



STATE OF TENNESSEE
[General Services]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FOR
Solar PV Installations through a Power Purchase Agreement

RFI # 32101-16100

Release Date: July 31, 2015

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The State of TN, Department of General Service's State of TN Real Estate Asset Management (STREAM), hereinafter referred to as "the State", issues this request for Information ("RFI") for the purpose of obtaining industry recommendations for Solar PV installations, either through a Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA") or through state procurement. We appreciate your input and participation in this process.

2. BACKGROUND:

The State of TN is interested in reducing its electrical utility costs and connected electrical load through the use of energy conservation measures and the installation of solar PV systems to produce clean renewable electricity behind the meter. We request input from the solar PV industry on issues related to the procurement of a State owned and maintained system as well as 3rd party owned, installed and maintained systems that would be located on property owned by the State of TN. The State currently intends to consider a single contract for solar PV installations at multiple sites across the state dedicated for behind the meter facility electrical consumption.

3. COMMUNICATIONS:

- 3.1. Please submit your response to this RFI via email to:
Nickie Smith, Procurement Coordinator
Email: Nickie.Smith@tn.gov
Phone: (615) 532-7475
- 3.2. Please reference RFI # 32101-16100 with all communications to this RFI.

4. RFI SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

EVENT		TIME (Central Time Zone)	DATE (all dates are State business days)
1.	RFI Issued		July 31, 2015
2.	Written Questions (to be submitted to the RFI Coordinator via Email)	2:00 p.m.	August 10, 2015
3.	State Responds to Written Questions		August 17, 2015
4.	RFI Response Deadline (to be submitted to the RFI Coordinator via Email)	2:00 p.m.	August 27, 2015

5. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 5.1. Please note that responding to this RFI is not a prerequisite for responding to any future solicitations related to this project and a response to this RFI will not create any contract rights. Responses to this RFI will become property of the State.
- 5.2. The information gathered during this RFI is part of an ongoing procurement. In order to prevent an unfair advantage among potential respondents, the RFI responses will not be available until after the completion of evaluation of any responses, proposals, or bids resulting from a Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid or other procurement method. In the event that the state chooses not to go further in the procurement process and responses are never evaluated, the responses to the procurement including the responses to the RFI, will be considered confidential by the State.
- 5.3. The State will not pay for any costs associated with responding to this RFI.

6. INFORMATIONAL FORMS:

The State is requesting the following information from all interested parties. Please fill out the following forms:

RFI #32101-16100	
TECHNICAL INFORMATIONAL FORM	
1.	RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:
2.	RESPONDENT CONTACT PERSON: Name, Title: Address: Phone Number: Email:
3.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPERIENCE PROVIDING SIMILAR SCOPE OF SERVICES/PRODUCTS

QUESTIONS TO RESPOND TO	
1.	Provide a comprehensive break out of the cost benefit on a per kWh rate basis for increasing the size of the system. Consider a range of 5Mw to 100 Mw of installed solar PV. What are the cost break points in Megawatts where the State could expect to see signification kWh cost savings? Include a discussion of escalation and end of contract considerations.
2.	For planning and budgeting purposes, what is the industry accepted standard cost of maintenance of a system over a 25 year life per Mw. Consider aggregate capacity of 25 Mw, 50 Mw, 75 Mw and 100 Mw at multiple locations across the state of 5 to 10 Mw each.
3.	Please describe the maintenance and anticipated equipment replacement required and referred to in number 2 above for a 25 year life cycle.
4.	In order for the State to assess potential procurement options, please provide the net present value of the following procurement options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. PPA contract in place January 1, 2016, with the system operational by December 31, 2016 to take advantage of 30% solar investment tax credit (ITC) incentive. Energy purchase price of \$.07/kWh flat for 25 years. b. PPA contract in place January 1, 2020, with the system operational by December 31, 2020 with an assumed 10% solar ITC incentive. Energy purchase price of \$.04/kWh flat for 25 years. c. State procured, owned and maintained system to be operational by December 31, 2020, assuming the same construction cost as option B.
5.	What is the optimum business arrangement of a PPA for the lowest cost of electricity at an individual site, while achieving the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lowest cost per kWh behind the meter at individual facility sites. b. Reliability consistent with or exceeding the current utility delivery system c. End of contract Ownership by the State or removal of the system.

6. What industry accepted licenses and certifications should the State require of a successful proposer?

7. Any additional comments, concerns and recommendations you feel might help the state determine a successful solar PV program?

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Please provide input on alternative approaches or additional things to consider that might benefit the State: