

ISA, Cuba and NTPC issues a Request for Qualification to set up 1150 MW solar project in Cuba

- Cuban Ministry of Energy and Mines have given a strategic priority to the project
- ISA, Cuba's Unión Eléctrica (UNE) and India's NTPC have been working together to ensure the project is bankable, technically sound, and attractive to international investment
- Submission of interest is expected by September 9th, after which qualified participants would be invited to the RFP stage

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The International Solar Alliance, in partnership with the Republic of Cuba and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), the Project Management Consultant, have announced a Request for Qualification for an 1150 MW solar project to be implemented in Cuba. The project is part of Cuba's plan to implement 2100 MW of solar projects, reducing the reliance on expensive and polluting diesel generators and increasing its green energy portfolio. It also includes building of 150 MW/150 MWh of storage to support grid reliability.

The Cuban government authorities have given a strategic priority to this project aimed at changing the energy mix in favour of renewable energy sources. The project is expected to follow the success of previous international projects, such as Solar Park and Natural Gas IPPs.

Speaking about the solar project in Cuba **Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance** said, "It has been a pleasure for the ISA to engage with the Republic of Cuba and Unión Eléctrica (UNE) officials to ensure the success of this project. ISA has a strong pipeline of solar park projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia and we are excited to support this project in Cuba which is the first tender of many."

The International Solar Alliance and NTPC have been working with Cuban officials and engineers to ensure the success of the tender. "We have performed multiple site visits and thoroughly analysed the resource potential, land suitability and transmission availability. This project is technically ready for international investment, and we are eager to help take it forward," says the Project Manager from NTPC.

The project will be supported by a functional scheme that guarantees the return of investments and the benefits accruing from the savings of fossil fuel from the project. A sovereign guarantee is also being extended to the project along with other guarantees as per Cuban legislation. The project will receive priority with relevant procedures & permissions expedited in accordance with the regulations for Cuban foreign investment.

This project is the first in ISA's broader solar park program, which seeks to support developing markets in structuring bankable, economic solar parks through technical support, transparent & competitive tendering and formulating effective project agreements like PPAs, and implementation agreements.

Request for Qualification (RFQ) has been floated on behalf of UNE by NTPC for the selection of an eligible list of participants. These selected participants will be called for the final stage of the tender, i.e., Request for Proposal (RFP), where they will need to provide price bids and quantum of power capacity in MW. The winning bidders will be allocated the project after the RFP stage.

The last date for submission of the Request for Qualification Application is 28 September 2022. The RFQ documents can be accessed here: <https://www.electrictender.global/etshome/> with tender search code NTPC-2022-TN000001

Queries for additional information can be directed to remeshkumar@isolaralliance.org or jschandok@ntpc.co.in.

About International Solar Alliance

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.

The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions. It was conceptualised on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.

The ISA strives to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational energy solutions powered by the sun to help member countries develop low-carbon growth trajectories, with particular focus on delivering impact in countries categorised as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Being a global platform, ISA's partnerships with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organisations, civil society, and other international institutions is key to delivering the change it seeks to see in the world going ahead.

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