REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For

East Bay Community Energy Authority
Energy Storage Optimization and Bidding Cloud Software or Scheduling Coordinator Services

QUESTION AND ANSWER PACKET

For complete information regarding this project, see RFP posted at ebce.org or contact the EBCE representative listed below.

Thank you for your interest!

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Will EBCE strictly adhere to the Consulting Service Agreement provided, or is it open to contracting via a counterparty form of agreement?
   a. The Consulting Service Agreement provided is EBCE's standard agreement for services. This includes all applicable language for providing services to a public entity. We strongly prefer this to be the agreement that gets negotiated and signed, however, if there are extenuating circumstances, EBCE will entertain other agreements. If requiring a different agreement, please provide summary as to why this will be needed.
2. The RFP states, Cloud Software or Scheduling Coordinator Services. Will we need to work with your existing SC or do you want us to provide another SC for forecasting and interaction to SIBR.
   a. EBCE's current scheduling coordinator is NCPA. NCPA will be interacting with SIBR and OMS. NCPA, however, does not provide any forecasting services for price or SOC and the software/SC requested in this RFP will need to provide those services.
3. You're requesting 4 second communication to the assets in the field, assuming this is for the frequency market telemetry requirements. Our SaaS can handle the communication, but it raises the question of the devices in the field. Does the equipment at resource 1 - 4 have the ability to communicate at that frequency and what communication protocol do the assets use?
   a. The devices in the field will be setup to handle and log 4 second telemetry for the purposes of regulation control.
4. Does East Bay Community Energy currently have a scheduling coordinator?
   a. EBCE's current scheduling coordinator is NCPA.
5. Does East Bay Community Energy have plans to use current scheduling coordinator or new scheduling coordinator with Optimization and Bidding Cloud Software? Clarify "Ability to automatically send bids and schedule via CSV to scheduling coordinator."
   a. NCPA can interact with bid data via API or FTP, however, if those are not available, a CSV will need to be provided for them to parse to submit bids with to the CAISO.
6. Does East Bay Community Energy anticipate the 1 year initial contract period of performance to commence after the expected COD date of first energy storage system (12/28/22) or at contract award (10/2022)?
   a. The initial period will be from the time the contract is signed, with that expectation being in October 2022.
7. It is our understanding that the bidder for the Software and Services solution will also need to complete the Consulting Services Agreement (Attachment B). Is that correct, and should any redlines be submitted at the time of proposal submission or before, if so?
   a. The Consulting Services Agreement was provided for counterparties to understand the contractual provisions that are important to EBCE. No redlines are needed at this time.
8. If the SC option is selected, we would expect that there would be limited, if any, coordination required with the existing SC as we would be managing the projects from bid to bill. What interaction/coordination would be expected with ECBE's existing SC (NCPA) if the optimization provider is selected to provide SC services for the BESS/Paired Resources?

a. NCPA serves as our settlement and invoicing agent. The interaction would be for billing purposes. NCPA would also have access to the asset via read-only CAISO applications (CMRI, OMS, SIBR) to dashboard and catalog data.

9. If the SC option is selected, would assets be scheduled in the optimization provider's SC portfolio or would the provider act as a SC Agent?

a. The scheduling coordinator would act as an agent of EBCE and schedule via EBCE's SCID.

10. Section 1.4 of the Statement of Requirements states: "Ability to forecast and learn to improve SOC calculations". This is functionality that is typically provided by the Battery Management System (BMS) given their access to the individual battery cells. Our solution accounts for the SOC and attempts to optimize bids/offers based on the market/operational SOC. Could you please elaborate on what is envisioned in terms of the optimization provider performing this function?

a. This functionality is meant to learn from actual versus forecasted SOC when determining bids and schedules. Ideally, the software would use this difference to learn from and create better and more accurate bids and schedules based on realized market outcomes. This is meant to be only optimization based and not BMS based.

11. Section 1.7 of the Statement of Requirements includes various requirements allowing for interaction of ECBE staff with optimization inputs. Is the expectation under "Cloud Software License/Subscription Solutions" that ECBE will be primarily responsible for day-to-day bid/offer creation, modification, validation, etc? Would NCPA also have access to the optimization platform?

a. For a software solution, the EBCE team will maintain primary access. NCPA would ideally have access to this platform, however, if that poses problems, alternatives can be discussed. NCPA's number one need is to have the bids and schedule provided to them and platform access is meant for EBCE to view, tweak and manage the process.

12. Section 1.7 of the Statement of Requirements also seems to include a requirement allowing for direct updates of availability into the CAISO Outage Mgmt System. Is this a correct interpretation?

a. This requirement is meant to be the direct opposite. The platform should be able to pull from and read OMS outages to be considered within the optimization. NCPA will be inputting outages through their process.

13. Section 1.8 of the Statement of Requirements includes a provision that CSV bid/offer files be sent to the NCPA. Is a SIBR formatted XML file acceptable?

a. XML file format is acceptable.

14. Section 1.9 of the Statement of Requirements describes the connection to the NCPA SCADA system. Is a direct connection from optimization provider's SCADA to the resource BMS/RIG an option?

a. This option can be discussed and is a possibility, although, not confirmed at this time as the projects are still in development. Currently, NCPA brings in telemetry and logs via PI which is then used for downstream processes.

15. What restrictions are there on data exchanged from GMS to our bidding software? For example SOC, set point, base point, mvar/pf, and the interval resolution s,m,h

a. There are currently no expected restrictions on data at this time. Data is expected to be available at a 4-second timestamp.

16. Does the plant historian make data securely available via API or FTP?

a. NCPA will be brining in data and cataloging via PI. It is unknown as this time if the plant itself will have that data readily available for access.

17. Do PPA's allow for limited discretionary curtailment of solar resources?
    a. PPA's allow for buyer curtailment either included or Deemed Deliverd.