

29/8/2018

MEW/ITB/25/2018 – INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ELECTRICITY FROM SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATIONS WITH CAPACITY OF 1000KWP OR MORE

Reference is made to the scheme in caption for which the deadline for submission of offers is the 26 October 2018 at 1200hrs CET.

Here-under please find the Q&As from the clarification meeting held on the 29th August 2018, held at Conti Hall, Water Services Corporation, Luqa. Replies are in *italics*.

This clarification is construed to form an integral part of the ITB document.

Meeting start time: 10:05

A presentation was delivered to emphasise the essential points within this competitive bidding process and the changes that have been made from the first ITB.

It was also emphasized that when submitting a bid, the site to be developed into a solar farm and its boundaries must be accurately shown in the site plans and photos submitted with the ITB.

Question 1:

- Can the presentation delivered during this event be made available to the bidders?

Yes, it will be uploaded on the MEW's website.

Question 2

- Can one use the same grid connection study submitted in the previous call?

The grid connection study must be dated not earlier than 90 calendar days from the publishing of this ITB document as per point 1 of Annex 1 to the ITB.

Question 3

- Does the declaration regarding the right of use of the site have to be signed by the owner of the site?

A declaration has to be provided by the owner or occupier of the site as per clause 15.1(a)(iii) to the ITB.

Question 4

- Does a bidder who will not be using any financing from the bank still need to submit a statement by a recognised bank?

Yes

Question 5

- In the case of a consortium, does one letter from the bank for the consortium suffice?

*Clause 15.1(b)(i) applies to **all** bidders.*

Question 6:

- What happens if two different bidders declare exclusive ownership of the same site to be developed as a PV Farm? Will they be automatically disqualified?

Effective ownership or otherwise of an identified site can only be determined by the Courts of Law, but the contracting authority shall seek legal advice should there be clear evidence of a false declaration constituting part of one or more bidder's submissions.

Question 7

- What is “land under a government concession”?

Please refer to definition in Volume 1 Section 5 of the ITB

Question 8

- Are bidders required to submit their offer in increments of 0.5 cents?

Please refer to Legal Notice 251/2018 amending Legal Notice 76/2017.

Question 9

- Does the awarded bid price include the support over and above the proxy for the market price? Will the winning bidder be selling to the grid operator and getting paid directly from the grid operator?

The awarded price includes two elements, one being the proxy for the market price and another being the premium over and above this amount. Payments due would be carried out by the grid operator.

Question 10

- If the proxy for the market price changes, does the winning bidder still get the awarded bid price?

Yes, the awarded price remains fixed for the duration of the guaranteed period unless bidder fails to abide with his contractual obligations.

Question 11:

- When will the successful bids be awarded?

The Contracting Authority aims to select the successful bidder/s by the end of 2018. However, it all depends on the type of issues that will be encountered during the evaluation process.

Question 12:

- Is this ITB open only to local (Maltese) companies?

No.

Question 13

- Is there a cap on the awarded bid price per kWh?

Sub Regulation (6) to Regulation 5 of Legal Notice 76/2017 provides for a cap on the number of full load hours which can benefit from the "awarded bid price per kWh", which in the case of photovoltaic systems is limited to 1600hrs.

Question 14

- Is there a cap on the total capacity to be awarded?

This call shall be limited to not more than 35MWp.

Question 15:

- When the final award results are published, can the capacity awarded be published as well, because in the first ITB only the bid price was published?

There should not be any issues to publish the capacity awarded to each successful bidder beside the bid price.

Question 16

- Can the same bidder apply for multiple sites?

Yes

Question 17

- In the case of a roof which is as yet not existent, what photos is the bidder expected to submit?

Photos of the site under construction where the PVs are being proposed should suffice, as the main reason for this request is to ensure that PVs haven't already been installed prior to the request for support.

Question 18:

- Why is it stated in the ITB that "The Ministry for Energy and Water Management reserves the right to refuse even the most advantageous offer"?

This is a standard clause included in all national public procurement processes.

Question 19

- Can the closing date of the ITB be extended?

The Contracting Authority reserves the right to extend the closing date of the ITB, but at this stage, it is not envisaged that there would be any such need.

Question 20

- Should site plans submitted by bidders be marked?

Yes, it is very important that the boundaries of the proposed site be clearly marked.

Question 21

- What happens if the 18-month period is extended by 6 months, but the PV system is not yet commissioned?

The developer may still be able to connect to the grid (subject to all necessary permits), but shall not be eligible for government support towards electricity generated and exported to the grid.

Question 22

- Does the project need a Planning Authority permit at bid submission stage?

Clause 15.1(a)(i) to the ITB specifies that a screening letter by the Planning Authority is required.

Question 23:

- What happens in the case where a solar farm of less than 1MWp capacity already exists and a bid is received to extend its capacity to more than 1MWp?

*The scope of this ITB is to provide support for **new** systems having a capacity of at least 1MWp. Request for upgrades to existing systems smaller than 1MWp should be directed to the Regulator for Energy and Water Services.*

Meeting end time: 10.45

All other documents, conditions and requirements, which are not superseded by this Clarification, remain in place.