**Questions and Answers**

**Technical Support to SB100 Modeling**

**RFP-21-801**

**March 18, 2022**

The following answers are based on California Energy Commission (CEC) staff’s interpretation of the questions received. It is the Bidder’s responsibility to review the purpose of the solicitation and to determine whether or not their proposed project is eligible for funding by reviewing the Eligibility Requirements within the solicitation. The CEC cannot give advice as to whether or not a particular project is eligible for funding, because not all proposal details are known.

***Applicant Eligibility***

**Q1: RFP states this solicitation is open to public and private entities. Is this solicitation also open to nonprofit organizations?**

A1: This solicitation is open to nonprofit organizations.

**Q2: If a nonprofit is eligible, are they eligible to act as the Applicant and the Prime Recipient of the grant award?**

A2: Nonprofits can be the prime bidder; however, this is a contract and not a grant

**Q3: Is a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) eligible to be a subcontractor if deemed their services are necessary for the work to be performed?**

A3: CCAs are eligible to be subcontractors.

***Project Requirements***

**Q4: Are resumes included in the page count for the technical proposal?**

A4: Resumes are not counted in the page limits of the technical proposal.

**Q5: Work products for prime only or prime plus major subs? Included in page count?**

A5: Work product is only required of the prime bidder. Bidders may elect to provide work products of subcontractors but these products are not required. Work products are not included in the page count.

**Q6: Will subcontractor references be considered in proposal evaluation?**

A6: The evaluation team may consider references of subcontractors; however, they are not required and the primary consideration will be on the prime bidder references.

**Q7:**  **Is there an anticipated amount of travel required for the scope of services, such as in-person meetings in Sacramento or elsewhere?**

A7: The CEC does not anticipate that travel will be required.

***Project Costs***

**Q8: There is $250,000 available for the contract resulting from this RFP. This is an hourly rate plus cost reimbursement contract and the award will be made to the responsible Bidder receiving the highest points.”**

**Our company would like to propose a fixed price proposal with a budget of under $100,000 for this work. We are a small California 501c3, with small subcontractors who are primarily sole proprietors. The administrative burden of an hourly rate plus cost reimbursement contract is onerous for our organization and subcontractors. We would develop a detailed set of at least 5 milestones for this scope of work. Would this approach be acceptable to the CEC?**

A8: This approach does not meet the requirements of the RFP.

***Questions asked during the workshop***

**Q9: Will the slides be posted to the website?**

A9: Yes, slides will be posted to the website. [RFP-21-801 - Technical Support to SB 100 Modeling](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-03/rfp-21-801-technical-support-sb-100-modeling)

**Q10: Are subcontractors required to break out their costs into categories or does that only apply to the prime contractor?**

A10: Yes. The contractor and the subcontractors, regardless of their tier, are required to do so.

**Q11: The scope of the RFP is very broad. Do you anticipate awarding multiple contracts in order to allow specialists to the opportunity to provide support to CEC without having expertise in all areas?**

A11: No, only one award will result from this solicitation.

**Q12: We are a disabled Veteran firm. How do we let folks know we are available to work as contractors?**

A12: The attendee list for this pre-bid workshop will be posted publicly at: [RFP-21-801 - Technical Support to SB 100 Modeling](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2022-03/rfp-21-801-technical-support-sb-100-modeling).
The CEC does not facilitate connections between contractors and subcontractors, and cannot provide specific guidance on this topic.

**Q13: Can you disclose who performed the earlier study?**

A13: This contract is not for the execution of a specific study. This RFP is to select a contractor team with experience and expertise in market research and analytic methods that can provide technical assistance to the Energy Assessment Division (EAD). The focus of the support will be in relation to EAD’s role to evaluate and compare different pathways for achieving California’s clean energy goals as established in the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 100, De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) and related legislation (e.g., SB 423 requiring assessment of zero-carbon resources). Specifically, the awardee will provide technical expertise to support EAD in the development of an approach to evaluating the reliability of different resource portfolios to meet SB 100 goals.

The capacity expansion modeling work used for 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report (<https://www.energy.ca.gov/publications/2021/2021-sb-100-joint-agency-report-achieving-100-percent-clean-electricity>) was performed primarily by Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc. (E3).

**Q14: Do you have a preferred modeling tool?**

A14: No. The CEC makes use of the PLEXOS software published by Energy Exemplar for its existing production cost model work. The scope of work, as published in the solicitation manual, does require the consideration of PLEXOS and RESOLVE when evaluating and comparing different approaches to capacity expansion modeling. The awardee will also be required to consider PLEXOS when evaluating and comparing different approaches to reliability and resource adequacy analysis. See pages 7 and 8 of the solicitation manual.

**Q15: Would CEC be willing to negotiate terms and conditions?**

A15: No, The CEC does not negotiate terms or conditions for individual contracts. As part of the Contractor Status Form (Attachment 1), bidders must certify that they are willing to enter into an agreement with the Commission according to the terms and conditions without negotiation.

**Q16: Will the winning bidder be restricted from participating in future CEC solicitations that may relate to analysis of SB100 pathways or resource planning?**

A16: The selected contractor and its subcontractors are precluded from bidding on future solicitations that are recommended by or arise out of the work under this contract. If the selected contractor, and its subcontractors receiving more than 10% of the contract value, they could also be prohibited under Public Contract Code section 10365.5 from bidding on future contract solicitations. However, the selected contractor and its subcontractors are not precluded from bidding on future solicitations under SB 100 that are not related to or the result of their work under this contract. At this time, we do not expect the work under the contract to result in recommendations on future solicitations.