

Question and answers – Call for proposals “African Energy Storage Challenge

#	Question	Answer
1	Is there any limiting criteria for the leader of the consortium, i.e., has to be an African entity or we, as Swiss private company can become as well?	There is no limiting criteria for the leader of the consortium.
2	Is there a template to follow for the proposal other than rules defined in 4.2 of the call description?	There is no template to follow other than the rules defined in Chapter 4.2.
3	Do you have a network contacts to local and national public bodies that we can contact and include in our proposal?	Applicants are expected to use their own network of contacts.
4	Approximately how much of the budget in percent must be spent on the first objective "advocacy" and how much on "demonstrating projects" and "knowledge transfer"? According to our experience, a relatively large budget is needed for the technology of specific projects (batteries, energy production etc.).	The applicants are free on how much of the budget is allocated to the different components. However the proposal should outline a consistent and comprehensive approach to address all three components above in a conducive and well-balanced manner.
5	Is "advocacy" limited to storage technology or does the issue of "renewable energy" also need to be addressed? Solar, water or wind energy are the basic prerequisite for storage technology.	Advocacy shall primarily focus on decentralized <i>storage</i> of renewable energy. Advocacy of renewable energy in general is beyond the scope of the African Energy Storage Challenge, but links should be established where necessary.
6	We assume that co-financing can be found primarily for the specific projects (goal 2: demonstrating solution). For example, the government/NGOs pay 50% or more for the electrification of health centers. However, it will probably not be possible to find concrete projects by the submission deadline in August. How then can co-financing already be proven?	If co-financing cannot be proven (e.g. backed by a Letter of Intent), the applicants are expected to present their plan on how they will secure the co-financing during the Inception Phase.
7	Our unique storage technology will be implemented in a REPIC project. Part of the budget is also the purchase and installation of solar panels or components. Can this also be included in the budget of this project application or only the storage technology?	While synergies and complementarities to existing SDC financed programmes are welcome, any activity or equipment that is already (co-)funded by REPIC or SDC cannot be included again in the budget of this project application. If the solar panels or components are already purchased and/or installed, these costs cannot be included either, because the budget should only list the project costs occurring during the project duration (01.11.2020-30.06.2029).
8	What is the ideal number of project countries and consortium partners?	The ideal number of countries and partners will depend on the proposed approach.

9	If a proposal get selected following the evaluation decision in october 2020, does this mean the proposal is selected for all three phase of the project ? Is there a second stage of evaluation and selection of candidats between inception and phase 1 ? Between phase 1 and phase 2 ?	See Chapter 1, final paragraph: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerning the implementation phase, the selection is in principal completed by October. Concerning Phase 1, further support by the SDC will be guaranteed after an internal approval of the detailed project documentation including the budget. Concerning Phase 2, the project results will be evaluated and the SDC will decide on the support of a potential Phase 2.
10	Can one company answer with more than one project ?	Each organisation can only submit one proposal as a lead organisation. However, participation as subcontractor in multiple proposals is permitted.
11	Can a proposal include several geographic regions within one country ?	Yes.
12	Should the project proposed (and its corresponding proposed budget) have a timeline until 2029 (end of phase 2) ? Or can the project end sooner ? If so is there a minimum duration for a project ?	The project can also end sooner, but no earlier than 2024. Our understanding is that this would be the minimum duration required to raise storage of renewable energy to the national policy agendas and strengthen the relevant policies. If the project proposed is shorter, the SDC's total contribution would also be smaller.
13	The objective stated on the CFP is “enhancing people’s access to clean energy [...]”. Can you please clarify your expectation of “people’s access” ? Would a project designed to provide clean and reliable electricity to local industrial companies fall within your objective of enhancing people’s access? Are you instead looking to specifically support projects designed to serve municipalities, rural electrification, public or governmental institutions?	For the selection of the proposals, it will be important how the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed. Their needs could be addressed directly (e.g. by supporting projects designed to serve municipalities, rural electrification, public or governmental institutions) and/or indirectly (e.g. by creating jobs in local industrial companies).
14	Africa is a large continent. Which country should be used as a benchmark? Can we choose our preferred choice and focus on that one or you expect us to discuss all regions and explain the different types of implementations ?	The applicants are free to choose the countries of intervention. Ideally, the countries of intervention are part of the High-Impact countries, as defined in the Global Tracking Framework by the IEA and the World Bank.
15	Do you expect the consortium to be connected in all African countries or we should select just a few and show how we will scale the solution to other countries? When it comes to involving local, regional, national partners, shall we have those connections in all African countries?	The consortium is expected to be connected and involve partners in the countries of intervention. And the consortium should show how they will scale the solution within and/or beyond the countries of intervention.

16	Depending on if the topology of the grid is existing or not we would not recommend the same solution. Which case do we need to cover in our answers or which one(s) is/are the priority for you?	The focus of this call for proposal is on decentralised storage of energy, i.e. solutions for off grid, micro and mini grid systems.
17	Which renewable energy do we need to assume to supply the site and how big should it be?	The call for proposals is open to decentralised storage of any type of renewable energy that could be used in off grid, micro or mini grid systems. It is also open to any type of storage solution, including mechanical, thermal, chemical, electro-chemical, electrical or virtual.

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