

Clarifications to the queries received against OCB No. DGPC/01-Subproject 1 for Procurement of Plant: Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Grid Connected Distributed (Rooftop) Solar Photovoltaic systems. Pre-Bid Meeting held on June 25, 2024.

SN	Clause No.	Description as per Bidding Document	Queries from the Bidders	DGPC's response to clarifications
Section 2: Bid Data Sheet				
1	ITB 18.4(a)(i), Pg:2-3	The bidders shall include in their financial bid the taxes separately and the Employer will ensure that the bidder is exempted from all domestic taxes and duties, wherever applicable. The tax exemption will be provided prior to the import of the goods or in case of delay in obtaining approvals from the relevant Authority, the same will be reimbursed on the completion of the work depending upon the relevant policies at the time of the invoicing. However, the bidder will be liable for the income withholding tax as per the "Income Tax Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2001". Withholding tax is applicable over the entire contract amount and will be deducted at source.	Clarity with regards to taxation (GST)/customs/any other taxes.	Bidders participating from India and supplying materials and services from within India for bonafide use in the Kingdom of Bhutan shall quote exclusive of any effect of Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST). The IGST on the export of goods and services or both are covered under Zero Rated Supply as per Chapter VII, 16(1) of the INTEGRATED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ACT, 2017 of India. Regarding the Custom Duty and Bhutan Sales Tax, refer Bhutan Trade Classification and Tariff Schedule 2022 available at website: https://www.mof.gov.bt/bhutan-trade-classification-and-tariff-schedule/ Also refer ITB 18.4
2	ITB 19.1 Pg:2-3	Currencies of Bids: The currencies of the Bid shall be as follows: (a) The prices shall be quoted either in the currency of the Employer's home country, or in US Dollar.	Requested for inclusion of INR in the currencies of Bids	Accepted.
3	ITB 21.3, Pg: 2-4	Bid Security: Bidders shall deposit Bid Security only in the form of a) an unconditional bank guarantee (hard copy of the bank guarantee; or	We would like to inquire if we could submit the Bid Security in the form of Bid Securing Declaration (BSD) instead of a Bank Guarantee	Bid provisions shall prevail.



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		b) in the form of SWIFT message MT760)						
4	ITB 23.1 Pg:1-17	Submission, Sealing and Marking of Bids: Bidders shall submit their Bids by Hand/Courier	Whether the electronic submission of Bid is acceptable?	Bid provisions shall prevail.				
5	ITB 24.1 Pg: 1-17	Deadline for Submission of Bids: The deadline for bid submission is: Date: July 15, 2024 Time: 15.00 hrs (Bhutan Standard Time)	In light of the tender's size and volume, is a time-consuming process, we are writing to request an extension for the bid submission deadline, originally scheduled for July 15, 2024. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are experiencing unexpected delays in finalizing our proposal. We believe that a brief extension of four weeks, until August 12, 2024, would allow us to present a more comprehensive and competitive bid.	Bid submission deadline shall not extended.				
6	ITB 37.1, Pg- 2-7	Conversion to Single Currency: The currency that shall be used for bid evaluation and comparison purposes to convert all bid prices expressed in various currencies into a single currency is: BTN	Bid validity is specified for 4 months, in this regard, can the exchange conversion rate for the bids submitted in USD be fixed?	The date for the selling exchange rate shall be the exchange rates confirmed by the Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan as the selling exchange rate twenty-eight (28) days prior to the deadline for submission of bids. Refer to ITB 37.1 of the Bid Data Sheet.				
7			We also request you to share if there is any initial estimated/target cost for the entire project.	Not acceptable.				
Section 3: Evaluation & Qualification Criteria								
8	1.3.4 Pg:3-3	Functional Guarantees of the Facilities: The minimum and/or maximum requirements stated in the Specification for functional guarantees required in the Specification are: <table border="1" data-bbox="394 1190 953 1317"> <thead> <tr> <th>Functional Guarantee</th> <th>Minimum and/or Maximum Requirements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Functional Guarantee	Minimum and/or Maximum Requirements			Under the Functional guarantee, bidders suggested to formulate the formula indicating the irradiation factor to calculate the Performance Ratio	Bid provisions shall prevail. Formula for PR is based on IS/IEC 61724-Part 1-2017 standards.
Functional Guarantee	Minimum and/or Maximum Requirements							



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		<table border="1" data-bbox="394 175 953 430"> <tr> <td data-bbox="394 175 674 300">1 Minimum Annual Energy generated in year 1</td> <td data-bbox="674 175 953 300">1,400 kWh per kW</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="394 300 674 430">2 Minimum Performance Ratio (PR) in year 1</td> <td data-bbox="674 300 953 430">80%</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="394 430 953 527">The above functional guarantee shall be performed as per Clause No. 1.1.3 (i) of Section 6: Employer's Requirement.</p>	1 Minimum Annual Energy generated in year 1	1,400 kWh per kW	2 Minimum Performance Ratio (PR) in year 1	80%		
1 Minimum Annual Energy generated in year 1	1,400 kWh per kW							
2 Minimum Performance Ratio (PR) in year 1	80%							
9	2.3.2, Pg 3-13	<p data-bbox="394 532 953 695">Average Annual Turnover: Minimum average annual turnover of USD 14 million (Fourteen Million US dollars), calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, for the last 5 years.</p>	<p data-bbox="976 532 1428 792">Please refer to Section 3 - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria, specifically Clause 2.3.2. The average annual turnover is mentioned as USD 14 million, calculated as the total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed over the last five years:</p> <p data-bbox="976 829 1428 1084">We need to know whether the mentioned average annual turnover of USD 14 million is a cumulative average requirement for the entire five-year period, or if the requirement is an average annual turnover of USD 14 million per year over the last five years.</p>	<p data-bbox="1453 532 1927 630">Average annual turnover of USD 14 million is the average amount of revenue generated over 5 years.</p>				
10	2.4.1 Pg: 3-11	<p data-bbox="394 1094 953 1382">Contracts of similar size and nature: Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor in at least two contract that has been satisfactorily and substantially completed within the last five (5) years and that are similar to the proposed contract, where the value of the Bidder's participation under each contract exceeds USD 2.0 million (Two million US dollars).</p>	<p data-bbox="976 1094 1428 1416">Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor in at least two contract that has been satisfactorily and substantially completed within the last five (5) years and that are similar to the proposed contract, where the value of the Bidder's participation under each contract exceeds USD 2.0 million (Two million US dollars). "The design,</p>	<p data-bbox="1453 1094 1927 1122">Bid provisions shall prevail.</p>				



SN	Clause No.	Description as per Bidding Document	Queries from the Bidders	DGPC's response to clarifications
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design, supply, erection and commissioning of works in grid connected Rooftop solar power plant 	supply, erection and commissioning of works in grid connected solar power plant	
11	2.4.2 Pg: 3-12	Experience in Key Activities	Clarify whether the experience for installation of solar rooftop other than in Bhutan will be considered	Experience in Key Activities for installation of solar rooftop is not limited to Bhutan.
12	2.4.3, Pg 3-13	Specific Experience in Managing Environment, Health and Safety Aspect: point iii) Working safety on roof top with minimum height of 6 meters; including usage of safety harness during installation of RTS systems	<p>We seek clarification on whether the clause pertains solely to working at height of 6 meters or above, or if it requires the bidder to have specific experience working at 6 meters or higher with an RTS Rooftop Solar system.</p> <p>For example, during bridge construction projects, we often encounter significantly greater heights and associated hazards which should also be taken into consideration.</p>	<p>Bid provisions shall prevail.</p> <p>Bidder must have specific experience working at 6 meters or higher with an RTS Rooftop Solar system.</p>
13	2.5 Pg; 3-13	Subcontractor: Solar panel manufacturer- Valid ISO9001, ValidISO14001, Valid ISO18001	The ISO 18001 as mentioned in the qualification criteria 2.5 Subcontractors, whereby the minimum requirement for the Solar panel manufacturer needs to have a valid ISO 18001. We would like to inquire if the above certificate can be substituted with ISO 45001 as the aforementioned ISO 18001 certification, it has been replaced by ISO 45001 making 45001 certification is equivalent to ISO 18001.	<p>Both ISO 18001 & ISO 45001 shall be acceptable</p> <p>ISO 45001 certification is an acceptable substitute for ISO 18001 as they are equivalent occupational health and safety standards.</p>
Section 4: Bidding Forms				
14	Bidding Forms Pg: 4-16 Pg: 4-22 Pg: 4-28, 4-34	Schedule No. 1: Plant and Mandatory Spare Parts Supplied from Abroad: Plant(B) viii) & Mandatory Spares (B) viii) "4 x 6 Nos. APS grid-tied Micro- inverter ((12.96kWp)), online remote monitoring system with data logging facility and mounting accessories"	Are bidders compelled to use only APS Micro inverter as indicated in the BoQ?	This description under Plant(B) viii) & Mandatory Spares (B) viii) shall be amended as under:



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				"Grid-tied Micro- inverter with online remote monitoring system, data logging facility and mounting accessories"
15	Form Fin-1, Pg 4-76	Form Fin-1: Historical Financial Performance Corresponding to 2.3.1 of Section 3: Submission of audited financial statements or, if not required by the law of the Bidder's country, other financial statements acceptable to the Employer, for the last three (3) years to demonstrate the current soundness of the Bidder's financial position. As a minimum, the Bidder's net worth for the last year calculated as the difference between total assets and total liabilities should be positive.	There is a requirement for the bidders to submit their working capital. We would like to seek clarification if we can show our current working capital along with last year's as a part of the requirement?	Bid provisions shall prevail. Please refer clause 2.3.1 and Fin-1 wherein most recent working capital shall be carried forward to Fin-3: Availability of Financial Resources.
16	Pg: 4-78	Form FIN – 3: Availability of Financial Resources Bidders must demonstrate sufficient financial resources, usually comprising of Working Capital supplemented by credit line statements or overdraft facilities and others to meet the Bidder's financial requirements for (a) its current contract commitments, and (b) the subject contract.	Concerning the financial resources requirement under section 2.3.3, can a bidder's annual revenue be included in Other Financial Resources in Form FIN-3 to meet or exceed the Subject Contract amount? For example, as a telecom operator, can TIPL include its revenue from mobile services and handset sales as part of its financial resources?	Total revenue earned from the operation of the business by the company for financial resources is acceptable as long as it is reflected in the Financial Statement.
Section 6: Employer's Requirement				
17	Pg: 4-14	Schedule No. 1: Plant and Spares Parts supplied from Abroad: Plant (B) i) 30KW grid -tied 3-phase string inverter with 4 MPPTs, online remote monitoring system with data logging facility and mounting accessories.	Can the bidder choose a 30kW inverter with 2 MPPT rather than 4 MPPT defined in the BoQ. Bidder expressed that the 30kW with 4MPPTs are not very common?	Bid Provisions shall prevail. However, two 15 kW inverter with 2 MPPTs each can be used in place of a single 30kW inverter with 4 MPPT as defined in the BoQ. It should be noted that, this change will not entitle the bidder to claim the cost of any additional item and accessories.
18			Can the bidders come up with 2 MPPTS for microinverter?	Bid Provisions shall prevail. All micro-inverters must have provision to connect one MPPT to one module.



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19	1.1.3 (b) Pg: 6-8	<p>Scope of Work</p> <p>b) Design Rooftop PV systems</p> <p>The Contractor shall prepare detailed engineering designs for grid-connected rooftop PV systems for each building or combination of a group of buildings within a campus</p>	pls how much kWp for every home are off-grid or on-grid	All rooftop PV systems to be installed will be grid connected with gross metering regime
20	1.1.3 (d) Pg: 6-30	<p>Specification</p> <p>d) Module mounting structure</p> <p>PV module mounting structure shall consist of anodized aluminum guide rails placed on the roof through L-foot type roof fixing mounts.</p>	Specify whether the design/layout estimate is for short or long rail flush mounted	The proposed layout is for long rail flush mounted.
21	1.1.3(i) Pg: 6-11	<p>Minimum Annual Energy generated in year 1= 1,400 kWh per kW</p>	As the rooftops are located in many buildings and with different orientations, the annual energy generation guarantee shall be averaged over complete project capacity i.e. 7.827MWp. Minimum Annual Energy generated in year 1= 1,400 kWh per kW	<p>Bid Provisions shall prevail.</p> <p>However, in case of restriction due to orientation of a particular system which can affect to achieve its performance as specified in the Contract Form in Section 9, the same may be reviewed and considered by DGPC on a case-to-case basis.</p>
22	1.1.3 (q) Pg: 6-36	<p>q) Energy Meter</p> <p>Energy meter (Page No: 181 of Tender document) <u>Type of Meter:</u> 3-ø, 4 wires Static Watt-hour Smart Meter.</p>	Please confirm if the Smart Meter should be equipped with a Net Metering or Gross Metering feature.	Gross metering
23	1.1.3 (r) Pg:6-50	<p>r) Meteorological Station</p> <p>The contractor will supply and install three meteorological measurement stations to monitor ambient and weather conditions with respect to the below mentioned meteorological parameters.</p>	Do all the system have weather stations?	Refer clause No. 1.1.3 (r) of Scope of Work.
24			Can the bidder quote the different specification for the module as the	Bid Provisions shall prevail for overall technical specifications of PV modules.



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			specification in the bidding documents says its 540wP	However, bidder may propose higher capacity individual PV modules as per availability in the market. Due to the change in individual capacity of PV modules, if the system capacity of a specific building gets increased there will be no adjustment in price as it is a fixed contract.															
25	9, Pg 6-80	<p>9. Personnel Requirement:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="394 467 963 1291"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="394 467 682 634">Position</th> <th data-bbox="682 467 812 634">Total Work Experience (years)</th> <th data-bbox="812 467 963 634">Experience in Similar Work (years)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="394 634 682 764">Project Coordinator Bachelor's or a higher degree in Engineering</td> <td data-bbox="682 634 812 764">12</td> <td data-bbox="812 634 963 764">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="394 764 682 932">Project Engineer (Civil) Bachelor's degree in civil engineering</td> <td data-bbox="682 764 812 932">5</td> <td data-bbox="812 764 963 932">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="394 932 682 1099">Project Engineer (Electrical) Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering</td> <td data-bbox="682 932 812 1099">5</td> <td data-bbox="812 932 963 1099">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="394 1099 682 1291">Site Supervisor (Electrical) Diploma qualification in Electrical Engineering</td> <td data-bbox="682 1099 812 1291">7</td> <td data-bbox="812 1099 963 1291">5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Position	Total Work Experience (years)	Experience in Similar Work (years)	Project Coordinator Bachelor's or a higher degree in Engineering	12	5	Project Engineer (Civil) Bachelor's degree in civil engineering	5	3	Project Engineer (Electrical) Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering	5	3	Site Supervisor (Electrical) Diploma qualification in Electrical Engineering	7	5	We acknowledge the importance of having all key personnel possess comparable experience. However, we would like to highlight that meeting the aforementioned requirement poses a significant challenge due to the limited availability of experienced key personnel in the market. While it may be feasible to secure a Project Coordinator with similar work experience, finding other personnel with an identical level of experience for this specific type of work might not be achievable within the current market constraints. We would like to request to waive off the similar work experience requirement for all experts except for Project Coordinator.	Bid provisions shall prevail.
Position	Total Work Experience (years)	Experience in Similar Work (years)																	
Project Coordinator Bachelor's or a higher degree in Engineering	12	5																	
Project Engineer (Civil) Bachelor's degree in civil engineering	5	3																	
Project Engineer (Electrical) Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering	5	3																	
Site Supervisor (Electrical) Diploma qualification in Electrical Engineering	7	5																	

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		Environmental, Health and Safety Specialist (full time) Bachelor's or a higher degree in related subject e.g. environment management, environment engineering NEBOSH/IOSH ¹ certification or similar qualification EHS site supervision experience of construction sites involving electrical installations and working at height	10 7	
26			Can the bidder change the design capacity?	The bidder shall quote based on the specification provided in the Bidding Documents. Any reduction in the capacity will not be acceptable. However, in case of any increase in the design capacity due to change in module STC capacity as proposed by the bidder will not be considered for additional payment under the change request. This is only applicable to SPV Module as mentioned in Schedule 1: Plant and Mandatory Spares: Plant A i). Please note that any change in quantity of other items due to change in design

¹ Or Equivalent qualification



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				capacity will be dealt with change request procedure as per change order during project execution phase.
27			Is there any preliminary report for the 267 buildings if so can it be shared to the bidder	The preliminary report will not be shared
28			Share the grid code	Relevant grid codes are available under the web link: https://era.gov.bt/legislation/ No specific grid code for Solar power projects.
Section 8: Special Conditions of Contract				
29	GCC No. 27.10 Pg-8-5	Defect Liability The critical components covered under the extended defect liability are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PV modules and the period shall be 3650 days; and ● Inverters and the period shall be 1825 days. 	Regarding the clause Liquidity damages period for Critical Components: PV Modules-3650 days, Inverter-1825 days”. We would like to clarify if this duration to the warranty period. Our concern is that if operation and maintenance are not carried out properly, there is possibility of these critical parts failing prematurely. In this Context, the term liquidity damages may encompass both maintenance and warranty aspects, whereas warranty period typically only covers the warranty provided for the parts themselves. We would like to get a confirmation whether the intended reference is to the warranty period or if it encompasses maintenance obligation as well?	This is extended Defect Liability for Critical Components and such obligation of the Contractor shall be in addition to the Defect Liability Period specific under GCC Clause No. 27.2. Please refer to GCC clause No. 27.2; Defect Liability: The contractor shall not be responsible for repair, replacement, or making good of any defect or any damage to the facilities arising out of or resulting from improper operation & maintenance of the facilities by the Employer.
30	8, Pg: 8-2	The Time for Completion of the whole of the Facilities shall be 300 (Three Hundred) days from the Effective Date as described in the Contract Agreement.	Considering the 4 months monsoon period and three months peak winter, we request you to amend as follows: “The Time for Completion of the whole of the Facilities shall be 540 (Five hundred forty) days from the Effective	Bid Provisions shall prevail.



SN	Clause No.	Description as per Bidding Document	Queries from the Bidders	DGPC's response to clarifications
			Date as described in the Contract Agreement”	

