

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND

HEAD OFFICE

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28 September 2021



OUR REF:.....

YOUR REF:.....

WHEN CALLING WITH REFERENCE TO THIS
LETTER PLEASE ASK FOR

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Dear Bidder

Dear Sir/ Madam

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION: REF/INTER/07/09/2021- Supply, delivery and supervision of the installation process of Solar equipment for community solar mini-grids

Reference is made to the above named tender.

In terms of section 41(4) of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (22:23), the Rural Electrification Fund (REF) reserves the right to amend the bidding document at any time before tender closing. These amendments/clarifications shall be used for purposes of tender evaluation.

A. Site Visit:

BIDDERS SHOULD NOTE THAT all construction works will be undertaken by REF. The successful contractor will only supervise REF staff during construction to enable skills transfer.

Under the circumstances, site visits remain optional for the following reasons:

- 1. The contractor will supply the equipment for the solar generator ONLY according to REF's specifications and is therefore not responsible for LT Lines that pick up customer loads. LT lines are the sole responsibility of the Client.*
- 2. It may not be necessary for a site visit for verification of the perimeter given that bidders in their design of the solar generator will take into consideration their choice of panels and size of mounting frame/structure will determine the area required for those item - consequently the total area required for the generator and power house. In any case, the maximum area provided for each mini-grid is given in the tender, while the shape is shown in the google map.*

Board Members: W. A. Chiwewe (Chairman); C. Chitiyo (Vice Chairperson); F.S. Mbetsa; L. L Dhlamini; A. Maronge; C. Chiringa; E. Seenza; S. Ncube; T. Kutamahufa; P. Ndemera; F. N. Chikonye; J. V. Mashamba (Chief Executive)

27m

B. Environmental requirements.

As all construction will be undertaken by REF, REF will level the ground at the site for the solar generator before commencement of all works. In that regard environmental requirements will be taken care of by REF.

C. Optimization of foot print Alternative installation spots for the Mini-Grids units that are acceptable to the community.

Similarly item ii & iii below of subsection C will be taken care of by REF. REF will ensure a full EIA is done for each site according to EMA guidelines. Accordingly ii and iii will be addressed in the EIA study.

D. Pre-existing considerations.

As above.

E. Determine grid-corridor and estimation of required cable lengths (AC/DC).

If by grid corridor the bidder means LT lines from the solar generator to the customer loads, then that will be taken care of by REF. The cable lengths are a function of the positioning of components relative to one another such as separation of rows of panels or the distance between solar array and inverter cabinet or battery set. A maximum of about 30m should be allowed between the inverter cabinet and the 1st LT line pole.

F. Creation of Site Map by the bidder's Civil Engineer.

Site maps per lot are super imposed on the google map contained in the bidding document availed to bidders for this tender.

G. Estimation of provisions of security fences or barricades to protect the equipment from damages caused by animals or locals

Given the shape on the google map and the area in square meters, and their design configurations, the Bidder should be able to determine the area that she/he needs and the perimeter fence for it.

H. Estimation of AC and DC cable lengths to be used to interconnect the Solar PV Array, Diesel Generator and Battery Bank Units.

Because the bidder is designing the solar generator and power house according his/her configuration which is informed by the type of components to be provided, he/she will determine the area that is needed. However the maximum area provided for each mini-grid in the tender document becomes the limiting factor ie all the components should fit in the given area. If not, she/he will indicate the additional requirements.

I. To determine the cable lengths required for the overhead power lines from the power house (generator, solar photovoltaic array, battery bank) to the load centers (VET, AREX OFFICES, DDF Households, Clinics, Schools)

Bidders should not worry about LT line construction, because that is the responsibility of the Client. The information on the type and number of customers was provided to determine metering requirements only.

- J. Estimation of the amount of palisade fence for the Solar generator perimeter fence required.

The proposed fencing type is palisade fencing and the minimum height is stated in the tender.

- K. Actual site distances are required and not extrapolated data from google maps.

The level of accuracy from google maps for the purposes of the exercise is sufficient for the Client.

- L. Optional pre-bid conference-The zoom pre-bidding meeting has been set for the 8th of October 2021, 1000 Hours for interested bidders only. The link will be uploaded on the website, on the same column where letters of clarification are obtained.

- M. AC and DC coupling for Soti Source-Bidders shall quote for both AC and DC coupling for Soti Source only.

- N) *Bidders are advised that REF has replaced the incomplete bidding document uploaded on the website (on the day of advertisement) with some missing pages. We have uploaded a bidding document with adequate pages and Information. Bidders must download the complete document immediately. We are sorry for any inconveniences caused to our bidders.*

- O) *The tender closing date and time remains 26 October 2021, Time 1000Hrs as advised before.*

Yours Sincerely


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PP ENG. J. V MASHAMBA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER