



## **Central Executing Unit - Meeting Report #001**

**Project:** Construction of Solar Energy Plant Project – Saudi Fund for Development 2/801

**Report Date:** January 13, 2026

**Meeting Date:** January 13, 2026

**Meeting Time:** 9:00 a.m. (Central Standard Time)

**Location:** Virtual session

**Purpose:** The objective of the meeting was to provide an overview of the request for expressions of interest (REOI) process for consultancy services to undertake a feasibility study, develop concept design, and supervise the installation of a utility-scale solar photovoltaic plant with battery energy storage system (BESS); discuss eligibility and shortlisting criteria, submission guidelines, and timelines; and address questions from potential consultants to support strong EOI submissions.

### **Participants:**

No.	Name	Representing
1	Colin Escalante	Central Executing Unit (CEU)
2	Trudy Joseph	CEU
3	Rowa Ahmed	Dar Al Omran
4	Jelmer Gulmans	NTCS Energy
5	Gertjan Dahm	Haskoning
6	Hoda Hassan	Haskoning
7	Khadigah Mohammed	Dar Engineering
8	El Karz, Azzeddin	ILF Consulting Engineers
9	Ghaith Khzai	Bureau Veritas
10	Schapson, Alexandra	ILF Consulting Engineers
11	Rasheed Walford	Biliti Electric
12	Raja Gayam	Biliti Electric
13	Rabih Baroud	Bureau Veritas
14	Craig Moore	Unspecified firm
15	AbdulRehman Khalid	Dar Engineering
16	Noura Alsumait	PACE
17	Mark Boeren	NTCS Energy
18	Walid C.	Unspecified firm
19	Mazen Ayash	Bureau Veritas
20	Daniel Aguilar Martín	Solida

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review**

The meeting commenced with greetings and a disclosure that the session was being recorded. Colin D. Escalante introduced himself as the presenter and Project Engineer, with Trudy Joseph as the Procurement Specialist assisting with facilitation and questions for the meeting. Participants from various firms introduced themselves and their organizations, highlighting their expertise in renewable energy, grid systems, and related fields. The agenda was reviewed, covering project background, high-level scope of services, eligibility, shortlisting criteria, expressions of interest (EOI) submission guidelines, timeline and next steps; and questions and answers (Q&A). Emphasis was placed on saving questions for the dedicated Q&A section to respect time constraints.

## **2. Key Discussions and Summaries**

### **Opening and Recap (Trudy Joseph and Colin D. Escalante)**

Trudy Joseph welcomed attendees and confirmed the recording. Colin D. Escalante recapped the purpose, which was to support strong EOI submissions without delving into the detailed terms of reference, focusing on the preliminary stage to secure a capable consultant for project success.

### **Project Background Presentation (Colin D. Escalante)**

Provided a snapshot of Belize's energy sector with Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) serving approximately 113,000 customers with 705.2 GWh sales and 129.2 MW peak demand in 2024. Local generation capacity is 148.6 MW, dominated by thermal units (49%), hydro (37%), and biomass (14%). The project, funded by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), involves 40 MW utility-scale solar PV and 20 MW/80 MWh BESS to reduce energy imports, enhance grid stability, and align with the National Energy Policy for 75% renewable penetration by 2030. Sites are near Maskall Village and Nagobank in the Belize District, adjacent to the BEL 115 kV transmission line and substation.

### **High-Level Scope of Services Presentation (Colin D. Escalante)**

Outlined consultancy phases, which include Phase 1 (Feasibility & Design, approximately 6 months) to confirm integrated solar PV/BESS needs, analyze grid impacts, determine optimal capacities, technologies, and to assess sites, conduct environmental, and social impact assessment (ESIA), financial, economic, and risk analyses, and develop implementation plans.

Phase 2 (Procurement Support, approximately 3 months) to prepare engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) tender documents and agreements and assist with procurement, evaluations, and negotiations.

Phase 3 (Supervision & Handover, approximately 12 months) to review designs, supervise construction and commissioning, and ensure handover to the Government of Belize.

Total duration for the consultancy is estimated at 21 months and the budget for the consultancy is set at US\$1,500,000.

### Eligibility and Shortlisting Criteria Presentation (Colin D. Escalante)

Stressed bilateral agreement requirements: Eligible firms must be from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) or joint ventures (JVs) of Saudi and Belizean firms, with equal to or greater than 50% beneficial ownership by citizens/residents of eligible countries. No arrangements allowing substantial benefits to non-eligible entities. Shortlisting focuses on firm qualifications and experience as documented below. Note that no key experts will be evaluated at the EOI stage.

No.	Criterion	Weight	Key Focus Area
1	Relevant Experience in Solar PV and BESS Projects	30%	Min. 10 years in renewable energy design/supervision, with greater than or equal to 3 projects completed of 10 MW or larger solar PV projects each integrated with BESS.
2	Technical Expertise in Grid Studies and Simulations	25%	Experience in power system modeling.
3	Experience in Site Investigations, ESIA, and Risk Analysis	20%	Experience in solar resource assessments, site surveys, ESIA's, and developing risk mitigation strategies.
4	Financial and Economic Analysis Expertise	15%	Experience in undertaking economic feasibility for renewable energy projects.
5	Procurement, EPC Supervision, and Management Capacity	5%	Experience in preparing tenders, evaluating tenders, and supervising EPC works.
6	Experience in Central America or Small Island Developing States	5%	Firm's undertake consultancy services in Central America, Caribbean, or SIDS

To qualify, a firm shall attain a score of 70%.

### **EOI Submission Guidelines and Timeline Presentation (Colin D. Escalante)**

Demonstrate qualifications per criteria using the provided template for efficient evaluation. All EOI's shall be submitted in English electronically to [procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz](mailto:procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz) with specified subject line. The CEU and the SFD accept no liability for preparation expenses. Firms were encouraged to be concise, aligning their submissions with the shortlisting criteria.

Deadline for submissions is January 19, 2026. It is anticipated that request for proposals (RfPs) to shortlisted firms will be sent on February 11, 2026. Following such, it is anticipated that a consultancy contract will be awarded in June 2026, with commissioning of the completed systems in May 2028.

### **Q&A and Feedback**

- i. Rabih Baroud inquired about resubmitting an EOI already sent on January 6. Trudy Joseph clarified that submitted versions can be updated if needed, following today's meeting. Rabih Baroud also queried about drafting the power purchase agreement (PPA). Colin D. Escalante confirmed the consultant that is awarded the contract will take on the responsibility of drafting the PPA based on the Belize Public Utilities Commission PUC guidelines.
- ii. Raja Gayam asked if a Belizean firm can submit an EOI independently. Colin D. Escalante clarified that the Belizean firm shall JV with a firm from the KSA.
- iii. Craig Moore asked about site-specific info and tie-in at the transmission or distribution level. Colin D. Escalante highlighted that site specific information can be found on the Terms of Reference and in the meeting slides. In addition, it was highlighted that the tie-in will be determined by the consultant's feasibility study.
- iv. El Karz, Azzeddin asked about coordination group registration. Trudy Joseph highlighted that it is not required at EOI stage, but will be required prior to contract award. El Karz, Azzeddin also inquired about the level of detail for the EPC tender documents. Colin D. Escalante indicated that the consultant shall develop the tender documents in alignment with FIDIC and CEU templates. El Karz, Azzeddin also inquired about factory and site acceptance tests for the commissioned plant. Colin D. Escalante highlighted that such discussions will be held at the RfP stage, and not at the EOI stage.
- v. Khadigah Mohammed asked if JV with a Belizean firm is mandatory at EOI stage. Colin D. Escalante highlighted that a JV can be established at the EOI, or a shortlisted consultant can JV at the RfP stage to strengthen their proposals. Colin D. Escalante encouraged attendees to engage local expertise for the assignment, whether through

JV, consortium, or sub-consultancy to ensure local knowledge and expertise is attained.

### **3. Action Items**

Firms to submit EOI's by 10:00 a.m., Central Standard Time, on January 19, 2026.

The CEU shall prepare and share a meeting report with today's presentation as an appendix via email and post on the procurement portal.

### **4. Closing Remarks**

The meeting concluded positively, with thanks to all for participation. Emphasis by both CEU participants was placed on strong, concise EOI submissions to advance the project and support Belize's energy security.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m., Central Standard Time.

**Report prepared:** January 13, 2026

**Report prepared by:** Colin Escalante, Project Engineer, CEU

**APPENDIX**

Presentation from Meeting held on January 13, 2026.

# **PRE-APPLICATION MEETING: REOI – CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR ENERGY PLANT PROJECT, BELIZE**

**RFP NO.: RFP/SFD/2/801/02**

**CENTRAL EXECUTING UNIT, MINISTRY OF FINANCE,  
GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**

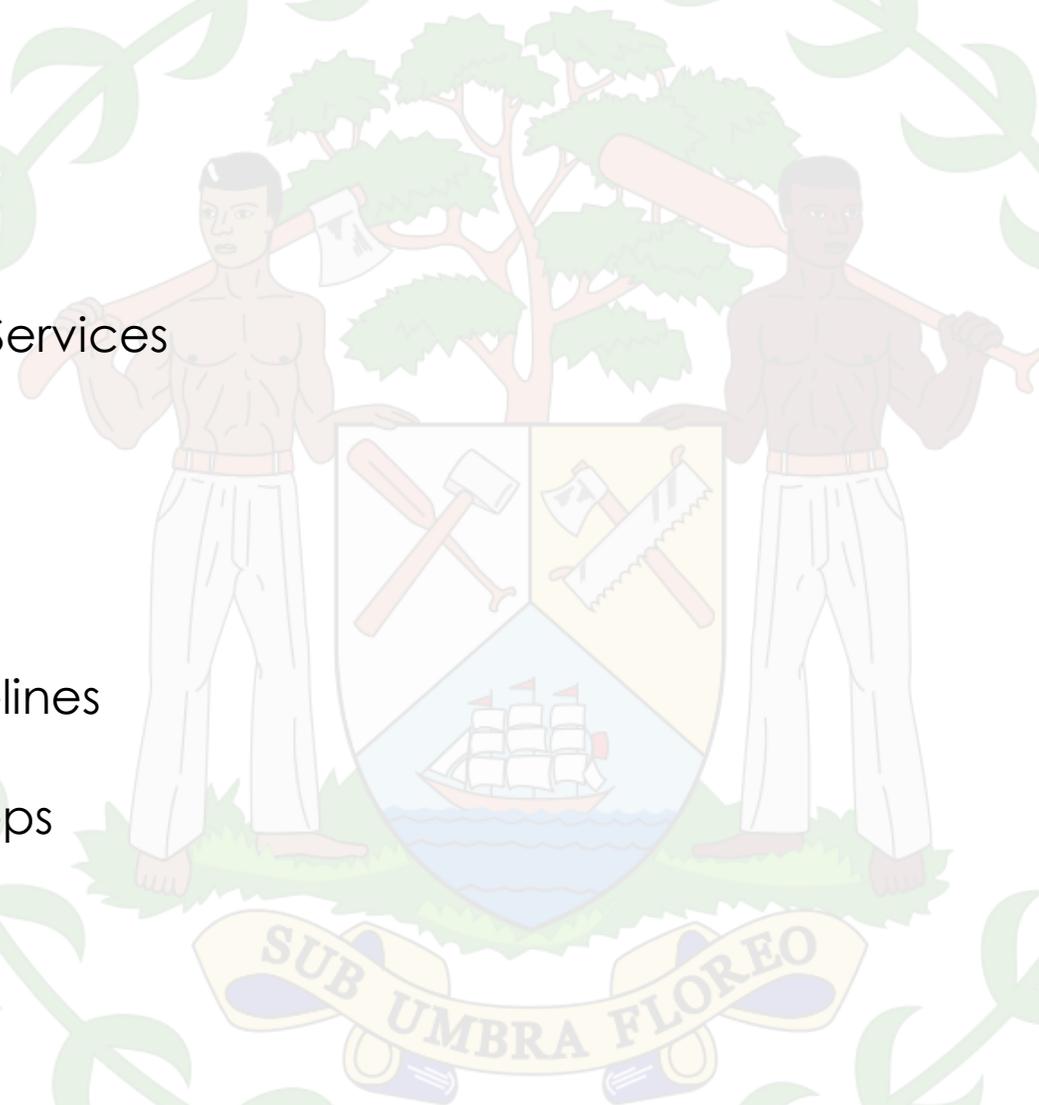
**JANUARY 13, 2026**



# AGENDA OVERVIEW

- **Key Sections**

- Project Background
- High-Level Scope of Services
- Eligibility
- Shortlisting Criteria
- EOI Submission Guidelines
- Timeline and Next Steps
- Q&A

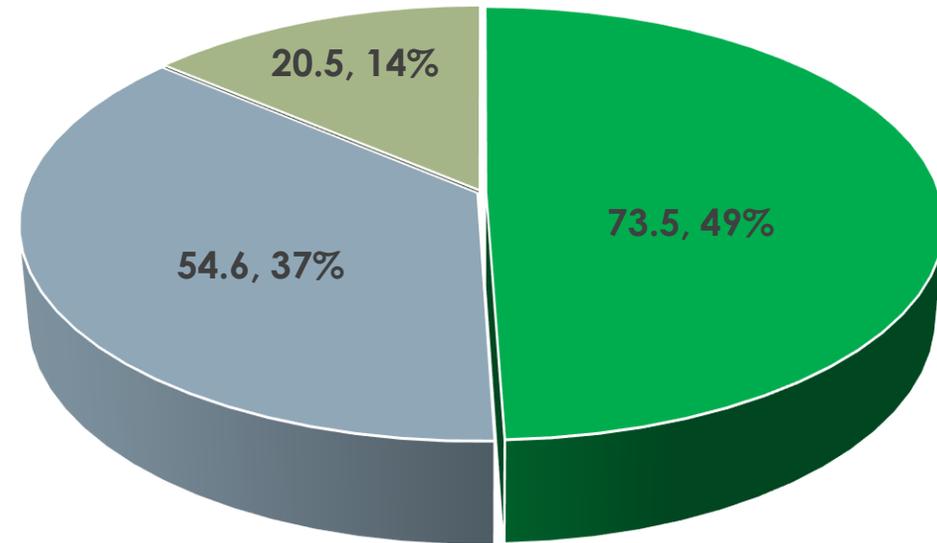


# PROJECT BACKGROUND

- **Belize Energy Sector Snapshot**

- Belize Electricity Ltd. (BEL) is primary provider of electricity with 2024 figures as follows:
  - Approximately 113,000 customers
  - 705.2GWh sales
  - 129.2 MW peak demand
- Belize Energy Profile: ~148.6 MW

Local Generation Capacity (MW)



■ Thermal Units ■ Hydro Units ■ Biomass



# PROJECT BACKGROUND CONT.

- **Project Details:**
  - **Funding Source:** Saudi Fund for Development
  - **Project Scope:** 40MW of utility-scale solar and 20MW/ 80MWh BESS
  - **Rationale:** Reduce energy imports, enhance grid stability, and align with the National Energy Policy to contribute towards 75% renewable penetration by 2030.



# PROJECT BACKGROUND CONT.



# HIGH-LEVEL SCOPE OF SERVICES

- **Summary**

- Confirm need for integrated solar PV/BESS; analyze impacts on grid, stability, efficiency.
- Determine optimal capacities, technologies, and assess sites.
- Conduct ESIA, financial/economic/risk analyses; develop implementation plan.
- Prepare EPC tender documents, agreements; assist procurement, evaluations, negotiations.
- Review construction designs; supervise construction, commissioning, handover.



# HIGH-LEVEL SCOPE OF SERVICES CONT.

Phase 1 – Feasibility & Design  
(~6 months)

Phase 2 – Procurement Support  
(~3 months)

Phase 3 – Supervision & Handover  
(~12 months)

- **Consultancy Duration:** 21 months
- **Consultancy Budget:** US\$1,500,000.00



# ELIGIBILITY

- Qualified, experienced firms from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) or joint ventures (JVs) of Saudi and Belizean firms.
  - **Corporate Entities:** Incorporated/organized in KSA or Belize; principal business there; ≥50% beneficially owned by citizens/residents.
  - **Unincorporated Firms:** Members must be citizens or bona fide residents of KSA or Belize.
  - **All Cases:** No arrangements allowing substantial net profits/benefits to non-citizens/non-residents of eligible countries.
  - **For JVs:** Requirements apply to all JV parties.



# SHORTLISTING CRITERIA

No	Criterion	Weight	Key Focus Area
1	Relevant Experience in Solar PV and BESS Projects	30%	Min. 10 years in renewable energy design/supervision, with greater than or equal to 3 projects completed of 10 MW or larger solar PV projects each integrated with BESS.
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4	Financial and Economic Analysis Expertise	15%	Experience in undertaking economic feasibility for renewable energy projects.
5	Procurement, EPC Supervision, and Management Capacity	5%	Experience in preparing tenders, evaluating tenders, and supervising EPC works.
6	Experience in Central America or Small Island Developing States	5%	Firm's undertake consultancy services in Central America, Caribbean, or SIDS

- **Minimum Score:** 70% to qualify
- **Shortlist:** 5 – 7 firms for issuance of RfP
- **What to Demonstrate:** Firm's qualifications & experience



# EOI SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Demonstrate qualifications per criteria to allow for efficient evaluation of EOI's
- EOI's shall be submitted in English to be considered.
- Electronic submissions only to: [procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz](mailto:procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz)
- Subject for submission: **"Consultancy Services to Undertake a Feasibility Study, Develop Concept Design, and Supervise the Installation of Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Plant with Battery Energy Storage System – Name of Consultant"**
- The Government of Belize and the SFD are not liable for any EOI preparation expenses.
- **Tips:** Be concise and align responses to weights; include all JV details if applicable



# TIMELINES AND NEXT STEPS

EOI Submission  
Deadline:

**January 19,  
2026**

RfP Issuance to  
Shortlisted Firms:

**February 11,  
2026**

Consultancy  
Contract  
Awarded:

**June 26, 2026**

Solar and BESS  
Commissioned:

**May 9, 2028**

- Questions following this meeting can be directed to: [procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz](mailto:procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz)



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Scan the above QR code to access the REOI link.





## CENTRAL EXECUTING UNIT

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<https://procurement.gov.bz/>

