

Rhode Island Solar DG RFP  
Bidder's Conference call 11/22/13: Q&A Notes

1) Q: The budget is an estimated \$30-50K; how far through the analysis will this budget take you?

A: Through Design, to strategy, and final report

2) Q: Do you know the Load profile of these towns?

A: Yes, we have load profile data and will share that with the selected company

3) Q: What impact would back-cast have on load profile? Have you performed a back-cast analysis?

A: No we have not done a back cast. We haven't considered solar b/c it is not currently cost effective within our current SRP modeling. We are hoping that this new design may have a different impact, w/ownership options, etc..

4) Q: Have you considered setting up a forecasting model for these towns and monitoring what sunlight is available, and/or analyze/forecasting weather? Have we analyzed weather data and load data to develop a forecast?

A: Yes, we know you can perform this type of analysis, but to date we have not done so. You can certainly include the use of such analysis in your report/deliverables.

5) Q: How many circuits are involved in the program and what kind of load are these circuits seeing. Do you have any meter data available to the customer level?

A: Yes we have this information and data available and will share this with the selected bidder.

6) Q: Is AMI data available?

A: Yes, and we will share what we have.

7) Q: Is load reduction being considered at the sub-station level or at multiple circuit points/other locations?

A: We are looking to defer cost at the substation level, but if there are other benefits that go beyond this infrastructure, we would be open to knowing and could add cost-benefit, but primarily we are looking at the substation level.

8) Q: Do you need reactive inverters in these 2 towns to adjust power in these circuits?

A: We would anticipate the baseline would be performance and anti-islanding based on IEEE 1547 and its recent amendments, but that these systems could provide additional services/benefits that we would like to consider. This could impact the deployment strategy, so if you want to consider this in your proposal and report then please do so.

9) Q: Do you see storage as part of the scope? Are you looking to define the storage capability?

A: Yes, we are looking at storage, and we are looking for your expert opinions on how storage could be a factor/benefit and included/excluded in the overall strategy.

10) Q: Are you looking for something general as far deployment plan?

A: Yes, we are looking for an informative plan to help National Grid and the OER learn from this methodology. We understand that it will need further discussion, vetting, and expansion.

11) Q: What involvement has National Grid/OER had w/municipal officials in these towns regarding this Solar DG Pilot?

A: Some involvement but limited. Most engagement has been with our customers. Since 2012 we have held events in both of these towns to market this pilot. So yes, there is some awareness.

12) Q: Can we get a GIS layer info for the transmission and distribution lines?

A: Yes of course, [to the extent/detail it is available].

13) Q: Is there need for the selected firm to be “local”/in state for face-to-face meetings?

A: We are not requiring that the selected firm be local, but it is a plus. Though, the selected firm is going to have to travel to the state for some of the survey work and for meetings with the OER and National Grid, and all travel costs are included in the budget. Some or most of the work can be done remotely.

14) Q: To what extent does survey need to be done on site vs. satellite imagery

A: You can do most of it remotely if you believe it can be done, but some local time will most likely be needed.

15) Q: Does interconnection of solar expect to be on/behind the customer meter or directly to the distribution connection?

A: Yes and yes! You tell us, is it a combination? We are looking at options so please provide your expertise in this area as we are open to suggestions.

16) Q: Is there a deadline for questions?

A: No deadline, though please try to have them to us prior to the final few days before closing. Especially if they are rather complex questions that may need time to answer.

17) Q: Why the short timeframe? Is there a regulatory requirement?

A: No, there are no requirements. We are just looking forward to selecting a firm to get to work with soon.

18) Q: Can we move the application deadline out a week?

A: Yes, we have moved the due date from December 5<sup>th</sup>, out to December 10th.

19) Q: Why the deadline for the draft assessment the end of January

A: Most of the marketing and enrollment for the SRP Pilot takes place April, May, June, and July. So we want to get things in place to coordinate these efforts as best we can.

20) Q: Is the budget flexible?

A We would be willing to entertain budgets in near range, but not significantly outside of the proposed budget.

21) Q: Can you email me directly instead of going into the Ariba system to find the messages?

A Yes, we can! Just let us know and we can email them directly to you.