



**Ministry of Public Works  
Department of Public Lands and Building**

**Request for Information  
For  
Government Solar Development Project**

Request for Information No.: **SPVPP01**

Issued: **Monday August 31, 2020**

Submission Deadline: **Monday October 12, 2020 5:00 PM ADT**

## 1. Introduction

This Request for Information (“RFI”) is issued by the Government of Bermuda (the “Government”) through the Ministry of Public Works and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and requests information from interested parties for the purposes of gathering information about the marketplace in order to assist in the determination of future purchasing options or requirements. Respondents are asked to respond to the Government and provide the information requested below.

## 2. RFI Timetable

Issue Date of RFI	Monday August 31, 2020
Deadline for Questions	Tuesday September 08, 2020 5:00 PM
Deadline for Addenda	Monday September 14, 2020 5:00 PM
Submission Deadline	Monday October 12, 2020 5:00 PM

All times listed are in Atlantic Daylight Time (ADT). The RFI timetable is tentative. It may be changed by the Government at any time, and the Government may choose to waive or extend the Deadline for Questions, Deadline for Addenda and/or the Submission Deadline.

## 3. Background

The Government of Bermuda and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) are issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gauge interest and gather relevant information from entities that can provide turnkey solar PV solutions under an Equipment Lease, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contract at Government-owned buildings across Bermuda.

The Government has the potential to procure Solar PV systems for various sites (all under the current regulatory license threshold of 500 kW per site) capable of providing an aggregated power capacity of approximately seven (7) MW<sub>DC</sub>.

Bermuda is committed to transforming the energy landscape to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuel while enhancing the development of sustainable energy sources. These objectives and targets are set out in the following documents;

- The National Electricity Sector Policy of Bermuda - 2015 (the Electricity Policy) [https://www.gov.bm/sites/default/files/bermuda\\_electricity\\_policy\\_150526\\_3.pdf](https://www.gov.bm/sites/default/files/bermuda_electricity_policy_150526_3.pdf)
- The 2018 National Fuels Policy of Bermuda - 2018 (the Fuels Policy) <https://www.gov.bm/sites/default/files/National-Fuels-Policy-of-Bermuda.pdf>
- The Bermuda Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) - 2019 <https://www.ra.bm/documents/bermuda-integrated-resource-plan-irp-2019/?wpdmdl=13822&refresh=5f47bf09ba2eb1598537481>

## Bermuda Profile

The Island of Bermuda is a British Overseas Territory located in the Northern Atlantic Ocean (32.3078° N, 64.7505° W). The island has a population of 65 331 people making Bermuda the 11th most population-dense country in the world. Bermuda is a net importer of products with an average of \$ 979.5 Million in imports per year. Bermuda imports approximately 990 000 Barrels of Oil (Bbl) or the equivalent per year in fossil fuel imports. Economic activity is heavily dependent on the attraction of foreign investment. The Bermudian Dollar (BMD or BD\$) is the

official currency of Bermuda and is pegged to the United States Dollar at a one-to-one ratio of exchange. The island is 53.2 km<sup>2</sup> with a GDP of US\$ 5.574 Billion per year. As a services territory, Bermuda is driven by international business, insurance, reinsurance, and tourism. Bermuda's system of government is based on the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy and as such law is based on the common law legal system of England and Wales.

## **Bermuda Energy Sector**

Bermuda has 100 percent electrification with approximately 255 miles of underground cabling across the transmission and distribution (T&D) system of The Bermuda Electric Light Company (BELCO). BELCO is the sole electric utility provider in Bermuda - owned by the Ascendant Group Limited (AGL). The island has an electrical capacity of 165 MW (2018) and a peak demand of approximately 106 MW (BELCO 2019). Peak demand typically spikes between 6.00 pm and 9.00 pm and is met by predominantly using diesel generation (BELCO 2019).

The T&D system consists of a 4.16 kV primary distribution system, with secondary distribution at 480/240/208 V. Transmission for the grid operates at 22kV. BELCO is responsible for transmission, distribution and generation in Bermuda.

The average rate of electricity is \$0.39 per kilowatt-hour. In 2018, after the review conducted by the Regulatory Authority of Bermuda, in accordance with section 37(b) of the Electricity Act, the renewable energy Feed-in Tariff was set to \$0.2265 per kWh – effective October 3, 2019. Solar owners are allowed to self-consume their electricity with a rate offset of approximate \$0.39/kWh

We acknowledge that the current public health crisis (COVID-19) and related economic crisis introduces new uncertainties to project financing and solar development. However, the primary goal of this RFI has been to consider solar projects as an economic stimulus in Bermuda, and this goal remains vital during this time of these uncertainties.

## **Project Information**

This RFI seeks information from industry partners, as well as to identify qualified individuals, firms, teams, organizations, qualified owners or investors, and local contractors/firms in Bermuda that are interested in entering into or are experienced with solar energy development projects. This information will help with the evaluation of potential opinions for the development, procurement, and delivery of solar PV projects to be constructed on Government-owned facilities as outlined in this RFI.

In 2019, the Government of Bermuda with the support of the Department of Energy, Rocky Mountain Institute and multiple stakeholders across the Island, carried out a solar PV pre-feasibility study that explored the available physical space for solar PV development across Bermuda. A total of over 1,600 potential ground-mount or rooftop sites (area totaling over 4.8 km<sup>2</sup> – of Bermuda's 53.2 km<sup>2</sup>) were identified in the first phase.

## Objective

The Objective of this RFI is to identify the following:

1. Project structure and development, including delivery models
2. Potential commercial and financing solutions and structures
3. Indicative solar PV pricing
4. Project timelines for an aggregated-multi-location solar photovoltaic (PV) project
5. Shape a future solicitation for approximately forty (40) project sites across the Island.
6. Any other relevant information to help inform the Government's understanding of the solar PV market
7. Potential risks faced by the Project

## 4. Information Requested

In order to achieve the objectives please review and complete in full the attached questionnaire and return by email to **solarprocurement@gov.bm**

See **ANNEX B – QUESTIONNAIRE**

## 5. Submission Instructions

Respondents are asked to submit their information and signed Respondent Submission Form by Monday October 12, 2020 05:00:00 PM (ADT) to the following email address and to the attention of the RFI Contact – **Aran McKittrick** at

**solarprocurement@gov.bm**

Respondents should direct any questions on this RFI process to the same RFI Contact.

Submissions should include a completed and signed **Respondent Submission Form (ANNEX A)** that acknowledges, among other things, that this RFI and any respondent submissions will not create a legal relationship or obligation regarding the procurement of any good or service.

Respondents downloading this file and intending to respond to this RFI are required to register their interest with the RFI Contact by emailing their company name and contact information to

**Aran McKittrick** at: **solarprocurement@gov.bm** prior to the Submission Deadline noted in the RFI timetable above.

Amendment/addenda (if any) will be posted at <https://www.gov.bm/procurement-notices>. Respondents should visit the Government Portal on a regular basis during the procurement process.

**NOTE: The Government's current size limit for email attachments is 10MB.**

## ANNEX A – RESPONDENT SUBMISSION FORM

### 1. Respondent Information

Please fill out the following form, naming one person to be the respondent's contact for the RFI process and for any clarifications or communication that might be necessary.	
Full Legal Name of Respondent or Personal/Given Name:	
Representative's Name (Person with Signing Authority) and Title:	
Street Address:	
City, Province/State, Parish:	
Postal Code/Zip Code:	
Country:	
Phone Number with Area Code:	
Respondent's Social Insurance Number issued by the Government of Bermuda (if applicable):	
Respondent's Payroll Tax Number issued by the Government of Bermuda (if applicable):	
Company Website (if any):	
Respondent Contact Name and Title:	
Respondent Contact Phone:	
Respondent Contact Fax:	
Respondent Contact Email:	

### 2. Terms of Reference

In responding to this RFI, the respondent acknowledges its acceptance of the following RFI Terms of Reference:

#### a. Request for Information Not a Formal Competitive Bidding Process

This RFI is issued for information-gathering purposes and is not intended to create legal obligations between the Government and any of the respondents or their representatives. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this RFI will not necessarily result in any subsequent negotiations, direct contract award, invitational tendering process or open tendering

process, and does not constitute a commitment by the Government to procure any goods or services.

**b. RFI Not to Limit the Government's Pre-Existing Rights**

This RFI will not limit any of the Government's pre-existing rights. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Government expressly reserves the right, at its discretion, to:

- (i) seek subsequent information or initiate discussions with any potential supplier, including potential suppliers that did not respond to this RFI;
- (ii) initiate direct negotiations for the procurement of any good or service with any potential supplier or suppliers, regardless of whether the potential supplier or suppliers responded to this RFI;
- (iii) contact a limited number of potential suppliers, which may include only those that responded to this RFI or may include potential suppliers that did not respond to this RFI, for the purpose of a competitive process for the procurement of any good or service;
- (iv) elect to proceed by way of open tender call where all potential respondents, including those that did not respond to this RFI, are eligible to compete for the award of a contract for the supply of any good or service; and
- (v) elect not to procure the good or service that is the subject of this RFI.

These expressly reserved rights are in addition to any and all other rights of the Government that existed prior to the issuance of this RFI.

**c. Pricing Information for General Information Purposes Only**

Any pricing information provided by respondents is for general information purposes and is not intended to be binding on respondents. Any legally binding pricing or purchasing commitments will be established only where specified by the express terms of a subsequent tender call process or where established through the execution of a written agreement.

**d. Information in RFI Only an Estimate**

The Government and its advisers make no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy of the information or empirical data contained in the RFI or issued by way of addenda. Any quantities shown or data contained in this RFI, or provided by way of addenda, are estimates provided only as general background information.

**e. Parties to Bear Their Own Costs**

The Government will not be liable for any expenses incurred by a respondent, including the expenses associated with the cost of preparing responses to this RFI. The parties will bear their own costs associated with or incurred through this RFI process, including any costs arising out of, or incurred in, (i) the preparation and issuance of this RFI; (ii) the preparation and making of a submission; or (iii) any other activities related to this RFI process.

**f. Accuracy of Responses**

The respondent acknowledges that the information provided is, to the best of its knowledge, complete and accurate.

**g. Submissions Will Not Be Returned**

Except where set out to the contrary in this RFI or expressly requested in the respondent's submission, the submission and any accompanying documentation provided by a respondent will not be returned.

**h. Confidential Information of the Government**

All information provided by or obtained from the Government in any form in connection with this RFI either before or after the issuance of this RFI (i) is the sole property of the Government and must be treated as confidential; (ii) is not to be used for any purpose other than replying to this RFI; (iii) must not be disclosed without prior written authorization from the Government; and (iv) must be returned by the respondent to the Government immediately upon the request of the Government.

The respondent may not at any time directly or indirectly communicate with the media in relation to this RFI without first obtaining the written permission of the Government.

**i. Disclosure of Information**

The respondent consents to the Government's collection of information as contemplated under the RFI for the uses contemplated under the RFI. Respondents should not include information in their response that is proprietary or confidential. To the extent that a respondent does include confidential or proprietary information, the respondent should identify any information in its submission or any accompanying documentation supplied in confidence for which confidentiality is to be maintained by the Government. The confidentiality of such information will be maintained by the Government, except where the Public Access to Information Act 2010 or where an order by a tribunal or court requires the Government to do otherwise. The respondent consents to the disclosure, on a confidential basis, of this submission by the Government to advisers retained by the Government for the purpose of reviewing this submission.

The respondent acknowledges that the Government may make public the name of any and all respondents.

**j. Governing Law**

This RFI process will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Bermuda applicable therein.

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Signature of Witness

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Signature of Respondent Representative

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Name of Witness

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Name of Respondent Representative

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Title of Respondent Representative

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Date