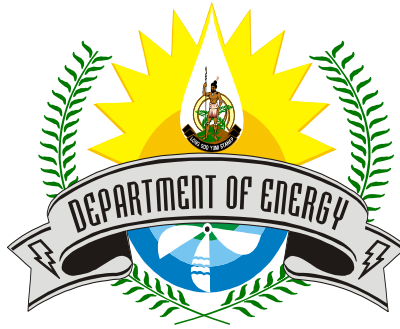


GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY**

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
OWNER'S ENGINEER FOR MINI-GRIDS IN VANUATU UNDER THE VANUATU
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM (VREP) II

Country: VANUATU

Name of Project: VANUATU RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM (VREP) II

Funding Sources: Loan No. 6072-VU; IDA Grant No. D1930VU; SREP Grant No. TFA4979 & PRIF Grant No. TF072819

Assignment Title: Owner's Engineer for the Vanuatu Rural Electrification Program (VREP) II

Reference No: VU-DOE-42972-CS-QCBS

The Republic of Vanuatu has received US\$14.17 million from the World Bank towards the cost of implementing the Vanuatu Rural Electrification Program (VREP) II, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The VREP II's objective is to support increased penetration of renewable energy and increased access to electricity services in the dispersed off-grid areas of Vanuatu. VREP II has two major (2) components - Component 1 is specifically targeting provision of subsidised Solar Home Systems (SHS) and micro-grids for 8,400 rural households and 37 public institutions throughout rural areas of Vanuatu. Component 2 is targeting construction of up to five (5) mini grids in rural areas of Vanuatu. The focus of this EoI is the consulting service of the Owner's Engineer under Component 2 - the construction of up to five (5) mini grids.

The Owner's Engineer consulting services ("the Services") include the following:

- Overall project management of the mini-grids from concept to delivery;
- Planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting;
- Identification and selection of the mini grid locations/sites;
- Community engagement and agreement with the communities;
- Conceptual design and functional specifications;
- Environmental and social safeguards arrangements;
- Coordination with related government entities to draft licensing/concession agreements for the operation and maintenance of the mini grids;

- Preparation of bidding documents including bid evaluation criteria, technical evaluation and contract award for supply and installation of mini grids and operations and maintenance of these grids; and
- Supervision of construction and commissioning of these grids.

It is expected that 41 staff-months from technical experts will be needed, and the services will be provided from 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2020.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment are attached to this request for expressions of interest.

The Republic of Vanuatu's Department of Energy (DoE) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- Firm with at least 10 years of demonstrable knowledge and experience in the sector of solar energy;
- Experience with conceptual and detailed engineering design, preparation of bidding documents which includes evaluation criteria and contract award for design, construction, operation of solar mini grids, including regulatory framework and drafting of licensing/concession arrangement for operation and maintenance of mini grids;
- Experience with construction supervision of mini grids;
- Must have undertaken at least 3 similar mini grid projects in the Owner's Engineer role, one of which must be in an environment/condition/region similar to Vanuatu; and
- Must be conversant with the World Bank standard bidding documents, safeguard requirements and procurement guidelines, or the equivalent.

Key experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (0900 to 1700 hours, Monday to Friday).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by *11 July 2018*.

Att: Leith Veremaito
Program Manager, Vanuatu Rural Electrification Project (VREP)

Department of Energy
PMB 9067, Port Vila, VANUATU
Email: vrep@vanuatu.gov.vu, and lveremaito@vanuatu.gov.vu

Additional information on the VREP II can be obtained by visiting these websites
<https://doe.gov.vu> or <http://projects.worldbank.org/P160658/?lang=en&tab=overview> or
contacting DoE on Ph. +678 25201/33425 or email VREP@vanuatu.gov.vu