



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Ministry of Energy

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

**FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SOLAR
MINI-GRIDS IN GBINTI, PANGUMA, SEGBWEMA**

Ref #: SL/REOI/QCS/2021-002

Date issued: 23rd August, 2021

1. Introduction

The Government of Sierra Leone through its Agent, the Ministry of Energy has developed a strategy for active participation and involvement of the private sector in the Operation, Maintenance and Management of solar mini-grids in Gbinti, Panguma and Segbewa. In this regard, the Government now invites Expressions of Interest from qualified and reputable Solar PV Operators for the operation, maintenance and management of these Mini-grids.

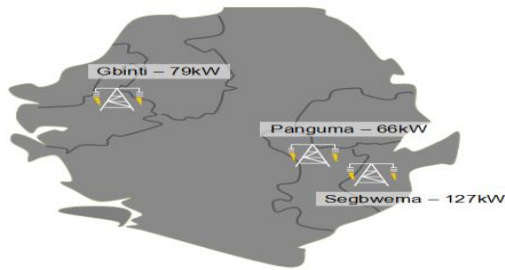
2. Background

Sierra Leone is a country with a population of less than 8 million and a high potential of solar mini-grids to improve energy access, given that the electricity access rate is as low as 25% in a national level. There are already various PV/hybrid mini-grids installed and operating, owned and operated by the government, community-based associations or the private sector, including the Rural Renewable Energy projects (RREP) that has supply and installed up to 5 MW of sustainable renewable electricity in rural communities of at least 94 solar mini-grids operated and managed by private sector partners.

The Project was Promoting Renewable Energy Services for Social Development in Sierra Leone (PRESSD-SL). The intent of this project was to contribute to poverty alleviation through renewable energy services while promoting low-carbon development. The project budget was €7,000,000 and was funded by the European Union and a consortium of four partners. The project was implemented in six districts Kailahun, Kenema, Kono, Bombali, Kambia and Port Loko. The project targeted 45,000 smallholder households, rural families, farmer associations, GoSL and private sector entrepreneurs. A total of 850,000 people were to benefit from access to renewable energy services, GoSL sectors involved as well as related sectors (entrepreneurs, shippers, input suppliers, etc.). The total project duration was 48 months (01/06/2014 – 31/05/2018). This project duration was extended to March 2021. The Project was eventually handed over to the Ministry of Energy.

Under the EU co-funded (75%) PRESSD Project (“Promoting Renewable Energy Services for Social Development”), the Mini-Grids in Gbinti, Panguma and Segbwema have been installed and was temporarily operated by WHH and Coopi as part of the project intervention. As the PRESSD project has ended, WHH and Coopi are phasing out their intervention by 11th March 2021. The Current status of the Project is that the Project has been handed over to the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry intends to bring in private operator to operate and

maintain the mini-grids in the three chiefdoms to ensure sustainability and continuation of these three mini-grids.



Scope of Work

Under the project “for the Operation and Maintenance of the three mini-grids”, the scope of the Operators assignment entails:

The operation, maintenance and management of three min-grid (Lots 1, 2, and 3) with their associated site facilities. The Solar Power Complex consist of the following major component to perform the O & M:

- 1) PV Panels with modules
- 2) Inverters and panels
- 3) 11kv Panels
- 4) KVA Standby Generator

The winning solution is one that will be comprehensive in its approach to initially delivering the required assets, if any, operating them for consistent and quality service, and maintaining them through to their full life. Consequently, this is expected to at least include the following:

- a. Emergency response to accidents and fires;
- b. Emergency response to electricity outages for individual and multiple customers;
- c. Emergency response for theft and vandalism;
- d. Standard technical O&M activities;
- e. Fuel, feedstock or resource management;
- f. Customer contract signing;
- g. Revenue collection;
- h. Reporting of cost;
- i. Installation and quality control of customer connections;
- j. Installation and quality control of indoor installations;
- k. Safety training for customers;
- l. Basic customer training on electricity usage (note some customers may never have used electricity before); and
- m. Data collection which may be required under the Environmental Impact Assessment for future environmental audits.

The O&M activities should be documented properly in pre-defined reporting templates which allow the mini-grid's management to monitor performance.

3. Qualification and Experience of the firm

In order to be pre-qualified, prospective private partners/consortia must possess the requisite capabilities and relevant experience in the provision of the required services. They are expected to submit comprehensive information that contains:

- Full name and Nationality (country of registration) of the Company and contact person, postal address, telephone, e-mail address and web site URL (if any);
- Brief description of the history and business of the respondent;
- Ownership structure including name(s) of shareholders, percentage shareholdings, intermediate and ultimate holding company or beneficial owner
- Company registration including Certificate of Incorporation, certified true copies of Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- Most recent 3-Years Audited Financial Statements and latest Management Accounts if available;
- Evidence of financial capacity to deliver the project as contemplated;
- Evidence of previous experience and expertise in providing the required services locally and/or internationally including experience in the operation, maintenance and management of power plants where applicable. This should include the following details:
 - Name of Project, Brief Description and Client(s);
 - Scope of work, Role, Contract Value, Nature of Contract (Lump Sum etc) and Contractual Period;
 - Name and address of related client's referee;
 - Experience with delivery, operation and maintenance of solar based infrastructure,.
 - In addition to the details above, each submission must be accompanied by:
 - a) Transmittal Letter,
 - b) Cover/Title Page,
 - c) Table of Contents; and
 - d) Executive Summary

4.0 Selection Criteria

The Ministry of Energy now invites eligible firms to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested companies should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services (signed curriculum vitea, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, general qualifications with copies of academic and professional qualifications etc.)

The criteria for short listing are as follows:

- I. Company's Experience relevant to the Assignment (70 points)
- II. Competence/Qualification of the proposed personnel relevant to the Assignment (30 points)
- III. Please note that the minimum qualifying score for shortlisting is 70 points**

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Selection Based on Consultants Qualification (CQS)** method set out in the Public Procurement Framework of Sierra Leone. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0800 to 1700 hours Sierra Leone time.

4. Tentative timelines of the selection process

Publication of Call for EoI	23 rd August, 2021
Deadline for Questions about EoI	30 th September, 2021
Deadline for reception of EoIs by GoSL	6 th September, 2021
Invitation to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) and notification of unsuccessful applicants	21 st September, 2021
Deadline for Questions about the Invitation to submit Business Plans (RFP)	4 th October, 2021
Notification of successful and unsuccessful bids and start of collaboration between GOSL/MOE and the successful bidders	TBD

5. Submission of Expressions of Interest

All EoI (in English) submission should be in accordance with the following instruction. One (1) Original and two copies of Expression of interest to be delivered in a sealed envelope marked '**EoI- Operation, Maintenance and Management of the three solar mini-grids located in Gbinti, Panguma and Segbwema**' and delivered to the address below. **The EOI must be submitted no later than 6th September, 2021 between the hours of 9am to 12 noon.** Electronic submission in PDF format not exceeding 5 MB should be sent to the:

The Address for submission of tender referred to above is:

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy,
5th Floor Stronge Tower
3&3A Pademba Road,
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Attn: Senior Procurement Officer
Stronge Tower, 3rd Floor
3&3A Pademba Road,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
eamonalpha@gmail.com
+23276813494/+23231813494

6. Contact for request for clarifications

All requests for clarifications in relation to this REOI shall be sent to:

eamonalpha930@gmail.com