



DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT

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May 8, 2026

TO: ALL PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT

Dear Sir/Madam,

PROJECT: ACCESS AND RENEWABLE INCREASE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (ARISE) – P181253

GRANT NO.: E429-FM

DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF FIVE MINI-GRIDS AND STAND-ALONE SYSTEMS IN UMAN, TOL (MUNIEN), TOL (WONIP), ONOUN, AND MOCH, CHUUK, FEDERATED STATE OF MICRONESIA

CLARIFICATION No. 1

In accordance with Clause 7 of Section I: Instructions to Applicant contained in the Prequalification Document for No: **MG-PQ-Chuuk - Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of five mini-grids and stand-alone systems in Uman, Tol (Munien), Tol (Wonip), Onoun, and Moch, Chuuk, Federated State of Micronesia**, the following clarifications are made in response to requests received from prospective applicants.

Reference Number	Reference Item	Date Received	Request for Information or Clarification	Response
1	ITA 7.1 & 8.1	5/5/2026	As per ITA 7.1 & 8.1 – Clarifications of Prequalification & Pre-Application Meeting: Please share any clarifications or addendum that may have been issued, or guide us to a link where such files have been uploaded. Please also clarify whether responses to clarifications will be shared via email to all bidders or made available on the website: https://personnel.gov.fm/bidding-contract/ or https://dofa.gov.fm/	There has been no requests for clarifications and/or addendums yet. The responses will be shared via email to all interested prospective applicant when issued.
2	ITA 25	5/5/2026	Refer to ITA 25 – Evaluation of Applications: Will the five mini-grids be divided into lots — i.e., can a bidder choose to bid for one, several, or all lots — or are the five sites treated as ONE contract? If eligible bidders can bid per lot, please clarify whether the financial requirements specified in Section III, Item 3 (Financial Situation and Performance) will remain as stated or be adjusted proportionally per lot.	There will be one single contract covering all the project sites. The Package is not sliced or divided into lots.
3	ITA 29.2, 29.3, 29.4	5/5/2026	Please clarify whether Bid Security and other guarantees will be required at the bidding stage. We would also appreciate receiving the financial requisites and draft contract with the envisioned payment structure during the pre-qualification phase, to allow us to map out cash flow requirements during the bidding and project implementation phases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bid security. The need or not for a Bid security will be confirmed in the next stage. However, the preference is to request a Bid-Securing Declaration rather than a Bid security. Later in the process, a performance and advance payment guarantees will be required only to the awarded bidder. ✓ Financial Requirement: Financial requirement in the Prequalification document will also serve at the next stage. ✓ Draft contract. Will be shared in the next stage. However, the World Bank's Standard Procurement Documents (SPD) will be used, so bidders can familiarize with the standard clauses looking at the SPD: Plant. Request for Bids (two-envelope with rated criteria)

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				<p>https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/what-we-do/project-procurement/framework#spd</p> <p>✓ Payment structure. This will be disclosed at the next stage, but will follow the standard format of the SPD.</p>
4	-	5/5/2026	Please confirm that at the pre-qualification stage, an eligible applicant is required to submit only the forms stipulated under Section IV: Application Forms, and no additional documentation beyond what is specified therein.	Correct. Prospective applicants must comply with all the requirements of the Prequalification document.
5	Section III, 4.2(c)	5/5/2026	Section III, 4.2(c) requires experience in developing a Contractor-ESMP for an off-grid PV mini-grid. Please clarify whether an ESMP developed under a World Bank-financed project is mandatory, or whether ESMPs prepared under other development finance institutions (e.g., ADB, EU-funded projects) or national environmental frameworks will equally be accepted as qualifying experience.	Specific experience managing Environmental and Social aspects under frameworks from National and International Organizations similar to those of Multilateral Development Banks/ World Bank will be accepted.
6	Section 3.2	5/5/2026	Section 3.2 specifies that the mini-grid controller must be ComAp (Requirement MGC-1). Please confirm whether this is a mandatory brand requirement, or whether equivalent systems from other manufacturers offering comparable functionality and compatibility with CPUC's SCADA platform will be considered acceptable during bid evaluation.	Bidders shall comply with the requirements set in the Employer Requirements
7	-	5/5/2026	The document states that applications must be submitted by email with password-protected files. Please confirm the maximum file size accepted per email submission, and advise whether use of a file-sharing platform (e.g., Google Drive, WeTransfer) is acceptable as an alternative should the total	Applicant can use google drive to send their application in accordance with ITA19.2. Applicant must however know that the Employer takes no responsibility for files that are not received on time, incompatible due to file type, file sets that are delivered incomplete or corrupt, or emails that are rejected due to size.

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			submission package exceed standard email size limits.	To ensure your Application is received before the closing deadline, it is strongly recommended that Applicants allow sufficient time to upload their bid submission files.
8	Section III, Items 3.1 and 3.2	5/5/2026	Financial Situation and Performance: We seek clarification on whether satisfying the specific contract experience requirement of five (5) similar contracts each valued at a minimum of USD 700,000 is considered sufficient to demonstrate financial capability, or whether the average annual construction turnover of USD 7,000,000 per year is an independent and mandatory requirement that must also be met.	Both Requirements must be met.
9	Section III, Items 3.1 and 3.2	5/5/2026	We respectfully note that the total project budget is approximately USD 9.8 million, and in our view the minimum annual turnover threshold of USD 7,000,000 is disproportionately high relative to the scale and nature of this contract. This requirement may unnecessarily exclude specialized renewable energy and mini-grid contractors who possess strong technical expertise and a proven project track record, but whose annual revenues reflect the niche and project-based nature of the off-grid energy sector. We therefore respectfully request the Employer to consider revising the minimum annual turnover threshold to a level more proportionate to the contract value — such as USD 3,000,000 to USD 4,000,000 per year — in order to encourage broader participation and greater competition among technically qualified bidders. This would be consistent with the World Bank's procurement objectives of economy, efficiency, and equal opportunity.	The requirement must be met. If there is a need to revise the requirement, it will be communicated through an addendum

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10	Annexes	5/6/2026	Given the weight limitations of the boats and landing craft that deliver freight to the four islands in question, is there any earthmoving machinery already on any of the four islands (excavators or rock hammers, etc) that could be sub-contracted to deliver trenching and foundation works (for the cable runs and solar pv canopies and technical buildings)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Shipping machinery to the islands might be complex, but it can be done, as demonstrated by previous projects. Small excavators can be transported. ✓ In general, contractors will need to ship their own equipment.
11	Annexes	5/6/2026	What is the weight limit for loads being delivered to the islands where that can only be accessed by small local craft?	<p>Heavy material and equipment will be transported by using either barges or landing boats.</p> <p>There is precedent on these islands of bringing small vehicles (small trucks, small excavators, etc), diesel generators, telecom equipment, heavy cable reels, pool tables, canopy structures, etc. Stuff from 1-2 tonnes should be doable based on this.</p> <p>Our experience indicates that, generally, if a single item weighs under 2 tonnes, the Contractor can put together a rig to get it onto the island without too much trouble. However, over 2 tonnes, you might start getting into issues (cranes at the port / on the ships might not be adequate, it's very difficult to hoist it on the island, etc.). That's why containerised solutions are not adequate.</p> <p>It's important to emphasise that people on the islands have some practical experience with this and will be able to assist the contractors in putting together a plan.</p>
12	Annexes	5/6/2026	In view of the importance of Local Engagement, is it possible to know what labour resources are available on each island (numbers of labourers / semi-skilled labourers and skilled labourers) and the going day hire labour rate (USD) plus any applicable loadings (super or the like) that are usually paid to workers in the FSM? Also are there any labour hire organizations that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Community engagement. We would like to highlight that community engagement is a critical aspect of the requirement a Community The contractor will be required to develop a stakeholder engagement plan including a local community liaison as part of the contractor staff. ✓ Support from CPUC. The awarded contractor will receive the support of CPUC to engage the

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			can put the winning contractor in touch with the local workers to help coordinate them once the project takes off? Is the local work force able to communicate in English at an acceptable level or will translators be needed?	<p>local authorities (mayors, chief) who have already given their support to the project. They can help contractors organise with the local recruitment and with other logistics arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local capacity. Generally, the communities can offer local labour, but bidders need to consider that normally, they will be unskilled. People are expected to be very keen to work in the project as there are few jobs available on these islands. ✓ Salary range. A fair range is \$2 to \$3 per hour for a local worker, depending on skills and how much they are mobilised. It is safe to assume \$2.5 for low skilled worker.
13	Number of Lots	5/6/2026	When the RFB is released, will it be possible to only bid on one (or any number short of putting in a bid for all of them) of the five projects or must all bids be for all five projects?	Please refer to answer to question #2
14	Financial Capabilities	5/6/2026	Is it possible to provide a certified statement from a Chartered Accountant (in Australia, the jurisdiction in which our company operates) as to the company's current financial status and only provide detailed financial statements for the required time period if our company wins the bidding process?	The forms to be submitted together with the Applications and their requirement are listed in Section IV - Application Forms of the Prequalification document. The requirement must be met.
15	Financial Capabilities	5/6/2026	In the case that it isn't possible (as per Question 5 above), what safeguards does the Customer have in place for companies to provide the requested financial information that is commercial-in-confidence?	Please refer to answer for question #14
16	Eligibility - Joint Venture Structure	5/7/2026	Does the RFP require that a Joint Venture be established as a legally registered entity at the time of submission, or would a teaming arrangement supported by a formal teaming agreement be acceptable?	An Applicant may be a firm that is a private entity, a state-owned enterprise or institution subject to ITA 4.8 or any combination of such entities in the form of a joint venture ("JV") under an existing agreement or with the intent to enter into such an agreement supported by a letter of intent. This requirement must be met for JV.

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17	Request for Deadline Extension	5/7/2026	We respectfully request consideration for a short extension of the submission deadline. The pre-application meeting invitation we received indicated a start time of 7:00 PM (Pohnpei time), while the meeting commenced at 6:00 PM, which impacted our ability to fully participate and prepare accordingly. Please see attached, invitation of the meeting I received.	The Pre-application meeting commenced at 7:06PM Pohnpei Time. All the guests waiting in the lobby were allowed in from 6:51PM Pohnpei Time. Applicants must meet the deadline for Application Submission. If there is a need to revise the requirement, it will be communicated through an addendum.
18	Application submission ITA17.1	5/8/2026	Please clarify if email submissions are acceptable or is hard copy submission preferred. We are a bit confused as ITA 17.1 Section 2 Prequalification Data Sheet (PDS) on page 24 states both the physical address of DoRD and electronic mail address.	Kindly comply with ITA 17.1 for submission of application
19	Specific Experience	5/8/2026	<p>As per 4.2(a) Section 3 of the Qualification Criteria and Requirements on pg. 33 of the pre-qualification document states that a minimum of 5 similar contracts must have been satisfactorily and substantially completed as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor or subcontractor between 1st January 2018 and Application submission deadline, each with a value of at least Seven Hundred Thousand USD (USD 700,000).</p> <p>The similarity of the contracts shall be based on the following:</p> <p>Design and installation of off-grid PV mini-grids with electrical battery systems Electrical works related to PV plants in remote areas</p>	Applicants must meet the requirements as indicated. Please refer to the Qualification criteria

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			<p>Electrical and civil works related to installation of underground distribution lines At least one PV project located in the Pacific Island region</p> <p>Please clarify if each contract (of the 5 minimum contracts) proposed should meet all the similarities proposed or if each contract can meet each of the similarities. For example, contract 1 proposed only meets the similarity of Electrical and Civil works related to installation of underground distribution lines. Is this acceptable? If acceptable, does the contract value of this project alone needs to be of at least Seven Hundred Thousand USD (USD 700,000)</p>	

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20	Specific Experience	5/8/2026	<p>As per 4.2(b) Section 3 of the Qualification Criteria and Requirements on pg. 34 of the pre-qualification document states that for the above and any other contracts [substantially completed and under implementation] as prime contractor, joint venture member, or sub-contractor between 1st January 2018 and Application submission deadline, a minimum construction experience in the following key activities successfully completed</p> <p>Design and installation of off-grid PV mini-grids with electrical battery systems</p> <p>Electrical works related to PV plants in remote areas</p> <p>Electrical and civil works related to installation of underground distribution lines</p> <p>At least one PV project located in the Pacific Island region</p> <p>Please clarify the comparability between 4.2(a) and 4.2(b), as well as difference between Form EXP -4.2(a) and Form EXP – 4.2(b).</p>	Please refer to Qualification criteria requirement of the prequalification document. Applicants must meet all requirements.

Thank you,



Rodney Sultani
Project Manager

