



Generation Project Opportunity

Design, Build, Operate and Maintain

Request for Information

January 18, 2023

Overview & Instructions

MCE, a California joint powers authority, seeks qualified developers of various energy technologies to participate in MCE's 2023 Generation Project Opportunity Request for Information ("Generation Project RFI" or "RFI").

MCE's Generation Project RFI is a request for carbon-free energy, or low-carbon, projects for MCE to own or for MCE to be an ownership partner. For the purposes of the RFI, MCE is seeking a "turn-key" project (*i.e.*, a generation facility that is developed, operated, and maintained for the benefit of MCE) with the possibility of MCE providing financing and having an ownership interest in the project. As further described below, MCE is seeking ownership or partnership models in which the project developer sites, procures, installs, interconnects, commissions, and operates the project at a specified price.

Proposals pursuant to this RFI must be received by MCE not later than 5:00 P.M. Pacific Prevailing Time ("PPT") on the dates outlined in Section VII.

I. About MCE

With offices in San Rafael and Concord, MCE is a public, not-for-profit agency which operates California's first community choice aggregation ("CCA") program as well as various complementary energy-related programs. MCE's primary focus is reducing energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by providing electricity service to more than one million residents and businesses with a supply portfolio that utilizes a minimum 60% renewable energy, or a 100% renewable energy service option (available to all customers on a voluntary basis), and groundbreaking energy efficiency, demand response, and energy storage programs. Consistent with the CCA service model, MCE determines the sources and suppliers of the energy it procures, and PG&E continues to manage the



transmission and distribution of such energy to MCE customers. MCE maintains investment grade credit ratings from S&P and Fitch. MCE consists of 37 member communities across four Bay Area counties: Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, and Solano.

II. Introduction

The “turn-key” energy system that MCE is seeking should be fully operational or be a shovel-ready project ready for construction. A shovel-ready project would include project siting, engineering, equipment, installation, operation and maintenance, utility coordination and interconnection agreements. An RFI response should include all labor, materials and facilities required to maintain essential functions in operation as part of the scope of the project. The system shall comply with Balancing Authority and Participating Transmission Owner metering and interconnection standards and construction guidelines.

General instructions for participating in MCE’s 2023 Generation Project RFI are further described below.

By participating in MCE’s 2023 Generation Project RFI, Respondents acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this RFI Overview and Instructions. MCE reserves the right to reject any submission that does not fully comply with the requirements identified herein. Furthermore, MCE may, in its sole discretion and without notice, modify, suspend, or terminate the 2023 Generation Project RFI without further liability to any organization or individual. The RFI does not constitute an offer to buy or create an obligation for MCE to enter into an agreement with any party; however, MCE may offer to enter into negotiations with any Respondent based on its submission in response to this RFI, and MCE shall not be bound by the terms of any offer until MCE has entered into a fully executed agreement.

III. Minimum Project Requirements

Eligible Project	Carbon-free or low-carbon resources (95%-100% carbon-free) that provide energy and capacity attributes. Projects may not utilize fossil-fuels as a fuel stock, and may not utilize carbon capture technology to reduce or eliminate emissions.
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	<p>Resources must meet minimum California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) and California Independent System Operator (“CAISO”) requirements for participation in the Resource Adequacy program and participation in the CAISO markets.</p> <p>Must also comply with Balancing Authority and Participating Transmission Owner metering and interconnection standards and construction guidelines.</p>
Energy Profiles	Firm generation resource.
Resource Status	The project can be a new build, repower or existing resource(s).
Project Location	<p>Resources must interconnect directly to the transmission or distribution system (i.e., “in front of the meter”) and be able to participate directly in CAISO electricity markets or if not directly interconnected to the CAISO must have the ability to provide Resource Adequacy as a dynamic transfer (i.e., dynamically scheduled or pseudo-tied to the CAISO).</p> <p>MCE has the following preferences for project siting, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects within MCE’s service area • Projects withing 100 miles of MCE’s service area • Projects within California • Projects within CAISO controlled grid • Projects dynamically scheduled or pseudo-tied to the CAISO
Delivery Term	Minimum full operational capability 20-30 years.

<p>Scheduling and Dispatch Flexibility</p>	<p>MCE or its designee will act as the Scheduling Coordinator with full dispatch and flexibility rights. If MCE is the owner, MCE expects to have full operational control of the resource(s).</p>
<p>Ownership/Partnership Structure and Costs</p>	<p>For ownership structure, break down price into sub-components, such as land-purchase or lease cost, Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) costs, Operations and Management (O&M) agreement, etc.</p> <p>For partnership structure, please provide a detailed proposal of possible partnership relationships and financial arrangements.</p> <p>Debt, Equity & Tax Equity: MCE is rated “A” by S&P and “BBB+” by Fitch. MCE is interested in 100% ownership or a percent co-ownership structure for existing projects or new build projects that are complete or near completion. MCE can provide long term fixed rate taxable or tax-exempt debt financing, direct equity, and tax equity per the recently enacted IRA legislation.</p> <p>However, MCE cannot use depreciation or take advantage of MACRs or bonus depreciation. Consequently, a partnership structure where MCE and its partner collaborate to employ the most cost- and tax-effective financing approaches would be optimal.</p> <p>Note: MCE cannot provide construction financing but could possibly commit to take-out financing at the Commercial Operation Date (“COD”).</p>
<p>Project Capacity</p>	<p>Minimum of 20 MW and up to 500 MW per Project</p>

IV. Minimum Qualifications

1. Registered and compliant with NERC and WECC as Generation owner and/or Generation Operator (same could be applied towards the Participating Transmission Operator),
2. More than ten (10) years of direct experience designing, developing, owning, operating, and maintaining large-scale generation assets,
3. Experience working with public power utilities, municipal or local governments, special taxing districts or other governmental agencies as well as relevant regulatory entities,
4. Strong knowledge and/or experience in turnkey energy system design, engineering, procurement, construction and long-term O&M services,
5. Ability to meet required deadlines as demonstrated by prior project history,
6. Eligible to do work in accordance with and must agree to conform to federal and state laws and applicable regulations,
7. Willingness to enter into a Project Labor Agreement, as applicable,
8. At the time of bidding and throughout the period of the contract term, be licensed as required by the State of California,
9. Demonstrate in its proposal that its previous experience, financial capacity, and its equipment are able to meet the proposed work within the scheduled time and in conformance with the plans and specifications of project plan,
10. Ability to provide training on the use and operational maintenance of the completed project to MCE staff.
11. Meet all Minimum Qualifications and provide a Minimum Qualifications plan in Section B of its proposal.

V. References

Respondent shall provide a minimum of three (3) satisfactory references of current clients or clients for whom Respondent has completed a similar project in the past five (5) years. The services and projects provided to those clients shall be detailed in the References section of the proposal.

VI. Required Content of Proposal Submission

Submissions must include all of the following components with sufficient detail to support MCE's evaluative process (using the criteria in Section III):



A conforming proposal must be submitted electronically (uploaded using the Proposal Submission link located on the website: <http://mcecleanenergy.org/energy-procurement/>) by 5:00 P.M. PPT on the due date as shown below:

A complete Proposal must include the following sections:

- Section A – Project Overview demonstrating information from the “Minimum Project Requirements” section
- Section B – Minimum Qualifications
- Section C - References
- Section D – Interconnection Plan or Interconnection Study or Agreement as Attachment 5
- Section E – Project Development Timeline, if new construction
- Section F – Permitting, Use and Zoning Plan, and Environmental Studies
- Section G – Ownership Structure and Cost
- Attachment 1 – Single Line Diagram
- Attachment 2 – Site Plan
- Attachment 3 – Financial Statements
- Attachment 4 – Organizational Chart
- Attachment 5 – Interconnection Study or Agreement

VII. Key Deadlines and Submission Requirements

MCE’s 2023 Generation Project RFI will be administered based on the following schedule:

Issue RFI	1/18/2023
Submission Deadline	3/3/2023, 5:00 P.M. PPT
Vendor Interviews	3/20/2023 – 3/31/2023

Any questions related to the content of this RFI must be submitted to the RFI Manager at rfo@mcecleanenergy.org.



Submission Deadline. To be eligible for consideration, proposals must be uploaded via the " Proposal Submission" link on MCE's website no later than 5:00 P.M. PPT on the above due date.

Supplier Interviews/Q&A. As necessary, MCE may submit clarifying questions to certain respondents or conduct interviews. MCE shall retain the right, in its sole discretion, to request information without notifying other respondents. MCE shall establish due dates for any request(s) for additional information, which shall be communicated to the affected respondent(s).

VIII. Supplier Diversity and Responsible Procurement

Consistent with the California Public Utilities Code and CPUC policy objectives, MCE collects information regarding supplier diversity and labor practices from project developers and their subcontractors regarding past, current and/or planned efforts and policies. Each Respondent will be required to complete a Labor Practices questionnaire. Additionally, pursuant to Senate Bill 255, which imposes new supplier diversity reporting requirements on CCAs, Respondents that execute an agreement with MCE will be required to complete a Supplier Diversity questionnaire.

MCE does not give preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin; providing such information to MCE will not impact the selection process or good standing of executed agreements.

MCE will not accept any proposals for generating and/or storage facilities that rely on equipment or resources built with forced labor. Consistent with the business advisory jointly issued by the U.S. Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce and Homeland Security on July 1, 2020, equipment or resources sourced from the Xinjiang region of China are presumed to involve forced labor.

IX. General Terms and Conditions

MCE's Reserved Rights

MCE may, at its sole discretion, withdraw this RFI at any time, and/or reject any or all proposals submitted without awarding a contract. MCE also reserves the right to negotiate any price or provision as well as accept or reject any or all parts of each proposal, whatever is deemed to be in the best interest of MCE.



Respondents are solely responsible for any costs or expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of an offer or proposal. MCE shall be held harmless and free from any and all liability, claims, or expenses whatsoever incurred by, or on behalf of, any person or organization responding to this RFI.

All data and information furnished by MCE or referred to in this RFI are furnished for the respondent's convenience. MCE does not guarantee that such data and information are accurate, and MCE assumes no responsibility whatsoever as to the accuracy of such data or its interpretation.

During the evaluation process MCE may request from any Respondent additional information which MCE deems necessary to determine the Respondent's ability to perform the required services. If such information is requested, the Respondent shall provide such information within a commercially reasonable amount of time.

Public Records

All documents submitted in response to this RFI will become the property of MCE upon submission and will be subject to the provisions of the California Public Records Act and any other applicable disclosure laws. Upon submission, all proposals shall be treated as confidential until the selection process is completed. Once a contract is awarded, all proposals shall be deemed public record. MCE is required to comply with the California Public Records Act as it relates to the treatment of any information marked "confidential." Respondents requesting that portions of its submittal be exempt from disclosure are solely responsible for designating such material as confidential, and Respondent must clearly identify those portions with the word "Confidential" printed on the lower right-hand corner of the page. Each page shall be clearly marked and separable from the proposal in order to facilitate public inspection of the non-confidential portion of the proposal. MCE will consider a respondent's request for an exemption from disclosure; however, if MCE receives a request for documents under the California Public Records Act, MCE will make a decision whether to disclose documents based upon applicable laws. Respondents should not over-designate material as confidential, and any requests or assertions by a respondent that the entire submittal, or significant portions thereof, are exempt from disclosure will not be honored.



X. Questions

To promote accuracy and consistency of information provided to all participants, questions will only be accepted via email to MCE's RFI Manager at rfo@mcecleanenergy.org with the subject line of such emails reading "**Generation Project RFI Question.**" MCE will attempt to respond to submitted questions within a week of receipt.

Thank you for your interest!