



Market Sounding Questionnaire

“Implementation of a PV System at the St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant under PPP Leasing Agreement”

Ref No: WMA/TP/SPV

Date: 10 October 2023

Address: Jerningham Street, Curepipe, Mauritius
Tel: (230) 206 3000; Fax: (230) 673 4270
Website: <http://wmamauritius.mu>; E-mail: wma@intnet.mu

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Wastewater Management Authority (WMA), which is established as a body corporate, is responsible for all matters relating to the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater (WMA Act 2000). It operates as an autonomous developer under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities. The strategy of the WMA is guided by the Government's policy towards environment and sustainable development.
- 1.2 The WMA wishes to carry out a market sounding exercise to identify potential and capable private parties wishing to enter into a Public-Private Partnership Leasing agreement with the WMA for designing, financing, installing, commissioning, operating, and maintaining a Solar PV (SPV) plant at St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), based on the power capacity of 9.0 MWac as agreed by the CEB and the WMA.
- 1.3 The WMA will sign an Energy Supply and Purchase Agreement or connection agreement with the CEB and receive an agreed tariff for each unit of energy exported to the CEB grid.
- 1.4 The private promoter will be required to supply its electricity to the Central Electricity Board (Mauritius) network/grid on behalf of the WMA and be paid by the WMA on a monthly or annuity basis over a certain period of time agreed between the WMA and the private promoter.
- 1.5 This proposed initiative of the WMA will eventually contribute in increasing the share of the renewable energy production in Mauritius.
- 1.6 The project at St Martin WWTP will be on a pilot basis. Subsequently, the WMA intends to implement two (2) similar projects at Grand Baie WWTP and Mt Jacquot WWTP with estimated capacity of 6 MW and 4 MW respectively.

Note: It should be noted that this is not a procurement exercise. However, the interested parties may be requested, in due time, to respond to a formal Request for Proposal (RFP), through restricted bidding or open advertised bidding, whereby a private promoter will be selected to design, finance, install, operate and maintain, and in general be responsible for all other aspects of the Solar PV farm.

2.0 Brief Description of the Project

The WMA intends to embark on a Solar Photovoltaic Project of 9 MWac for which the WMA intends to attract potential private promoters to design, finance, install, test, commission, operate and maintain the SPV system on a PPP Leasing Agreement with the WMA.

A brief description of project is presented below:

The WMA has earmarked one potential site to develop the project which is the St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant for which an estimated non-service area of 110,000 m² is available for this project.

The St Martin WWTP is located in the district of Black River, Mauritius and the GPS location is -20.230031372476013, 57.43180811398891.

GPS QR CODE



St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant – SPV Project Location



The SPV project shall be under the Central Electricity Board Greenfield Renewable Energy Scheme for Public Entities and the WMA is entitled to enter this Scheme as a Parastatal body.

As at date, the WMA have already initiated all administrative procedures with the CEB and a Proposed Project Prefeasibility Form as well as a full Project Feasibility has already been submitted to the CEB.

3.0 The PPP leasing Agreement

The WMA intends to undertake the PV project under a PPP leasing agreement with a private promoter for a given period (say 15 years) under a PPP leasing Agreement. The WMA will provide land and access to the private promoter for installing, operating and maintaining the system.

The plan is for the private promoter to finance, develop, design, build, operate, and maintain the RE plant, and in general be responsible for all other aspects of the operation, maintenance and management.

The WMA will thereafter contract to an Energy Supply and Purchase Agreement with the CEB for the purchase of electrical energy for a period of 20 years subject to terms and conditions defined in the agreement.

Electricity produced will be sold to the CEB by the WMA through the Greenfield Renewable Energy Scheme over 20 years or as per agreement with the CEB.

The leasing fee to the private promoter will be paid from the sales revenue obtained from the CEB over a certain period of time agreed between the WMA and the private promoter.

The WMA will become the owner of the PV system at the end of the leasing agreement. At the end of the leasing agreement term, WMA will have no obligation to the private promoter and will keep all revenue for the sales of electricity from the CEB. However, a new maintenance contract with the private promoter may be agreed as an option.

The PV Plant will deliver electricity to a nearest substation as advised by the CEB. The private promoter shall build the feeder line, substation, communication system to connect to CEB System Control Centre for real time monitoring as per terms of the CEB.

4 Financial Model

The private promoter will be required to develop a financial model to determine the best possible financial options for the WMA. The Private Promoter will thereafter be required to submit their proposal and the most technically responsive and financially beneficial offer to the WMA will be retained.

5 Instructions to potential private promoters

- 5.1** Interested parties wishing to respond to this market sounding questionnaire are kindly requested to answer to the questions in part A and to complete their contact details in part B. Interested parties are requested to answer all questions included in part A.
- 5.2** In respect of the questions which include a rating scale, the answer should be marked with a tick mark (✓ or X) in the relevant field.
- 5.3** Interested parties who wish to comment on issues related to the Project but not included in this Questionnaire can complement their views on these issues in Section 2 of Part A of the Questionnaire.
- 5.4** The submission must include all forms included in Part B duly completed with all details requested, including any other documents deemed fit by the interested firms.
- 5.5** The completed questionnaires should be sent via e-mail must be in pdf electronic format only including any other documents deemed fit by the interested firms, to the following address:

pvprocurement@wma.intnet.mu

Interested firms may also opt to submit the duly filled Market Sounding form electronically through Google Forms on the following link <https://forms.gle/3zpSdvHZ3ovs6B3w6>.

- 5.6** The deadline for submission of the Market Sounding Questionnaire is on **17 November 2023 at 13.00 hrs (Mauritius Time)**.
- 5.7** After the market sounding exercise, potential private promoters may be contacted for further discussions on any clarifications on their submissions. This may include a presentation to the WMA with the aim of enabling the WMA to fully understand the submissions of the firm and any clarifications which may be required on the project.

6 Indicative Project Schedule

Milestone	Timeline
Bidding period	3 months
Evaluation	1 month
Financial and commercial close	3 months
Design, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the SPV Plant	Within 12 month of signing of Contract Agreement
Start of operation	Within 14 month of signing of Contract Agreement

7 Disclaimer

The WMA reserves the right not to accept views and proposals of interested parties that will respond to this questionnaire and explicitly states that this questionnaire is not a call for tenders or a pre-qualification questionnaire.

In addition, this questionnaire does not intend to bind any interested entities as to the content of their answers, and this questionnaire will not be taken into consideration during the assessment of the private promoters for any future project implementation.

Completion of the questionnaire will not commit any party to participate in further stages of the private promoter process and failure to complete the questionnaire will not prohibit entities from participation in the future private promoter selection process. During the market sounding process, all liabilities of WMA are excluded.

Note: This market sounding is not a procurement exercise and shall in no way make an obligation on WMA to invite or enter into a contract with any identified private promoter.

PART A

1. Project Attractiveness

- 1.1. Would you be interested to participate in a procurement process regarding this SPV project, as defined in section “2. Brief description of the project”?

1. Total lack of interest	2. Limited interest	3. Average interest	4. Major interest

If you have chosen (1) or (2) for the question above, please provide further details regarding:

- (a) The reasons for your limited interest, and
- (b) The factors that could stimulate your interest for participating in this process

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- 1.2. Would you be interested, in addition to question 1.1 above, to finance with appropriate financing tools (such as debt capital or bonds) all the costs for the design, install, test, commission, operate and maintain the SPV System, for which WMA holds the exclusive right to all energy exported to the CEB Grid, and to be repaid from the revenues of energy sold to the CEB?

1. Total lack of interest	2. Limited interest	3. Average interest	4. Major interest

If you have chosen (1) or (2) for the question above, please provide further details regarding:

- (a) The reasons for your limited interest, and
- (b) the factors that could stimulate your interest for providing financing

.....

.....

.....

- 1.3. Has your organization ever participated in a PPP Leasing Agreement for a particular project development?

YES	NO

If yes, please provide related information thereto.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- 1.4. What are your comments and suggestions on the indicative Project Schedule timeline to design, install, and test and commission of the Solar PV farm as at Section 6.0?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- 1.5. The WMA is proposing a minimum repayment terms over a span of 15 years to the private promoter for the SPV Project. Would you be interested?

1.Total lack of interest	2. Limited interest	3. Average interest	4. Major interest

If you have chosen (1) or (2) for the question above, please provide further details regarding:

- (a) The reasons for your limited interest, and
- (b) The financial model and factors that could stimulate your interest

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

1.6. What is the ideal number of years for leasing such a project?

.....
.....

1.7. Which project parameters would attract you to participate in this process?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

1.8. Based on past experience, which risks that relate to this specific project do you consider as the most important?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

1.9. Do you consider the project attractive from an investment point of view? Please refer to specific suggestions which you consider that in this phase of the project would improve the attractiveness of the investment.

1. Not at all	2. Slightly	3. Moderately	4. Very

.....
.....
.....
.....

1.10. Which repayment options would you consider as the most suitable this project?

.....
.....
.....
.....

1.11. Does your organization have experience: (a) in developing and operating large Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) plants (at least 5MW over past ten year period)?

1.Not at all	2.Slightly	3.Moderately	4.Very

Please define the type, capacity and years of experience with reference to SPV projects.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

1.12. Does your organization have experience in investing in projects related to the development, operations and Maintenance of SPV plants?

1.Not at all	2.Slightly	3.Moderately	4.Very

1.13. Does your organization have the financial capacity to finance the SPV Project?

YES	NO

(a) If No, please provide related information how would your organization raise necessary funding for the SPV Project and what is the time frame required?

(b) Indicate access to sources of financing, such as liquid assets, lines of credit, loans and other financial means, available to meet the total construction costs for implementation of the project.

.....

.....
.....
.....
.....

1.14. Do you intend to sub- contract part of the works or will require partnership with other partners?

YES	NO

(a) If yes, please provide details

.....
.....
.....

1.15. If a request for proposals is launched for the selection of a promoter, will a maximum period of 6 weeks sufficient for bidders to submit their bids?

.....
.....
.....

1.16. What technology and innovation can you bring to this project to promote sustainability, energy efficiency and affordability

.....
.....
.....

1.17. The private promoter will have to demonstrate the availability of minimum key personnel to typically take the following positions under the project as per list provided below.

Project Manager or Contract Manager,

- Design Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Civil or Structural Engineer

What other key staff do you think may be deemed necessary for this project. List them.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

1.18. Are you aware of relevant authorities' standards and applicable legislations governing energy sector in Mauritius.

YES	NO

(a) If yes, please provide details

.....

.....

1.19. Please indicate if a leasing model, whereby the private promoter finances, designs, install, tests and commissions the necessary infrastructures and thereafter leases same to the Public Body is a workable model for the private sector? Please give your views.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

PART B

Participant's Contact Details:

NAME OF THE COMPANY or FIRM:	
ADDRESS:	
PLACE OF INCORPORATION OR REGISTRATION (FOR FIRM)	
YEAR OF INCORPORATION OR REGISTRATION (FOR FIRM)	
CONTACT PERSON:	
E-mail:	
PHONE:	
FAX:	

Note:

- *Use additional sheets for each member if under a proposed joint venture or consortium*

What type of organization is your firm? Please select.

FINANCIAL INVESTOR	
PLANTS OPERATOR	
CONSTRUCTION FIRM	
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION/BANK	
OTHER (PLEASE DEFINE)	

LETTER OF SUBMISSION

[Letterhead of the Potential Private Promoter, or managing member of a joint venture or consortium, including full postal address, telephone no., fax no., telex no., and cable address]

Date:

To: Officer-in-Charge
Wastewater Management Authority
Jerningham Street
Curepipe
Mauritius

Dear Sir

1. Being duly authorized to represent and act on behalf of and having reviewed and fully understood all the information provided in the Market sounding document, the undersigned hereby makes submissions for the “Design, Finance, Installing, operating, and maintaining solar PV plants at St Martin Wastewater Treatment Plant” project.
2. This Market Sounding is made with the full understanding that: this market sounding is not a procurement exercise and there is no guarantee that the WMA will shortlist or award a contract with the private promoter. The WMA may reject or accept any private promoter, cancel the market sounding process, without being be liable for any such actions and shall be under no obligation to inform the private promoter of the grounds for such actions.
3. All correspondence in relation to this Market sounding is to be addressed to:

Name:

Address:

Phone and Fax Number:

E-mail address:

4. We declare, that by signing this Form of Application form any information submitted are complete, true and correct.

Signed Name

For and on behalf of (*name of Potential private promoter or lead
Promoter of a joint venture or consortium*)

Attachment: Power of Attorney.