

**CORRECTION**

In the bidders' conference the following question was answered incorrectly:

**Q- Environmental assessment, responsibility of contractor or PNM?**

A- Respondent assumes responsibility for completing the environmental assessment.

The correct answer can be found in addendum 1.

Bidders' Conference Questions, August 12, 2009 –

**Q Will PNM insure the PV system?**

A The cost of insuring the PV system should be built into respondent's bid price. Further Terms and Conditions around liability and insurability of the system will be addressed after suppliers are short listed.

**Q Is it possible to bid all 4 MW ground mounts?**

A Yes.

**Q What do you mean "assume roof liability"?**

A The expectation is that you address roof liability in your response to the RFP. If you are installing a rooftop system today, who assumes liability for the integrity of the roof?

**Q Will the commercial example roof need a sub-structure to support the weight loadings of the PV system?**

A Assume that no additional roof support will be needed.

**Q Does PNM require a right of way to the system?**

A PNM will address the right of way issue at a later date

**Q You stated that the industry standard is fixed mount ground and that it is more economical, what is that based on?**

A It is based on our observations of regionally installed systems (Alamosa).

**Q Since PNM will own the system will PNM be insuring the system?**

A Insurance of the system will be addressed after suppliers are short listed. If you want to assume insurance liability or expect PNM to assume insurance liability, state as much in your assumptions.

**Q Can the customer be paid in electrical usage credits?**

A No.

**Q Is there a preference for a ballasted system?**

A There is not a preference. Respondents will need in your bid to explain the benefits of ballasted systems and roof liabilities.

**Q In the event of lightening strike or Act of God, and the inverters manufacturer's warranty, doesn't cover – who does?**

A Insurance of the system will be addressed after suppliers are short listed. If you want to assume insurance liability or expect PNM to assume insurance liability, state as much in your assumptions.

**Q Who is responsible for security on ground mounted systems at remote locations, fencing and security is expensive – who covers that liability?**

A This has not been defined yet. Provide your solutions for avoiding theft and vandalism issues as described in the RFP.

**Q How is PNM going to pay for the systems?**

A Cash (in the form of a check) payments and terms will be discussed during the contracting process with shortlisted suppliers.

**Q Environmental assessment, responsibility of contractor or PNM?**

A Respondent assumes responsibility for completing the environmental assessment.

**Q Who determined 120 mph wind loading value?**

A This is an industry standard.

**Q Is PNM interested in an overall performance guarantee instead of only a manufacturer warranty?**

A No, PNM is looking for a performance guarantee as well as manufacturer warranties.

**Q If a bidder can provide a production level guarantee will that be viewed as positive?**

A It depends on the production level guarantee. The goal is to put in 4MW of solar and get maximum energy output.

**Q On a Brownfield site is the respondent responsible for archeological issues?**

A Site selection will be discussed at a later date and is not relevant for this RFP.

**Q During PNM evaluations, how much weighting will be used for New Mexico sourced labor and materials?**

A We cannot discuss a specific number. The higher NM sourced material, the higher you will score on the evaluation. Must be cost efficient, but goal is to source as much as we can from NM businesses.

**Q What is the rationale for not releasing the qualification criteria?**

A We are in the process of developing the evaluation scoring however there is no practice to divulge specific evaluation scoring in advance.

**Q Will PNM accept proposals for any PNM service territories?**

A No, please use the sites described in the RFP for your responses.

**Q For vendors coming in from out of state, does PNM have a preferred partnership structure?**

A No.

**Q Has PNM proposed payment terms since it will affect price?**

A No, payment terms have not been defined.

**Q If senior partner out of state, junior partner in NM, which one will be responsible for meeting the financial requirements**

A The partner submitting the proposal.

**Q Can we provide multiple proposals for the same site? The same site, ballast and non-ballast, tracking or non-tracking?**

A Yes, make sure that you state your assumptions.

**Q Is PNM going to require bid bonding?**

A Bonding requirements are described in the RFP.

**Q When the program has been approved and sites selected, will ground studies be provided, or is this the responsibility of the supplier?**

A State your assumptions in your response to the RFP.

**Q Will bonds be required for interconnection?**

A This will be discussed after suppliers are shortlisted.

**Q Should we include the interconnect fee?**

A No. Do not include that in the indicative bid.

**Q What is time frame for the completion of the 4MW?**

A PNM's goal is to start in 2010 – and be completed by 2012.

**Q As part of the proposal do you want a complete design proposal?**

A For three sample sites, yes a completed design.

**Q To facilitate the completed design, would you provide additional topographical or interconnection information?**

A No, we feel that we have given sufficient generic information.

**Q Will you provide set back information for 5-acre site?**

A No, if you have specific questions, ask them on the web site, and we will attempt to provide answers for those detailed questions.

**Q Will all PV technologies be accepted? Will concentrated PV be accepted?**

A Yes, all existing PV technologies will be accepted in your proposal.

**Q Would PNM like to see a proposal that offers specific sites?**

A No, your proposal should address the sample sites only.

**Q If PNM does not provide enough information to create detailed engineering design, how will we provide the information requested?**

A State assumptions that you need to make.

**Q Is there weighting for woman owned, veteran owned in this RFP?**

A No, not in the initial assessment. In later bids for specific projects, yes that will be weighted.

**Q How long after the project is completed does it take to get paid?**

A Terms and conditions will be part of the final project agreements.

**Q Are you looking to get X number small players or looking only for big players?**

A Definitely not. We are not targeting big companies or excluding small companies. We want a fair assessment of all respondents.

**Q Does at least one individual on the team required to have a NM contractor's license?**

A If you are a team and one member has a license, then you can answer the question in the affirmative.

**Q Different counties have different permitting requirements, how do you bid?**

A Address the counties for the sample sites.

**Q Will experience in interconnection to grid outside of NM have any value?**

A Yes, your experience is important.

**Q In the individual box, are we putting the total price of 20kW X 5 (to equal minimum of 100kW) or in individual unit cost?**

A Put in the individual unit cost. The total cost should account for economies of scale so specify in the assumptions the number of units also.

**Q Currently solar systems are sales tax exempt. Does that apply to this project?**

A This will be answered at a later date but should not be relevant for your submittal.

**Q Can you bid on multiple 250kW (for total of 4.0 MW) sites on the same site?**

A No, we want this to be geographically dispersed.

**Q If we bid a tracking system that produces more energy then a 250 KWdc fixed system, can we offer a smaller kWdc system?**

A No. Bid 250kWdc.

**Q Are we interested in seeing the performance difference in the different systems?**

A Yes performance is an important aspect of your bid, but this is not mandatory.

**Q For the economic benefit matrix, are we referring to purchases in NM?**

A Yes, NM specific spend.

**Q If a technology provider has a distributor in NM, does that spend count as NM spend?**

A Document your assumptions.

**Q If the NM spend results in a higher price, how will you address that?**

A We are weighing both cost and NM spend and the respondents experience amongst other factors. Refer to the RFP for evaluation criteria.

**Q When we go to the PRC are we going to proposed all large 250kW systems or small systems too?**

A We are not going to the PRC will any specific assumptions about the system breakout. We are looking for indicative bids that provide information that we can use in our discussion with the PRC.

**Q Can we project the size of the short listed suppliers?**

A No.

**Q Will the full presentation and questions and list of attendees be posted?**

A We will publish the presentation on the website. We will also set up a process so that interested parties can share email and contact information.

**Q What kind of maintenance are you asking the we bid?**

A PNM will not be prescriptive about what kind of maintenance should occur. State your assumptions in your response.

**Q Does PNM have a preference for US manufactured modules, vs. modules outside the United States?**

A State your supplier source in your response to the RFP.

**Q Can a letter of credit come from any other entity other than bank or brokerage house?**

A Yes.

**Q Since there are showers and dust storms should you propose regular cleaning of the arrays?**

A State any maintenance requirement in your assumptions.

**Q Are we going to be monitoring performance on small and large systems?**

A We expect performance monitoring on both systems but recognize that the level of monitoring will vary. Document your assumptions.

**Q Schott Solar provides a 20 year warranty vs. 25-year requirement in RFP. Can we take exception to the warranty requirement in order to meet the NM source requirement?**

A State what types of warranties you can provide.