

**BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS ELECTRICITY CORPORATION  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  
RMI**



British Virgin Islands  
**ELECTRICITY  
CORPORATION**



**Request for Qualifications**

**British Virgin Islands Microgrid Project at Paraquita Bay**

**Engineering, Procurement and Construction for British  
Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation**

**Issue Date: November 08, 2021**

**Submission Deadline: December 13, 2021**



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**Project Name: British Virgin Islands Microgrid Project**

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**Date of Issue:** November 08, 2021  
**Date Submission Deadline:** December 13, 2021

**Task and Objective:** British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation, through its technical partner RMI, and funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), is publishing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit prospective bidders for the proposed British Virgin Islands Microgrid Project.



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## Annex – EPC Pre-Qualification Form

The EPC Pre-Qualification Form is available for download from BVIEC’s website:

[www.bvielelectricity.com](http://www.bvielelectricity.com)



## List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BVI	British Virgin Islands
BVIEC	British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
GoVI	Government of the British Virgin Islands
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PV	Photovoltaic
RE	Renewable Energy
RFP	Request for Proposal
RFQ	Request for Qualifications
RMI	Rocky Mountain Institute
R-NETS	Resilient National Energy Transition Strategy



## I. INTRODUCTION

BVIEC, through the CDB, and RMI are issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for interested parties to provide information to qualify for a future tender for Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) services for a microgrid project at Paraquita Bay on the island of Tortola. The project would include solar PV, battery storage, power management systems, a substation and would require undergrounding of electrical cables, with options for integration with existing fossil fuel generating assets in the BVI. BVIEC, CDB, and RMI would be seeking proposals through the aforementioned contract modality.

The project is intended to:

- Provide a low carbon source of energy to complement the existing diesel-only generation in the BVI.
- Provide generation capacity that reduces the cost of electricity production in the BVI by harnessing the abundant solar resource available on the island as a substitute for the diesel fuel generation that is presently used.
- Integrate the RE and existing technologies in a seamless manner to improve the quality and reliability of electricity services to the local customer base while maximizing efficiencies of the joint systems.
- Provide increased resilience in the face of more frequent and severe weather events as the microgrid will have the ability to decouple from the grid, thus providing local electricity in times of disruption to the grid supply.

***Through this RFQ process your company is invited to submit information to be assessed for qualification to participate in the subsequent RFP round.***

***The Caribbean Development Bank's procurement rules will be adhered to in regard to this solicitation. Eligibility requirements are provided under Section IV: Qualifications Instructions and a link to CDB's procurement policy is provided [here](#).***

## II. PROJECT INFORMATION

In September 2017, the BVI was battered by Category 5 Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the space of less than two weeks. This resulted in devastation to the islands, including damage to the territory's main power plant and destruction of approximately 90% of the grid infrastructure. This prompted the BVIEC, in partnership with the GoVI, to develop a Resilient National Energy Transition Strategy (R-NETS) which would outline pathways to achieving renewable energy targets and increased resilience of the national energy sector. One of these targets is a 30% share of renewables in the electricity supply by 2023. One project coming out of this R-NETS is the implementation of a solar PV array and BESS at Paraquita Bay on the island of Tortola. In addition to decreased emissions and reduced reliance on imported fuel, these installations will contribute to the robustness of the electricity system. In case of disruption to the grid supply, this microgrid can be decoupled from the main grid to continue providing power to critical facilities



in the area, including water and wastewater treatment facilities, a pumping station, and a community college campus which is also a designated hurricane shelter.

The BVIEC was incorporated in 1979 following the legislation of the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation Ordinance No. 7 of 1978. The company's sole shareholder is the GoVI and it falls under the portfolio of the Premier's Office.

BVIEC:

- Is the only state-owned electric utility and is governed by a board of directors appointed by the government
- Operates 2 generating plants on 2 islands in the BVI
- Provides service to approximately 17,000 customers
- Has a total installed capacity of approximately 57 MW

Under this BVI Microgrid Project, BVIEC is seeking, via an EPC contract, to install a 4 MW ground-mounted solar PV array and a battery energy storage system (the capacity will be stated in the subsequent RFP), to be interconnected to and integrated with the BVI grid at Paraquita Bay, Tortola. This project will also include the construction of a substation at Paraquita Bay and undergrounding works.

Most of the electricity generation in the BVI is diesel-based and is done at the Pockwood Pond station. This station is located on Tortola and also supplies the islands of Beef Island, Virgin Gorda, Jost van Dyke, Little Thatch, Buck Island, Little and Great Camanoe, Scrub Island, Saba Rock, Frenchman's Cay, and Marina Cay. There is a smaller station on the island of Anegada which is also fueled by diesel. In total, there are 13 diesel gensets operating across the BVIEC power systems, however, 2 of them have been decommissioned in 2017. After Hurricane Irma, the peak demand in the BVI in 2018 was recorded as approximately 17 MW – a 50% reduction from its pre-Irma value of 34 MW. The demand has been steadily increasing since then however, with a peak of approximately 29.5 MW seen thus far in 2021.

The goal for this RFQ is to identify a shortlist of bidders who are qualified to bid on and deliver this project. These shortlisted bidders will then receive an RFP package, which will contain further project information that they can use to develop their proposals. BVIEC will provide the site for the proposed solar PV array and battery bank installation, as well as for the substation and undergrounding. In addition, BVIEC will share the results of a number of project specific de-risking activities including the following: site surveys (boundary & topographical), geotechnical investigations, an environmental and social impact assessment, site plan, glint & glare study, etc.

These bids will then be evaluated by BVIEC's evaluation committee. A Contractor would then be selected and contracted under an EPC arrangement.

The Contractor would be required to undertake detailed engineering, supply all required materials and equipment, install the solar PV, battery storage, power management systems, and substation, and connect and integrate the systems into the BVI grid. The Contractor would also be required to carry out the necessary undergrounding works. The Contractor can choose to operate and maintain the solar PV and storage systems for a period of at least one (1) year following commissioning, however this is an

optional provision. Knowledge transfer in the form of training of BVIEC staff in the specifics of managing the new microgrid is mandated.

### III. SELECTION CRITERIA

BVIEC’s evaluation committee will score the RFQ submissions using the following point scale:

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Points</b>
Submission Completeness / Organisation / Legal	5
Financial Qualifications	20
Service Provider Insurance / Bonding	5
Service Provider Health and Safety	5
EPC Solar PV and BESS Project Experience/References	32
Key Team Members/Engineering Qualifications/Experience in PV, BESS & Substation	33
	<b>100</b>

#### **Scoring**

Evaluators will assess submissions using the evaluation criteria and assign scores accordingly. Where appropriate, half marks will be given. The sum of the individual scores will determine the bidder’s total score.

#### **Thresholds**

An overall threshold of 75-points would initially be in effect. The goal is to invite six to ten bidders to proceed to the RFP stage. The threshold of 75-points may be adjusted to accommodate this RFP invitation goal.

### IV. QUALIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS

In order to develop a list of qualified firms BVIEC requests that bidders complete the attached prequalification form (Annex 1) and include your statement of qualifications related to solar PV, battery storage, microgrid projects, substation construction, undergrounding, and EPC services. Your completed prequalification form and statement of qualifications are requested by 11:59 PM EST on December 13, 2021. All submissions received after the deadline will be rejected.

Your completed prequalification form should be sent to [BVIECmicrogridproject@bvielectricity.com](mailto:BVIECmicrogridproject@bvielectricity.com) with subject: BVIEC Microgrid Project RFQ. Clarification questions should also be sent to this email address.



A Consultant shall be eligible to participate if they fulfil:

(1) The following eligibility requirements:

- (a) in the case of a body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organised in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50 percent beneficially owned by citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;
- (b) in the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and
- (c) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

(2) The following integrity requirement:

- (a) is not subject to sanctions under the United Nations (UN) Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the UN;
- (b) has not engaged in Prohibited Practices, as detailed in Paragraph 2.02 (a) of the Procedures for Dealing with Fraud and Corruption in CDB-Financed Projects (October 2014 or as updated from time to time)<sup>[1]</sup>;
- (c) is not suspended or debarred by CDB for engaging in the Prohibited Practices referenced in (2) (b) above;
- (d) is not publicly debarred by a Multilateral Development Bank subject to the Agreement on Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions<sup>[2]</sup> in their own right, or under abovementioned agreement; and



- (e) is not subject to a conflict of interest that would undermine the Consultant's ability to provide professional, objective, and impartial advice.

CDB requires that all parties involved in the procurement process avoid and declare promptly and proactively in writing to CDB any potential, apparent or actual conflicts of interest. Without limitation on the generality of the foregoing, the Consultant shall not be hired under the following circumstances: conflict between consulting activities and procurement of goods, works or non-consulting services, conflict among consulting assignments, and/or close relationships with CDB staff or other stakeholders involved in or expected to be involved in the procurement or subsequent contract management.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB.

Materials provided will be shared with the BVIEC's evaluation committee for the purpose of assessing qualifications and determining eligibility to bid on the upcoming BVI Microgrid Project. Once the final bidders list for the RFP is determined, each respondent to the RFQ will be notified whether or not they qualify to advance to RFP stage.

BVIEC may conduct reconnaissance to furnish a list of qualified subcontractors based on different disciplines and installers via a separate exercise. This list will be shared with the bidding contractors. BVIEC is not limiting the EPC contractor to this list.

Annex 1 – To be completed as part of RFQ response by companies that wish to be pre-qualified as an EPC candidate.

**NB: For this RFQ process BVIEC requires potential bidders to share their experience in EPC services for projects that involve the construction of substations, undergrounding, and the integration of solar PV and battery storage systems into power systems with existing fossil fuel-based generation.**



## Annex – EPC Pre-Qualification Form

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