

FIFTH BID SUBMISSION PHASE OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY IPP PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME

BIDDERS' CONFERENCE QUERIES AND CLARIFICATIONS - 26 MAY 2021

Ref#	Query	Response
1.	How does the REIPPP Programme look like in a restructured ESI? Still priority dispatch + government guarantee?	The ESI restructuring will need to consider the contracts that have been implemented prior to the restructuring process being finalized. The REIPPPP Bid Window 5 is designed on a self-dispatch principle and has incorporated the Government Guarantee.
2.	Can you go into more detail on how you will enforce the tighter deadlines to financial close and COD long stop date? What carrot and stick is there to ensure bids stick to the timeline?	Preferred Bidders are required to provide a Preferred Bidder Guarantee in terms of clause 26.2 (Preferred Bidder Guarantee) of Part A of the RFP and the Preferred Bidder may be called upon by the Department in terms of clause 26.4.2.5 and 26.4.2.6 of Part A (General Requirements, Rules and Provisions) of the RFP. Furthermore Preferred Bidders are required to pay a Preferred Bidder Fee in terms of 26.5 (Preferred Bidder Fee) of Part A (General Requirements, Rules and Provisions) of the RFP and such fee is non-refundable and will be forfeited should the Preferred Bidder not reach Commercial Close in circumstances contemplated in clause 26.5.4 of Part A (General Requirements, Rules and Provisions) of the RFP.
3.	It was informed that the last day of written questions/clarifications is on 2nd July but in the RFP and the IPP website it still says 16 July as the last day. Can we receive a confirmation on which day it is?	The last date of written questions or clarifications is 16 July 2021
4	Does the IPP's decommissioning budget also need to include provision for funds to attend to socio-economic impacts of the decommissioning?	Refer to Part A clause 8.7 of the RFP for guidance of typical costs that should be provided for.
5	If all of the shareholders are required to be part of the bidder but the local community vehicle is not required to be incorporated at the bid response date. How would the BEE contributor status be determined for the bidder when some of the parties do not exist?	If the local community vehicle is not incorporated at the bid response date, a letter from a SANAS accredited B-BBEE Verification Agent confirming the Contributor Status Level that will be achieved once the structure is incorporated is sufficient. This should be accompanied by an undertaking that the local community vehicle shall be incorporated at a later stage to hold equity in the Project Company for the local community.
6	For smaller companies that do not have financial muscle, how is the department planning to help them so they participate in bidding.	The Financial Evaluation criteria allows prospective Bidders to approach Developmental Finance Institutions (DFI) for funding – where DFI's provide equity funding the DFI would then be the ultimate provider of equity finance and the Bidder evaluated based on the DFI's Net Assets or Track Record. For the Debt Track Record test not all, but ANY of the members can provide detail to indicate the Debt Track Record and as such allowing smaller entities to partner with other entities.
7	Regarding the Cost Estimate Letter to be included in the Bid Response.	Yes.
8	The forecast accuracy requirements, when applied to wind, are very strenuous and from a brief test performed from an existing windfarms statistics, the facility will be in breach approximately 30% of the time and as such, in a constant penalty state. South Africa weather forecasting is not as accurate as in Europe/ USA etc due to the sparsely installed number of weather stations. It needs review.	Noted.
9	Is there any limit to the DC: AC ratio for a solar PV Project? What is maximum & minimum DC capacity we can connect to 75MW Solar Power Project? Any limitation on DC minimum & maximum capacity for 75MW ac Solar Power Plant?	There are no DC capacity limits in the REIPPPP Bid Window 5.
10.	On some recent CELs there has been 400kV works which Eskom has listed as "share" or "upstream" scopes. It is my understanding that this means that Eskom will construct those scopes and they cannot be self-built. This is a concern due to tight project timelines. Can the IPP request to perform those scopes themselves? If not, what guarantees does the IPP receive on the timing of those works from Eskom?	The Eskom Transmission Self Build Procedure accommodates for the self-built.
11.	I would like to understand if there is any tariff adjustment mechanism the IPPO is considering in order to tackle the current commodities and sea freight prices situation, sitting on high volatility and history records.	The only tariff adjustments allowed is for foreign exchange (limited to 50% of Capital Expenditure) and interest rate movements from Bid Submission to Commercial Close as outlined in the RFP. Any other cost items are Bidders' risk.

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12.	It appears that RFQ did not state that Bid window 5 is “exclusively “for solar and wind energy projects. Are any other alternative green energy solutions excluded from participating in this bid process?	There are no alternative green energy solutions apart for Onshore Wind and Solar PV contemplated in this Procurement.
13	The penalty regime for Wind is welcomed, prevents cowboy bidding.	The question is not clear. Please could the bidder rephrase the question?
14	<p>There are several designated local content (DLC) elements where there is limited local manufacturing capacity, to the extent where local suppliers may not be able to serve the full requirement from preferred bidder projects under BW5. Naturally therefore, it is likely that not all preferred bidders will be able to secure their designated local content items, committed at bid, post award. How will the IPPO and DTI manage the equitable distribution of these items across preferred bidder projects, without incentivising that it becomes a betting game, where bidders will be incentivised to formulate strategies to minimise DLC and secure cheaper components from overseas?</p> <p>On Appendix 5A, modules and frames must have a certain % of local content, however modules and frames being manufactured in SA that comply with those requirements, will be in demand and hence more expensive?</p> <p>As there is currently only limited Module assembly available in SA and new technologies (large format and bifacial) are not available at all. How does the IPPO address this issue and how does the IPPO addresses the high cost of local assembled modules?</p>	<p>The National Treasury Designated Sectors Circulars provides that if there is a particular designated product in respect of which the minimum threshold for local content cannot be met for various reasons, a Bidder must apply for approval or “authorisation” before the Bid Submission Date. After verifying with the industry, the dtic will then decide whether or not to grant an authorisation. This authorisation will apply to all Bidders in the REIPP Procurement Programme.</p> <p>Where a Bidder is of the view that the minimum threshold for Designated Local Content cannot be met, the Bidder must apply for an appropriate exemption from the dtic in accordance with the National Treasury Designated Sectors Circulars.</p>
15	As no threshold is indicated for a Bidder or it's material contractors to be BBBEE compliant, please confirm that a BBBEE Status for the IPP is not a qualifying criteria, but will only be applicable in the event of scoring should there be an over subscription of Qualifying Bidders per technology.	Clause 3.1 of Part C (Evaluation Criteria Requirements) indicates that Compliant Bids will be scored for Contributor Status Level, out of 10 (ten) points, in accordance with the scoring methodology provided for in the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017 issued in terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act.
16	A new entity will not have a record for a SANAS certification. Will an Affidavit suffice for Contributor Status?	Yes, it is acceptable. The affidavit must be verified by a SANAS accredited B-BBEE Verification Agent.
17	ED Plans are not designated as a requirement for the Bid Submission, but are designated to be submitted to the Department prior to signing the Implementation Agreement. When will this draft submission be required?	The draft submission of Economic Development (ED) plans will be required at Bid Submission in the form of the ED commitments and proof of ED compliance by the Bidder.
18	Can the supplier apply for the Exemption for their product if supplying to more than one Bidder. Or is it compulsory for the Bidder to process the application?	Clause 4.3.8.1 of Volume 5 Part 1 (Economic Development Criteria) indicates that the National Treasury Designated Sectors Circulars states that where the quantity of materials and/or products required cannot be wholly sourced from South African based manufacturers and/or at the relevant Designated Local Content threshold at a particular time, Bidders should seek written approval from the dtic to supply the remaining portion at a lower threshold.
19	Given that there is no possibility of Early Revenue, will the use-of-system charges between facility energization date and COD, also be waived. (Fair play.)	Early Operating Energy Payment has been accommodated for in clause 8.1. of the RFP Part B Volume 2 – Appendix K PPA.
20	It is understood that all Part B, 2.7 thresholds and long standing obligations are tracked in the IA. Please confirm in which document (if at all) Contributor Status is tracked beyond Bid Submission date?	Contributor Status Level is not part of Part B, 2.7 thresholds for purposes of the procurement process. Engagement is continuing with the dtic on the requirement for purposes of the maintenance of the Contributor Status Level post procurement for the purposes of registration on the Central Supplier Database. Further communication on this will follow.
21	Good morning, will the current court case which is underway in relation to the bidding process followed within the RMIPPPP impact the bid window 5 bidding process? In particular, one of the processes being challenged is the issuing of briefing notes which supersedes the original RFP docs as the claimant claims that this is an anti-competitive process.	The particular concern is not understood. The particular court case is not relevant to this process. The Department has however reserved the rights in the RFP to issue Briefing Notes to supplement, amend, vary or modify any part or aspect of the RFP in clause 28 of Part A (General Requirements, Rules and Provisions) of the RFP. This approach and the issuing of briefing notes is practice widely used in other government procurement and has previously been applied on other large scale infrastructure projects.
22	Please confirm what Measurement Period should be used for the Contributor Level status to be submitted at Bid Submission date?	Guidance for the measurement period is provided in the B-BBEE Codes of Good Practice. The requirement at Bid Submission date is the submission of a valid B-BBEE certificate or B-BBEE affidavit.
23	Will the IPP office support up and coming local IPP's partnering with the regular established players? Is there any information of the established players?	Neither the Department nor the IPP Office will assist in the partnership of any parties as such may undermine the integrity of the procurement process.
24	Are hybrid technologies allowed for this bid, such as PV + Storage + Back Up?	No. Hybrid solutions are not contemplated in this Programme.

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25	When one considers government policy of a just transition from coal to renewables, why has the IPP office not set new criteria to facilitate this transition for Round 5 in terms of among others, skills transfer and training criteria plus priority for projects planned in geographical areas where coal fired power stations and coal mines exist?	The purpose of REIPPPP Bid Window 5 is to procure Energy Output from Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy technologies. Initiatives in respect of just transition and spatial distribution of projects in furtherance of this objective fall outside the ambit of REIPPPP Bid Window 5.
26	Are time of use tariffs allowed if a hybrid solution is proposed which can provide for peak loads and dispatchable energy on demand any time of day?	No. Hybrid solutions are not contemplated in this Programme.
27	Designated L/C - as an OEM we supply TSI service for multiple projects - where exemption is requested for components that is applicable to multiple projects can we apply for exemption in a single application or must we apply for exemption per project?	The Bidder can apply for exemption in a single application.
28	If repowering is planned after initial operating period then rehabilitation costs should only include cost of disposal of dismantled equipment?	We require that the full Rehabilitation Cost be provided for as outlined in Clause 8.7 of Part A of the RFP.
29	Designated L/C - "Where exemption is granted to a single bidder it becomes an exemption across all bidders. Please clarify -as an example if transformers are exempted in a single bidder, will transformers with different specifications also be exempted across all bidders, refer clause 4.3.8.5.5.	Exemption requests are approved on a case-by-case basis according to clause 4.3.8.3 of Volume 5 Part 1 (Economic Development Criteria). Where the specifications are different the Bidder should apply for exemption.
30	In the scoring of Economic Development Penalties. Will this be per sub-element or will they be accumulated for all elements?	ED Penalties will be reconciled after each contract year taking into account the performance of the Seller on all the elements and sub-elements.
31	If the EDO criteria is required to be met at qualification stage, does this mean all the elements for BBBEE contributor status level will be then considered or is a commitment sufficient from the Bidder? Will a BEE certificate be sufficient or do all the elements need to be complied with by the SPV?	The question is not clear, can the bidder rephrase the question.
32	What is the reason for the decrease of local content in this Window Will local content increase in the following bid windows?	The Local Content Threshold was determined after extensive consultation with the dtic , industry and associations and it was set at an appropriate level considering the prevailing position of the market. The Local Content Thresholds for each Bid Window is reviewed and subjected to extensive consultation.
33	Alternative technologies are not included in this round. Is there a scope to submit bids for CSP plus storage in this round?	No. Alternative technology solutions are not contemplated in this Programme.
34	Is there a proven energy generated forecasting model, noting that one has no control over the sun or wind?	This is a Bidder's risk.
35	Should ownership thresholds be upheld during all of operating period (20-25 years) or some lock-up period is in effect?	The ownership threshold must be upheld throughout the operating period.
36	Can you please confirm how the evaluation of commercial energy rates will be undertaken for a given project needing to submit both a fully indexed and partially indexed EAT - more specifically, will a single EAT be selected by the department for comparison/ranking against other bidders or will both EATs be compared and ranked against other projects? If the former (i.e. a single EAT is ranked only), will the lower EAT always be selected?	A Briefing Note will be issued providing more clarity. As part of the Part C Evaluation both the Bidders Fully Indexed and Partially Indexed Price will be evaluated separately. The Department retains the right to accept either the Fully Indexed or Partially Indexed Price based on a Value for Money assessment.
37	SARS hasn't yet implemented a strict payment policy on tax carbon to the co2 producing companies leaving such up them to determine the co2 consumption and taxes liability. This is a concern in my model (which is substantially different from the standard one used).	For the Renewable Energy Programme, it is not expected that there will be a significant carbon emission and resultant cost – can the prospective Bidder who raised this question please provide more detail in a further clarification request.
38	Are Bidders expected to maintain the Contributor Status Level committed at Bid during the Operation Measurement Period?	The Contributor Status Level is not monitored as part of the IA requirements. Engagement is continuing with the dtic on the requirement for purposes of the maintenance of the Contributor Status Level post procurement for the purposes of registration on the Central Supplier Database. Further communication on this will follow.
39	At what stage does one apply for funding? During this part of the bidding or process or when they are appointed?	As outlined in the RFP, Bidders are required to bid a fully funded bid – please refer to Clause 2.5 Financial Criteria and Evaluation of Part B of the RFP.
40	We well aware that the risk is passed onto the bidder on reaching financial close. We accept this however wrt to SALA approval being the one of the last approvals of a fully developed project and for bid submission purposes only	The risk and responsibility to ensure all regulatory approvals are in place is that of the Bidder.

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	a SALA application is required. What support will be given by the IPP office in securing a SALA approval should it be selected Preferred Bidder?	
41	Where an EA is in place for a footprint of 300MW, would the EA cover a submission of 4 projects?	Bidder to solicit its own independent legal advice and ensure compliance with the requirements of clause 2.4 (Environmental Consent Criteria and Evaluation) in Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria) of the RFP.
42	Clause 8.6.4 of Part A says that quote "the DHSWS has advised the Department that it will only consider applications for water use licences in respect of Projects, once Bidders are appointed as Preferred Bidders by the Department". With this being said how would we satisfy the Part B criteria for WULA for Bid Submission?	The requirement of clause 2.4.1.5 (Environmental Consent Criteria and Evaluation) in Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria) of the RFP, is for the Bidder to provide "proof" that an application has been made.
43	Regarding contributor status level and SA participation, it is noted that recognition will only be given five years after bid submission for the secondary market, e.g., Private equity funds, pension funds etc part 1: page 28 Clause 5.3.8. "Black People where they comply with the B-BBEE Codes' requirements for Private Equity Funds and only after the date which falls 5 (five) years after the Commercial Operation Date ("Private Equity Fund Eligible Participation Date") for the Project. "	No, The Contributor Status Level is only used in the Evaluation Criteria to determine the point out of 10 in the Competitive ranking and scoring. The reference to Private Equity Fund in clause 5.3.8 is in relation to secondary sell down by shareholders. At the time of the secondary sell-down the Seller will have to demonstrate that the Private Equity Fund complies with the requirements of the B-BBEE Codes.
44	How will the Black Private Equity Funder be recognised at the time of bid?"	If the Black Private Equity Funder meets the definition of a Fund as outlined in Part A of the RFP, it will be evaluated as providing funding from a Fund and must meet the relevant criteria as outlined in Clause 2.5 Financial Criteria and Evaluation of Part B of the RFP. Black Private Equity funds will be recognised using the Flow Through Principle at the time of Bid.
45	What happens after 20 years when the PPA expires, will there be an opportunity to extend the contract or are we going to have to renegotiate a new contract?	The term of the PPA is 20 years from the Commercial Operation Date. Any extension or variation will be informed by the Department and the need to comply with relevant legislative requirements at the time relating to procurement and electricity supply and generation.
46	With reference to RFP Part 3: 3.7, what constitutes "Contract Value"? - A Bidder will not be awarded points for Contributor Status Level, if it is indicated in its Bid Response that the Bidder intends subcontracting more than 25% (twenty five percent) of the contract value to any person that does not qualify for at least the preference points that such Bidder qualifies for? Can Louis please provide clarity on the stipulation about the Bidder sub-contracting more than 25% of the contract value? As this affects the expected Contributor status level of contractors. Where can we find the definition for contract value as envisaged here?	Clause 3.7 is crafted with specific reference to Regulation 12 of the PPPFA Regulations. Any person is reference to the person or legal entity to whom the contract (in this case the Preferred Bidder who will become the Seller after signature of the Project Documents) was awarded. The sub-contracting is reference to any other enterprise that does not have an equal or Higher B-BBEE status level of contributor than the person (legal entity) to whom the contract was awarded. Total Contract Value is a commercial term and is usually reference to total contract value by adding all the total recurring revenues for the contract term, plus fees and the sum of the subscription fees multiplied by the total number of subscription payments.
47	How will the accuracy of the decommissioning cost assumptions be assessed by the IPPO? Shouldn't it be advisable that the IPPO provides a calculation methodology?	We require that the full Rehabilitation Cost be provided for as outlined in Part A Clause 8.7 of the RFP and will be assessed accordingly.
48	Regarding Water Use, if a General Authorization has been obtained, is a Water Use Licence application still required? Or the GA is sufficient?	Refer to the requirement of clause 2.4.1.4 (Environmental Consent Criteria and Evaluation) in Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria) of the RFP.
49	Regarding ED commitments. Can it be confirmed that Local Content of 40% (wind) considers Construction + Operations period expenditures? Can it be confirmed that for Operations L/C calculation, no discount rate has to be considered? i.e. 1ZAR spent as CAPEX and 1ZAR spent the year 19 in OPEX has the same value for LC calculation?	Bidders must demonstrate compliance with the Threshold for the Construction Measurement and the Operations Measurement Period. The thresholds are separate and distinct. Adjustment to commitments may be made at Financial Close but this is in the sole discretion of the Department.
50	ESKOM has confirmed no Capacity has come online or taken up. My question is the validity period been 6 months after bid submission, RMIPPPP CEL's were issued in December 2020 and will only be valid 4 months after bid submission. So RMIPPPP CELs with are two months short of the RFP Clauses making it non bid compliant can the clause 2.6.3.6.2.2 of PART B of the RFP be changed to 4 months valid instead of 6 months valid or ESKOM to re-issue CEL's at a reduced cost to the IPP . The IPP/us is willing to take the risk of capacity been taken up dedicated substation as it knows is not taken up? In accordance with clause 2.6.3.6.2.2 of PART B of the RFP The Bidder must provide the time and cost estimate letter from the relevant Grid Provider, which is validly issued and signed on behalf of the Grid Provider, which remains valid for at least 6 (six) months after the Bid Submission Date stated in clause 8.4 (Timetable for the Fifth Bid Submission Phase of the REIPP Procurement Programme), and which includes the scope of work and any appendices, for the indicative cost and indicative timeline for grid connection. As per the above clause mentioned, the CEL's we obtained from RMIPPPP obtained on the 10th December 2020 will not be valid for 6 months (Valid for only 4 months after bid submission on the 16th August)?	The qualification criteria of clause 2.6.3.6.2.2 of Part B of the RFP remains.

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	No Capacity has been allocated on this Substation for RMIPPPP and the CEL's are 2 month shy of the required 6 months validity. Do we spend an additional 600 K ZAR we spent on CEL's or can these CEL's still be valid for bidding?	
51	Where such consents were obtained for the RMI, where the contracted capacity was greater than 75MW, could that consent be applied to multiple projects?	Please clarify the consents being mentioned.
52	If I have a foreign partner, will REIPP department accept my bid as a sole proprietary company owner?	Bidder to seek independent advice on an interpretation of the RFP and RFP requirements in this respect.
53	We have a valid Environmental Authorization in place, and we have applied for some modifications of the environmental authorization through a Part 2 amendment. To pass the qualification criteria, must we have such amendment already issued at bid submission date or will it be acceptable that we demonstrate that the amendment process is in advanced stage of evaluation?	It will be acceptable to provide the legal opinion and proof of the existing Environmental Authorization as set out in clause 2.4.2 (Environmental Consent Criteria and Evaluation) in Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria) of the RFP and proof of submission of the amendment application in compliance with the requirements of clause 2.4.2 of Part b of the RFP.
54	Can we get clarity please on the treatment of local content on transmission connection works? Should this meet the Designated Local Content requirements, while it is not included in the Total Project Value? How is this to be treated in the determination of overall local content?	Bidders must comply with all designated local content requirements in the construction measurement period.
55	Must the Project Company (IPP) submit designated local content exemption requests on behalf of materials contractors/vendors or can the materials contractor/vendors apply for exemption directly to DTIC?	At Bid Submission the Bidder must demonstrate compliance with designations unless it holds a valid exemption from the dtic . The Bidder must approach dtic for such exemption. If any Bidder obtains an exemption from the dtic in respect of any designated Local Content, such exemption will be applicable to all Bidders.
56	Regarding compliance with the applicable codes, please can you confirm if the department will accept bids from a Project Entity that is either structured as an Incorporated and Unincorporated structure?	At Bid the Project Company could be Incorporated or yet to be incorporated. The Bidders must ensure that where an entity is unincorporated the proposed Shareholders must be willing to commit to the Threshold Criteria for Economic Development set out in Part B (Qualification Criteria) Part 5 (Economic Development). All Qualification Criteria regarding the Project Structure must be met.
57	The RFP introduces bid requirement for Bidder contributor status. Will this be an ongoing requirement (or only bid qualification) and will this be included in the Implementation Agreement?	It is a requirement for bid evaluation. Engagement is continuing with the dtic on the requirement for purposes of the maintenance of the Contributor Status Level post procurement for the purposes of registration on the Central Supplier Database. Further communication on this will follow.
58	Regarding the calculation of contributor status level, please can you confirm whether a project company may participate as an EME?	Yes, they can.
59	The compliance requirements for SOE's and SoC's like IDC, DBSA and PIC is an unnecessary and irrelevant exercise. These are state entities.	State entities are required to comply with B-BBEE.
60	What was the thinking to set minimum size of 1MW - given that there is no indication that small projects of that size will be evaluated differently from large projects? If it is still competitive bidding how can projects of that size compete?	It allows Bidders to choose the most appropriate size for their Project between 1 MW and 140 MW for Onshore Wind and 1 MW to 75 MW for Solar Photovoltaic.
61	Can bidder be part of different consortia bidding on different projects? Can consortia composition change after bid is submitted?	Refer to clause 20 (Changes to Bid Response after appointment as Preferred Bidder) of Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria Requirements) of the RFP.
62	For the Environmental Criteria, will it be possible to consider an opinion from an independent environmental practitioner for bid compliance instead of a legal opinion as an environmental practitioner will better understand the practicalities of a renewable project? A lawyer would most likely require such feedback/input from an environmental practitioner to provide their legal opinion for tender purposes - so submitting the environmentalist's opinion would be more efficient.	The requirement is for an independent Legal Opinion to ensure compliance with the requirements of clause 2.4 (Environmental Consent Criteria and Evaluation) in Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria) of the RFP. Refer to the requirements of clause 1.6 and 1.7 of Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria Requirements) of the RFP.
63	To setup guidelines for bidders based on USA layouts and experiences is easy BUT can the Ministry of Energy or the IPP offer financial help? If left alone to the banking groups such as ABSA who claims billions (given to them by international concerns) to invest in renewable, I have for several years approach them only to be told that there is no such structure setup in their organization. NO WONDER OVERSEAS INVESTORS WIN MOST BIDDING AS THEY DO NOT RELY ON SA NON EXISTING INVESTORS.	The mandate of the DMRE and IPP Office is as procurement agent and Bidders take full risk of securing the funding required for their Project. DFI can be approached.
64	We got the invoice from Eskom regarding CEL letter. According to information on application form they said we should pay R19 280.00 but they say we should pay R 115 600.00 because we proposed to build more than 50 MW.	Noted but the question is not clear. Please can the question be clarified and re-submitted.

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65	We have a valid Environmental Authorization in place, and we have applied for some modifications of the environmental authorization through a Part 2 amendment. To pass the qualification criteria, must we have such amendment already issued at bid submission date or will it be acceptable that we demonstrate that the amendment process is in advanced stage of evaluation?	It will be acceptable to provide the legal opinion and proof of the existing Environmental Authorization as set out in clause 2.4.2 (Environmental Consent Criteria and Evaluation) in Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria) of the RFP and proof of submission of the amendment application in compliance with the requirements of clause 2.4.2 of Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria Requirements) of the RFP.
66	Will Mark-ups to the various support letters (in the format indicated in the various appendices) be permitted/accepted at all (considered on a case by case basis)?	Any deviations will not be accepted.
67	Where such consents were obtained for the RMI, where the contracted capacity was greater than 75MW, could that consent be applied to multiple projects?	Please clarify which consents are being referred to.
68	Is there a provision on the application for Small Businesses including an Enterprise Supplier Development aspect to accommodate new entrants in the IPP's? If there is such a provision what percentage is it and how will it be monitored by the department? - Unathi Sonti - Maritime Business Chamber.	SMME's are included under Procurement Element and a percentage of 5% or Total Measured Procurement Spend must be from QSE's and EME's. These commitments is measured through the quarterly reporting which may be subject to an audit.
69	Is there a difference between commercial close and financial close? What is the meaning of achieving commercial close as per the RFP requirements?	For purposes of the RFP Commercial Close and Financial Close will occur concurrently. Achievement of Commercial Close will occur on signature of the Power Purchase Agreement and the Implementation Agreement.
70	Servitude considerations around the substations are to be finalized prior bid submission, or will they become an integral part of negotiations post Bid Adjudication and as the Eskom Budgetary Quote is provided and the Grid Connection Agreement is discussed and signed?	This is the subject of a separate process with Eskom under the Budget Quote process.
71	"In terms of funding provided by an external fund, we only have the account number of the fund. It has become quite difficult to acquire the supporting documents. How can we work around this?" - SkyWelders Energy.	Clause 2.5. of Part B (Functional and Qualification Criteria) of the RFP outlines all requirements to be complied with when funding is being provided by a Fund. Requirements are also specific for Equity Finance and Debt Finance. Prospective Bidders will have to comply with all requirements outlined in clause 2.5 of Part B of the RFP in order to pass Criterion 2 - Financial standing and robustness of the funding proposal.
72	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As a start-up firm, we have external funders like the Spiritual White Boy Fund under the management of Veteran Tokyo Sexwale. This Fund is not South African, however us as SkyWelders Energy are citizens of South Africa. Kindly request Ms. Elsie Strydom to provide us with a detailed criterion of what information is required about the Fund. Our business is based on deploying Direct-Air-Capture technology in South Africa. Therefore, as a potential IPP supplier, we shall also ensure that the DAC plants are powered by this clean energy from the IPP project. We formally are requesting recognition of Direct-Air-Capture as a commodity like coal is. We need the Department of Mineral Resources to formal recognize this technology as a commodity. 	<p>In the event that funding is provided by a Fund the Bidder is required to provide the details of the Fund. The current status of the Fund, the value of committed amounts to the Fund and the status of the commitment from investors;</p> <p>With respect to the quantum of External Debt to be provided by the Fund, indicative levels and sources of investment, and the fund-raising strategy for the remaining amounts; and</p> <p>Letter of commitment from the general partners to the Fund or investors in the Fund providing External Debt, substantially in the form set out in Appendix R6 (Letter of Commitment from General Partners of and or Investors to the Fund).</p> <p>DAC technology is not recognized in this REIPPPP Bid Window 5.</p> <p>The Fund providing debt will be evaluated using the Track Record Test based on information provided.</p>
73	<p>Round 5 does not appear to address the government's policy of a just transition from coal to renewables. Current criteria (points systems) across the board, does not incentivize wind and solar projects that are being developed in areas where coal mines and coal fired power stations exist.</p> <p>The natural resources in these areas are typically lower that say for example, northern and eastern cape. Why has the IPP office allowed such unfair judgement criteria in this regard? A solar project in Mpumalanga cannot compete with a solar project in the northern Cape. Why is there no skills and training transfer incentive from coal to renewable energy industry?</p>	The purpose of REIPPPP Bid Window 5 is to procure Energy Output from Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy technologies.
74	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Where is the site of the plant located? What is the power output in Megawatts? What is the ICDB level required? Is international partnership allowed? What kind of licenses are required for the project? What was the last tariff rate awarded on Solar PV window bid 4? 	Please refer to the RFP and the guidance document on REIPPPP Bid Window 5 which was published on the REIPPPP website www.ipp-renewablesco.za on 21 May 2021.
75	1. There has been a huge concern around the Local content criteria, my question boards around the technology providers of Solar PV modules, there has been an ask from the criteria that we partner with companies that produce/construct this equipment in SA. How can we gradually bring this in to be seamless as i think this could	1. On the designation regarding Solar PV panels all bidders are required to engage with the dtic to facilitate a solution.

FIFTH BID SUBMISSION PHASE OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY IPP PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME

Ref#	Query	Response
	<p>be a shortfall as the industry does not cater for this in a large scale for everyone to comply? - Window 5</p> <p>2. In absence of the Small IPP project what has the Department / IPP office conducted to date in order to involve Black ownership, including Black female in the IPP industry, as it is difficult for previously disadvantage communities/people to enter this industry? – General</p> <p>3. What has the Department/IPP office put in place to avoid bidding companies from fronting and what are the remedies of these issues if this is picked up? Window 5 / General</p>	<p>2. Threshold criteria has been included in the qualification criteria which must be met by all Bidders which include Black Women Participation and Participation by Black People.</p> <p>3. Information is requested from Bidders (Sellers) annually to monitor the flow of dividends to BEE participants. Fronting is a criminal offence and will be reported to the relevant authority to investigate. Every person that becomes aware of fronting is compelled by law to report it and failure to do so is a criminal offence.</p>