

## **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 In accordance with the Government of India’s targets of achieving 500 GW installed RE capacity by 2030, several Government organizations, Ministries and other institutions have taken necessary steps to install Grid-Connected Rooftop/Ground mounted Solar PV Projects at their premises/buildings, to increase electricity consumption through renewable energy. As part of these initiatives, SECI has been approached by these organizations to provide necessary support to set up such Projects.
- 1.3 In addition to this, under the Phase-II of ‘Grid Connected Rooftop and Small Solar Power Plants Programme’ for Rooftop Solar (RTS) plants, DISCOMs and their local offices have been appointed as the nodal points for implementation of the programme. DISCOMs will play a key role in expansion of RTS as they have a direct contact with end users and they provide approval for installation, manage the distribution network and also have billing interface with rooftop owner. In order to simplify the procedure to apply for rooftop projects in residential sectors, National Portal (<https://solarrooftop.gov.in/>) for Rooftop Solar was launched on 30.07.2022. On the National Portal any residential consumer from any part of country can apply for installation of RTS and get Central Financial Assistance (CFA) directly in his/her bank account. All the steps starting from application to release of CFA can be monitored by consumer online on the Portal.
- 1.4 As part of implementation of the RTS Phase-II programme of MNRE, SECI has been entrusted to empanel interested Solar Power Developers willing to set up RTS Projects across various States/Union Territories (UTs) in India. This list of empaneled vendors will be forwarded to the respective DISCOMs/SIA for enlisting the same on the National Portal for Rooftop Solar, through their respective selection/shortlisting processes. Additionally, SECI has been receiving requests from various Government agencies/public and private institutions for setting up of RTS and small ground-mounted projects in their premises. It is envisaged to create a separate panel of interested developers for such projects, whose bidding will be issued out by SECI separately on site/region basis.
- 1.5 In line with the above, SECI hereby invites Request for Empanelment (RfE) of agencies/vendors for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning including Warranty, Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of Solar Power Projects of various capacities.

## 1.6 **Empanelment categories**

The empanelment will be done for 2 different categories as stated below:

### i. **CATEGORY A:**

Empanelment of Solar Power Developers (SPDs) for residential sector solar rooftop projects to be installed under Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II. Under this category, SECI's role is limited to empanelment of SPDs for various States/UTs for setting up RTS Projects. Award of work will be carried out by the respective State Implementing Agencies (SIA) designated under this scheme.

Projects being set up under this Category will be governed by the Phase-II of Rooftop Programme including subsequent amendments and clarifications thereto.

### ii. **CATEGORY B:**

Under this category, empanelment of SPDs will be carried out for setting up of Off-grid/ Grid Connected Rooftop/Ground Mounted (individual Project size being up to 5 MW) Solar projects of various capacities for Government organizations/Agency ("Client Organizations").

SECI shall be the bidding and empanelling agency for empanelment of project developers for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning including Warranty, Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of Off grid/ Grid Connected Rooftop/ Ground Mounted (up to 5 MW) Solar projects of various capacities for the Client Organizations.

No separate Central Financial assistance is envisaged for implementation of the projects selected under Category B.

1.7 The Bidders will be free to avail fiscal incentives like Accelerated Depreciation, Concessional Customs and Excise Duties, Tax Holidays etc. as available for such Projects. The same will not have any bearing on comparison of bids for selection. As equal opportunity is being provided to all Bidders at the time of tendering itself, it is up to the Bidders to avail various tax and other benefits. No claim shall arise on SECI for any liability if Bidders are not able to avail fiscal incentives and this will not have any bearing on the applicable tariff/project cost. SECI does not however, give a representation on the availability of fiscal incentive and submission of bid by the Bidder shall be independent of such availability or non-availability as the case may be of the fiscal incentives.

## 2 ***Invitation for Bids***

2.1 A Two Stage Bidding Procedure will be adopted and will proceed as detailed in the RfE Documents. Bidding will be conducted through the competitive bidding procedures as per the provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of the RfE.

2.2 This RfE document shall be part of the Stage-I bidding process, For Category-A, the Stage-II bidding process will be carried out by the State Implementing Agencies (SIA).

For Category-B, the Stage-II bidding process i.e. Request for Selection will be carried out subsequently at SECI's discretion.

- 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, Gurugram 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 RfE documents.
- 2.4 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 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.

- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 Bidder shall submit its proposal along with non-refundable Bid Processing Fees and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (if applicable) complete in all respect as per the Bid Information Sheet. Techno-Commercial bids will be opened as per the Bid Information Sheet in online presence of authorized representatives of bidders who wish to be present online. Bid proposals received without the Bid Processing Fees and/or Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as applicable) will be rejected. **In the event of any date indicated being declared a holiday, the next working day shall become operative for the respective purpose mentioned herein.**
- 2.7 RfE documents which include Eligibility Criteria, Technical Specifications, various Conditions of Contract, and Formats etc. can be downloaded from the ISN-ETS Portal or from SECI's website. It is mandatory to download official copy of the RfE Document from Electronic Tender System (ISN-ETS) Portal to participate in the Tender. Any amendment(s)/corrigendum(s)/clarification(s) with respect to this RfE 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 **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 RfE, the selected vendors shall be required to Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning including Warranty, Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of Solar Power Projects of various capacities.

#### 3.1.1 **Category A: Residential sector on behalf of State Implementing Agencies-**

- i. The empaneled vendor/developer shall be required to Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning including Warranty, Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of Rooftop Solar System (RTS) for at least five years in residential sector.
- ii. The empaneled vendor, selected by the beneficiary, will conduct the physical survey to assess the RTS capacity and guide the beneficiary on the RTS capacity that can be installed in the beneficiary's premises considering technical and financial parameters.
- iii. The empaneled vendor shall provide assistance to the beneficiary in getting necessary approvals, installing the net meter and facilitating inspection by the DISCOM.
- iv. Empaneled vendors shall establish a service center in each district. In case if it is not economically viable for an individual vendor then a group of empaneled vendors can establish service centers in each district. These service centers shall provide services to the RTS owners within the timelines decided by the DISCOMs/State Implementing Agency including free of cost service for first five years (warranty period) from the date of commissioning of the RTS. It shall be the responsibility of empaneled vendor to replace Non-performing/under-performing PV free of cost to the RTS owner.
- v. The empaneled vendor has to supply and install only indigenously manufactured PV panels (both cells and modules). The domestically manufactured solar modules using domestically manufactured solar cells shall be listed in the ALMM. The inverter should also be BIS certified.
- vi. Various business models in accordance with the prevailing legal framework are covered under the programme such as CAPEX, RESCO, rent a roof/lease model, community model, utility model, through a SPV having share of Utility, plug-in RTS model and any other model as specified by respective State Govt. Policy/Regulations. RTS systems with or without battery storage are covered under the programme.
- vii. The detailed scope of works may be referred from the guidelines for Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II.

#### 3.1.2 **Category B: Other Government organizations/Institutions**

- i. The empaneled vendor/developer shall be required to Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning including Warranty, Comprehensive Operation &