



Republic of Serbia
Government

Working group for the implementation of the
selection of a strategic partner for the
implementation of the project of the construction
of self-balancing large-capacity solar power
plants with battery systems for the storage of
electricity in the Republic of Serbia

No.: 119-01-62/2023-07

Date: 29. August 2023

SUBJECT: Clarification regarding the Public Call for the selection of a strategic partner for the execution of the project of construction, excluding operation and maintenance, of self-balancing high-capacity solar power plants with battery systems for electricity storage in the Republic of Serbia.

In accordance with the Public Call, we are issuing the following answers to the questions submitted:

Question No.1

The Tender documents stated: "During the selection and implementation of strategic partners through public tendering and the signing of project execution agreements with strategic partners, the regulations on public procurement procedures and on public-private partnerships do not apply." Please clarify the commercial mode in this project: does the strategic partner play as an investor and develop the project in BT or other modes? Or just as an engineering contractor, undertaking the pre-development and EPC works, and assisting the owner in financing?

Answer:

The strategic partner is not an investor and does not finance the project.

As part of the Project implementation, the main obligations of the strategic partner are specifically defined by the Public Call and comprise the following:

Project development, design, procurement of necessary equipment and services, construction of the Project, initial operation and maintenance of the Project. In addition to the construction of solar power plants and battery systems for the storage of electricity, the strategic partner shall perform all other necessary activities, as well as the construction of all other infrastructure required for the normal operation of the Project, as well as other obligations defined by the Public Call.

The strategic partner shall provide letters of intent from international financial institutions, banks, reputable export credit agencies, or other sources of financing for the implementation of the Project.

Question No.2

If it is a financing project, what kind of guarantee could the government or the client provide?

Answer:

It is not a project that would be financed by a strategic partner.

Question No.3

Tender Documents and Formats: the client is kindly requested to provide specific lists of documents to be submitted and documents formats (if any). Official tables for applicant's experiences or personnel capabilities are also required (if any).

Answer:

In the Public Call, the Working Group established by the Government specifically defined how to prove eligibility based on each of the criteria.

Question No.4

In current stage, besides the Call FOR PROPOSAL in 16 pages, will the client provide more detailed Tender documents, including Project information, commercial and technical requirements, technical documents done in earlier stage (such as feasibility study, geological survey report, hydrological reports and topographic maps etc.)?

Answer:

All information about the Project is defined in the Public Call and the Working Group of the Government will not subsequently publish other tender documents.

Question No.5

The client is kindly requested to provide the specific information of the optional plant site (including coordinates, range of available land and 1:1000 or 1:2000 topographic map of the plant area).

Answer:

All information about the Project is defined in the Public Call.

When submitting a bid, the bidder is obliged to submit the locations that are on the territory of the Republic of Serbia which the Bidder is considering as potential sites for the implementation of this Project.

Question No.6

A bank guarantee with amount of 42 million euros is proposed in the Tender documents. As the bank guarantee is in a large amount, the bank can only issue it according to specific project and commercial conditions. However, the information provided by the client at this stage fail to support it. If it is only for qualification review at this stage, can the bank guarantee be replaced with a credit certificate issued by the bank?

Answer:

The Working Group of the Government previously modified the Public Call in that part and published it on the Ministry's website.

Together with the Bid, the Bidder is obliged to submit an irrevocable, unconditional, bank guarantee for the seriousness of the bid (Bid Bond), payable on first demand without the right of objection, and in accordance with Article 1087 of the Law of Contract and Torts, with a term of validity until the expiry of the Bid validity period, **in the amount of RSD 42,000. 000.00 (forty-two million dinars), (or equivalent in other currencies at the middle exchange rate of the National Bank on the day of issuing the bank guarantee)** by which the bank undertakes to pay the Financier the stated amount upon receipt of the Financier's first demand in writing and a declaration stating that:

- the Bidder changed or revoked the Bid during the validity period of the Bid.
- the Bidder did not, at the request of the Working Group of the Government, extend the validity of the bank guarantee within the deadline;
- the Bidder did not submit, within the appropriate timeframe, additional documentation for the purpose of clarifying the Bid, in accordance with the request of the Working Group of the Government.

The bank guarantee for the seriousness of the bid (Bid Bond) will be returned within five days from the date of delivery of the Bidder's written request for its return.

The bank guarantee cannot be replaced by another means of security ("credit certificate").

Question No.7

For the deferred payment during the construction period and the letter of intent for financing the project loan for 15 years required in the Tender documents, usually the bank needs to review technical documents such as feasibility study reports in order to issue the letter of intent. Of course, we understand that this part of the technical work needs to be carried out by the bidder in the next stage. However, we would like to know whether there are any preliminary technical proposals for reference? If there is no specific project information, the bank can issue a letter of interest

Answer:

All data available to the investor are published. The Bidder is expected to submit a letter of intent from international financial institutions, banks, reputable export credit agencies, or other sources of financing for the implementation of the Project, and in a later stage of the procedure, the elements of the loan agreement would be negotiated with the competent authorities.

Question No.8

In Section 6.3, Chapter 5 of the Tender documents, the inverter efficiency is required to exceed 98.5%, but in Section 4, Chapter 6, the nominal efficiency of the inverter is required to be at least 95%, kindly please clarify this.

Answer:

The clarification was previously published on the website of the Ministry (clarification of Public Call No. 1)

This is a technical error. The relevant value is 98.5%, which is essentially not reflected in the Bid evaluation system.

Question No.9

The client is kindly requested to provide the electrical main connection and layout diagram (or power grid related information) of the substation that can be connected to the plant.

Answer:

All information required for the stage of submission of bids is contained in the Public Call.

Question No.10

The client is kindly requested to provide the requirements for the connection system of each power plant, including the outgoing line voltage level, the number of outgoing line circuits, and the outgoing line direction, etc.

Answer:

All information required for the stage of submission of bids is contained in the Public Call.

Question No.11

Is it possible to use the work experience/performance of the parent company for tendering? Is the result of this tender determined to be one shortlisted or multiple shortlisted?

Answer:

The parent company can only provide references to the branch it founded.

After evaluating the bids, the Working Group of the Government invites only the first-ranked Bidder for further negotiations

These responses are an integral part of the Public Call.