



ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION

REnew Pacific - Off-grid Renewable Energy Solutions for Samoan Communities Project

ADVANCE MARKET ENGAGEMENT NOTICE AND CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(MARKET SOUNDING - NON-PREQUALIFICATION)

Anticipated Procurement: SAM-EPC-20/2026

Design and Supply of Solar PV, Battery Energy Storage and Diesel Generation Systems, including Technical Assistance for Installation, Testing and Commissioning for the Apolima Tai Renewable Energy Mini-Grid

EOI issue date	Wednesday, 26 August 2026
Technical market briefing	Wednesday, 9 September 2026, 10:00am (Samoa time)
Advance site visit	Friday, 11 September 2026, 9:00am - subject to weather and confirmation
EOI response deadline	Wednesday, 16 September 2026, 4:00pm (Samoa time)

IMPORTANT: THIS IS NOT A TENDER, REQUEST FOR BID OR PREQUALIFICATION PROCESS. No contract will be awarded from this EOI. Participation does not confer any preference or advantage in the forthcoming formal tender.

1.0 Invitation and Purpose

The Electric Power Corporation (EPC) invites Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced renewable energy system integrators, equipment manufacturers, authorized suppliers, engineering firms and joint ventures with demonstrated capability in off-grid or hybrid solar photovoltaic (PV), battery energy storage system (BESS), inverter-based generation and diesel-integrated mini-grid systems.

This advance market engagement is being undertaken while EPC completes the Government review and legal clearance process for the formal bidding documents for the Apolima Tai Renewable Energy Mini-Grid procurement. Its purpose is to provide the market with early visibility of the anticipated scope, test market readiness and delivery constraints, obtain practical feedback on integration and logistics, and allow interested firms to familiarize themselves with the project before the formal tender is published.

EPC intends to directly notify all organizations that register through this EOI when the official tender is published and to provide them with the public tender link. The subsequent procurement is intended to proceed by Open Competitive Bidding and will remain open to all eligible bidders in accordance with the final, approved bidding documents. Participation in this EOI is not a condition of participation in the formal tender.

PROCUREMENT STATUS: This EOI is a non-binding market sounding and supplier-awareness exercise only. It is not an Invitation to Bid, Request for Tender, Request for Quotation, prequalification process, or offer to contract. No bidder will be shortlisted, ranked, prequalified or excluded through this EOI.

2.0 Procurement Framework and Process Safeguards

The formal procurement will be conducted under the Government of Samoa public procurement framework applicable to EPC, including the Public Finance Management Act 2001, Treasury Instructions - Procurement and Contracting (Part K, as amended), the Procurement Operating Manual 2020, applicable Government Tenders Board requirements, and the approved Government of Samoa Standard Bidding Document for Goods and Related Services.

To preserve equal treatment and the integrity of the forthcoming tender, this EOI will be managed on the following basis:

- No procurement contract, purchase order, preferred-supplier status or other commitment will arise from this EOI.
- EOI responses will not be scored for the purpose of the future tender and will not create a shortlist or closed bidder list.
- Non-participation in this EOI will not make an otherwise eligible bidder ineligible for the formal Open Competitive Bidding process.
- Participation in the market briefing, site visit or any EPC consultation will not provide evaluation credit or preferential treatment in the formal tender.

- Any material clarification or change arising from market engagement that is relevant to bidding will be reflected in the final tender documents, public notice, clarification or addendum as appropriate, so that all formal bidders have access to the same material information.
- EPC will not negotiate a contract, accept a bid price, or make an award decision through this EOI.
- The final tender scope, eligibility requirements, qualification criteria, commercial terms, dates and evaluation methodology will be only those stated in the formally issued bidding documents.

3.0 Project Background

The Apolima Tai Mini-Grid is a remote, standalone low-voltage electricity system serving the Apolima Tai community on Apolima Island. The existing system was originally installed in 2006 and includes solar PV, battery storage, inverters and controls, standby diesel generation and the associated low-voltage distribution network. Several generation and storage components have reached the end of their economic and technical service lives, and EPC is progressing an upgrade under the Australian Government's REnew Pacific Program.

The project objective is to provide a reliable, maintainable and operationally simple mini-grid that maximizes renewable energy utilization, reduces diesel runtime and fuel consumption, and can be safely operated and maintained by EPC personnel and trained local operators in the demanding Apolima marine environment.

4.0 Indicative Anticipated Procurement Scope

The following scope reflects EPC's current procurement intent and is provided for market engagement only. The final contractual scope will be stated in the OAG-cleared bidding documents.

Component / Service	Current Indicative Requirement	Primary Responsibility
Solar PV generation system	Target 24 kWp; anticipated acceptable range 23-26 kWp; modules, mounting, DC BOS, protection and associated materials.	Supplier: detailed design and supply. EPC: physical installation.
Battery Energy Storage System	Minimum 90 kWh aggregate usable capacity at beginning of life; LFP chemistry; BMS, racks/cabinets, protection and communications.	Supplier: detailed design and supply. EPC: physical installation.
Inverter / PCS and control system	Off-grid capable inverter-based system with redundancy; energy management, HMI, communications, monitoring, software and required system controls.	Supplier: design, supply, configuration and integration support.

Standby diesel generation system	Complete standby diesel generation package with rated active power output of not less than 20 kW, including alternator, controller, starting system, auxiliaries, protection, communications and all interfaces required for hybrid operation. The Supplier shall select an appropriate kVA rating and power-factor capability to continuously deliver the required 20 kW output under the specified site and environmental conditions.	Supplier: supply and integration responsibility. EPC: physical installation.
LV and integration equipment	LV switchboard(s), AC/control cabling, protection, isolation, earthing/bonding, lightning/surge protection, communications/interface equipment and ancillary materials.	Supplier: design and supply. EPC: physical installation.
Spares, tools, software and licences	Mandatory spare parts, service consumables, proprietary tools/interfaces, software, licences, configuration files and access credentials required for operation and maintenance.	Supplier.
Delivery	Delivery of Goods to EPC Central Stores, Vaitele, Apia, Samoa. EPC will manage onward transport from Upolu to Apolima Tai unless the final tender states otherwise.	Supplier to Vaitele; EPC onward to Apolima.
Technical Assistance	Qualified specialist support to EPC during installation, testing, pre-commissioning, commissioning and integrated system testing, including OEM support and proprietary configuration.	Supplier provides TA; EPC physically performs installation/testing/commissioning.
Training and handover	Training of EPC/local operators; final/as-built drawings; O&M manuals; test records; warranties; software/settings; parts lists and handover package.	Supplier.

Current indicative project assumptions are: detailed design substantially complete within approximately 45 calendar days after Contract Effective Date; delivery of principal Goods approximately 90-120 calendar days after Contract Effective Date; and Technical Assistance personnel capable of mobilization to Samoa within approximately 14 calendar days of EPC written notice. These periods are subject to confirmation in the formal tender and EPC specifically seeks market feedback on their practicality.

5.0 Key Technical and Operating Requirements

Respondents should assume that the final system will be required to operate as a complete integrated mini-grid, not as separate equipment packages. Key anticipated requirements include:

- Coordinated operation of PV, BESS, inverter/PCS, diesel generation, protection and monitoring as one integrated system.
- Capability to operate and transition between Diesel-Off, Diesel Back-Up and Diesel-Only operating modes without loss of supply, subject to the final control philosophy.
- Commercially proven, standards-compliant equipment suitable for off-grid operation and supported by manufacturer-backed warranties.
- At least two inverter units or an equivalent architecture providing appropriate redundancy.
- Local and remote monitoring capability, with provision for SCADA-compatible communications such as Modbus/DNP where specified.
- Design for a tropical marine environment including high humidity, salt-laden winds, high rainfall, cyclonic weather, corrosion and remote-island operating constraints.
- Design and equipment selection that account for restricted handling and transport capability for batteries and other heavy or bulky equipment.
- Comprehensive factory testing, pre-shipment documentation, installation/testing procedures, integrated commissioning support, training, warranties and after-sales support.

6.0 Site and Logistics Conditions

Apolima Island presents unusual logistics that EPC considers material to equipment design, packaging, module size/weight, installation methodology and warranty support. There is no conventional wharf or heavy unloading facility at Apolima Tai. Marine transport is by small boat and access from the landing area to the project site is via a narrow village footpath. Respondents should consider these constraints when commenting on equipment selection and modularity, particularly for the BESS.

The site is within a tropical marine environment. Current design parameters include maximum wind speeds up to 220 km/h under the Samoa National Building Code 2017, C5M corrosivity conditions, high humidity, salt exposure, high rainfall, seismic considerations and elevated operating temperatures. The formal tender will state the applicable standards and detailed requirements.

7.0 Specific Market Feedback Requested

EPC seeks practical, non-binding feedback on the following matters. Respondents are encouraged to identify risks early and propose industry-standard solutions, while recognising that final requirements will be established only through the formal tender.

1. System architecture: practical AC-coupled, DC-coupled or hybrid arrangements for a small off-grid PV/BESS/diesel mini-grid, including redundancy and black-start considerations.
2. PV/BESS/diesel integration: proven control approaches, communications protocols and OEM compatibility arrangements for automatic hybrid operation.
3. Diesel generation interface: EPC intends to specify a standby diesel generator with a rated active power output of not less than 20 kW. Respondents are invited to comment on the appropriate kVA rating, prime/standby duty classification, power-factor capability, controller and interface requirements necessary to reliably deliver this output and operate stably with inverter-based resources.
4. Battery logistics: recommended battery rack/module configuration, maximum practical handling weights, packaging, temporary storage and warranty-preserving transport for onward movement to Apolima.
5. Delivery schedule: market-achievable lead times for PV, BESS, inverter/PCS, control system, diesel generation and associated switchboards, and whether the indicative 90-120 day delivery period is realistic.
6. Factory testing: appropriate FAT scope and whether remote witnessing can be effectively used for any tests without reducing quality assurance.
7. Technical Assistance: realistic mobilization arrangements and lead times for OEM-qualified specialists to support EPC on Apolima during installation, testing and commissioning.
8. Regional after-sales support: service locations, critical-fault response, remote support, warranty administration and replacement/spare-parts lead times for Samoa.
9. Mandatory spares and tools: any recommended changes to the intended spares, service consumables and proprietary commissioning/maintenance tools for a remote-island application.
10. Specification clarity and market access: any requirement likely to unnecessarily restrict competition, create avoidable vendor lock-in, or materially increase price/lead time without an equivalent technical benefit. Safety, performance and reliability requirements should not be weakened.

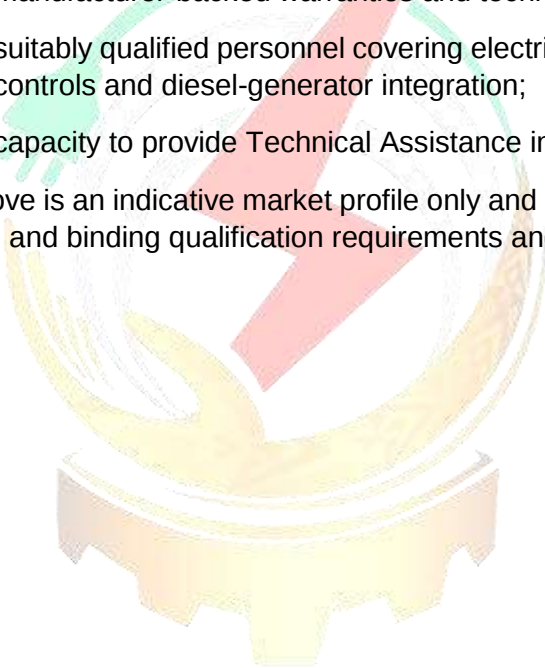
EPC is not requesting binding prices under this EOI. Respondents should not submit a formal quotation or bid. General comments on commercial structure, lead-time drivers or cost drivers may be provided where they assist procurement planning, but they will not constitute a price offer.

8.0 Indicative Capability Profile

For market-mapping purposes only, EPC is particularly interested in hearing from organizations that can demonstrate experience broadly consistent with the anticipated formal tender, including:

- at least five years of relevant experience in renewable energy, electrical generation, BESS, hybrid power systems or comparable system integration;
- successful delivery of at least two comparable renewable energy, BESS, hybrid generation or mini-grid contracts within the previous five years;
- at least one reference project involving PV and BESS in an off-grid, islanded, microgrid or hybrid application;
- at least one reference project involving coordinated integration of inverter-based generation/battery storage with diesel or another rotating generation source;
- established relationships or authorizations with principal equipment manufacturers and access to manufacturer-backed warranties and technical support;
- suitably qualified personnel covering electrical/project engineering, BESS/inverter systems, microgrid controls and diesel-generator integration;
- capacity to provide Technical Assistance in Samoa and regional or remote after-sales support.

The above is an indicative market profile only and is not a prequalification test. The formal tender will contain the sole and binding qualification requirements and evaluation methodology.



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9.0 EOI Response Requirements

Responses should be concise and should not exceed 10 pages, excluding brochures/datasheets and the annexed response forms. EPC requests the following information:

- i. Covering letter confirming interest in the anticipated procurement and identifying the authorized contact person.
- ii. Company / joint venture profile, country of registration and principal business activities.
- iii. Relevant project experience (up to five references), using the form in Annex A.
- iv. Indicative technology and OEM families that the respondent is capable of supplying/integrating. Final makes/models are not required at EOI stage.
- v. Brief indicative system integration approach, including PV/BESS/diesel control philosophy and relevant prior integration experience.
- vi. Indicative manufacturing and delivery lead times, major long-lead items and key logistics assumptions.
- vii. Proposed approach to Technical Assistance, commissioning support, training, warranty and after-sales support for Samoa.
- viii. Completed Market Feedback Table in Annex B.
- ix. Indication of interest in attending the technical briefing and/or site visit, and Site Visit Registration Form in Annex C where applicable.
- x. Disclosure of any actual or potential conflict of interest relevant to the project or the preparation of the forthcoming procurement.

10.0 Technical Market Briefing and Advance Site Visit

EPC intends to conduct a group technical market briefing and an optional advance site visit to allow interested firms to better understand the project before the formal tender is issued. Participation is entirely voluntary and will not affect eligibility or evaluation in the formal tender.

Activity	Proposed Date / Time	Location	Notes
Technical market briefing	Wed 9 Sep 2026, 10:00am (Samoa Time)	EPC Headquarters, Level 5 TATTE Building, Sogi, Apia + online access	Project overview, scope discussion, technical/logistics Q&A and site-visit briefing.
Site-visit registration deadline	Thu 10 Sep 2026, 12:00 noon (Samoa Time)	By email to EPC	Maximum one (1) attendee per organization unless EPC agrees otherwise.
Advance site visit	Fri 11 Sep 2026, 9:00am	Meet at Apolima Uta Wharf; transfer to Apolima Tai subject to conditions	Weather/sea-state dependent. Final marine transport and safety arrangements

			will be confirmed to registered attendees.
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10.1 Site Visit Conditions

The site visit may be postponed, curtailed or cancelled by EPC where weather, sea conditions, community requirements or safety considerations make travel inappropriate.

- Participants attend at their own cost and risk and are responsible for their own travel to the meeting point, insurance, personal medication and suitable clothing/PPE. All vessel-operator and EPC safety instructions must be followed. EPC will cover costs of the small-boat (Alia) transfer.
- Participants must be reasonably fit for small-boat (Alia) transfer and walking on a narrow village access path. Any relevant mobility or medical limitation should be disclosed privately to EPC when registering so that feasibility can be assessed.
- Participants shall respect village protocols and shall not independently approach community members, land custodians or other stakeholders about the project without EPC coordination. Photography of residents or private property requires permission.
- Information of general relevance arising from the briefing/site visit will be documented by EPC and made available to registered EOI participants and, where material to bidding, incorporated or disclosed through the formal tender process.

11.0 Indicative Procurement Schedule

The following schedule is intended to front-load market engagement while EPC awaits completion of Government legal/procurement clearances. It is indicative and may change. Any change to the formal tender timetable will be governed by the official bidding documents and applicable Government requirements.

Milestone	Indicative Date	Status / Purpose
Issue Advance Market Engagement / EOI	Fri 26 Aug 2026	Public supplier awareness and market sounding.
Technical market briefing	Wed 9 Sep 2026	Front-load scope discussion and common technical questions.
Advance site visit	Fri 11 Sep 2026	Optional early familiarization; weather dependent.
EOI responses due	Wed 16 Sep 2026, 4:00pm	Market feedback and supplier capability mapping.
EPC market review / targeted clarifications	17-18 Sep 2026	No negotiation; clarify market feedback and identify any tender-document refinements.

Anticipated formal tender publication	On or after Mon 21 Sep 2026	Subject to OAG clearance and all applicable Government/donor approvals.
Formal tender pre-bid meeting	Currently anticipated 30 Oct 2026	As stated in the draft SBD; final tender governs.
Formal tender site visit	Currently anticipated 1 Oct 2026	Formal equal-access site visit; final tender governs.
Formal tender closing	Currently anticipated 26 Oct 2026, 11:00am	Final OAG-cleared tender notice and SBD govern.

12.0 How EPC will use EOI Responses

EPC may use information received through this EOI to:

- ✓ confirm market depth and likely bidder interest;
- ✓ test practicality of delivery and Technical Assistance timelines;
- ✓ identify long-lead equipment and remote-island logistics risks;
- ✓ clarify technical interfaces, OEM support arrangements and commissioning requirements;
- ✓ identify ambiguities or requirements that may unintentionally restrict competition;
- ✓ refine the final technical specifications, Schedule of Requirements and tender briefing materials before issue; and
- ✓ develop a direct notification list for publication of the formal tender.

EPC will not rank respondents or make a procurement award decision from EOI information. Any material change adopted for the procurement will be included in the formal tender documentation available to all eligible bidders.

13.0 Submission for Expressions of Interest

EOI responses should be submitted electronically in PDF format by:

Deadline	Wednesday, 16 September 2026 at 4:00pm (Samoa time)
Email	frueanc@epc.ws
Attention	Christopher Fruean, Electric Power Corporation
Email subject	EOI - SAM-EPC-20/2026 - Apolima Tai Mini-Grid - [Respondent Name]
Format	One PDF response, plus optional supporting brochures/datasheets. No hard copy is required for this market-sounding exercise.

14.0 Costs, Confidentiality, Intellectual Property and Disclaimer

Each respondent bears all costs associated with preparing an EOI response and participating in briefings, discussions or site visits. EPC will not reimburse such costs.

Respondents should clearly identify any genuinely proprietary or commercially sensitive information. EPC may share EOI information with Government agencies, legal advisers, REnew Pacific project partners/donors and technical advisers where required for procurement planning, approvals, audit or project implementation, subject to applicable confidentiality obligations.

By submitting technical comments, a respondent permits EPC to use, summarise and incorporate non-proprietary recommendations into the formal procurement documents without attribution or compensation. This does not transfer ownership of proprietary product information expressly identified as confidential.

EPC gives no representation that the anticipated procurement will proceed exactly as described in this EOI and may amend, postpone or cancel the market engagement or formal procurement in accordance with applicable requirements.

Only the formally issued bidding documents, including any subsequent addenda, will create procurement obligations or define the requirements against which bids will be evaluated.

EPC intends to make relevant ITP Renewables technical specifications and preliminary drawings available for market engagement only where EPC has confirmed the applicable rights and permissions for distribution. Any such documents remain subject to their stated intellectual-property and use restrictions.

ANNEX A – EOI RESPONDANT INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE FORM

This form is for market engagement only and does not constitute a prequalification submission.

Legal name of respondent	
Country of registration	
Registered address	
Primary contact person	
Position / title	
Email	
Telephone	
Website	
Proposed JV / consortium (if any)	
Principal OEM relationships / authorizations	

Relevant Project References (maximum five)

Client / Country	Year	Scope	PV / BESS Size	Diesel / Rotating Integration	Role of Respondent	Client Contact / Reference

Indicative Lead-Time and Support Capability

Typical lead time for principal BESS / PCS equipment	
Typical lead time for 20 kW diesel genset / control package	
Likely shipment origin(s)	
Nearest regional technical support location	
Indicative TA mobilisation lead time to Samoa	
24/7 or critical-fault remote support capability	

ANNEX B – MARKET FEEDBACK TABLE

Please provide concise comments. Attach additional pages only where necessary.

Topic	Respondent Feedback / Recommended Approach	Effect on Lead Time / Risk (if any)
System architecture / AC vs DC coupling		
PV-BESS-diesel integration and control		
20 kW diesel generator sizing / kVA rating / interface considerations		
Battery module size, weight and Apolima logistics		
90-120 day delivery practicality		
FAT / remote witness options		
TA mobilisation and commissioning support		
Regional after-sales / warranty support		
Spares / tools / consumables		
Potentially restrictive or unclear technical requirements		



Other material project risk or recommendation		
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ANNEX C – ADVANCE SITE VISIT REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPANT UNDERTAKING

Advance site visit proposed for Friday, 11 September 2026. Attendance is optional and subject to EPC confirmation, weather, sea-state and safety conditions.

Organization	
Primary site-visit contact	
Email / mobile	
Participant 1 - name / position	
Participant 2 - name / position	
Any mobility / medical consideration EPC should privately consider	
Emergency contact	

Participant Undertaking

By registering for and attending the site visit, each participant acknowledges and agrees that:

- attendance is voluntary and does not create any entitlement or advantage in the formal tender;
- the participant will comply with EPC, vessel-operator and community safety and conduct instructions;
- the participant is responsible for personal insurance and for assessing their fitness for small-boat travel and walking access;
- the participant will not independently solicit information from, negotiate with, or make commitments to community members or land custodians in relation to the project;
- photography of residents or private property will only be undertaken with permission; and
- the participant accepts that EPC may postpone or cancel the visit for safety, weather, logistical or community reasons.

Name	
Signature	
Date	
For and on behalf of	

ANNEX D – INDICATIVE TECHNICAL REFERENCE SUMMARY

This summary is provided for early market engagement only. The formal tender and its attachments will govern.

Item	Current Indicative Basis
Project	Apolima Tai Renewable Energy Mini-Grid upgrade under REnew Pacific.
Network	Standalone low-voltage mini-grid serving Apolima Tai community.
PV	Target 24 kWp; anticipated acceptable range 23-26 kWp.
BESS	Minimum 90 kWh aggregate usable capacity at beginning of life; LFP chemistry.
Inverters	Off-grid capable; redundancy required; final architecture by Supplier subject to technical requirements.
Diesel generation	Standby diesel generation system with rated active power output of not less than 20 kW, integrated with BESS/PV controls. The Supplier shall select the appropriate kVA rating and power-factor capability for reliable hybrid operation.
Operating modes	Diesel-Off, Diesel Back-Up and Diesel-Only coordinated operating modes.
Monitoring	Local and remote data access; SCADA-compatible communications capability as specified.
Environment	Tropical marine; high humidity/salt/rain; cyclonic wind; C5M corrosion; seismic conditions; elevated temperatures.
Apolima logistics	No conventional wharf/heavy unloading facility; small-boat access and narrow village footpath.
Goods delivery point	EPC Central Stores, Vaitele, Apia, Samoa.
Installation / commissioning	EPC physically installs, tests and commissions. Supplier provides design, integration responsibility, procedures, configuration and Technical Assistance.
Indicative timing	Design ~45 days; Goods delivery ~90-120 days; TA mobilization ~14 days from EPC notice, subject to final tender.

Reference design package

ITP Renewables Technical Specification Ref. 24025 Rev 3 (Final, 13 July 2026) and preliminary drawings dated 9 July 2026, subject to distribution permissions and final tender issue.



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