

**Operations, Maintenance and Asset Management Services for Three Solar PV
Facilities in Nova Scotia RFP – Addendum A**

AREA2023005 Questions and Answers

December 14, 2023

Proponents shall state any technical assumptions required to determine Proponent's bid price. AREA and the chosen proponent will address any clarification regarding assumptions after the selection process.

- 1. SMA Data managers are preinstalled for monitoring. Will we have access to this?**

Yes

- 2. Who would be responsible for the internet connectivity on all 3 sites?**

AREA

- 3. If a part (racking needs to be replaced) Any possibility of extra racking parts on site.**

Proponents are to assume no racking spare parts have been already purchased by AREA. We welcome suggestions as part of the Proponent's submission.

- 4. All 3 sites (different people would have access to the premisses) who will be monitoring the access. With CCTV cameras installed at the gate. Who needs to review the cameras?**

AREA

Will this be a situation, everyone may go in and out or would every party nominate and share the specific names and persons that have access to the site and unauthorized access is permitted.

There will be a list of authorized personnel.

- 5. All 3 sites will be commissioned and producing power with the handover from GP Joule / Goldbeck and NSP inspected?**

Yes

- 6. Can you confirm if there are any drone flight restrictions?**

There are no restrictions on drone flights.

- 7. Land lease agreements:**

- a. What area of land vegetation management is required (just interior of fence etc.)?**

The area will include just the interior of the fence.

- b. Will grass seeding be performed?**

Proponent to advise.

- 8. Are weed sterilizers around fences and posts allowed?**

Yes

- 9. Is vegetation management required on unused blocks of land on site (Antigonish)**

Yes, the HDPE pipe that channels stormwater down the hill requires maintenance. ESC features, regardless of on used/unused land require maintenance.

- 10. What are the availability targets/requirements?**

Proponent to propose various levels and associated pricing.

- 11. What communications systems will be utilized (SCADA, SMA data managers, GSM or LAN etc)?**

SMA Data Managers – microhard cell modems. There is no fibre internet.

- 12. O&M Service provider required insurance.**

See RFP for insurance requirements. Proponents can also make suggestions.

13. Can you confirm the plant availability AREA is looking for?

Proponent to propose various levels and associated pricing.

14. What performance ratio should we consider in our bid?

Proponent to propose various levels and associated pricing.

15. Under section 3 it states:

Where applicable, all drawings, designs, reports or other technical materials shall be developed to the latest applicable and relevant standards, rules, codes, design principles, etc. including but not limited to, the following: Canadian Electrical Code (CEC), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and any other relevant federal, provincial or municipal codes, regulations or legislation.

Can you please explain the intent of this paragraph? Does AREA require new drawings and designs to be created? If so, can you please state the requirement?

Any new drawings, designs, reports, or other technical materials created by the successful proponent must adhere to this section.

16. Can you please explain what active role AREA will be playing in providing input and direction to the successful proponent, as stated in Section 3?

Proponents can bid strategies, including suggested roles for AREA resources, new or existing. AREA will select a proponent and execute the suggested functions. AREA has no firm expected role.

17. Section 3.1 Scope

Preventative Maintenance

a. Please explain the different expectations between point 2 &3

Infrared equipment imaging / Drone (or other) IR imaging vs. IV curve tracing

Proponent to suggest and justify the best means to evaluate asset health and performance.

b. Can you please elaborate on your expectations regarding safety?

The expectation is to follow industry best practices.

Corrective Maintenance

a. Pre-qualifying third party contractors

Is it AREA's intent that the successful proponent will screen and qualify 3rd party contractors? Or will AREA pre-qualify them and the proponent will have to use these contractors?

Successful proponent to justify any use of subcontractors. AREA reviews and approves or rejects with justification.

Section 3.1.1

Under resources, the 3rd bullet point is:

Addition of Proponent specified new AREA staff members.

Please explain the meaning of this.

Proponents can bid strategies, including a suggested role for AREA. AREA will select a proponent and execute the suggested functions. AREA has no firm expected role. Proponents can suggest that AREA hire new staff.

18. Section 3.2 Schedule

Can you confirm that the purpose of the Gantt Chart is to identify acquisition and or training of resources and when activities under section 3.1 will start?

Yes

Is there anything else you want to see in the Gantt Chart?

Yes. Time to fully implement the program and demonstrate the proponent has thoroughly considered all aspects.

19. Section 4

Can you please clarify:

Mandatory site visits by engineering designers and construction managers

This line should be omitted from the RFP.

20. Contact Procedure

Can you clarify if there is a requirement for a signed Purchase Order and a contract, or will AREA accept either?

Either will be accepted but it shall be well defined.

21. Part B – Confidentiality – this paragraph seems out of place and not relevant to this RFP. Can it be ignored?

Yes

22. Appendix B – proposed team- can you clarify what hourly rate you are referring to?

This line should be omitted from the RFP.

23. Appendix C – there is no place in the appendix to record pricing or minimum contract period. Can we use our own schedule?

Yes

If so, do you require a signature on the form?

Yes

**24. Appendix E – NDA –
Does AREA require this to be signed, as it is not stated under the mandatory criteria?**

Not for bid

25. Contracts

a. Can you please confirm who the contracted party will be? The plant owner or AREA?

TBD

b. How will the Town and/or AREA resources be managed and who will the contact point be?

It will be a single contact person at AREA.

c. How will O&M activities be prioritized if town and or AREA resources are used?

Proponents to submit necessary lead time notifications for the AREA/Towns resources.

For example, 24-hour notice for non-scheduled activities. 1 week for scheduled activities.

AREA/Town will be liable for missing agreed response times.

d. Will there be a zero-cost value to the O&M contract if the Town and or AREA resources are used? If not, can you supply a rate card?

Not zero. If a Proponent requires this information in order to justify its recommended optimized strategy, please demonstrate the arithmetic assuming local industrial electricians and powerline technicians are available at \$75 per hour and AREA coordinating resources are \$65 per hour. Proponents may want to consider training costs for AREA and Town resources.

e. For the use of town and or AREA resources, will you supply a service level agreement template?

Town and AREA resources may be dispatched by, but will not be contracted to, the successful proponent. The Town and AREA bear the cost and performance risk of any suggested agreed use of Town or AREA resources. AREA is open to discussing alternative coordination strategies suggested and justified by the Proponent.