



ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Procurement Specialist ECREEE Desert-to-Power Initiative Projects

1. PROJECTS BACKGROUND

The Sahel region has significant solar energy potential but faces challenges such as inadequate generation capacity, heavy reliance on fossil fuels, significant energy access deficit, poor infrastructure, and weak policy and regulatory frameworks.

The African Development Bank's flagship Desert-to-Power (DtP) initiative is complementing national and other regional efforts at addressing energy sector challenges in the Sahel. The initiative aims to harness the solar potential of the 11 Sahelian countries to deploy 10 GW of solar photovoltaic (PV) by 2030 and provide access to electricity to around 250 million people who currently lack it, through a combination of on-grid and off-grid solutions. The first phase of the DtP program will benefit Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.

a) West Africa Regional Energy Program (WAREP)-Phase 1

The West Africa Regional Energy Program (WAREP) seeks to catalyze growth in access to electricity by addressing primarily financial barriers to private sector-led distributed power generation and mini-grid development from renewable energy in the Member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It is a component of the African Development Bank's flagship renewable energy and economic development initiative known as the "Desert to Power" (DtP) program and will be implemented by the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). A second component of the DtP is the "Regional Interconnection component which will be implemented by the West African Power Pool (WAPP).

The DtP program aims to accelerate socio-economic development through the deployment of solar technologies at scale in the 11 countries of the Sahel region -- Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan. The first phase of the DtP program will benefit Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.

Even though West Africa has become the new hub for the private sector mini-grid development through the launch of multiple ECOWAS Member States programs, a solid harmonized framework is needed to attract strong and experienced EPC technical players who can partner with local players.

Within the regional context, opportunities for mini-grid development in the ECOWAS region are vast, with around 184 million people with no access to electricity and only 3% of the population served by decentralized energy services which translates to only 5 million inhabitants. In the institutional policy context, significant regulatory frameworks have focused on grid expansion and connecting the region through the WAPP. Despite the increased focus of ECOWAS Member States' national energy policies on renewable energy solutions and off-grid solutions as the least cost option, regional targets are yet to be translated into concrete actions in the form of specific national programs, financial incentives, standards, quality systems, concession agreements, and similar schemes.

ECREEE has developed a high-level analysis of the regional mini-grid market that requires actionable steps in achieving the overarching regional targets of electrifying up to 4 million people from 1,116 pre-identified villages through solar photovoltaic mini-grids having a generation capacity estimated to 232.95 MW. This takes into consideration the West Africa endowment of vast renewable energy resources with an average solar irradiance of 200W/m² with little seasonal variation.

Specifically, the WAREP is financing the preparatory phase that incorporates site identification, selection and corresponding feasibility studies, resource assessment, technology selection, assessment of the demand centers, and business model based on the system design installation and commissioning. Country COVID-19 response strategies will be incorporated in the WAREP with a view to the electrification of rural health centers by developing mini-grids that support the COVID-19 vaccination rollout strategies that require electrified cold rooms for ambient storage.

WAREP aims to accelerate the development of decentralized energy solutions and support an ECOWAS regional certification training program and information dissemination. The components of the Program include (i) decentralized energy solutions to develop an actionable regional mini-grid program; (ii) support of a regional capacity building and certification program targeting mass training of technicians and craftsmen and relevant stakeholders (iii) support of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in the quality control and supervision of the program, including the activities and operating costs for the PIU.

b) Regional Technical Assistance Program for the Sahel (ReTAPS)

The Regional Technical Assistance Project covers Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal and is a core component of the African Development Bank's Desert to Power (DtP) Initiative. It aims to provide technical assistance to create an enabling environment for solar power projects in the Sahel while unlocking private sector investments in both the on-grid and mini-grid space. Its specific goals are to:

- Strengthen the regional environment for regulating and operating regional renewable energy projects.
- Provide advisory services to assist the Sahel regional countries in the preparation, negotiations construction, and supervision of projects.
- Incentivize private sector investment in solar projects across the region.

Overall, the proposed operation consists of **five components**. The **first** component will provide support for the preparation of studies and provision of technical assistance for on-grid and decentralized solar projects. The **second** component will focus on implementing actions for catalyzing private sector investments in the region. The **third** component will cover the development of a comprehensive capacity-building program and its implementation in collaboration with other partners. The **fourth** component will aim to support the development and implementation of the mini-grid strategy across all coverage countries. The **fifth** component covers the project management aspects. This focus stems from consultations with national stakeholders of the Desert to Power taskforce, who expressed the need for a structured regional technical assistance project to streamline ongoing efforts and promote cross-learning among countries.

ECREEE intends to hire a Procurement Specialist for the Project Implementation Unit.

The proposed scope of work will include the following activities:

- a) Advisory Services on Procurement of Goods and Services in the following areas:**
- i. Preparation of Procurement Plans for Goods and Services, applying the appropriate selection methods.
 - ii. Maintain awareness of market conditions, including source lists, price availability, and competitiveness, and ensure that costs are fair and reasonable.
 - iii. Support the Technical Team in the preparation of technical specifications or requirements for Goods and Services to ensure compliance with set standards, regulations, procedures, and process requisition in accordance with African Development Bank standard procedures.
 - iv. Prepare solicitation requests for Bidders/Vendors,
 - v. Prepare Bidding Documents following the relevant procurement method;
 - vi. Coordinate the receipt/opening of bids exercise in line with the African Development Bank procedures.
 - vii. Organize pre-proposal conferences where necessary,
 - viii. Support the preparation of the evaluation reports and submit same to the African Development Bank for “No Objection”.
 - ix. Support in preparing Contract Documents.
 - x. Support in monitoring the implementation of the contracts to ensure that the agreed contract conditions are followed.
 - xi. Ensure that an efficient procurement filing system is in place, keeping track of the status of each procurement activity – from request to receipt by the requester –and ensuring that priorities are met.
 - xii. Work in close collaboration with the ECREEE Administration Officer in charge of procurement.
- b) Advisory Services**

- i. Develop and discuss alternative solutions to identified procurement-related challenges.
- ii. Assist in the application of the agreed corrective measures.
- iii. Provide hands-on training to the PIU on procurement matters.
- iv. Conduct post-implementation review.
- v. Participate in meetings aimed at improving project implementation.
- vi. Perform other related duties deemed necessary by the Coordinator, Director of Administration, Finance, and ICT, or the Executive Director

The expression of interest document should not exceed six (6) pages, with the following format:

- a) Cover letter (maximum 1 page);
- b) CV (maximum 5 pages);
- c) Certificates; and
- d) Any other information deemed relevant.

ECREE will shortlist and select candidates in accordance with the "Procurement framework for operations financed by the Bank Group", October 2015 edition, which is available on the website of the Bank at: <http://www.afdb.org>.

Submission

Prospective consultants should submit their expressions of interest through warep@ecreee.org **only**, indicating the subject: “**Procurement Specialist, ECREEE DtP Projects PIU**”. The deadline is **Juen 19, 2024 (23:59 hrs (GMT-1, Cabo Verde Time))**.

Further information/clarification can be obtained at the following email addresses: adeoliveira@ecreee.org and gkouhie@ecreee.org. Candidates are advised **not to copy these two email addresses** when submitting their applications.