

<p style="text-align: center;">Terms of Reference (ToR): Grid Interconnection Expert (Full Time) for Nepal: Private Sector Led Mini Grid Energy Access Project (MGEAP)</p>
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1. Introduction:

Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) is an apex government body under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI), established to promote the use of alternative/renewable energy technology to meet the energy needs in Nepal. The Business Model for Private Sector Led Mini Grid Energy Access Project supported by the World Bank (WB) will be implemented by AEPC from February, 2019 (tentative). The objective of the project is to increase electricity access and delivery from renewable energy mini grids (solar, wind, micro hydro, mini hydro and hybrid) by mobilizing private Energy Service Companies (ESCOs). The project is designed to support RE mini grids market by introducing conditions to gradually shift from heavily subsidized to commercial model. The project will support mobilization of credit from participating Banks (PBs) to ESCOs for the development of mini grid subprojects.

Nepal is one of the six countries identified for assistance under the Scaling up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) in Low Income Countries. As one of the three programs under the Strategic Climate Fund, SREP aims to demonstrate the social, economic and environmental viability of low carbon development pathways in the energy sector. In particular, the objectives of SREP in Nepal are to: (i) leverage complementary credit and grant co-financing, (ii) bring about transformational impacts through scaling up energy access using renewable energy technologies (RETs), poverty reduction, gender and social inclusiveness and climate change mitigation, and (iii) ensure sustainable operations through technical assistance and capacity building. MoEWRI has designated the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) as the lead agency for SREP-related mini grids renewable energy initiatives and activities. SREP will support this project to fulfill its objectives and target.

2. Background:

The Grid Interconnection Expert ensures that the activities of grid interconnection meet the technical standard and desired quality. Hence AEPC/MGEAP is looking for a Grid Interconnection expert to aid the existing Mini/Micro Hydro, Solar and Solar Wind subprojects grid interconnection related activities.

3. Objectives:

The objective of obtaining services of Grid Interconnection Expert is to support AEPC/MGEAP in carrying out grid interconnection functions for the implementation of the project. The input from the expert is to ensure adoption of proper technical procedures and quality with economy, efficiency, fairness and transparency as well as to implement grid interconnection activities in a timely manner.

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4. Scope of Work (Activities):

The Expert will be a part of PIU team and will be responsible for day-to-day activities related to the project. The expert will support the PIU to conduct, including but not limited to, the following tasks for grid interconnection of existing micro/ mini hydro, solar and solar wind hybrid subprojects:

- Work in close coordination with the project team, under the direct supervision and guidance of the Project Manager, to improve the regulatory framework and enabling environment for grid-connected renewable energy mini grids, to accelerate private and public sector investment in renewable energy.
- Support ESCOs for Grid Interconnection of existing Micro/Mini Hydro and Solar/Wind Subprojects
- Prepare Guidelines, Forms, Formats, Technical Standards, Specifications, Manuals and other required documents for Grid Interconnection of RE Mini Grids
- Support future power sector policy development related to setting and meeting national RE targets;
- Develop and nurture relationships with other donors, government counterparts, private sector actors and others in the region who share the project's goals.
- Review and analyze best practices in facilitating a regulatory framework that encourages private sector involvement in the regions' power sectors and enables grid access by all producers with a license and approved Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).
- Review and analyze smart incentives and other enabling environment issues related to power sector policy, laws and regulations that impact the scaling of RE (Renewable Energy) investment in the country.
- Suggest options for supporting improved policies and regulations to be undertaken or revised with program support in each target country.
- Any other tasks assigned by Project Manager to support in project implementation

5. Performance and Reporting Requirement (Deliverables):

The Expert shall prepare monthly, quarterly, semiannual and annual report that should incorporate the specific grid interconnection assessment monitoring and capacity building activities.

6. Duration of Service:

The Expert will be assigned for full project period with a provision of renew of contract each year and possibilities of further extension, in case of satisfactory performance. The expert is expected to work full time during office hours within Kathmandu valley with required travels

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outside Kathmandu valley within Nepal on project related matters. The contract will be effective only after the effective date of the Project.

7. Grid Interconnection Expert's Qualification and Experience:

Candidates should have a post-graduate degree in Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering and any other related discipline. At least 7 years' experience in the field of RE sector and proven experience in grid interconnection, transmission and/or distribution grids and micro/mini-hydro sector.

The candidate should also have:

- Working experience as micro and mini hydro in projects funded by the World Bank, ADB or other similar multilateral institutions will be an added advantage;
- Knowledge of specific gender issues in renewable energy and sensitivity to local culture and traditions in Nepal;
- Experience in designing and implementing private sector capacity building and in training national and sub-national staff in micro/mini hydro and grid interconnection related activities;
- Ability to build and maintain relationships, particularly interacting productively, proactively, and comfortably with municipality staff, community leaders, government agencies, private sector groups;
- Knowledge and/or familiarity with the country's geography and willing to travel/trek to the project sites located in remote part of the country;
- Excellent knowledge of the English language (both spoken and written) and excellent communication skills;
- Ability to work well with Government officials and community personnel;
- Strong and demonstrated capacity for organization, management with excellent reporting and coordination skills;
- Strong leadership, technical competence and professional skills for timely implementation, coordination and management of activities;
- Ability to work in a team, develop synergies and establish effective working relations with various stakeholders;
- Strong interpersonal and communications skills, resourcefulness, initiative, tact and ability to cope with any situation;
- Openness to change and ability to receive/integrate feedback;
- The candidate should be able to legally work in Nepal.

8. Facilities and logistics to the expert by the Client:

The Expert shall be provided with the office space, computer with internet facilities, and office furniture. Necessary stationery, printing and copying facilities shall also be provided by the Client.