SOLAR ENERGY CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

New Delhi

Date: 05-12-2023

Request for Selection (RfS) Document for Selection of Solar Power Developers for Setting up of 15 MW of Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar PV Projects on Government buildings under RESCO mode through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding: Clarifications to the queries on the RfS

(RfS No. SECI/C&P/IPP/14/0002/23-24 dated: 07.07.2023)

S. No.	Documents	Clause No.	Existing Clause	Proposed Modifications	Rationale/Remarks	SECI's response
1	RfS	31.3	Technical Eligibility Criteria Modification: "The Bidder must have experience in Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plants of cumulative Capacity not less than 50% of quoted capacity in the last 07 (Seven) Financial Years prior to the bid submission deadline of this RfS. The Solar PV Power Plants must be commissioned and should be operating satisfactorily for a period not less than 1 year. The last date of bid submission will be the cut-off date for consideration of such experience". AND "The Bidder must have experience in Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of at least 02 (Two) Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plants of individual minimum capacities of not less than 50 kW in the last 07 (Seven) Financial Years prior to the bid submission deadline of this RfS. The Solar PV Power Plants and Solar Systems must be commissioned and should be operating satisfactorily for a period not less than 01 year".		Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited ("SECI") has not mentioned that can bidders use their Affiliate/Associates companies to meet the technical qualification requirement. Generally, solar power developers establish special purpose vehicle (SPV) companies to execute the projects. In this case, the technical experience would be attributed to the SPV company, which is the case for most developers. Therefore, while participating in any tender, the parent company draws upon the experience of its associate companies to meet the technical eligibility criteria. Therefore, we kindly request you to permit bidders to utilize their Affiliate/Associate companies to fulfil the technical qualification criteria for this tender, as well as for your forthcoming tenders. This is a common and standard practice permitted by SECI earlier and other State Nodal Agencies ("SNA") in their tenders.	
2			Payment Security from MCD		This should include options such as a Letter of Credit or an Escrow Account, which will be facilitated by MCD and extended to the Solar Power Developers.	

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3			Theft issue on the sites	MCD does not usually fulfil its obligations to ensure security at the solar plant (as is stipulated in the Power Purchase Agreement), resulting in theft issues at sites. Morever, MCD then does not offer adequate support for claiming insurance and ensuring security improvements to ensure the thefts don't occur again. On three sites, we had cable theft, and after we replaced such cables, they were promptly stolen again.
4			Deemed Generation	When sites are closed due to MCD's unwillingness to provide adequate security for solar plants, MCD is required as per the Power Purchase Agreement to pay deemed generation to cover the solar developer's losses. The relevant clause/s of PPA shall be complied by the MCD.
5	RfS	10.3	Performance Bank Guarantee: As per RFS, O&M PBG, clause 10.3, the SPD shall submit O&M Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) for a value @ INR 5.14 Lakh/MW/Project (Indian Rupees Five Lakhs and Fourteen Thousand per MW per Project), valid up to 3 years from COD.	We request to allow bidders to provide PBGs solely in the name of SECI.
6	PPA	8.3.j	Water Supply: As per PPA, clause 8.3.J, Expense of water shall be borne by SPD as per the approved rates of Govt. of India, at a given point as per the requirements of the SPD, for periodic cleaning of the solar panels.	In accordance with industry norms, the obligation to provide water for the regular cleaning of solar panels at the site falls under the responsibility of the power purchaser. Consequently, this task should be included within the scope of MCD. The water connection to the bidder shall be provided at a certain point in the building premises.
7			Tree Trimming	Given that this query was raised by all the bidders during the prebid meet, if there arises a necessity to trim the trees at the designated sites, this task should fall under the MCD scope. This will be covered under the scope of vendor.

Note: All the queries received from various prospective bidders have been scrutinized and have been tried to be answered comprehensively. In case of any query not published here and is not covered under the Amendments issued to the RfS, it shall be construed in such cases, tender conditions shall prevail.