

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

**INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION
FOR THE SELECTION OF ONSHORE WIND PROJECTS
THAT WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT MEASURES,
AT LOCATIONS IDENTIFIED BY DEVELOPERS**

SUBJECT: Answers to the requests for clarification on the Bidding Procedure Documents

Dear Bidders,

Please find below answers to the requests for clarification.

Request 1:

In connection to QC2 Technical Criteria, Previous Experience, what is the date when the calculation of the last five (5) years starts?

Answer to Request 1:

For the purposes of demonstrating QC2, a plant must have reached its commercial operation date no more than 5 years before the Qualification Application Submission Deadline.

For the purposes of demonstrating QC1, each plant must have reached its commercial operation date no more than 10 years before the Qualification Application Submission Deadline.

Request 2:

In connection to QC2 Technical Criteria, Previous Experience, if the documents that prove the experience and meet the conditions required in the paragraph mentioned below are over 5 years old, are they considered valid and sufficient for qualification?

Answer to Request 2:

The documentary evidence can't be older than the plants themselves. Furthermore, documentary evidence needs to be authenticated or certified in accordance with the formality requirements of Appendix 4/1 of the Bidding Documents.

Request 3:

In connection to QC2 Technical Criteria, Previous Experience, the Albanian version of the KPC requires experience in solar power plants, while the English version requires experience in wind power plants. Which of these two variants should we consider as criteria?

Answer to Request 3:

The QC2 criteria requires for Prospective Bidders to have experience in the development and operation of onshore wind power generation plants, with at least one plant with a capacity of 20 MW or more. The Albanian version of the RfQ Documents will be amended accordingly, as follows:

*“Experience in the development and operation of onshore wind power generation plants, with at least one plant with a capacity of 20 MW or more, which is evidenced by the submission of certificates of commissioning or any other similar document, **in the last 5 years.**”*

Request 4:

We are re sending this request for clarification in reference to a qualification procedure for a Public Procurement Procedure by the Albanian Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy announced on date 15.06.2021 and published on MIE’s website on date 22.06.2021, titled “Invitation for Qualification for the Selection of Onshore Wind Projects that will Receive Support Measures, at Locations Identified by Developers”, *item 3.1. Questions, Clarifications and Amendments.*

We’d appreciate it if you could clarify the following statement on Appendix 4/1 Specific Qualification Criteria, QC1 and QC2:

“Experience in the development and operation of power generation plants...”

The way we understand this statement is that a bidder must have experience in both development and operation of power plants, but not necessarily both processes (development and operation) have to be related to one particular power plant. So, if a bidder has experience in developing plant A and operating plant B this criteria should be considered fulfilled.

Answer to Request 4:

In connection to QC1 and QC2 requirements, the Contracting Authority clarifies the following:

- Development and operation experience can be demonstrated separately through different plants (e.g. Bidder developed Plant A and operated Plant B)
- For each plant, a commissioning certificate is essential to show that a plant actually became operational
- For each plant, Bidder should provide at least one document to show its role as developer
- For operation experience, either direct (in-house) or indirect (outsourced) O&M is acceptable experience.

To better reflect the above, Appendix 4/1 of the Bidding Documents is amended as follows:

<p>Qualification Criteria - Technical</p> <p>These criteria are assessed on a Pass / Fail basis.</p>	<p>Required Documents / Forms</p> <p>Supporting documents to justify the Prospective Bidder’s capacity. For a consortium member to contribute towards satisfaction of the Technical and Financial Criteria, it must have a minimum shareholding of 20% in the consortium.</p>
<p>QC1: Technical Criteria 1 – Past Experience 1</p> <p>Experience in the development and operation of power generation plants from renewable sources (wind, sun, hydro, biomass, etc.) comprising a minimum of two plants with a cumulative capacity of 30 MW or more. Each plant must have reached its commercial operation date no more than 10 years before the Qualification Application Submission Deadline.</p> <p>The Prospective Bidder may choose to demonstrate development experience and operation experience separately through different plants. In this case, the Prospective Bidder must demonstrate: i) experience in developing a minimum of two plants with a cumulative capacity of 30 MW or more; <u>and</u> ii) experience in operating a minimum of two plants with a cumulative capacity of 30 MW or more.</p>	<p>DQC1:</p> <p>In case of a Consortium, this experience criterion must be fully met by one Consortium member (subject to meeting the minimum shareholding).</p> <p>For each plant presented as past experience for QC1, the Prospective Bidder must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form A2, as per this Appendix • A valid certificate of commissioning or other equivalent document • Evidence of development and/or operation (see guidance below this table)

<p>QC2: Technical Criteria 2 – Past Experience 2</p> <p>Experience in the development and operation of onshore wind power generation plants, with at least one plant with a capacity of 20 MW or more. Each plant must have reached its commercial operation date no more than 5 years before the Qualification Application Submission Deadline.</p> <p>The Prospective Bidder may choose to demonstrate development experience and operation experience separately through different plants. In this case, the Prospective Bidder must demonstrate: i) experience in developing at least one plant with a capacity of 20 MW or more; <u>and</u> ii) experience in operating at least one plant with a capacity of 20 MW or more.</p>	<p>DQC2:</p> <p>In case of a Consortium, this experience criterion must be fully met by one Consortium member (subject to meeting the minimum shareholding).</p> <p>For each plant presented as past experience for QC2, the Prospective Bidder must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form A2, as per this Appendix • A valid certificate of commissioning or other equivalent document • Evidence of development and/or operation (see guidance below this table)
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For each plant presented to demonstrate experience of **development** for the purposes of QC1 or QC2, the Prospective Bidder must provide at least one of the following documents showing the Prospective Bidder in the role of developer:

- Development contract for the plant
- Preliminary or final land agreement for the sale and/or surface rights acquisition of land parcels related to the construction of the plant
- Permit issued by a relevant public body for the construction of the plant
- Grid connection agreement related to the electric grid connection of the plant
- Proof of winning bids related to the development and construction of the plant

For each plant presented to demonstrate experience of **operation** for the purposes of QC1 or QC2, the Prospective Bidder must provide:

- O&M contract, asset management contract or other types of operation contracts for the plant, showing the Prospective Bidder either as the service provider or as the buyer of the service.
 - In the case where the Prospective Bidder was the main O&M contractor to a project company but outsourced the O&M services to a third party, the Prospective Bidder should provide the main O&M contract between itself and the project company.

Please note that the above documents must be submitted complete of all their sections, including any attachments.

Request 5:

We approach you in regard to the current auctioning process for wind energy. We plan to start developing a wind energy project above the Kalimash tunnel near Kukes. However, due to the constraint criteria for roads the project would be partly within a no-go area (according to the wind siting package).

To our understanding these computer generated maps cannot cover all details and in this specific case we would consider the area as a regular suitable project area on a mountain ridge. Before going into site specific planning we would appreciate your perspective and advice.

Answer to Request 5:

.The wind Siting Study is a high-level analysis of the Albanian territory, providing indications at large scale, including a constraint criterion for major roads, to inform bidders and technical, and environmental and social submissions. In this specific case, geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations would need to exclude interference with the Kalimash tunnel. Description and outcomes of in depth-studies shall be submitted as part of the Project design (Ref. Section E in Appendix 7 of the RFQ)".

Request 6:

In connection to APPENDIX 7, (9) Minimum Technical Specifications, a. Wind measurement campaign "minimum duration of one year, including an entire winter season (November to April)" could you please clarify what is the meaning of the period November to April ? Is it continuous period like from 2021 November to 2022 April, **OR** can it also start on December 2021 and ends November 2022?

Answer to Request 6:

Measurements must be conducted continuously, also during the winter period, for the entire year. It is possible to start in December 2021 and to end in November 2022, but it would be preferable to consider the same winter season (without interruptions) because climatic conditions could differ.

Request 7:

Pursuant to sections 1.16 and 3.1.1 of the "*Invitation for qualification for the selection of onshore wind projects that shall receive support measures, at locations identified by developers*", we are addressing the following request for clarification to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy:

Reference is made to Appendix 7 – '*Minimum technical specifications*', Clause 2.a '*Usage of Met-Mats for the measurement campaign*'.

The referred to Clause recommends usage of Met-Mats for the collection of respective wind data, as a basis for deciding on the WTG. Considering the technology developments and the terrain where we are planning the campaign, we assess as a reliable alternative the usage of LIDAR technology for the wind measurement. The selected LIDAR technology is accepted by DNV GL as a Stage 3 Bankable Lidar; fully IEC Classified to IEC 61400-12-1: 2017.

We kindly ask for clarification and confirmation that such technology is accepted by your side and that a potential rewording of Clause 2.a to allow for ICE classified technologies being permissible for the required measurement campaign will be possible.

Answer to Request 7:

The Contracting Authority confirms that DNV GL is accepted for use in bankable / finance-grade wind speed and energy assessment with either no or limited on-site met mast comparison under conditions characterized by simple orography, with no reliefs or any element that could significantly affect the wind speed profiles.