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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The large-scale solar (LSS) programme introduced by the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (Petra), known as LSS PETRA 5+, is expected to serve as a key catalyst for the growth of the renewable energy (RE) sector over the next two to three years.

Researchers with Maybank Investment Bank (Maybank IB Research) in its research note on Monday highlighted that the LSS Petra 5+ programme offers attractive investment opportunities for industry players, including potential contracts for engineering,

procurement, construction, and commissioning (EPCC).

According to estimates, EPCC contracts could reach a value of up to RM6 billion, based on an EPCC cost of approximately RM3 million per megawatt (MW).

The shortlist of bidders for owners and developers is expected to be announced in the third quarter of 2025, with an internal

rate of return (IRR) projected to reach the high single digits," said Maybank IB Research.

The LSS Petra 5+ programme is divided into two main packages, with Package A focuses on building solar plants on land with a total capacity of 1,500MW and individual capacities ranging from 30MW to 500MW.

Meanwhile, Package B

emphasises floating solar plants with a total capacity of 500MW, with each project having a capacity range of 10MW to 500MW.

The bidding process is open to companies or consortiums incorporated in Malaysia, with a minimum 51 per cent local equity ownership.

"Bidders must submit complete documents to the Energy Commission (EC) by February 28, 2025," it added.

To accelerate the generation of renewable energy, the Energy Commission has launched an open bidding process to develop an additional two gigawatts (GW) of large-scale solar capacity in Peninsular Malaysia under the LSS Petra 5+ programme.