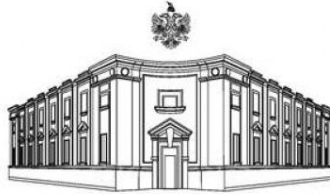




REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRIA E INFRASTRUKTURËS
DHE ENERGJISË

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

**ANNOUNCEMENT ON A FUTURE WIND AUCTION
FOR THE SELECTION OF
ONSHORE WIND PROJECTS
WITH SITE-LOCATION IDENTIFIED BY DEVELOPERS,
THAT WILL GET SUPPORT MEASURES**

1. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MIE) of the Republic of Albania hereby plans initiating a tender process for utility-scale, onshore wind power plants.
2. The MIE invites prospective developers to identify and propose sites viable for the design, financing, construction and operation of new onshore wind power plants.
3. To assist developers, the MIE has commissioned a high-level analysis of Albanian territory to indicate areas potentially suitable for developing new wind projects and areas unsuitable / non-eligible for developing new wind projects defined as “constraints” or “no go areas”. The study can be accessed at: <https://www.infrastruktura.gov.al/shprehje-interesi/>.
4. Participation in this tender is restricted to projects with a minimum capacity of 30 MW and a maximum capacity of 75 MW. Through this tender process, the MIE will select projects totalling 150 MW that will receive support measures as described below.
5. Each successful bidder will sign a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to sell 100% of the energy output from its project with support measures at a fixed price, equal to its financial bid in the tender process. The PPA will be converted into a Contract for Difference (CfD) when a functional and liquid organised electricity market is operational in Albania, which will be determined based on pre-defined conditions.
6. The tender will be implemented as a two-stage process:
 - i. Request for Qualification (RFQ) to prequalify prospective bidders with the required technical experience, financial resources and legal standing to deliver a project. The RFQ will be published in the first quarter of 2021.

- ii. Request for Proposal (RFP) for each prequalified bidder to demonstrate the viability of its proposed site and to submit a financial bid. The deadline for responding to the RFP will be in the second half of 2022.
7. As part of its response to the RFP, every prequalified bidder will be expected to demonstrate the viability of its proposed site by submitting the documents below. The MIE therefore encourages developers to start the required activities as soon as possible in order to be able to meet the RFP deadline, in particular as per the below:
- i. Evidence that the proposed site is not located in areas defined as “constraints” or “no go areas” in the study referred under paragraph 3.
 - ii. Evidence that the proposed site meets other suitability criteria, defined under the *Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 349, dated 12.06.2018 and as amended with DCM 858, date 04.11.2020 “On the approval of support measures for the promotion of the power production from renewable sources of sun and wind, as well as the procedures for the selection of projects for receipt of support”*.
 - iii. Development permit issued by the competent authority, in accordance with Law No. 107/2014 *“On Territorial Planning and Development”*, as amended, and the decision of the Council of Ministers No. 408, dated 13 May 2015 *“On the approval of the Regulation of the Territory Development”*, as may be amended.
 - iv. Grid connection offer issued by the grid operator, in accordance with the Transmission Code, approved by decision No. 186, dated 11 November 2017 of the Albanian Energy Regulatory Entity and the Rules of Procedures for New Connections and Modification of Existing Connections to the Transmission Network, approved by decision No. 87, dated 20 April 2018 of the Albanian Energy Regulatory Entity`, as may be amended.
 - v. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study prepared in accordance with the most stringent substantive criteria of the Albanian applicable law, European Union (EU) environmental *acquis*, and lenders / international financial institutions (IFIs)` environmental and social standards and requirements¹, (including at least a year of bird and bat data).² For the avoidance of doubt, this stage does not require the bidder to complete the formal procedure to obtain formal approval by the potential lenders or the Albanian competent authorities of the ESIA study³; it only requires preparation of an ESIA study that complies with the substantive environmental and social standards.⁴

¹ This must include, but shall but not be limited to, the relevant requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU of 31 December 2011, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU; the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU, the Birds and Habitat Directives 2009/147/EC, 93/43/EEC; the Good international industry practice for the development of wind onshore facilities such as for example the World Bank Group (WBG) Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines on Wind Energy (2015) or equivalent standards; as well as environmental and social standards and requirements applicable by potential lenders, such as the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and standards applicable by commercial banks adhering to the Equator Principles available at: <https://equator-principles.com>.

² This Data must be collected according to the methodologies and requirements described in the guidelines: “Guidance note – methods for monitoring bird populations at onshore windfarms” by Scottish Natural Heritage and “Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects” by Eurobats.

³ Within 6 (six) months after the award decision, and building on the ESIA substantive study submitted as a part of the proposals in the RFP, successful bidder(s) must complete the formal procedures for the formal issuance of the environmental permit under the Albanian law and for obtaining formal approval of the ESIA by the potential lenders.

⁴ *Ibid*, as listed above under notes 1 and 2.

- vi. Energy yield report (based on at least a year of onsite wind measurements) as required by good industry practice.⁵
- vii. Evidence that the bidder has right of ownership or exclusive real right to occupy, use and enjoy the proposed site, with a view to design, construct, install, operate and maintain the project, submitted in a form satisfactory for the issuance of a construction permit⁶ and duly registered with the Real Estate Register.⁷
- viii. Evidence that sufficiently demonstrates availability of land for right of way as required for the construction and operation of the connection line for connecting the project to the grid by TSO approval and in accordance with the applicable laws No. 43/2015 as amended “On Power Sector”, and no 7/2017 “On promotion of energy from Renewable sources”.
- ix. Binding statement issued by the bidder attesting compliance of the equipment and of the design, construction, commissioning, and operation of the project with the international standards and technical specifications.⁸

⁵ For the measurement campaign it is required:

- use of high-quality (preferably Class I anemometer) calibrated anemometer, as close to hub height as possible (preferably >2/3 of hub height). Installation of anemometers, preferably at three heights, so that vertical extrapolation may be accurately performed.
- use of redundant anemometers so that potential for loss of data due to tower shadow or sensor failure is minimal. Use long booms to minimize the impact of flow distortion.
- deployment of two or more met-masts for a wind-farm site, preferably one met-mast for every 5–8 turbines or 10–20 MW capacity (the lower number is for a complex terrain and the higher number for a simple terrain).
- rigorous collection and analysis of daily data feeds. Ensure that raw data are archived and an audit trail exists for data corrections, so that the data can be independently verified.
- The Annual Energy Production (AEP) shall take into consideration the following aspects:
 - AEP shall be based on a linear wind flow model for a simple terrain or a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) model for a complex terrain.
 - Long-term correction of AEP should be computed to account for annual variability of the wind climate.
 - Site-specific losses and uncertainty should be estimated.
 - Extreme wind speed should be estimated to select a class of turbines suitable for the site.

⁶ For the avoidance of doubt, formal issuance of the construction permit is not required at the RFP stage; it must be completed by the successful bidder after an award decision.

⁷ These may, without limitation, include, ownership certificates, contracts for the transfer of ownership right over the site or right to use and enjoy the site; lease, emphyteusis or usufruct contracts, authorisations for use of a public site issued by the competent public bodies or municipalities.

⁸ All the relevant and applicable international and local standards shall be applied. The following list of minimum relevant standards shall be considered as a non-exhaustive reference:

- IEC 61400-01 Design requirement;
- IEC 61400-04 Design requirements for wind turbine gearboxes;
- IEC 61400-05 Wind Turbine Blades;
- IEC 61400-06 Tower and foundation design;
- IEC 61400-07 Safety of WTG power converters;
- IEC 61400-11 Acoustic noise measurement techniques;
- IEC 61400-12-1 Power performance measurements;
- IEC 61400-12-2 Power performance based on nacelle anemometry;
- IEC 61400-12-3 Wind Farm Power performance testing;
- IEC 61400-12-4 Power performance verification of electricity producing wind turbines based on numerical site calibration;
- IEC 61400-13 Measurement of mechanical loads;
- IEC 61400-14 Declaration of sound power level and tonality;
- IEC 61400-15 Assessment of site specific wind conditions for wind power stations;
- IEC 61400-21 Measurement and assessment of power quality characteristics of grid connected wind turbine;
- IEC 61400-22 Conformity Testing and Certification of wind turbines;
- IEC 61400-23 Full-scale structural testing of rotor blades;
- IEC 61400-24 TR Lightning protection;
- IEC 61400-25 Communication for monitoring and control of wind power plants;
- IEC 61400-26-1: Time based availability for wind turbines;
- IEC 61400-26-2: Production-based availability for wind turbines;
- IEC 61400-27-1 Electrical simulation models for wind turbine generation;

8. The tender process described above is the first in a planned series of wind tenders. Projects that are unsuccessful in the first tender will be allowed to participate in future tenders. The MIE plans to publish information on the timing and capacities of future tenders in due course. The restrictions on individual project size will also be reviewed for future tender rounds.
9. Enquiries about this tender process should be directed to:

Contracting Authority:	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of the Republic of Albania
Address:	Rruga "Abdi Toptani", no. 8, Tirana, Albania
Tel/Fax:	+355 4 2222245
Contact Person:	Mr. Antonio Bushati
E-Mail:	antonio.bushati@infrastruktura.gov.al
Internet Address:	www.infrastruktura.gov.al

-
- IEC 61400-27-2 Electrical simulation models for wind power plant generation;
 - IEC 61400-30 Safety of the WTGs General principles for Design;
 - IEC 61400-40 Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC),
 - IEC 61400-415 Terminology.