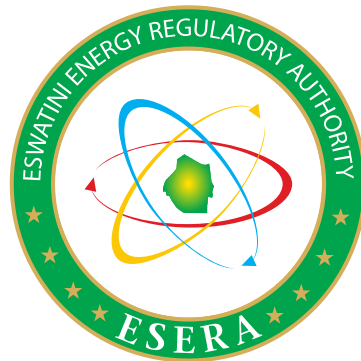


The Kingdom of Eswatini
Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority

Second Tranche Procurement Programme
Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire



Date of Issue: 17 December 2020

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1 Introduction

The Kingdom of Eswatini is a landlocked country located in Southern Africa with a population of just over 1.3 million. Eswatini currently imports the bulk of its electricity supply from neighbouring utilities, such as Eskom in South Africa, to meet its electricity demand. Due to increased uncertainty in the security of such supplies and of tariffs in the Southern African region, the Government has decided to reduce its reliance on imported electricity by encouraging the development of more local power generation.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (“**MNRE**”) is tasked with increasing the country’s energy resilience by reducing the country’s reliance on imported electricity and, in particular, by the development of local renewable energy projects which will meet the country’s environmental clean energy objectives and will help underpin economic growth. Furthermore, the MNRE is committed to encouraging private sector participation in the energy sector. Over the past few years, the country has seen significant interest from independent power producers keen to exploit the opportunities for the development of new generation capacity in the country.

On 25 July 2018, the Honourable Minister of the MNRE announced a new energy policy which introduced the private sector procurement of new generation capacity to be developed by independent power producers. This policy was launched with the full support of Eswatini Cabinet with the intention of fostering a partnership with the private sector and of ensuring the orderly development of the new electricity generation capacity necessary to help achieve the MNRE’s strategic objectives.

In addition, and in support of the new policy, on 25 October 2018, the MNRE launched its Energy Masterplan, including the Short-term Generation Expansion Plan (“**SGEP**”) for the energy sector. The Energy MasterPlan and SGEP have been developed by the MNRE, in consultation with key stakeholders, to provide a roadmap for the development of the new generation capacity in the country. The Energy MasterPlan and the SGEP have also been approved by Cabinet and were issued to inform the market of the MNRE’s plans for the future development of the energy sector in Eswatini. The copies of the Energy MasterPlan and the SGEP can be obtained from ESERA’s website using the following link:

<http://www.sera.org.sz/capacity-procurement-unit.php>

While the Energy MasterPlan provides a long-term roadmap for the country’s energy needs with a planning horizon of 20 years, the SGEP focusses on projects that can be delivered in the short-term. The new generation capacity identified for development under the SGEP comprises:

- Solar photovoltaic (“**PV**”) (circa 40 MW) – to be developed via the First Tranche Procurement Programme
- Biomass (circa 40 MW) – to be developed via the Second Tranche Procurement Programme

The new generation capacity above is being procured by the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (“**ESERA**”), in co-operation with the Minister of the MNRE,

through competitive tendering processes in accordance with the requirements of the Eswatini Electricity Act of 2007.

In June 2019, ESERA launched the request for qualification process for the First Tranche Procurement Programme which culminated in the shortlisting of thirteen (13) bidders who were invited to participate in the request for proposal process which was launched in March 2020. The RFP process for the First Tranche Procurement Programme is still ongoing.

In August 2020, ESERA launched the Request for Qualifications (“**RFQ**”) process in relation to the Second Tranche Procurement Programme to pre-qualify Applicants who demonstrate appropriate experience in the development of biomass power projects. The Qualified Applicants will be invited to participate in a Request for Proposal (“**RFP**”) process intended to select Preferred Bidder(s) to undertake the Construction, Maintenance and Operation of the Projects. The Second Tranche Procurement Process will be run as a wholly independent process from the First Tranche Procurement Process.

As part of the RFQ process, ESERA conducted a workshop for biomass feedstock producers in Eswatini to provide information and clarifications regarding ESERA’s approach with respect to the anticipated feedstock supply arrangements for the proposed biomass power plants and to get feedback from the biomass sector.

ESERA has launched this Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire to request parties who are interested in potentially becoming biomass feedstock suppliers in the Second Tranche Procurement Programme to submit details about their available biomass feedstock as required in Section 2 of this Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire. This information is intended to assist in structuring the remainder of the Second Tranche Procurement Programme.

All parties should note that responding to this Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire is voluntary and it does not in any way constitute any form of shortlisting, pre-qualification or any other form of selection for purposes of procurement for new generation capacity.

2 Preparation and Submission of Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire responses

Interested biomass feedstock producers are requested to respond to this Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire by completing the response forms provided in Appendix A in the prescribed format. The responses to the Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire should be submitted electronically to:

Mr Mphumuzi Maziya
Capacity Procurement Manager
Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority
Email: mphumuzim@esera.org.sz

ESERA requests that all responses are received by no later than **5:00pm (CAT) on 08 January, 2021**.

All responses shall be marked with the subject line: “*Response to ESERA Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire – [Name of respondent]*”.

ESERA requests that the responses to the Biomass Feedstock Questionnaire and supporting documents should be submitted in English. It is requested that attachments do not exceed 5 MB per email message.

Respondents shall identify in their responses the information that can be made publicly available for the purposes of the Second Tranche Procurement Programme. Information identified as confidential will be considered and treated as confidential by ESERA and will not be disclosed without the prior consent of the respondents, other than to parties who are required to assess the information for the purposes of the Second Tranche Procurement Programme.

ESERA wishes to thank all respondents for their positive interest in the development of the Eswatini energy sector.

Appendix A: Response Forms

Respondents are requested to complete and submit the forms provided in this Appendix A with their responses.

RESPONDENT IDENTITY:		DATE:
RESPONSE FORM 1: IDENTITY OF BIOMASS FEEDSTOCK PRODUCER		

Each respondent shall provide the details of its organisation using this Response Form 1. Respondents shall also indicate which information shall be treated as being confidential by ESERA.

Item No	Information	Details	Confidential? (Y/N)
1.	Name of respondent		
2.	Main activity or business of respondent		
3.	Type of entity (company, close corporation, limited partnership, etc.)		
4.	Country of registration/incorporation		
5.	Principal office: address, telephone numbers and email address		
6.	Contact person: Name, position, telephone numbers and email address		
7.	Do you intend to participate in the Second Tranche Procurement Programme as a feedstock supplier (Y/N)?		
8.	Do you intend to participate in the Second Tranche Procurement Programme as a developer (IPP) (Y/N)?		

RESPONDENT IDENTITY:		DATE:
RESPONSE FORM 2: BIOMASS FEEDSTOCK INFORMATION		

For biomass feedstock that is to be made available for the Second Tranche Procurement Programme, either for own use or to a third-party developer, the respondents shall provide the information in the table below. Respondents shall also indicate which information shall be treated by ESERA as being confidential.

If more than one feedstock type is available, respondents may duplicate this Response Form 2 for each biomass feedstock type.

Item No	Information	Details	Confidential? (Y/N)
1.	Biomass feedstock type (e.g. woodchip, bagasse, vegetation, municipal solid waste, etc.)		
2.	Indicative range of calorific value of biomass (GJ/tonne) if known		
3.	Source/origin of biomass feedstock		
4.	Annual volumes (tonnes/annum) to be made available for the Second Tranche Procurement Programme for base load operation		
5.	Indicative cost of biomass to be supplied to power plant (Emalangen/tonne)		
6.	How is the biomass currently being utilised (e.g. not used, sold to other local entities, power generation, exported, etc.)? (Only applicable for existing biomass feedstock streams)		
7.	Expected duration of biomass feedstock supply for power plant for base load operation (years)		
8.	For purposes of bidding, do you intend to offer the biomass feedstock exclusively to one (1) IPP or to multiple IPPs?		

RESPONDENT IDENTITY:		DATE:
RESPONSE FORM 3: POWER PLANT INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)		

Respondents who intend to participate in the Second Tranche Procurement Programme as developers as well shall provide the information in the table below. Respondents shall also indicate which information shall be treated by ESERA as being confidential.

Item No	Information	Details	Confidential? (Y/N)
1.	Power plant technology(ies) that the biomass feedstock is proposed to be used for (e.g. direct combustion, anaerobic digestion etc.), if known		
2.	Is the proposed power plant intended to be a cogeneration ¹ facility or a dedicated electricity generation facility to supply the EEC?		
3.	Envisaged power plant capacity (MW) to be committed to supply to the EEC		
4.	What percentage (%) of the biomass feedstock requirements for the power plant will be met by your own biomass feedstock and where will the remainder be secured from?		
5.	Would you consider supplementing feedstock requirements by entering into agreement(s) with small biomass producers?		

¹ Under the Second Tranche Procurement Programme, cogeneration plants are expected to supply power to the EEC as base load for the portion of the capacity that is committed to the EEC.

RESPONDENT IDENTITY:		DATE:
RESPONSE FORM 4: FEEDBACK/SUGGESTIONS ON THE RFQ PROCESS		

Respondents shall provide feedback/suggestions on the RFQ process for the Second Tranche Procurement Programme as required in the table below.

The information to be provided as part of this Response Form will be treated as confidential.

Item No	Information	Details
1.	Is there any other feedstock type (other than those identified in the RFQ) that ESERA should consider for the Second Tranche Procurement Programme?	
2.	Please provide suggestions (if any) on how ESERA can promote the participation of the feedstock producers in the Second Tranche Procurement Programme, particularly the small feedstock producers	
3.	Are there any other suggestions that you would like ESERA to consider for the Second Tranche Procurement Programme?	

RESPONDENT IDENTITY:		DATE:
RESPONSE FORM 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		

Respondents should use this response form if they wish to provide any additional information regarding biomass feedstock that they believe would be of interest to ESERA.

Respondents shall also indicate which information provided herein shall be treated as confidential by ESERA