



SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**ENGAGEMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT AND
CONSTRUCTION PLUS FINANCING AND SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONS AND
MAINTENANCE (EPC+F+O&M) FOR THE 5MW GUTU SOLAR PROJECT, GUTU
DISTRICT, MASVINGO PROVINCE, ZIMBABWE**

REOI NO. IDBZ/GUTSOL/AAAA0037/2025

MARCH 2025

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT BANK OF ZIMBABWE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR PROVISION OF EPC+F+O&M SERVICES (Contractors Selection)

Subject	Engagement of a Contractor for Engineering, Procurement And Construction Plus Financing And Subsequent Operations And Maintenance (EPC+F+O&M) For The 5MW Gutu Solar Project, Gutu District, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe
Brief Description	Implementation of the Gutu solar project through a turn-key contract entailing the engineering, procurement through to construction, testing, commissioning, financing and subsequent operation and maintenance.
REOI Number	IDBZ/GUTSOL/AAAA0037/2025

Section I

1. Background and Rationale

The Infrastructure and Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ/the Bank) partnered with Gutu Rural District Council (GRDC), as project sponsors, to develop, construct and operate a 5MW Solar Power Generation Plant at Berry Springs and Wheatlands Farms in Gutu District, Masvingo Province. The project is being undertaken by Chatsworth Energy (Private) Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created by the Bank to undertake the project. The project site measures 15ha in extent and is 8km to the north of Gutu-Mupandawana town. The 5MW Gutu Solar Project will connect to the 33/11 kV Gutu substation located 1km from the project site and owned and managed by Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) Eastern Region.

A Grid Impact Assessment (GIA) conducted by ZETDC indicated that the project would have a positive impact on the grid. A detailed Bankable Feasibility study which included an ESIA study and was co-funded by the IDBZ and AFD was undertaken by SOWITEC Kenya Limited (consultant from Kenya) in partnership with MAZEDECK Ventures (Pvt) Limited (Zimbabwe consultant firm). This study concluded that the project is technically feasible, financially viable and can be implemented in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

2. Objectives of the Partnership Engagement

The main objective of the Services is to implement the 5MW Gutu Solar Project in a technically, financially, environmentally, and socially sustainable manner, complying with Zimbabwean laws and international standards.

The selected contractor will undertake the financing (**full or partial**), engineering, procurement, construction, commissioning, and subsequent operation and maintenance of the solar PV system and ancillary infrastructure.

Specific objectives of the assignment include:

- i. Preparing a detailed design of the 5MW Solar PV system and associated infrastructure.
- ii. Providing or mobilizing full or partial financing for project implementation.
- iii. Procuring, supplying, and delivering materials to the site.
- iv. Installing equipment and constructing associated infrastructure.
- v. Assessing and installing physical and cyber security systems.
- vi. Reviewing grid compatibility and grid connection options.
- vii. Commissioning, operating, and maintaining the solar PV system and ancillary infrastructure.

3. Scope of Work

The Contractor shall deliver a turnkey 5MW Solar PV Plant, including:

- i. Financing (**Full or Partial**).
- ii. Engineering, procurement, and construction of ancillary infrastructure.
- iii. Erection and installation of equipment including fencing of site.
- iv. Testing and commissioning.
- v. Operation and maintenance.

3.1 Key Responsibilities

The Contractor shall:

- i. Submit a Program of Works (PoW) and project organogram.
- ii. Secure funding (full or partial) and provide proof of availability of same.
- iii. Design and construct ancillary facilities.
- iv. Procure materials and transport them to the site.
- v. Conduct factory acceptance tests and site inspections.
- vi. Implement quality assurance and control mechanisms.

- vii. Provide security arrangements for material storage.
- viii. Fence off the project site.
- ix. Install monitoring systems for solar irradiation and energy export.
- x. Construct the solar PV plant and undertake pre-construction tests.
- xi. Commission, operate, and maintain the plant.
- xii. Provide warranties and transfer component warranties to Chatsworth Energy.
- xiii. Remove construction materials and debris from the site after project completion.

3.2 Project Implementation

The project shall be implemented in accordance with:

- Relevant national laws and regulations
- International best practices
- Guaranteed performance standards

3.3 Operation and Maintenance

The Contractor shall operate and maintain the PV plant from commissioning to the expiry of the concession period, including:

- Defects liability period.
- Supplying equipment/spares, materials, and manpower for replacement of faulty equipment.

Detailed Terms of Reference shall be accessed from the IDBZ's website, URL:

<https://www.idbz.co.zw/project-operations/procurement-notice/expressions-interest/terms-reference-engagement-engineering>.

Section II

4. Eligibility Criteria

The Applicant shall submit only one application, either in its own name or as a member of a Joint Venture (JV). If an Applicant (including any JV member) submits or participates in more than one application, those applications shall be all rejected. However, the same Subcontractor may participate in several applications.

If the Applicant is a JV, the expression of interest shall include:

- a copy of the JV Agreement entered into by all members,
- or
- a letter of intent to execute a JV Agreement, signed by all members together with a copy of the Agreement proposal,

In the absence of this document, the other members will be considered as Subcontractors.

Experiences and qualifications of Subconsultants are not taken into account in the evaluation of the applications.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform those Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent and similar services shall be submitted. In addition:

- i. The contractors must be registered with the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ).
- ii. Duly signed letters of funding support from reputable Banks or Financial Institution (s) where applicable
- iii. Financial Statements for the last 3 years where the contractor is directly financing the project(s)
- iv. Any other authentic proof of credible source of financing proposed for the project
- v. Local (Zimbabwean) and Foreign (international) firms may participate in this REOI.

5. Qualification Criteria

Determination of the similarity of the experiences will be based on:

- The size of contracts;
- The nature of the Services: EPC+F+O&M for solar PV projects
- The technical area and expertise: Engineering designs for solar systems of minimum size 5MW; procurement for solar projects; erection and installation of solar plants; operation and maintenance for solar systems up to 5MW; financial advisory services for solar systems.
- The location: In Africa

****Please note that the drafting of a methodology or the identification and submission of CVs of experts for the Services is not required at this stage, i.e. REOI stage.***

Among the submitted applications, the IDBZ will shortlist a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of six (6) Applicants, to whom the Request for Proposals to carry out the Services shall be sent.

The evaluation of Expressions of Interest documents shall be ascertained on compliance-based method using the minimum qualifying criteria below.

6. Application Documents

A. Mandatory Documents

- i. Letter of expression of interest, duly dated and signed, drawn up in accordance with the model in **Appendix A** of Section III below.
- ii. Letter of authorization for Firm's representative
- iii. Duly signed letters of funding support from reputable Banks or Financial Institution (s) where applicable
- iv. If the Applicant is part of a JV or consortium: copy of the consortium agreement or letter of intent to form a JV or consortium;
- v. Duly signed declaration of integrity in accordance with the model attached in annex 3;
- vi. Presentation of the firm or design office or group of firms/design offices;
- vii. List of recent and similar references (format to be decided by the applicant). Evidence of similar experience must be provided in the form of **certificates of successful completion**.

- B. The application documents should not exceed a maximum of 30 pages all inclusive, except for the presentation of the candidate and proof of similar references;

C. The application documents should be presented in **one (01) unmodifiable pdf file**.

Note: Any incomplete application and/or application arriving after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

Section III: Instructions to Contractors

The IDBZ will reject an Expression of Interest if it establishes that the Contractor has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices in competing for the Contract or been declared ineligible to be awarded a procurement contract under section 99 of the Act. An expression of interest shall be rejected in this procurement process if a Consultant Firm engages in anti-competitive practices.

Interested Contractors shall submit only one Expression of Interest document, either individually or as a partner in a joint venture / consortium. In case of joint venture / consortium, total similar projects will be counted as sum of Lead firm and partners / associates.

The Expression of Interest must be submitted electronically to procurement@idbz.co.zw **no later than 14 April 2025, at 1000 hours CAT**: Email Subject ***“IDBZ/GUTSOL/AAAA0037/2025 Applicants”***.

Late applications may be rejected.

Attn: Fredy Masuka
Director – Procurement Management Department
IDBZ House
99 Gamal Abdel Nasser Road, Harare, Zimbabwe
PO Box 1720
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263-4-750171/8
Email: procurement@idbz.co.zw
Website: www.idbz.co.zw

Letter for submission of Request for Expression of Interest (To be submitted with the application, signed and unaltered)

To: Infrastructure ad Development Bank of Zimbabwe

With reference to your invitation for expressions of interest for *{insert subject and proposal reference number}*, we express our interest in bidding for a contract to provide these services.

We provide the following information in relation to the short-listing criteria:

1. Qualifications and experience of the firm: *{Insert relevant information}*.
2. Other short-listing criteria: *{Insert relevant information}*.

We submit the following documents in support of this information *{list any documents that were requested in the invitation for expressions of interest; if no documents were requested, delete this paragraph }*.

{Delete whichever of the following statements do not apply:}

1. This firm will be the sole provider of the requested consultancy and works services. **or**
2. We propose to provide the requested consultancy and works services as part of a joint venture with *{provide the name of the joint venture partner and details of the contribution the partner would make to the required consultancy and works services}*. **Or**
3. We propose to engage as sub-contractors *{provide the name of the sub-contractor and details of the contribution the sub-contractor would make to the required consultancy and works services}*.

{In the case of 2 or 3 above} We confirm that the firm mentioned above has agreed to be associated with this expression of interest.

{Name and postal and physical address of firm submitting the expression of interest, together with name of contact person and contact details, including telephone number and e-mail address. The firm’s website address should be provided, if available.}

Expression of Interest Letter Authorised By:

Signed	Name:
In capacity of:	Date:(DD/MM/Y Y)
Duly authorised for and on behalf of:	
Firm	
Address:	
.....	
Corporate Seal (where appropriate)	