



Corrections and Community Supervision

Request for Information

Addendum #1

Additional Information Request

Distributed Photovoltaic Solar
Generating Facilities
Request for Information

March 31, 2015

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Generating Facilities
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1. Purpose

On March 17, 2015 the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, (hereafter “DOCCS”, or the “Department”) issued a Request for Information (“RFI”) soliciting responses and feedback from solar developers, the solar industry, government agencies, and any other stake holder to questions presented in the RFI document related to the development of a privately developed, owned and operated distributed photovoltaic solar generating facilities (“SGF”) located on public lands.

As stated in the RFI, DOCCS owns and operates 54 Correctional Facilities within the state, each with varying amounts of vacant land at or near most facilities. It is DOCCS goal to maximize the benefits received from potential photovoltaic (PV) solar projects installed on behalf of, or by DOCCS, on state or privately owned lands.

Toward that end, information is sought to identify the benefits and costs of increasing the number of facilities included in this initiative, beyond the original (3) three locations stated in the 3/17/15 RFI, for consideration as a SGF site.

Additionally, DOCCS requests information on alternatives to the Public-Private relationship outlined in the 3/17/15 RFI. Specifically, the construction of the SGF sites should not be limited to privately owned and operated systems located on public lands leased by the State to the developer. All ownership and development options should be considered, including, but not limited to, projects developed by third parties on private land with lease arrangements with DOCCS.

All potential bidders/vendors are cautioned to read through and respond to the entire addendum as it includes requests for new information above and beyond that contained in the original RFI.

2. Information Requested

DOCCS seeks to understand the net benefits, costs, and effects of increasing the number of SGF sites considered for development to additional DOCCS facilities, from the (3) three previously identified.

A. General

- 1) Is there a minimum electrical requirement for a SGF system that eliminates a location from consideration?
- 2) Is there a specific relationship that exists between sizing a SGF system and the amount of land needed for the required PV arrays?
- 3) What options are available to aggregate one or more (non-located) correctional facility electrical loads in order to receive the maximum benefit from the installation of PV solar generating systems at one or more of the facilities?
- 4) What is the best method or business structure to accomplish this?
- 5) What effects do distributed electrical generation regulations have on this effort?
- 6) How is the capacity of each SGF affected by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) Net Metering guidelines?
- 7) Discuss the effect that the current Community Net Metering Case (15-E-0082) before the PSC has on this project.
- 8) Discuss the benefits and potential drawbacks of creating one or more electrical micro-grid systems based around a representative correctional facility.
- 9) DOCCS is interested in comments on how pricing with and without environmental attributes and credits will affect pricing. i.e. Renewable Energy Credits (REC), and carbon credits.

B. Public-Private Relationship

- 1) The DOCCS RFI dated 3/17/15 describes a privately owned and maintained SGF system constructed on public lands leased to the developer by the state. It is DOCCS desire to maximize the potential benefits of each SGF system and therefore requests information on all possible alternatives of ownership and operating arrangements available, including, but not limited to, projects developed by third parties on private land with lease arrangements with DOCCS.
- 2) The response should discuss the effects that each type of relationship has on the ultimate price offered per kW-hr, available financial incentives, environmental attributes and credits, technical assistance, pros and cons of each option, etc.

C. Schedule

- 1) What major steps are needed from Notice of Award for the Project to full operation of the Project?
- 2) What are the approximate elapsed times associated with these identified steps?
- 3) What are the key decision points in the process (including go/no go decisions) and why?
- 4) What are the critical path items for the procurement for this Project and why?

D. Socioeconomic

- 1) DOCCS is interested in receiving information about the status of the solar power industry as it relates to availability of solar panels, inverters and qualified labor in order to complete the build-out plans of this initiative.
- 2) DOCCS is interested in the potential of this project to stimulate the New York State economy by providing jobs for in-state installers and/or manufacturers of photovoltaic panels or related components. The incorporation in the RFP of a requirement that the project include local content and be constructed and maintained by local workers would likely encourage economic development within the region. As such, DOCCS is requesting comments on the following:
 - i. a requirement in the RFP that a specified portion of the material comprising the project be sourced locally;
 - ii. a requirement in the RFP that local labor represents a specified portion of the workforce charged with developing and constructing the project and the entire workforce charged with operating and maintaining the project after commercial operation;
 - iii. a stated preference in the RFP for proposals that would support a PV component manufacturing and technology industry in New York State;
 - iv. a stated preference in the RFP for projects that encourage and support the development of green jobs in New York State;
 - v. a stated preference in the RFP for proposals that would develop regional PV industry maintenance facilities and/or training centers in New York State.
 - vi. a stated preference in the RFP for proposals that would provide a training program for individuals under custody of the New York State DOCCS for installation, maintenance and operation of solar components and systems.
 - vii. describe any experience the respondent has working with independent, non-profit organizations specialized in providing training and educational opportunities based around the construction and operation of solar generating facilities similar to the systems described in this RFI.

E. Additional

- 1) Looking ahead, would the respondent be interested in submitting a committed proposal for the development of the Project? Are there any particular concerns that may prevent the respondent from engaging in the project development? How might those concerns be resolved?
- 2) What are the key elements of a RFP for a solar energy project? Please provide references to other RFPs that have effectively elicited innovative proposals for solar energy projects on publicly-owned property and resulted in successfully completed projects.
- 3) What is the minimum amount of time required by the respondent for developing and

submitting a committed detailed proposal for the Project after issuance of a potential RFP?

3. Response Format

Respondents should include the above requested information with their response to the RFI issued 3/17/15. The information should be clearly identified in the submission as information in response to RFI Addendum #1.

5. Procurement Law

Since this is not a solicitation that will result in a contract, it does not fall under the procurement lobbying law; therefore, there is no restricted period.

6. Response and Due Date

DOCCS may issue a Request for Proposal using information gathered from submissions to this RFI Addendum #1. Responders to this RFI Addendum #1 will not be precluded from responding to a future RFP.

Responses must be returned by **May 1, 2015. Mailed submission is preferred and should be sent to the address listed below.**

NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Contract Procurement Unit/Support Operations
RFI Distributed Photovoltaic Solar Generating Facilities
The Harriman State Campus, Building 2
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226-2050

Electronic submission is acceptable and can be sent to the following email address: dccscontracts@dccs.ny.gov. Please note: if the file exceeds 10mb your response may not be delivered to this mailbox.

RFI Addendum #1 Response Clarifications

DOCCS may seek additional information (clarifying or otherwise) regarding any of the respondents' products or services following the receipt of the RFI Addendum #1 responses. Information may be sought via telephone or email communication.

Disclaimer

This RFI Addendum #1 is not a contract offer and it is not an open solicitation for any products or services but rather an informational inquiry by DOCCS into the current technology and business models available for a SGF constructed on State owned land. This RFI Addendum #1 does not commit DOCCS to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing a response, or to procure or contract for services or supplies. Qualified entities are encouraged to respond to this RFI Addendum #1; however, failure to submit a response will not impact a respondent's ability to submit a response to any future competitive solicitation process (if any) for projects. Respondents are advised that all costs associated with responding to this RFI Addendum #1 will be solely at their expense. There are no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this RFI Addendum #1. Respondents are responsible for making their own evaluation of information and data contained in this RFI Addendum #1 and for preparing and submitting responses to this RFI Addendum #1.