

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION & INVITATION FOR BIDS

1 Background & Introduction

- 1.1 Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (hereinafter called “SECI”) is a Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE). One of the main objectives of the Company is to assist the Ministry and function as the implementing and facilitating arm of the National Solar Mission (NSM) for development, promotion and commercialization of solar energy technologies in the country.
- 1.2 The Union Cabinet approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules, for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt (GW) scale in High Efficiency Solar PV Modules on 07.04.2021. Subsequent to the successful conclusion of Tranche-I of the PLI Scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 4,500 Crore, to establish a larger manufacturing base for Solar PV modules, an additional allocation of Rs. 19,500 Crores (Tranche-II) for PLI for manufacture of high efficiency modules, with priority to fully integrated manufacturing units from polysilicon to solar PV modules, was announced in the Budget 2022-23.
- 1.3 Subsequent to the above, MNRE has issued “Scheme Guidelines for Implementation of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (Tranche II) under ‘National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules’ for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt (GW) scale in High Efficiency Solar PV modules” vide F.No. 283/62/2020-GRID SOLAR dated 30.09.2022. SECI has been appointed as implementing agency for this Scheme. This RfS document has been prepared in line with the above Guidelines, including subsequent amendments and clarifications issued thereof, until the last date of bid submission of this RfS.
- 1.4 As part of the above scheme, SECI invites online bids for ‘Selection of Solar PV Module Manufacturers (SMM) for Setting up Manufacturing Capacities for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules in India’ under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme (Tranche-II). Selection of beneficiaries shall be done in a transparent manner as per the criteria laid down in the Guidelines and RfS.
- 1.5 Bidder setting up any solar PV technology-based production facilities will be eligible for applying for the incentive assistance under this scheme if it qualifies for the Qualification Requirements set forth in Section-4, provided the manufacturing capacities it sets up achieves the minimum level of integration of cells and modules, the minimum manufacturing capacity requirements and the minimum threshold module performance parameters of module efficiency and module’s temperature coefficient of P_{max} , as per the scheme Guidelines.

2 Invitation for Bids

- 2.1 A Single Stage, Two Envelope Bidding Procedure will be adopted and will proceed as detailed in the RfS Document. Bidding will be conducted through the competitive bidding procedures as per the provisions of this RfS. The respective rights of SECI and the Bidder/SMM shall be governed by the RfS Documents.
- 2.2 SECI has issued this document in the capacity of Implementing Agency as mentioned in the Guidelines. As per the Guidelines, SECI may develop a suitable monitoring mechanism, to analyze the performance of the manufacturing unit and carry out random checks, with help of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) or any other agency designated by MNRE/SECI, for validation of commencement of commercial operation of manufacturing unit, measurement of performance parameters as listed out in the RfS, compliance of quality standards during the course of implementation of the scheme etc.
- 2.3 Interested bidders have to necessarily register themselves on the portal <https://www.bharat-electronictender.com> (“ETS portal”) through M/s Electronic Tender.com (India) Pvt. Limited to participate in the bidding under this invitation for bids. It shall be the sole responsibility of the interested bidders to get themselves registered at the aforesaid portal for which they are required to contact M/s Electronic Tender.com (India) Pvt. Limited, New Delhi to complete the registration formalities. Contact details of ISN-ETS is mentioned on the Bid Information Sheet. All required documents and formalities for registering on ISN-ETS are mentioned in the subsequent RfS documents.

They may obtain further information regarding this IFB from the registered office of SECI at the address given on the Bid Information Sheet from 10:00 hours to 17:00 hours on all working days.

For proper uploading of the bids on the ETS portal, it shall be the sole responsibility of the bidders to apprise themselves adequately regarding all the relevant procedures and provisions as detailed in the portal as well as by contacting M/s Electronic Tender.com (India) Pvt. Limited (ETI) directly, as and when required, for which contact details are also mentioned on the Bid Information Sheet. SECI in no case shall be responsible for any issues related to timely or properly uploading/ submission of the bid in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Bidding Documents.

- 2.4 Bidders should submit their bid proposal complete in all aspect on or before last date and time of Bid Submission as mentioned on ISN-ETS Portal (<https://www.bharat-electronictender.com>), SECI website <http://www.seci.co.in> and as indicated in the Bid Information Sheet.
- 2.5 Bidder shall submit bid proposal along with non-refundable RfS Document Fee, Bid Processing Fees and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), complete in all respect as per the Bid Information Sheet. Bid proposals received without the prescribed RfS Document Fee, Bid Processing Fees and EMD will be rejected, with certain exceptions as provided in the RfS. **In the event of any date indicated being declared a holiday, the next working day shall become operative for the respective purpose mentioned herein.**

- 2.6 RfS documents which include Eligibility Criteria, Technical Specifications, various Conditions of Contract, Formats etc. can be downloaded from the ISN-ETS Portal or from SECI's website. It is mandatory to download official copy of the RfS Document from Electronic Tender System (ISN-ETS) Portal to participate in the RfS. Any amendment(s)/corrigendum(s)/clarification(s) with respect to this RfS shall be uploaded on ISN-ETS website. The Bidder should regularly check for any Amendment(s)/Corrigendum(s)/Clarification(s) on the above mentioned ISN-ETS website. The same may also be uploaded on SECI website also. However, in case of any discrepancy, the information available on ISN-ETS website shall prevail.
- 2.7 SECI reserves the right to cancel/ withdraw/ defer this invitation for bids without assigning any reason and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such a decision.

2.8 INTERPRETATIONS

- Words comprising the singular shall include the plural & vice versa.
- An applicable law shall be construed as reference to such applicable law including its amendments or re-enactments from time to time.
- A time of day shall save as otherwise provided in any agreement or document be construed as a reference to Indian Standard Time.
- Different parts of this contract are to be taken as mutually explanatory and supplementary to each other and if there is any differentiation between or among the parts of this contract, they shall be interpreted in a harmonious manner so as to give effect to each part.
- The table of contents and any headings or sub headings in the contract has been inserted for case of reference only & shall not affect the interpretation of this agreement.

SECTION 2. SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

3 *Scope of Work*

- 3.1 Under this RfS, the SMM shall be required to set up manufacturing capacities in Giga Watt (GW) scale for high efficiency Solar PV modules, with the primary objective to promote manufacturing of high efficiency solar PV modules in India and thus reduce dependence in the area of Renewable Energy, as per the provisions of the RfS.
- 3.2 With the objective to promote setting up of integrated plants for better quality control and competitiveness, the Bidder shall commit minimum integration across solar cells and modules. Based upon the extent of integration proposed, the Bidder can opt for bidding for any one of the following three baskets:

Basket No.	Code	Description
1	P+W+C+M	Stage-1: Manufacturing of Polysilicon + Stage-2: Manufacturing of Ingots-Wafers + Stage-3: Manufacturing of Solar Cells + Stage-4: Manufacturing of Modules or Fully integrated manufacturing of Thin Film plant or Fully integrated plant of any other technology
2	W+C+M	Stage-2: Manufacturing of Ingots-Wafers + Stage-3: Manufacturing of Solar Cells + Stage-4: Manufacturing of Modules or similar level of integration of any other technology
3	C+M	Stage-3: Manufacturing of Solar Cells + Stage-4: Manufacturing of Modules or similar level of integration of any other technology

- 3.3 Another objective of the Scheme is to encourage **Sustainable Manufacturing** practices and adoption of circular economy approaches. Detailed provisions regarding sustainable manufacturing are provided in Clause 8.7 of the RfS.

4 *Total capacity offered*

- 4.1 The capacities will be allocated in separate categories based on the fund (PLI) allocation for each category. The total allocation of fund for each category is as follows:

Basket No.	Code	Fund Allocation (in Rs. Crores)
1	P+W+C+M	12,000
2	W+C+M	4,500
3	C+M	3,000

5 *Maximum Eligibility for Manufacturing Capacity Allocation to a Bidder*

Following conditions shall be applicable to the Bidders for submission of bids against this RfS:

- 5.1 A Bidder, including its Parent, Affiliate or Ultimate Parent or any Group Company shall submit a single bid undertaking to set up a Manufacturing facility of **minimum 1,000 MW capacity** (1,000 MW each for all individual stages included in the SMM's proposal). For eg., in case a bidder quotes 1000 MW capacity under the RfS for P+W+C+M category, the committed manufacturing capacities in each Stage, to be eligible for grant of PLI, shall be as follows:

Stage-1: 1000 MW

Stage-2: 1000 MW

Stage-3: 1000 MW

Stage-4: 1000 MW

The above criteria of Stage-wise break-up of manufacturing capacity will not be applicable for Bidders committing to set up a Fully integrated manufacturing of Thin Film plant or a fully integrated plant of any other technology.

- 5.2 The maximum capacity that can be bid for, i.e., the manufacturing capacity that a bidder will set up under this RfS, will be **10 GW for P+W+C+M** and **6 GW each for W+C+M and C+M categories**. However, the maximum capacity that will be awarded to a single bidder under the PLI scheme, i.e. the maximum capacity which will be eligible for grant of PLI, will be 50% of the capacity to be set up by the Bidder. This awarded maximum bid capacity will include any capacity awarded as per LoA issued by M/s IREDA under Tranche-I of the PLI Scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules.

For eg., if a Bidder was earlier issued LoA(s) in P+W+C+M category, with 'manufacturing capacity to be installed' as 4 GW and 'eligible capacity (for claiming PLI)' as 2 GW, it can bid for a maximum 6 GW (10-4) in this RfS and if it bids for his maximum possible (6 GW) in this RfS and is successful in this RfS, it will have to set up new 6 GW manufacturing capacity, in addition to the 4 GW capacity that it has to set up as per the LoA issued in respect of the earlier bid, i.e., Tranche-I. However, it would be eligible for a PLI against a manufacturing capacity of 50%, i.e., 2 GW from earlier Tranche-I LoA and 3 GW from LoA(s) awarded under this RfS.

- 5.3 The evaluation of bids shall be carried out as described in Section-5 of the RfS. The methodology for allocation of Solar PV Manufacturing Projects is elaborated in Section-5 of the RfS.
- 5.4 Multiple bids from same company including its Parent/ Ultimate Parent/Affiliates/Group Companies shall make all the bids submitted by the group invalid. In case of Joint Venture Company/ Consortium, a partner/ company will be allowed to tie up the manufacturing capacity (of any stage) with another partner/company for one bid only.