



**Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)**

**Independent Power Producer (IPP) for 2x Solar & BESS REGF's for Samoa | Q&A 31/07/2024**

No.	Questions / Clarifications asked for	Answer / Clarification Given
1	[Our company is] not an IPP but we would like to provide our EMS. You are expecting the IPP to provide an EMS? Can we submit our response as EMS provider only? I guess that the system should interface with your local SCADA?	In regard to the EOI requirements, we are unable to accept an EMS-only submission. Hence we kindly advise [your company] to partner with an IPP entity.
2	Could the EPC be persuaded to adopt a different approach? [Adopt biogas fuelled generation that supports baseload, dispatchable, and renewable electricity inclusive of all grid support services being voltage regulation, frequency control, and rapid peak demand response]	EPC is seeking Solar + BESS IPPs for this call. However generation diversification will increase our chances to achieve our local energy mandates, hence we are not ruling out bioenergy solutions in our long term planning. There are pilot bioenergy projects around the country we are keen to see if they perform well (some have not).
3	[Our company] would appreciate if you could consider our request and provide an extension of at least two weeks for the proposal submission deadline, so we may get sufficient time to thoroughly complete all the necessary paperwork and ensure that our proposal is comprehensive, accurate, and aligned with the requirements of the project.	In order to maintain the timing of the overall project, we will not be able to provide an extension of time for EOI submissions.
4	For the EOI, is it important to provide 3 years of audited financial statements?	Yes this is a requirement for the EOI. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party prepared abridged versions are acceptable at this stage.
5	Can you please provide more details around EPC can sub-lease to the IPP under lease agreement. What are the proposed terms of the land lease?	Property at both sites is legally leased to EPC from Samoa Land Corporation (State Own Enterprise), and will be subleased to the IPP for the duration of the PPA. The amount of rent to be paid by the IPP will be specified in the next stage of the tender process. Please do not include a land rental cost in your indicative price range in Annex A3
6	Do you intend to have a single or multiple IPPs for your Fiaga and Salelologa sites?	Respondents are invited to provide an EOI response for either REGF1 or REGF2 or both.
7	Would EPC have any specifications for the proposed access roads to the sites?	It would be EPC's responsibility to build access roads to the sites since the roads will be used for access of EPC. The IPPs will focus on the sites layout and plant orientation. As for specification for the roads we should follow specifications stipulated by the Land Transport Authority, especially for the Salelologa site because it is a public road.



8	Can you advise us if the proposed sites will be subleased to the successful IPPs, and if so, at what cost per acre, and for how long?	Land will be subleased to the IPP for the duration of the PPA. The amount of rent to be paid by the IPP will be specified in the next stage of the tender process.
9	How are the exhaust gases of the Diesel power plant released? Will it have an effect on the solar power plant?	Via vertical exhaust ducts, tailpipe opening at 26.56 metres from ground level. We therefore expect the impact to irradiance to be minimal. You may wish to allow for a slightly augmented cleaning regime in case of any soiling effects.
10	What is the height of the Diesel Power Plant?	The height of the building is 13.36 metres.
11	What is the distance to the power evacuation point of the two power plants?	<p>For the Fiaga site, the transmission feeder substation elements are also housed in the same compound.</p> <p>For the Salelologa site, the generated electricity will be transmitted via a pure 22kV line (4.2km in length) to the EPC Savaii main substation (-13.732408, -172.228962) for feeder distribution.</p> <p>For the purposes of the EOI, please consider the boundary of each Site as to where the point of connection will be.</p>
12	Are there plans for expansion for the Diesel Power Plant?	There are no plans to expand the current Fiaga Diesel Power Plant.
13	Rate indicated for BESS is USD/Month. Are you expecting to provide a fixed monthly rental for the BESS system?	<p>For the purposes of the EOI, please provide a fixed monthly rental value as requested.</p> <p>Additionally, please feel free to include other models in your submission for EPC to consider if you wish to.</p>
14	We kindly request that email submission be made the mandatory tender submission method. Due to the logistical challenges of shipping hard copies to Samoa, including potential delays and risks, we believe that an exclusively electronic submission process would streamline the tendering process.	This request is granted, submissions must be made electronically and respondents will include a hard copy that can now arrive at EPC at a date later than EOI closing.
15	Please confirm if the export to grid will be limited to 20MW for REGF1 and 2.5MW for REGF2 or the plant can export the maximum available power into grid which can be ~25MW for REGF1 and ~10MW for REGF2.	There are two connection points at each REGF - one for the solar output, and one for the BESS output (rated at their proposed maximum capacities). This allows the utility to have more visibility and control of the BESS.
16	Please confirm what will be priority for the solar system. Charge the Battery and supply excess to the grid or supply to the grid and charge the battery with the excess generation.	The IPP will be required to operate the solar and BESS system as per operating protocols that will be developed jointly between EPC and the IPP. There will be occasions where the BESS will need to respond to instructions provided by the network, but within certain parameters/limits (e.g. to ensure warranty and operational requirements are met).



		Note that this is one reason for requesting a fixed monthly payment for the BESS independent of energy passing through it.
17	Please share hourly demand (kW) for a year if available.	This data has been uploaded onto EPC's website via <a href="https://www.epc.ws/tender/">https://www.epc.ws/tender/</a>
18	We kindly request a two to three-week extension of the submission deadline to enable thorough design finalization and cost verification for a robust bid.	See response #3 above, in order to maintain the timing of the overall project, we will not be able to provide an extension of time for EOI submissions.
19	Please elaborate more about the principle of the Battery Storage System operation. In which mode, the Battery Storage System will be operated and what kind of the minimum requirements will be there?	See response #16 above.
20	Is EPC planning to procure a sovereign guarantee guaranteeing payment obligations to the IPP?	No
21	Is one of the purposes of the BESS to provide reactive power support?	See response #16 above.
22	We understand that a proposal in the EOI are nonbinding. Is this correct? Are there any legally binding matters regarding the submission of EOI? At the RFT stage, if an applicant is shortlisted but is unable to apply for the RFT, are there any penalties?	Proposals in the EOI are non-binding, and there are no penalties if a shortlisted applicant does not submit a full proposal in response to the RFT. However please note the intention is that only respondents who submit an EOI will be evaluated and potentially invited to the RFT process.
23	Regarding the required capacity in Upolu, we assume that the introduction of 25MWp of solar will result in stop operation of some existing diesel plants to increase renewable energy ratio. Is it reasonable to study equipment installation for EOI under the condition that stable grid operation can be achieved by operating at least one diesel unit? (Are there any technical supports for this?)	For the purposes of the EOI, please assume that the BESS will require grid forming inverters.
24	The Max Export Power of the Fiaga site on Upolu Island is 20MW. However, the required additional solar size 25MWp (up to 30MWp), which does not match the Max Export Power. Will the EPC upgrade the transmission line's capacity, or will the IPP do it and bear the costs?	25MWp describes the solar dc capacity, not the AC connection capacity – some oversize DC:AC ratio is expected. The IPP is not expected to upgrade the transmission lines. Please also refer to response #15 above.
25	Where can we get the grid code "EPC Grid Code for Solar PV plant and with Battery Storage"?	The EPC Grid Code document can be found on the EPC website via <a href="https://www.epc.ws/tender/">https://www.epc.ws/tender/</a>
26	We have not yet ordered equipment and do not have detailed specifications at present, but what are the minimum requirements for "warranties" at the EOI submission stage?	This is for the IPP to nominate. The equipment and their warranties need to be selected so that the IPP can provide a reliable service for the full term of the PPA.



27	If the electronic copy of the EOI documents are received by the deadline, will the printed documents be accepted even if it is late?	See response to #14 above, submissions must be made electronically by the due date.
28	Regarding the joint venture members in Annex A1, is it possible to list potential partners?	Yes
29	Regarding the indicative price in Annex A3, is it acceptable to use a price that does not include VAT?	Yes
30	Regarding the indicative price of Annex A3, we would like to present the price for each component according to our proposing equipment configuration.	The requirement is to respond as per the EOI request in terms of both the specific equipment and pricing structure. Additional information may be provided, but this optional.