

Headline	EC opens second bidding process for solar PV plants		
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EC opens second bidding process for solar PV plants

PETALING JAYA: The Energy Commission (EC) is conducting a second competitive bidding process for companies to build large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) plants in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah/Labuan.

In a newspaper advertisement placed by the EC yesterday, the commission said the plants would be connected to the grid and will sell their energy to Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) or the Sabah Electricity Board (SESB) under a solar power purchase agreement.

"The LSS capacity to be tendered will be from one to 30 megawatt (MW) with a target aggregate capacity of 360MW in Peninsular Malaysia and 100MW in Sabah/Labuan, which is expected to be commissioned by in 2019 to 2020," the ad said.

The EC will also announce the injection points for the connections to the grid.

The commission said it is inviting companies or consortia who have previous experience in implementing power or related projects, including project financing and operation of power plants or electrical installation to participate in the bidding process in accordance with the criteria in the request for proposal (RFP) document.

The RFP document will be available for sale for RM2,000 until Feb 28 at the EC's Putrajaya Headquarters and the Kota Kinabalu regional office. The closing date for submissions of the RFP is before 5PM on Aug 1, 2017.

The Government's investments to building renewable energy sources continues to this day.

In December last year, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), Malakoff Corp Bhd, Mudajaya Group Bhd and Integrated Logistics Bhd (ILB) – were accepted by the EC to develop large-

scale solar photovoltaic plants.

However, DRB-Hicom Bhd pulled out of the proposed 50MW large-scale solar PV plant in Tanjung Malim, Perak, after it could not come to an agreement with partner Malakoff on certain terms and conditions of the project.

Malakoff and DRB's subsidiary DRB-Hicom Environmental Services Sdn Bhd earlier announced that they would undertake the construction and development of a solar PV plant in Tanjung Malim.

In November 2016, TNB signed three power purchase agreements (PPAs) with a consortium of three companies: ItraMAS Technology Sdn Bhd, Maltech Pro and Cam-Lite Sdn Bhd for the supply of 150MW of solar power.

The solar panels that would be built by this consortium would be located in three states – Jasin, Malacca; Gurun, Kedah; and Merchang,

Terengganu.

The PPAs were signed between TNB and Quantum Solar Park (Malacca) Sdn Bhd, Quantum Solar Park (Kedah) Sdn Bhd and Quantum Solar Park (Terengganu) Sdn Bhd.

The Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry had at the beginning of last year said it wanted to develop more large-scale solar power plants this year.

This award comes after a request for proposal for a 250MW power plant was issued earlier this year, and it is expected that the capacity of these plants will come on stream from 2018 onwards.

The Government also said earlier that it would like to scale up electricity generation from renewable energy sources, given that the country was still far from achieving its renewable energy target.