

RFI-001/23

Request for Information for the provision of an alternative power solutions in the form of an on-grid Solar Battery Storage back-up system for selected unique SAWS Radar Installation sites.

Closing Date and Time: 11h00 on 25 May 2023

ONLINE BRIEFING SESSION (NON COMPULSORY)

Date:	16 May 2023
Time:	14h00
Venue:	The briefing session will be held online via MICROSOFT TEAMS
Compulsory:	No
MS TEAMS meeting link	Meeting ID: 393 405 236 198 Passcode: raVHs2
Compulsory:	No

SUBMISSION OF REPSONSES TO THE RFI MUST BE DEPOSITED IN THE BID BOX WHICH IS SITUATED AT:

South African Weather Service
 Eco Glades Block 1B
 Cnr. Olievenhoutbosch and Ribbon Grass Streets
 Centurion, 0157

ENQUIRIES:

Any clarification required by a bidder regarding the meaning or interpretation of the document or any aspect concerning the submission is to be requested **in writing** from:

SCM: Acquisition Department
 South African Weather Service
 Email: bids@weathersa.co.za

1 PURPOSE

This Request for Information (RFI) issued by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), is solely to conduct a market analysis to determine if there are providers that could provide alternative backup power solutions in the form of on grid Solar Battery Storage back up system for selected unique SAWS Radar Installation sites as indicated below:

- i. Irene Radar Site (inclusive of the entire working environment)
- ii. Ottosdal Radar Site
- iii. Bethlehem Radar Site (inclusive of the LDN site)

2 INTRODUCTION

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is a public entity of Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and derives its mandate from the South African Weather Service Act (No 8 of 2001 as amended). The public entity is listed as a Schedule 3A Public Entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

SAWS is tasked with providing timely and accurate scientific data in the field of meteorology to the broader South African society: a combination of both public good and commercial services. The organisation plays a vital role in South African public life, not just as a provider of key services, but also in empowering citizens to adapt the effects of the ever-changing weather.

3 BACKGROUND

The South African Weather Service Radar network technology forms the foundation of the SAWS weather forecasting and research capability. SAWS is currently looking for an alternative source of backup power in the form of on grid solar battery storage system for the following Radar Sites, Irene Radar Site, Ottosdal Radar Site and Bethlehem Radar Site. This alternative source of power is needed to stabilise the radar network performance which has been adversely affected by the impact of the prolonged rolling blackouts that the country is currently experiencing.

The Irene Radar site, as mentioned above, is situated on an office environment with a range of additional infrastructure. The site has a main office building and several free-standing buildings which includes but is not limited to, the Radar system building and related infrastructure, a prefabricated building structure, 11KV switchgear facility (inclusive of a transformer and medium voltage electrical distribution panel) and a diesel generator back-up power facility with 1000lt fuel storage. The site also hosts multiple infrastructure since this is the main site for technology testing and its deployment for the SAWS. The following is a list of infrastructure at the Irene site:

- ❖ An S-band Radar system.

- ❖ A C-band Radar system.
- ❖ A Lightning Detection Network Sensor (LDN) and testing facility.
- ❖ A Solar Radiation Station and Dobson Station.
- ❖ A fully operational Weather Office environment with an Automatic Weather Station and Upper Air Sounding Station.
- ❖ Multiple testing Automatic Weather Stations and Automatic Rainfall Stations.
- ❖ An Air-Quality monitoring and Laboratory facility.
- ❖ A computer server and communication facility.
- ❖ The 11 KV Switchgear facility and diesel generator back-up facility.
- ❖ A security facility which includes electrical fencing, alarm, and camera system.

The following lists the infrastructure at the Ottosdal Radar site:

- ❖ An S-band Radar system.
- ❖ A diesel generator back-up facility and communication facility.
- ❖ A security facility which includes electrical fencing, alarm, and camera system.

The following lists the infrastructure at the Bethlehem Radar site:

- ❖ An S-band Radar system.
- ❖ A diesel generator back-up facility and communication facility.
- ❖ A security facility which includes electrical fencing, alarm, and camera system.

Being the authoritative voice of weather warnings, SAWS seeks to obtain information from relevant expertise in the marketplace pertaining the turnkey solution for an alternative source of backup power in the form of an on-grid solar battery storage system for the three sites mentioned above.

4 OBJECTIVE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This Request for Information (RFI) issued by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), is solely to conduct a market analysis to determine if there are providers that could provide an alternative source of backup power in the form of an on-grid solar battery storage system for the sites mentioned above to mitigate an adverse impact of load shedding on the performance of our weather rather sites.

In essence the broad delivery of the project should address amongst others the supply of continuous emergency back-up electric power to the following systems.

- ❖ Radar Equipment and Radar Shelter Building.
- ❖ Fire Suppression System in the Shelter.
- ❖ Shelter air conditioner system.
- ❖ Lightning Detection Network Hardware.
- ❖ Automatic Weather Stations Hardware / Inter comparison test-field ground.
- ❖ Domestic lighting and plug points power supply.

- ❖ Perimeter security Lighting Services where applicable.
- ❖ All ICT and Communication Equipment Needs.
- ❖ All security systems including the Alarm and Perimeter Fencing where applicable.

The Solar Battery Storage Facility should be constructed on solid foundations and all the major system components housed in a containerised secure enclosure or of similar nature.

5 COSTS FOR RESPONDING TO THE RFI

The costs incurred by a service provider in respect of the preparation of any response to this RFI or the cost of attendance of any briefing session will be borne by the individual / organisation responding to this RFI. SAWS shall in no way be liable to reimburse any individual / organisation for such costs incurred.

6 SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

Submission of responses to this RFI must be deposited before the closing date and time in the bid box of the South African Weather Service which is situated at the entrance foyer of the SAWS head office at:

Eco Glades Block 1B
Cnr. Olievenhoutbosch and Ribbon Grass Streets
Centurion, 0157

Responses must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the following information on the outside of the envelope:

- ❖ RFI number : RFI-001/23
- ❖ Closing Date: 25 May 2023 at 11h00
- ❖ Name of service provider e.g. XYZ Enterprises CC
- ❖ Contact Person e.g. J. Doe
- ❖ Contact number e.g. 012 555 5555

7 ENQUIRIES

Any clarification required regarding the meaning or interpretation of the document or any aspect concerning the submission is to be requested **in writing** from:

The Acquisition Administrator
South African Weather Service
Email: bids@weathersa.co.za