

No: CMD/109/Hackathon/2024-25

Date:19.07.2024

To

The Chief Executive Officer
Kerala Start Up Mission
Thiruvananthapuram.

Sir,

Sub:- Hackathon to automate electricity meter reading – reg.

KSEBL faces the following two issues in the manual meter reading taken through meter readers.

1. A Meter Reader has to visit the premises – time consuming & expensive.
2. He/she has to enter the meter reading into the POS machine – possibility of error.

The above process is time consuming and costly because of which bills are generated only once in two months. This is causing additional burden to small families who have small monthly budgets. They are forced to pay the bills of two months together and there have been several requests to implement monthly billing, which may incur additional costs.

KSEBL proposes to develop alternate methodology in the absence of smart metering system (which may take another 3 to 4 years for implementation).

Option 1

The consumer downloads an app and scans the meter reading on a designated date made at the end of the monthly billing period. The image captured is converted to reading, uploaded to server and processed through the billing software of KSEBL. In this method, the following options can also be provided.

- a. The consumer number, Aadhar number, phone number and location of the meter while setting up the application by the consumer or selected from a master database

- b. After capturing the image and conversion to numeral data, option for rechecking has to be given
- c. Once rechecked, the consumer will be requested whether he/she is willing to pay immediately or to schedule payment on a later date.
- d. He/she should be given the option of payment through Debit Card/Credit card/QR code-based payment/wallet, etc

Option 2

A Bluetooth/RFID device is attached to the digital meters installed and once the operator reaches near the meter, say within 50 meters, it will show the Consumer number or from a set of consumer numbers, the correct consumer number will be selected by the meter reader. Once the consumer number is selected, the reading is automatically downloaded to the POS machine without any intervention or manual entry by the meter reader. He/she can be given the provision for verifying the meter reading before data is sent to the server.

It is proposed to conduct a "**Hackathon**" for which Expressions of Interest from startups who are willing to develop the above two software applications for KSEBL are hereby invited. The selected EoI will be shortlisted by a Technical Committee and "hackathon" will be conducted. The best product that is developed within 3 months' time will be awarded Rs 5 lakhs as reward by KSEBL. I request you to circulate this among the startups and request them to submit the proposal on or before 31.07.2024 to the following address.

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Yours faithfully,

Chairman & Managing Director