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New 850kWp Solar PV plant for KMIII International Airport

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A new 850kWp solar photo-voltaic power plant is in the pipeline for the King Mswati III International Airport.

The Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority (ESWACAA), through a Request for Qualification (RFQ) listed on the Eswatini Published on the Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA), has called for the engineering, procurement, construction and financing of an 850kWp Solar Photo-Voltaic power plant at the airport. ESWACAA is a Category A government parastatal established through an Act of Parliament, whose mandate, among others is to operate KMIII International Airport, improve the financial and economic viability of civil aviation, and to provide adequate, efficient and quality airport facilities and services to users.

Through this RFQ, the ESWACAA intends to enter into a solar energy management service (EMS) agreement that creates economic value for the airport.

Design

Specifically, the purpose of this RFQ is to solicit qualifications from proponents to design, procure, install, test, commission, operate, maintain, and decommission a solar photo-voltaic (PV) power generating system with guaranteed on-site electricity generation at a site to be identified at KM III International Airport.

The authority explained that this project shall be delivered under a full wrap turn-key, lump sum fixed, date-certain engineering, procurement, construction & finance (EPC&F) contract under the build, own, oper-



SOLAR BOOST: The KMIII International Airport.

● A photovoltaic power station, also known as a solar park or solar farm, is a large-scale photovoltaic system (PV system) designed for the supply of merchant power into the

electricity grid. They are differentiated from most building-mounted and other decentralised solar power applications because they supply power at the utility level, rather

than to a local user or users. The generic expression utility-scale solar is sometimes used to describe this type of project.

(Wikipedia)

ate and transfer (BOT) project model.

"ESWACAA plans to move as quickly as practicable to identify, through this RFQ, the most qualified proponents that meets the needs of the ESWACAA, demonstrates a thorough understanding of the current solar energy standards and technologies, and also demonstrates ability to successfully finance and complete a solar EMS projects," reads the document.

It was also mentioned that the minimum scope proposed by the ESWACAA for this RFQ is a ground mounted PV system at a land of the airport. ESWACAA said they would also like to realise economic benefit through the inclusion of an energy storage facility if including this in the project scope increases the benefits to the airport.

The solar PV plant shall be interconnected to an 11 kV radial Medium Voltage (MV) underground distri-

bution network.

The general scope of work contained in this RFQ is not intended to be exhaustive and is subject to change. Information is provided based on current knowledge of future scope of work and this is non-binding to ESWACAA or its staff.

Evaluated

They added that interested entities would be evaluated based on their ability to meet all requirements and criteria outlined in this RFQ.

"The authority invites consultants/contractors, herein referred to as the developer, in solar power plant development to submit their qualification for the construction of an 850kWp PV solar plant connected to a 11kV underground cable distribution system as outlined in this RFQ.

The RFQ is the first stage of the procurement process, and is designed to identify qualifying developers.

"ESWACAA is looking for reputable, experienced and multi-disciplined engineering developers who have the ability to mobilise funds for turn-key project delivery," states the RFQ.

It was also noted that developers must demonstrate a successful track record in developing and operating solar PV projects of this size.

"The developers, or at least one partner in the consortium, must also submit audited financial statements for the last three years, showing positive profits for each of these years.

"Only those developers who successfully respond to the RFQ and meet the qualifications criteria outlined will be invited to participate in the final solicitation process, the Request for Proposal (RFP)," the authority said.

The deadline for submission has been set for no later than mid day on December 22.