

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR GOODS AND SERVICES



**ONDERSTEPOORT BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS LTD
PRIVATE BAG X7, ONDERSTEPOORT 0110**

From: Supply Chain Department
Date: 19 June 2026 – 2 July 2026
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To:
Supplier:
Tel:
Fax:
Email:

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - SOLAR ENERGY ELECTRICITY GENERATING,
MANAGEMENT, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SOLUTION FOR ONDERSTEPOORT**

Kindly provide Information for the following: **RFI/OBP002/2026/27**

COMPULSORY/MANDATORY	
Company/ Individual Profile	That highlights years' relevant experience and capabilities in solar energy electricity generating, management, storage and distribution solution.
Proposal	Detailed proposal to include pricing, methodology and approach etc.
Additional Notes	All Bidders must be registered on CSD (Central Supplier Database)
Compulsory Site briefing 25 June 2026 @09:00	Compulsory site briefing to be attend, at OBP Offices (100 Old Soutpan Road, Onderstepoort, 0110). Must be there before or on time as stipulated on the document and wear PPE clothing before entering the premises. 25 June 2026 @09:00

TERMS OF REFERENCE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - SOLAR ENERGY ELECTRICITY GENERATING, MANAGEMENT, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SOLUTION FOR ONDERSTEPSPOORT BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS (OBP).

1. INTRODUCTION

Onderstepoort Biological Products SOC Ltd (OBP) is a South African state-owned animal vaccine manufacturing company whose mandate is to manufacture animal vaccines with the aim of preventing and controlling animal diseases that impact food security, human health and livelihoods. The mandate is delivered through continued development of innovative products and efficient manufacturing, which ensures vaccine affordability and accessibility through varied distribution channels.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE

Our company operates a specialized vaccine manufacturing facility subject to strict global health regulatory frameworks. Frequent local electricity shortages, load-shedding, and grid voltage fluctuations jeopardize critical pharmaceutical operations, cleanroom HVAC systems, and continuous cold-chain refrigeration.

The objective of this RFI is to identify qualified solar PV and Energy Storage System contractors capable of designing, installing, and maintaining a high-reliability, zero-downtime hybrid microgrid. The system must seamlessly integrate with existing grid connections and backup diesel generators.

Indicative Technical Scope

Vendors must demonstrate capability to engineer and deploy a system meeting the following baseline parameters:

- **Continuous Cleanroom Operations:** Uninterrupted power supply to ISO-classified spaces and automated formulation/filling equipment.
- **Active Cold Chain Security:** 100% uptime for ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers, walk-in cold storage rooms (2°C to 8°C), and incubation systems.
- **System Architecture:** Hybrid configuration combining Rooftop/Ground-mount Solar PV, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), existing Grid Interconnection, and Diesel Generator sync.
- **Zero-Transfer Switching:** Application of high-speed static transfer switches (STS) or double-conversion online UPS systems to eliminate transient voltage drops during grid-to-island transitions.

Vendor Questionnaire

Section A: Corporate Profile & Relevant Experience

Company Overview: Provide brief history, core expertise, and standard geographic service regions.

Pharmaceutical or Healthcare Experience: Describe at least two (2) successfully commissioned projects for critical facilities where power loss directly impacts product safety (e.g., biological manufacturing, hospitals, or high-tech laboratories).

Regulatory Familiarity: Detail your experience with electrical codes, fire mitigation safety for industrial BESS facilities, and cleanroom power isolation standards.

Section B: Technical Capabilities & System Design

Engineering Approach: How does your firm model load profiles to size PV and BESS arrays for continuous 24/7 manufacturing operations?

Component Sourcing: Specify the primary brands of solar panels (e.g., Tier 1 Tier 1 Bloomberg listed), inverters, and BESS chemistries (e.g., Lithium Iron Phosphate - LFP) your firm deploys.

Microgrid Controls: Describe the capabilities of your Microgrid Controller / Energy Management System (EMS) regarding dynamic load shedding, forecasting, and automated generator dispatch.

Power Quality Management: Detail how your design handles harmonics, voltage sags, and transient spikes typical of fluctuating industrial grids.

Section C: Implementation, O&M, and Service Levels

Execution Timeline: Provide an estimated timeline from engineering design to procurement, installation, and final testing/commissioning for a typical C&I system.

Operation & Maintenance (O&M): Detail your standard O&M offerings, including remote system health monitoring, diagnostic scheduling, and emergency dispatch turnaround times.

Business Continuity Plan: Explain how installation work will be phased to ensure that current facility operations suffer zero unplanned power interruptions.

Section D: Financial Models & Commercial Options

Commercial Models: Do you offer alternative financing models, such as Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), upfront Capital Expenditure (CAPEX), or leasing structures?

Warranty Framework: Provide details regarding standard performance warranties for solar modules (e.g., 25-year linear), inverters, and battery degradation levels (e.g., cycle-life parameters).

Requested Submission Material

Respondents should submit a concise presentation packet containing:

- A written response addressing all items in the **Vendor Questionnaire** (Sections A–D).
- Case studies or reference sheets for similar industrial solar/hybrid deployments.

3. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION PROCESS

The overall objective of the RFI is to identify potential solar energy solutions which satisfy the current and future strategic and operational requirements of OBP.

A site visit will be permitted on Friday 26 June 2026 at 10h00

The RFI process is aimed at soliciting information on solar energy solutions to:

- Survey the market to identify potential service providers available in the marketplace
 - Provide a scope of work for a solar energy solution, with identified pricing structures and metrics, which will integrate into OBP electrical systems by:
 - Providing electricity which is independent of the supply from the grid service provider;
- OR**
- Providing electricity which integrates into the supply from the grid service provider;
 - Identify key performance indicators for monitoring and evaluation of solar energy system

4. PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Submissions are open to any public or private company or consortium of such companies intending to provide information.

In the case of consortia, interested parties should confirm that the submission is on behalf of the consortium.

The solar energy solution service providers must meet the following requirements:

- Manufacturer of solar energy systems with installation and service support in Gauteng;
- OR**
- Installer of solar energy system and associated components to confirm that there is a service agent with trained service technicians based in South Africa; and
 - Service agent based in South Africa to confirm that there is availability of service spares and critical spares for solar energy system.

5. GENERAL

5.1 CONFIDENTIALITY

OBP shall:

- Use its reasonable endeavours to keep all data and details submitted by responding parties strictly confidential, save to the extent that such data or details are required to be disclosed by applicable law or order of a court of competent jurisdiction; be entitled to disclose all data and details to their officers, employees, agents, advisors and representatives who are involved in the project and the evaluation of the responses; and
- Not be liable for any loss incurred or damage suffered as a result of any disclosure of any information (confidential or otherwise) of the responding party. The responding parties shall not have, and hereby waives, any claim against OBP arising out of the disclosure of any information, confidential or otherwise.

5.2 RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

- OBP reserves the right, to use information submitted in response to this RFI for the purpose of compiling and aggregating data for public release, related to the information submitted, without mentioning / identifying specific parties.
- OBP reserves the right to verify any information contained in a response to this RFI; and OBP reserves the right to cancel or withdraw this RFI as a whole or in part.

5.3 CONTACT INFORMATION AND CLARIFICATIONS

- Interested parties are free to request clarifications from, or engage directly with, the team via email at purchasing@obpvaccines.co.za

6. CLOSING DATE

- The RFI closing date and time is on the **02 of July 2026 @15:00**,
- All bidders MUST register their company (in advance) on the NEW OBP's EProcurement portal, the link can be found on the official OBP website under supply chain.
- Once bidders account registration is approved by the OBP Supply Chain, login credentials will be supplied, whereby bidders will be able to login and apply for opportunities.
- All open opportunities will reflect on the portal for bidders to part take in.
- All required company documents, proposed submissions or additional requirements MUST be uploaded with your bid application.
- Any additional questions or Queries can be directed via email (purchasing@obpvaccines.co.za) or telephone (012 522 1500), note NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED via EMAIL.