



**Solicitation Information  
April 23, 2015**

**RFP# 7549516**

**TITLE: Solar PV for Distribution Grid Support**

**Submission Deadline: Friday May 15, 2015 at 11:00 AM (Local Time)**

**Pre-Bid conference: No**

Questions concerning this solicitation may be addressed to [Thomas.bovis@purchasing.ri.gov](mailto:Thomas.bovis@purchasing.ri.gov) no later than 5/1/2015 at 4:00 PM. Questions should be submitted in a *Microsoft Word attachment*. Please reference on all correspondence. Questions received, if any, will be answered and posted on the Internet as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information.

**SURETY REQUIRED: No**

**BOND REQUIRED: No**

**Vendors must register on-line at the State Purchasing Website at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov).**

**NOTE TO VENDORS:**

**Offers received without the entire completed three-page RIVIP Generated Bidder Certification Form attached may result in disqualification.**

**THIS PAGE IS NOT A BIDDER CERTIFICATION FORM**

## **SECTION 1 - INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS TO PROPOSERS:**

The Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Purchases, on behalf of The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (“OER”) is soliciting applications from qualified vendors, with significant expertise in designing, developing and operating medium-scale solar systems (~ <250 kW), to submit proposals for completing the scope of work under the “Solar PV for Distribution Grid Support” project. The scope of work is described herein.

This solicitation is being conducted under the State’s Request for Proposals (RFP) Process. All responses must be received by 4:00 PM on April 20, 2015, but may be submitted at any time before the deadline. No grants will be awarded until all applications are received, reviewed and ranked in accordance with the review process.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support the development of a total of 140 kW-AC “peak contribution” capacity of medium-scale solar systems located within a specific, load-constrained area of the electric distribution grid within the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton, RI. Competitively-bid grant(s) will be awarded to developer(s) to cover the incremental costs of incorporating non-standard design and/or orientation features into solar projects proposed in the target area. Projects will be evaluated and selected based on the net benefit provided by the project(s) to the local electric distribution system.

Funding for these grants is available through the “2012 Plan for the Allocation and Distribution of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Auction Proceeds.” The 2012 Allocation Plan provides \$797,118.99 for a pilot project to evaluate the costs and benefits of deploying renewable distributed generation in conjunction with the utility System Reliability Plan (SRP).

Funding for this activity is being provided under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Act. Terms and Conditions of this funding are pursuant to the “Rules and Regulations for the Allocation and Distribution of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Auction Proceeds,” available at [www.energy.ri.gov/rggi/](http://www.energy.ri.gov/rggi/).

This solicitation, and subsequent award, is governed by the State’s General Conditions of Purchase, which is available at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov). To access the State’s General Conditions of Purchase, enter our website, click on RIVIP, then click on General Information and then click on Rules and Regulations. Once the Rules and Regulations are displayed, scroll to the bottom of the page and double click on Appendix A, which contains the State’s General Conditions of Purchase.

Potential Respondents are advised to review all sections of this solicitation carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.

Proposals which depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of work defined by this solicitation will be rejected as being non-responsive.

All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this solicitation, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content shall be borne by the Respondent. The State assumes no responsibility for these costs.

Proposals are considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than sixty (60) days following the opening date, and may not be withdrawn, except with the express written permission of the State Purchasing Agent.

Proposals misdirected to other State locations or which are otherwise not present in the Office of Purchases at the time of opening for any cause will be determined to be late and will not be considered. For the purposes of this requirement, the official time clock is in the reception area of the Division of Purchases.

All pricing submitted will be considered to be firm and fixed unless otherwise indicated herein.

In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no foreign corporation, a corporation without a Rhode Island business address, shall have the right to transact business in the state until it shall have procured a Certificate of Authority to do so from the Rhode Island Secretary of State (401-222-3040). *This is a requirement only of the selected bidder.*

Respondents are advised that all materials submitted to the State of Rhode Island for consideration in response to this CR will be considered to be public records, as defined in Title 38 Chapter 2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, without exception, and will be released for inspection immediately upon request, once an award has been made.

Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Division of Purchases website on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this CR.

The Respondent should be aware of the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) requirements, which addresses the State's ten percent (10%) participation by MBE's in all State procurements. For further information, contact the MBE Administrator, at (401) 574-8253 or visit the website at [www.mbe.ri.gov](http://www.mbe.ri.gov). Upon tentative selection, all applicants are required to submit an MBE plan to the MBE office and shall demonstrate good faith efforts to achieve MBE participation

Awards resulting from this CR will be subject to the State's General Conditions of Purchase, which are available through the Internet at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov).

Equal Employment Opportunity (RIGL 28-5.1) § 28-5.1-1 Declaration of policy. – (a) Equal opportunity and affirmative action toward its achievement is the policy of all units of Rhode Island state government, including all public and quasi-public agencies, commissions, boards and authorities, and in the classified, unclassified and non-classified services of the state employment. This policy applies in all areas where the state dollar is spent, in employment, public service, grants and financial assistance, and in state licensing and regulation. For further

information, contact the Rhode Island Equal Employment Opportunity Office, at 222-3090 or via email [raymond.lambert@doa.ri.gov](mailto:raymond.lambert@doa.ri.gov).

Subcontracts are permitted, provided that their use is clearly indicated in the Respondent's proposal, and the subcontractor(s) proposed to be used are identified in the proposal.

### **Architectural/Engineering Services**

Persons or firms practicing Architectural and/or Engineering Services in the State of Rhode Island must possess a proper registration and Certificate of Authorization in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws.

A copy of the current Rhode Island Certificate of Authorization for the firm and current Rhode Island registration(s) for the individual(s) who would perform the work must be included behind the front page of each copy of the Proposal.

A Respondent who does not have a current Rhode Island Certification of Authorization for the firm and current Rhode Island registration(s) must acknowledge non-compliance with this requirement and confirm in writing that, if selected for the project, will expedite acquisition of a Rhode Island registration(s) and Certificate of Authorization(s), the attainment of which will be required before an award will be made. The letter of acknowledgement must be included behind the front page of each copy of the Proposal.

The Board of Design Professionals can be contacted as follows:

Board for Design Professionals  
State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers  
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 68-2  
Cranston, RI 02920  
Tel: (401) 462-9592  
Fax: (401) 462-9532  
Website: [www.bdp.ri.gov](http://www.bdp.ri.gov)

The Respondent's Proposal may be disqualified and removed from consideration if the Proposal fails to include the required current Rhode Island Certificate of Authorization for the firm and current Rhode Island registration(s), or, in absence of these documents, to acknowledge need to acquire them prior to award if selected.

Questions, in **Microsoft Word Format**, concerning this solicitation, may be e-mailed to the Division of Purchases at [questions@purchasing.ri.gov](mailto:questions@purchasing.ri.gov) no later than the date and time indicated on page 1 of this solicitation. Please reference the CR number on all correspondences.

Responses to questions received, if any, will be provided, as an Addendum to this CR, and posted on the Rhode Island Division of Purchases website at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov). It is the responsibility of all interested Respondents to download this additional information. *If technical assistance is required to download, call the Help Desk at (401) 222-3766.*

## SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) is seeking qualified vendors, with significant expertise in designing, developing and operating medium-scale solar systems (~ <250 kW), to submit proposals for completing the scope of work under the “Solar PV for Distribution Grid Support” project. The purpose of this project is to develop a medium scale solar system(s) in a specific, load-constrained area of the electric distribution grid within the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton, RI. The goal of the project is to demonstrate the capability, costs, and value for solar distributed generation to provide sustained, reliable load relief in concert with a portfolio of other customer-side resources deployed through *separate initiatives outside this solicitation*—energy efficiency, demand response, and small-scale rooftop solar (this solicitation is solely focused on medium-scale solar systems).

### BACKGROUND

#### *System Reliability & Least-Cost Procurement*

Rhode Island’s 2006 Comprehensive Energy Conservation, Efficiency, and Affordability Act established the state’s landmark “Least-Cost Procurement” policy, which requires electric and natural gas distribution companies to invest in “all cost-effective” energy efficiency before the acquisition of additional supply. The law contains an important and innovative provision requiring electric distribution companies (National Grid, “the Company”) to develop an annual “System Reliability Procurement” (SRP) Plan, which must strategically consider an array of customer and utility-sited energy resources to maximize their benefit to Rhode Island’s energy system. These “non-wires alternatives” (NWA) include but are not limited to cost-effective energy efficiency measures, distributed generation and demand response measures that are targeted toward reducing the peak loads on the electricity grid. The Company is asked to assess whether an array of such resources could be deployed to avoid dirtier “peaking” generators and defer distribution (and potentially transmission) system investments. Deferring distribution system investments could provide savings over time for customers and could lower the volatility and cost uncertainty of the larger energy and capacity markets in New England by securing sources of energy supply and capacity from in-state resources.

#### *The National Grid System Reliability Procurement Plan*

Since its first System Reliability Procurement Report (SRP Report) which was approved in Docket 4296 in 2012, National Grid has been conducting a pilot called “DemandLink” in Tiverton and Little Compton. This pilot is designed to defer the need for a new substation feeder in the Tiverton/Little Compton region through at least 2017 by targeting energy efficiency measures and conducting a demand response program in the area that will reduce the load on specific feeders attributable to customer air conditioning, lighting, and other summer-peaking loads. If the pilot is successful in enrolling and providing 1 megawatt (MW) of sustained load relief over its planned lifecycle, it will result in deferred construction of a new substation feeder estimated to cost \$2.9 million for four years. On November 1, 2014, National Grid filed its plans

to continue the DemandLink pilot in 2015. More information on the National Grid System Reliability Procurement Plan may be found here:

[http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4453-Ngrid-SRP2014\\_11-1-13.pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4453-Ngrid-SRP2014_11-1-13.pdf).

*The OER System Reliability Procurement Solar DG Pilot Project*

To date, the Company’s pilot has relied solely on efficiency and demand response measures to achieve the required load relief and has not proposed including or assessing the potential of distributed renewable energy systems as part of the system reliability portfolio. Therefore, OER proposed to allocate thirty-five percent (35%) of auction proceeds from the 2011 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auctions for the OER “System Reliability Procurement Solar DG Pilot Project”, to assess via a pilot project the viability, costs, and benefits of solar distributed generation as a system reliability resource (non-wires alternative). More information on the 2012 Plan for the Allocation and Distribution of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Auction Proceeds may be found here:

<http://www.energy.ri.gov/documents/rggi/2012%20RGGI%20Allocation%20Plan.pdf>.

To develop a framework for the SRP Solar DG Pilot, OER and National Grid commissioned a study by Peregrine Energy Group, Inc. entitled “Solar PV for Distribution Grid Support: The Rhode Island System Reliability Procurement Solar Distributed Generation Pilot Project”. The goal of the study was to: 1) assess solar deployment options and develop a proposed configuration for a portfolio of DG resources to meet **250 kW of summer peak load reduction** in the SRP pilot footprint in Tiverton and Little Compton, and 2) recommend an implementation strategy to solicit participation in the pilot and procure the DG resources. More information on the Peregrine Energy Group, Inc. report and the report itself may be found here:

<http://www.energy.ri.gov/reliability/>.

Figure 1 displays Peregrine’s final recommended portfolio of solar resources to achieve 250 kW of summer peak load reduction. This solicitation solely addresses the “Grid Support Solar Field” component. A separate “Solarize Rhode Island” initiative, conducted by Commerce RI and OER will be used to deploy the “Solarize Residential” and “Other Small Projects”. More information on Solarize Rhode Island may be found here: [www.solarizeri.com](http://www.solarizeri.com) or email Sue AnderBois at [sue.anderbois@energy.ri.gov](mailto:sue.anderbois@energy.ri.gov).

	1	2	3	4
	Grid Support Solar Field(s)	Solarize Residential	Other Small Projects	Total
1 Gross Capacity (kW)	280	160	80	520
2 Average Distribution Contribution Percentage (DCP)	50%	45%	45%	
3 Distribution Contribution (kW)	142	72	36	250
4 Portfolio Allocation	57%	29%	14%	100%

Figure 1. Peregrine Energy Group’s recommended SRP solar DG resource portfolio for Tiverton & Little Compton

## SCOPE OF WORK

OER is seeking project proposals for a total of 140 kW-AC “peak contribution” capacity<sup>1</sup> of medium-scale solar system(s) located within a specific, load-constrained area (the “SRP pilot footprint”) of the electric distribution grid within the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton, RI (see Figure 2). The awarded project(s) will be monitored as part of OER’s “System Reliability Procurement Solar DG Pilot Project” to ground-truth the capability, costs, and value for solar distributed generation to provide reliable, sustained load relief to the local electric distribution system.

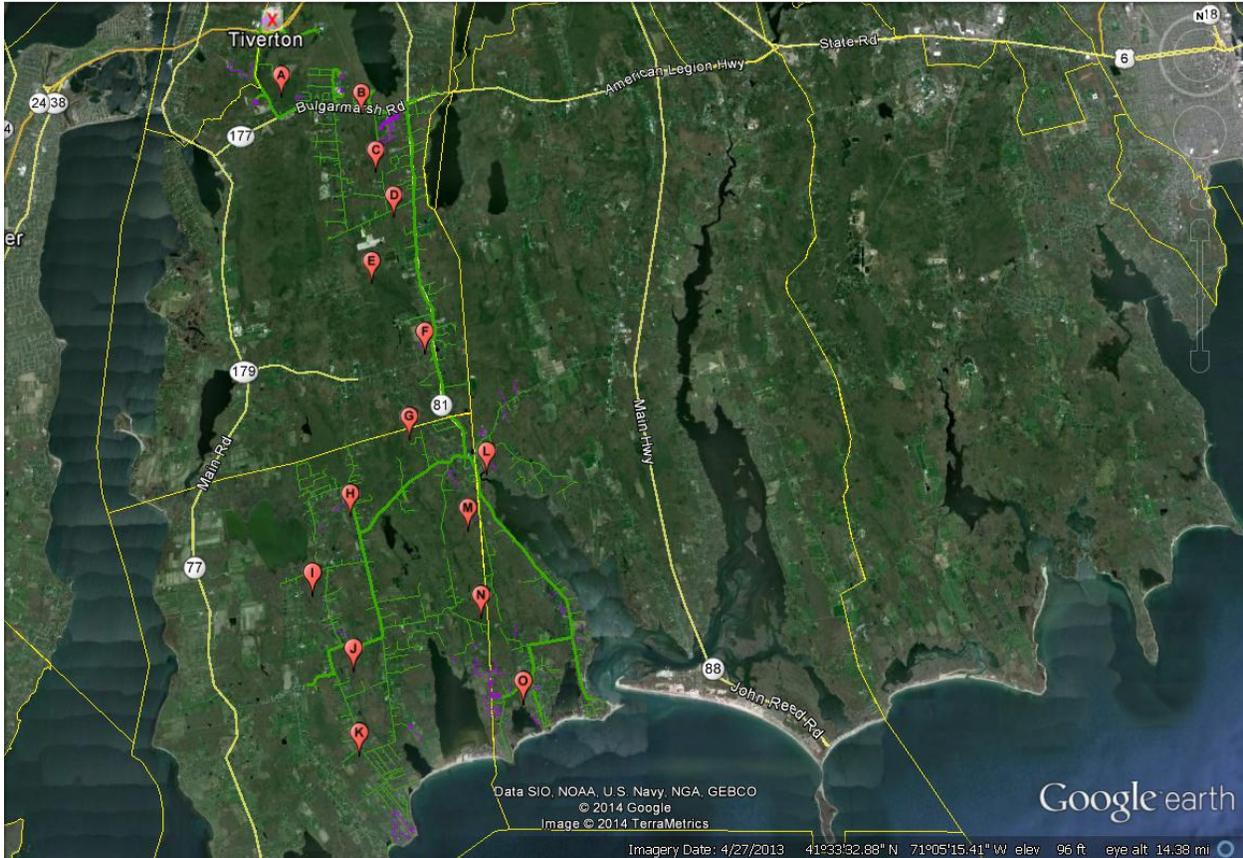


Figure 2. The SRP pilot footprint includes all loads served by feeder 4 in Tiverton and Little Compton as shown in the map. The green circuit route is overhead (thick is three wire construction, thin is single wire construction); the purple circuit route is underground.

The electric load in Tiverton and Little Compton is more residential in composition than the statewide or regional averages, and therefore peaks later on summer days. The time period of highest load constraint on the local distribution system in this area occurs approximately between 3:30pm and 7:30pm. For this reason, the electricity generation profile of traditional south-facing solar arrays—which peaks during the middle of the day—may not optimally match time periods of peak load and maximize benefits to the distribution system.

<sup>1</sup> “Peak contribution” solar capacity is determined by the “Distribution Contribution Percentage” or “DCP” in the Peregrine report. It is the same as “Distribution Contribution” as shown in Figure 1. See “Proposal Requirements: Peak Contribution kW Capacity” for more information.

To better align solar generation with the summer peak periods in the SRP pilot footprint, developers may need to incorporate non-standard design and/or orientation features into the solar system design. These features may include, but are not limited to: (1) orientation of a fixed-axis solar system away from due south towards the southwest or west, OR (2) incorporation of single- or dual-axis tracking technology. Such features may either: (a) reduce total electricity generation relative to a fixed-axis system facing due south (180 degrees), thus reducing revenue and performance incentives collected by the developer on a quantity-of-kWh-sold-basis, or (b) increase the capital costs of installing the system due to the incorporation of tracking technology, for instance.

In order to encourage the development of medium-scale solar systems in the SRP pilot footprint that best maximize benefits to the distribution system, OER will offer a competitively-bid grant award to developers to cover the incremental costs of incorporating non-standard design and/or orientation features into solar projects proposed in the footprint area. Projects will be evaluated and selected based on the net benefit provided by the project(s) to the local electric distribution system. Net benefit will be calculated based on the difference between a pre-calculated incremental \$/kW distribution deferral benefit (see Figure 3) and the \$/kW incremental cost bid by PV developers. It is anticipated that selected project(s) will pursue a Distributed Generation tariff under the 2015 Renewable Energy Growth (REG) Program, likely within the “Medium Solar” category<sup>2</sup> (26 to 250 kW). ***Projects selected under this grant opportunity are not eligible to apply for Renewable Energy Fund (REF) incentives.*** Please visit the following link to see National Grid’s tariff filing at the RIPUC for the REG Program Solicitation and Enrollment Process Rules: [http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4536-NGrid-REGrowth-Filing\(11-14-14\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4536-NGrid-REGrowth-Filing(11-14-14).pdf).

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<sup>2</sup> The “Medium Solar” category will receive a fixed-price performance incentive in the REG Program. This will provide developers with certainty regarding the \$/kWh price to be paid for electricity generated by their proposed project. See

Table 1 for anticipated announcement and approval dates for the REG Program Ceiling Prices.

Table 1. Anticipated Project Timeline

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Anticipated Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
RFP Release Date	April 2015	OER anticipates the release of the “Solar PV for Distribution Grid Support” RFP. The RFP will be open for approximately 3 months in order to provide developers with adequate lead time for due diligence to identify an appropriate site.
REG Program Ceiling Prices Announced	Mid-December 2014	Anticipated posting of ceiling prices for the Renewable Energy Growth Program. Prices will be fixed for system sizes 250 kW and smaller. This will provide developers with certainty regarding the \$/kWh price to be paid for electricity generated by their proposed project. Interested bidders may wish to get added to the DG docket proceeding to stay posted on ceiling price development.
Submission of Questions on RFP Due	Rolling	Questions may be submitted to the contact listed on the first page of this solicitation. Questions should be submitted in a Microsoft Word attachment. Questions received, if any, will be answered and posted on the Internet as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information.
Notification of Intent to Bid Due	5/2015	Interested developers are encouraged to send a notification of intent to bid on this solicitation to <a href="mailto:danny.musher@energy.ri.gov">danny.musher@energy.ri.gov</a> at any point up until Friday, March 20, 2015. Notifications of intent to bid are preferred, but not required.
REG Program Ceiling Prices Approved	Mid- to Late-March 2015	Anticipated PUC approval of Renewable Energy Growth Program Ceiling Prices.
Proposals Due	5/15/2015	Proposal deadline. Please see “Proposal Requirements” for proposal submission details.
Proposal Award Date	5/2015	Anticipated proposal award date.
REG Program 1 <sup>st</sup> Round Open	Late-May to June 2015	It is anticipated that the winning developer(s) will submit their project(s) for the first round of the 2015 Renewable Energy Growth Program enrollment period.
Project Completion	12 months from REG Tariff Award	All project(s) awarded under this solicitation must be operational within 12 months of the REG Tariff award. OER expects projects to be operational by the summer of 2016.

## SECTION 3 – PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

### General Submission Requirements

Responses (an original plus four (4) copies) should be mailed or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked “RFP 7549516” Solar PV for Distribution Grid Support” to:

RI Department of Administration  
Division of Purchases, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5855

NOTE: Proposals received after the above-referenced due date and time will not be considered. Proposals misdirected to other State locations or which are otherwise not presented in the Division of Purchases by the scheduled due date and time will be determined to be late and may not be considered. Proposals faxed or emailed to the Division of Purchases will not be considered. The official time clock is located in the reception area of the Division of Purchases.

Proposals should include the following:

- A completed and signed three-page RIVIP Bidder Certification Cover Form, available at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov).
- A completed and signed W-9 (taxpayer identification number and certification). Form is downloadable at [www.purchasing.ri.gov](http://www.purchasing.ri.gov). Proposal marked “Original” only.
- A proposal in MS Word format or PDF format containing all the following information under the section headers indicated:

#### 1. SOLAR CONFIGURATION SELECTED

- Type: Indicate whether the system is a fixed-axis system, or a single- or dual-axis tracking system.
- Azimuth Orientation: Indicate the azimuth orientation of the system. Select an azimuth orientation between 180 degrees (due south) to 270 degrees (due west), inclusive. Round to the nearest degree. The azimuth orientation determines the “distribution contribution percentage” (DCP) of the solar array, and consequently, the pre-calculated incremental value that the array will provide to the distribution system in the SRP pilot footprint (see Figure 3 below). The pre-calculated incremental distribution value of each project proposal will be compared to the \$/kW cost of each project bid in order to calculate the project’s net benefit. Projects will be evaluated and selected based on the net benefit they provide to the distribution system.

<b>Azimuth Orientation (degrees)</b>	<b>Pre-Calculated Incremental Distribution Value (\$/kW-AC)</b>
180-189	\$ -
190-199	\$ 195
200-209	\$ 360
210-219	\$ 519
220-229	\$ 652
230-239	\$ 752
240-249	\$ 826
250-259	\$ 881
260-269	\$ 923
270	\$ 953
1-axis	\$ 1030
2-axis	\$ 1140

Figure 3. Incremental distribution values for each solar configuration

## 2. \$/kW COST BID

- Indicate a \$/kW-AC cost bid. The \$/kW-AC cost bid represents the offeror’s price for the incremental cost associated with incorporating non-standard design and/or orientation features. These features may include, but are not limited to: (1) orientation of a fixed-axis solar system away from due south towards the southwest or west, OR (2) incorporation of single- or dual-axis tracking technology. Such features may either: (a) reduce total electricity generation relative to a fixed-axis system facing due south (180 degrees), thus reducing revenue and performance incentives collected by the developer on a quantity-of-kWh-sold-basis, or (b) increase the capital costs of installing the system due to the incorporation of tracking technology, for instance. The \$/kW-AC incremental cost bid will be the basis for the total grant amount requested (item #4).

## 3. NAMEPLATE kW CAPACITY

- Indicate the *nameplate kW capacity* of the project(s) proposed, in both DC and AC terms. This pilot seeks to enroll a total of 140 kW-AC “*peak contribution*” solar capacity in the SRP pilot footprint. “Peak contribution” solar capacity refers to the actual kW-AC capacity a solar system delivers to the local distribution system during peak periods<sup>3</sup>. As displayed in Figure 4, each solar configuration delivers a different amount of “peak contribution” capacity to the local distribution system. Assuming that all projects bidding for this grant will be bidding into the DG Program “Medium Solar” category<sup>4</sup> (26 to 250 kW), this

<sup>3</sup> “Peak contribution” capacity is determined by the “Distribution Contribution Percentage” or “DCP” in the Peregrine report. It is the same as “Distribution Contribution” as shown in Figure 1.

<sup>4</sup> The “Medium Solar” category will receive a fixed-price performance incentive in the REG Program. See

Table 1 for anticipated announcement and approval dates for the REG Program Ceiling Prices.

pilot will need to enroll more than one system to achieve 140 kW-AC “peak contribution” solar capacity<sup>5</sup> (see Figure 4). For example, if OER only received proposals for due-south-facing solar systems (180 degrees), OER would need to receive two 250 kW and one 44 kW of nameplate project proposals to enroll 140 kW-AC “peak contribution” capacity. Developers may therefore propose multiple projects. Each project proposed will be evaluated and selected based on the net benefit provided to the distribution system. OER will award grants starting with the projects with the highest net benefit, until 140 kW-AC “peak contribution” solar capacity is achieved. OER reserves the right to award multiple grants to either one or multiple developers. If a developer proposes more than one project, OER reserves the right to award only a subset of those projects. OER also reserves the right to over- or undersubscribe this solicitation.

<b>Azimuth Orientation</b>	<b>Nameplate Capacity Needed to Contribute 140 kW-AC of “Peak Contribution” Capacity</b>
180	544
190	444
200	383
210	338
220	308
230	289
240	276
250	267
260	261
270	256
1-axis	245
2-axis	232

Figure 4. “Peak Contribution” capacity values for each solar configuration

#### 4. TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED (based on above information)

- Indicate the total grant amount requested. The total grant amount requested is calculated by multiplying the \$/kW-AC cost bid (item #2) times the nameplate kW capacity (item #3). It is anticipated that selected project(s) will pursue a Distributed Generation tariff under the 2015 Renewable Energy Growth (REG) Program, likely within the “Medium Solar” category<sup>6</sup> (26 to 250 kW). ***Projects selected under this grant opportunity are not eligible to apply for Renewable Energy Fund (REF) incentives.*** The total grant amount requested should approximate the net present value of incremental costs associated with

<sup>5</sup> Unless a tracking system is proposed.

<sup>6</sup> The “Medium Solar” category will receive a fixed-price performance incentive in the REG Program. This will provide developers with certainty regarding the \$/kWh price to be paid for electricity generated by their proposed project. See

Table 1 for anticipated announcement and approval dates for the REG Program Ceiling Prices.

incorporating non-standard design features into the solar system design beyond what would otherwise be incorporated into the system if the developer were bidding into the REG Program absent this grant opportunity. For more information on eligibility requirements for participating in the REG Program, please visit the following link:

[http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4536-NGrid-REGrowth-Filing\(11-14-14\).pdf](http://www.ripuc.org/eventsactions/docket/4536-NGrid-REGrowth-Filing(11-14-14).pdf)

## **5. PROJECT LOCATION & SITE CONTROL**

- Indicate the address and plat/lot proposed for the proposed project(s). The project proposer must submit documentation demonstrating actual control of the site where the project is to be located, or show it has exercised its right to acquire control of the site. The project proposer must represent that it owns or leases (or has an executed, exclusive, unconditional option to own or lease) the site on which the project will be located, and that it has any additional rights required to develop and operate the project at the site.

## **6. INTERCONNECTION IMPACT STUDY (optional)**

- All project proposers should assume a maximum interconnection cost of \$7,750 per project proposal when calculating project costs. Actual interconnection costs will be determined during the interconnection impact study process with National Grid. Once grants are awarded and actual interconnection costs are determined, OER may consider the option to provide further funding support for interconnection costs that significantly exceed this estimate. Project proposers are *NOT* required to submit an interconnection study with the proposal. However, project proposers that have already received a completed Impact Study for Renewable Distributed Generation (ISRDG) and/or an Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) from National Grid may opt to include these studies/agreements in their project proposal. OER reserves the right to give preference to proposals that submit an ISA or ISRDG. Please note that although an ISRDG or ISA is optional for this solicitation, enrollment in the REG Program will require an ISRDG or ISA. See the “Evaluation & Selection Process” below for more information on interconnection impact study scoring. For more information on interconnection, please visit National Grid’s webpage on interconnection:

[http://www.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/business/energyeff/4\\_interconnection-process.asp](http://www.nationalgridus.com/narragansett/business/energyeff/4_interconnection-process.asp)

## **7. INNOVATIVE PROJECT FEATURES (optional)**

- Indicate any additional innovative feature(s) of the proposed project and associated incremental cost. Project proposers are *NOT* required to include additional innovative project feature(s) in their proposal. However, project

proposers may opt to propose additional innovative project feature(s) such as the inclusion of energy storage, or the siting and/or design of the project such that it provides a resiliency benefit to a public facility. Project proposers should present associated costs for any additional innovative project feature(s) as a separate pricing option in this section, expressed as the specific incremental cost of any innovative project features above the total grant amount requested (item #4). OER reserves the right to award a project proposal with or without added innovative project feature(s). See the “Evaluation & Selection Process” below for more information on innovative project feature(s) scoring.

## **8. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE**

- Provide a short overview of company history, length of time in business, organizational and staff capacity, core competitiveness, and any other resources uniquely suited to recommending and implementing solutions to the scope of work outlined in this solicitation.
- Describe your experience with similar projects and reference any examples of prior projects from your portfolio. A brief description of previous experience and list of projects and relevant specifics (location, size, date of construction, etc.) will suffice.
- Indicate that your firm has obtained the appropriate electrical contractor’s license or Renewable Energy Professional (REP) license as required by Rhode Island state policy. For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.energy.ri.gov/renewable/REP/>
- OER reserves the right to accept or reject applications based on information provided related to qualifications and experience.

## SECTION 4 - EVALUATION CRITERIA

Scoring Criteria	Description	Possible Points
Net Benefit	Each project proposed will be evaluated and selected based on the net benefit provided to the distribution system. OER will award grants starting with the projects with the highest net benefit, until 140 kW-AC “peak contribution” solar capacity is achieved. OER reserves the right to award multiple grants to either one or multiple developers. If a developer proposes more than one project, OER reserves the right to award only a subset of those projects. OER also reserves the right to over- or undersubscribe this solicitation.	8.5
Inter-connection Impact Study	Project proposers are <b>NOT</b> required to submit an interconnection study with the proposal. However, project proposers that have already received a completed Impact Study for Renewable Distributed Generation (ISRDG) and/or an Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) from National Grid may opt to include these studies/agreements in their project proposal. OER reserves the right to give preference to proposals that submit an ISA or ISRDG.	0.5
Innovative Project Features	Project proposers are <b>NOT</b> required to include additional innovative project feature(s) in their proposal. However, project proposers may opt to propose additional innovative project feature(s) such as the inclusion of energy storage, or the siting and/or design of the project such that it provides a resiliency benefit to a public facility. OER reserves the right to award a project proposal with or without added innovative project feature(s).	0.5
Qualifications & Experience	OER reserves the right to accept or reject applications based on information provided related to qualifications and experience.	0.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

## **SECTION 5 - EVALUATION PROCESS AND AWARD**

OER will review and competitively evaluate all of the applications and select winning proposal(s). The State reserves the right to select no proposals for any reason or if the responses do not meet a sufficient standard based on the evaluation criteria. The State reserves the right to waive any minor irregularities or informalities in a proposal as it determines or to allow respondents to correct them, and to accept or reject any proposal or portion thereof. The State reserves the right to discuss with the selected applicant(s) any terms and conditions, including financial issues, for any proposed project. The State reserves the right to seek additional information from any and all respondents including but not limited to requests for clarifications and interviews. Scoring criteria will be as follows:

OER will then make a recommendation for final selection to the Rhode Island State Purchasing Agent, or her designee, who will make the final award decision.

Notwithstanding the above, the State reserves the right not to award this contract or to award on the basis of cost alone, to accept or reject any or all responses, and to award in its best interest.

**END**