

Press release

International Companies Visit Sakaka Site and Prepare Bids for Saudi Arabia's First Utility Scale Solar PV Plant

- *Renewable Energy Project Development Office (REPDO) holds bidders conference with 27 qualified bidders for 300MW Sakaka Solar PV project*
- *Bidders visit the site of the Kingdom's first utility scale Solar PV power plant in Northern Saudi Arabia*

Riyadh – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, May 18th 2017: The Renewable Energy Project Development Office (REPDO), of the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources (MEIM) in Saudi Arabia, hosted representatives of pre-qualified companies for a bidders' conference and an exclusive visit to the Kingdom's first utility scale Solar PV power plant site. The 150 attendees comprised representatives of the 27 shortlisted bidders, for the 300MW Sakaka solar PV plant. The requests for proposals (RFP) phase was launched by His Excellency Khalid Al Falih, the Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources on April 17.

The conference gave bidders the opportunity to address the REPDO team directly with questions and queries related to the RFP. The half day meeting took place at the Marriott Hotel in Riyadh. Bidders were then given the chance to visit and assess the site selected for the Sakaka solar plant.

"Openness and transparency are key pillars of the National Renewable Energy Program. Therefore, offering bidders a chance to engage closely with us and spend time understanding the site we have identified for our first utility scale renewable energy plant, is incredibly important," said Turki Al Shehri, Head of the Renewable Energy Project Development Office.

"This conference represented yet another important step towards our long-term goals to rapidly diversify the domestic power mix by scaling up renewable energy's contribution to 10 percent of generation capacity by 2023," continued Al Shehri. "We look forward to receiving competitive bids from the market in due course."

Saudi Arabia's first ever utility scale Solar PV power plant will be the first of 60 greenfield projects tendered over the course of the next seven years as Saudi Arabia pursues a target of 9.5GW of renewables by 2023 in line with Vision 2030. The close out date for receiving Sakaka Solar PV RFP submissions will be in September 2017. The announcement of the winning bid will follow in November 2017.

The Sakaka Solar PV project will be backed by a 25-year power purchase agreement, and bidders are required to meet local content targets as outlined in the RFP of this 100 percent private IPP program.

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About the National Renewable Energy Program

Saudi Arabia's National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) is a long term, multifaceted renewable energy program designed to balance the domestic power mix in order to deliver long term economic stability and prosperity to the Kingdom, whilst working towards carbon reduction commitments. The NREP is managed and executed by the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources (MEIM), directly supporting Saudi Arabia's National Transformation Program (NTP) and Vision 2030.

The office responsible for the delivery of the NREP is The Renewable Energy Project Development Office (REPDO), an office within the MEIM. The Program will be phased and rolled out in a systematic and transparent way to ensure that the Kingdom benefits from the cost-competitive nature of renewable energy. The National Renewable Energy Program aims to substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy mix, targeting the generation of 3.45 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy by 2020 under the National Transformation Program (NTP), and 9.5GW by 2023, towards Vision 2030.