical Bid

8. The proposal must be submitted strictly as per the terms and conditions of the EOI document.

9. The proposal and supporting documents shall be in English. Overwriting, erasures, corrections, or correction fluid/white ink shall not be accepted. All pages must be signed and stamped by the authorised signatory, and supporting documents must also be properly authenticated.

10. The initial period of empanelment shall be one (1) year (FY 2026–27), which may be extended for a further period of up to two (2) years at the sole discretion of the MSWC EPF Trust, subject to satisfactory performance and continued eligibility.

11. If performance is unsatisfactory, MSWC EPF Trust may terminate the empanelment by giving one month's written notice.

12. An empanelled Investment Advisory Firm wishing to withdraw shall give at least three months' prior written notice to the MSWC EPF Trust.

13. No Obligation to Empanel—Mere participation does not confer any right to empanelment.

14. Conflict of Interest Declaration—Every applicant must submit a mandatory Conflict of Interest Declaration.

15. Force Majeure Clause—Neither the Trust nor the Advisory Firm shall be responsible for delay or failure caused by events beyond reasonable control, such as natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, war, riots, government restrictions, epidemics/pandemics, or similar events. The affected party must promptly inform the other party, take reasonable steps to reduce the impact,

and resume work as soon as possible. Force Majeure shall not excuse obligations that can still reasonably be performed.

16. Only Private Limited and Public Limited companies shall be eligible to participate in this EOI.

17. Any dispute relating to the EOI or subsequent agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of courts at Pune.

DISCLAIMER

Prospective Applicants responding to this Expression of Interest (EOI) acknowledge and agree as follows:

1. This EOI is issued by the **Maharashtra State Warehousing Corporation Employees' Provident Fund Trust (MSWC EPF Trust)** solely for the purpose of identifying and empanelling eligible Investment Advisory Firm. It shall not be construed as an offer, invitation to contract, or commitment by the MSWC EPF Trust to award any contract or engagement.
2. The MSWC EPF Trust reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications, to modify, amend, suspend, withdraw, or cancel this EOI, wholly or partly, at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever. No applicant shall have any claim against the MSWC EPF Trust arising out of such action.
3. Submission of an application shall not confer any right upon the applicant to be empanelled or appointed as an Investment Advisory Firm.
4. All proposals, documents, and information submitted in response to this EOI shall become the property of the MSWC EPF Trust and may be used solely for evaluation, verification, audit, record-keeping, and other official purposes.
5. Applicants shall maintain the confidentiality of all information provided by the MSWC EPF Trust and shall comply with all applicable laws, SEBI Regulations, Rule 67 of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, Ministry of Finance Guidelines, and other applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.
6. Applicants shall disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest that may affect their ability to provide independent and unbiased investment advisory services.
7. The MSWC EPF Trust shall not be liable for any costs, expenses, losses, damages, or liabilities incurred by any applicant in connection with the preparation or submission of the application or participation in this EOI process, irrespective of the outcome.
8. The completed application, together with all supporting documents, shall be submitted a duly signed hard copy addressed to the **Maharashtra State Warehousing Corporation Employee's Provident Fund, Survey No.583/B, Gultekadi Market Yard Plot No.37 to 56, Infront of Market Yard PMT Depo, Pune-411037** on or before **3:00 PM on 21 September 2026**.

ANNEXURE A: GENERAL DECLARATIONS

(To be strictly typed on the official letterhead of the bidding entity and signed by the Authorized Signatory)

Date: [Insert Date]

To,

The Board of Trustees,

MSWC Contributory Employees' Provident Fund Trust,
Head Office, Pune, Maharashtra.

Subject: Submission of General Declarations regarding Regulatory Compliance, Non-Blacklisting, and Mitigation of Conflict of Interest for Empanelment as Investment Advisory Firm.

Ref: EOI / RFP Notice No: [Insert Tender Reference Number]

Respected Trustees,

I, [Insert Name of Authorized Signatory], acting in my formal capacity as [Insert Designation/Title, e.g., Managing Director/Director] and being duly authorized via [Insert "Board Resolution dated DD/MM/YYYY" or "Power of Attorney dated DD/MM/YYYY"] to legally bind M/s. [Insert Full Legal Name of the Bidding Firm] (hereinafter referred to as the "Advisor"), do hereby solemnly declare and certify the following parameters:

1. **SEBI & BASL Regulatory Compliance:** The Advisor holds a valid and active registration as an Investment Advisor with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI Registration No: _____) and a valid membership with BSE/NSE Administration & Supervision Ltd. (BASL Membership No: _____). Both registrations remain in absolute good standing, and no suspension or restrictive administrative actions have been initiated or executed against the Advisor till date.
2. **Absolute Non-Blacklisting Status:** The Advisor, including its promoters, directors, key managerial personnel, parent entity, and subsidiaries, has never been blacklisted, debarred, suspended, or barred from participating in public procurement or financial services by SEBI, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), any Ministry of the Central Government, or any State Government/Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) across India.
3. **No Adverse Regulatory Action:** There are no active, pending, or historical criminal prosecutions, regulatory adjudications, or formal investigations initiated against the Advisor or its core personnel by SEBI, RBI, EPFO, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), or any court.
4. **Absolute Mitigation of Conflict of Interest:** The Advisor operates entirely independent of any structural conflict of interest. We explicitly warrant that no direct or indirect commercial, proprietary, or personal ties exist with any asset management companies (AMCs), bond issuers, primary dealers, or brokerages

whose financial instruments may be evaluated or recommended to the MSWC EPF Trust.

5. **Zero-Remuneration Policy Adherence:** The Advisor explicitly accepts the "strictly pro bono" and non-discretionary scope of this empanelment.
6. **Acceptance of Final Trustee Authority:** The Advisor fully accepts that our role is strictly advisory. We acknowledge that the ultimate, absolute decision-making authority to execute, modify, or reject any investment recommendation rests solely and exclusively with the Board of Trustees of the MSWC EPF Trust.

All facts, statements, and documentary evidence submitted in our technical Envelop are completely accurate, true, and auditable. We fully understand that any misrepresentation, concealment of facts, or breach of these undertakings shall result in immediate disqualification from the empanelment process and invite absolute legal and statutory penalties.

Declared, signed, and stamped on this _____ day of _____, 2026.

For and on behalf of M/s. [Insert Bidding Firm Name]

(Signature of Authorized Signatory)

Name: [Insert Name]

Designation: [Insert Designation]

Company Seal / Stamp: [Affix Official Stamp]

SECTION – ‘1’
Appointment of EOI for Empanelment of Investment Advisory Firms in MSWCEPF Trust
APPLICATION FORM

To,

Maharashtra State Warehousing Corporation Employee’s Provident Fund,
Survey No.583/B, Gultekadi Market Yard Plot No.37 to 56,
Infront of Market Yard PMT Depo,
Pune-411037

Sr.No.	Particulars	Eligibility / Information Required	Self-certified Supporting Documents to be Submitted
1	Name of the Firm & SEBI Registration No.	Name of the Investment Advisor and valid SEBI Registration Number	Copy of valid SEBI Registration Certificate
2	Firm Office Address (Registered/Corporate Office and Branch Office, if any)	Complete postal address	1)For own office: -Copy of a recent Electricity Bill, Property Tax Receipt or Valid Shop act License, 2)For rented office: -Registered Rent/Lease Agreement.
3	Permanent Account Number (PAN)	PAN of the Firm	Self-attested copy of PAN Card
4	GST Registration Number	GSTIN of the Firm	Self-attested copy of GST Registration Certificate
5	BASL Membership	BASL Membership Number	Copy of BASL Membership Certificate
6	Date of Establishment and Years of Existence	Date of establishment and total years of existence	Certificate of Incorporation
7	Details of Directors/Key Personnel	Educational qualifications, professional qualifications and experience	As per Format–A along with self-attested copies of educational certificates, NISM Certificates and experience details
8	Experience of Investment Advisory Services	The firm should have served at least three (3) Central/ State PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, or Exempted PF Trusts during the last 3 FY 2022–23 to FY 2024–25.	As per Format–B, Official Letter of Appointments / SLAs (Service Level Agreement)/Engagement letters along with completion or subsistence certificates from the respective clients.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Eligibility / Information Required	Self-certified Supporting Documents to be Submitted
9	Average Assets Under Advisory (AUA)	Minimum average AUA of ₹100 crore for Central/State PSU/Autonomous Bodies/Exempted PF Trust clients during FY 2022–23 to FY 2024–25	Statutory Auditor / CA Certified AUA Certificate with UDIN
10	Financial Strength – Net Worth	Minimum Net Worth of ₹5 crore as on 31 March 2025	CA Certified Net Worth Certificate with UDIN along with Audited Financial Statement of FY 2024–25.
11	Investment Advisory Team	Qualified Professional Team: Minimum of 2 core team members holding valid and active SEBI-mandated NISM (National Institute of Securities Management) Series X-A & X-B (Investment Adviser) certifications with at least 5 years of relevant investment advisory experience.	Valid NISM Series X-A and Series X-B (Investment Adviser) Certificates of the designated team members along with their detailed professional resumes and experience logs.
12	Declaration regarding Conflict of Interest	Signed Declaration	Annexure A
13	Declaration of Compliance with Rule 67, Ministry of Finance Guidelines and SEBI Regulations	Signed Declaration	Annexure A
14	Undertaking regarding No Blacklisting	Self-declaration	Annexure A
15	Power of Attorney/Board Resolution authorising the signatory	Certified Copy (where applicable)	Annexure A

Format – A

Details of Qualified Professionals / Investment Advisory Team

Sr. No.	Name of Professional	Designation	Date of Joining the Firm (Full-time)	Educational Qualification	NISM Certification (Certificate No. & Validity)	Area of Expertise	Relevant Experience (Years)
1							
2							
3							

Documentary Evidence to be Submitted:

Self-attested copies of valid NISM Certificates.

Format – B

Details of Investment Advisory Experience

Sr. No.	Financial Year	Name of Central – State PSU / Autonomous Bodies / Exempted PF Trust	Nature of Assignment	Assets Under Advisory (AUA) (₹ Crore)	Period of Engagement	Remarks
1	2022–23					
2	2023–24					
3	2024–25					

Documentary Evidence to be Submitted:

Copy of Appointment Letter / Work Order

Experience / Completion / Performance Certificate issued by the client.

Certificate from the Statutory Auditor / Chartered Accountant certifying the Assets Under Advisory (AUA), wherever applicable.