



In the

Reserve Bank of India
10/3/8, Nrupathunga Road
Bengaluru-560001

Present

Shri K S Praveen
Assistant General Manager

Date: February 14, 2019
C.A. BGL 332/2018

In the matter of

M/s Workplace Options India Private Limited
C2-601 Tower C, The Millenia, 6th Floor
No.1 and 2 Murphy Road, Ulsoor
Bengaluru 560008
(Applicant)

In exercise of the powers under section 15 (1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and the Regulations/Rules/Notifications/Orders framed there under, I pass the following

ORDER

The applicant has filed a compounding application dated October 23, 2018, received at this office of Reserve Bank of India, Bengaluru, on October 23, 2018, for compounding of contraventions of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, (the FEMA) and the regulations issued there under. The contravention sought to be compounded is allotment of shares to persons resident outside India, prior to receipt of inward remittances, in terms of Paragraph 8 of Schedule I to Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000, notified vide Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB dated May 03, 2000, and as amended from time to time (hereinafter referred to as Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB).

2. The relevant facts of the case are as follows: The applicant, M/s Workplace Options India Private Limited, was incorporated on February 25,



2014, under the Companies Act, 1956, as per the Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka. The activity undertaken by the company is to act as service provider to create and enhance web based applications to bring new solutions to human resource departments of clients and work with global consultants, sector associations as well as experts from national and international agencies associated with research and development, training, skill development, course accreditation or other required specializations in various sectors.

3. The company had allotted 9999 equity shares and 1 equity share, totalling to ₹1,00,000.00, to the non-resident investors, M/s Workplace Options Finance SARL, Luxemburg, and Mr. Carey Dean Debnam, USA, respectively, as subscription to Memorandum of Association, on February 25, 2014. However, the inward remittances, of ₹97,597.25, and ₹2,402.75, pertaining to the aforesaid allotment, were received on September 18, 2014, and March 05, 2015, respectively after the allotment of shares. Whereas, in terms of Paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB dated May 03, 2000, as amended from time to time, read with A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No.20 dated December 14, 2007, an Indian company accepting FDI has to receive the share application money from the non-resident investor prior to the allotment of shares, and the shares have to be issued/amount to be refunded within 180 days of from the date of receipt of inward remittance. The amount of contravention is **₹1,00,000.00**, and the period of delay ranges from six months and twenty four days to one year and eight days.

4. The applicant was given an opportunity for personal hearing, vide Reserve Bank's letter FE.BG.FID (CEFA) No. 2792 /22.10.035/2018-19, dated February 07, 2019, for further submission in person and/or producing documents, if any, in support of the application. The applicant's authorized representatives, Ms. Maullika Sharma, Director, Mr. Pampa Reddy, Finance Manager, and Mr. Sharanbasu Y S, who appeared for the personal hearing on February 14, 2019, admitted the contravention as stated in paragraph 3 above, committed by the



applicant, for which compounding has been sought. The representatives of the applicant requested that as the contravention was not intentional or with a malafide intention and was mainly due to inadvertence, a lenient view may be taken in disposal of the application. The application for compounding is, therefore, being considered on the basis of the averments made in the application, as well as other documents and submissions made in this context by the applicant during personal hearing and thereafter.

5. I have given my careful consideration to the documents on record and submission made by the applicant during the personal hearing. Accordingly, I hold that the applicant has contravened the following FEMA provisions issued in terms of:

(a) Paragraph 8 of Schedule I to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB, as the applicant allotted shares to the non-resident investor, prior to the receipt of amount of consideration as detailed in paragraph 3 above. The contravention relates to an amount of **₹1,00,000.00**, and the period of delay ranges from six months and twenty four days to one year and eight days.

6. It has been declared in the compounding application dated October 23, 2018, that the particulars given by the applicant in the application are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. It has been declared in the undertaking, furnished with the compounding application that the applicant was not under any enquiry/investigation/adjudication by any agency as on the date of the application and has, in this regard, not informed of initiation of any such enquiry/investigation/adjudication proceedings against it thereafter. It has further been declared that the applicant has not filed any appeal under Section 17 or Section 19 of FEMA, 1999. Accordingly, the above contravention which is being compounded in this order is subject to the veracity of the above declarations made by the applicant and this order is without prejudice to any other action which may be taken by any authority under the extant laws, if the said declarations are subsequently discovered to be false and/or incorrect.



7. In terms of Section 13 of the FEMA, any person contravening any provision of the Act, shall be liable to a penalty up to thrice the sum involved, in such contravention upon adjudication. However, taking into account the relevant facts and circumstances of the case as stated in the foregoing paragraphs, I am persuaded to take a lenient view on the amount for which the contravention is to be compounded and I consider that an amount of **₹30,301.00 (Rupees Thirty Thousand Three Hundred and One only)** will meet the ends of justice.

8. Accordingly, I compound the admitted contravention namely, contravention of Paragraph 8 of Schedule I to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB by the applicant on the facts discussed above in terms of the Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000 on payment of an amount of **₹30,301.00 (Rupees Thirty Thousand Three Hundred and One only)** which shall be deposited by the applicant with the Reserve Bank of India, Foreign Exchange Department, 2nd Floor, 10/3/8, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru – 560001, by a demand draft drawn in favour of the “Reserve Bank of India”, and payable at Bengaluru within a period of 15 days from the date of this order. In case of failure to deposit the compounded amount within the above mentioned period, Rule 10 of the Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000, dated May 3, 2000, shall apply.

The application is disposed of accordingly.

Dated this, the Fourteenth day of February 2019.

Sd/-

(K S Praveen)
Assistant General Manager