

## Utility-scale energy storage maldives

The Republic of Maldives has launched a tender process, seeking to procure battery energy storage systems (BESS) in an energy transition project supported by Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding.

Supported by the ADB through the Accelerating Sustainable System Development Using Renewable Energy (ASSURE) Project with a grant of US\$41.5 million for the project, the tender aims to provide BESS and energy management systems (EMS) across 18 islands in the Maldives and seeks to add around 40MWh of capacity, according to Jaimes Kolantharaj, senior energy specialist at the ADB, on a social media post.

Following the work done with the ASPIRE programme, the country launched several tenders, financed by the World Bank similar to this latest one. In 2021 the country sought 40MW/40MWh of BESS across several regions, which appears to have been dropped, but was then reopened again last year, still seeking 40MWh of BESS.

Deadline for applications to submit a bid has been set for 10 October 2023, however interested bidders will be required to register first with the South Asian island nation's Ministry of Finance between 20 August and 08 October 2023 with a payment of US\$100 and then fill the bidding document.

The government of the archipelago is tendering the deployment of two big batteries, with capacities of 24 MW/24 MWh and 16 MW/16 MWh, respectively, to store renewable energy for 22 islands.

The Maldives' Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology has launched the pre-qualification phase of a tender for the deployment of two large-scale storage systems with a combined capacity of 40 MW/40 MWh across 22 islands.

One of the two projects, with a planned capacity of 24 MW/24 MWh, is expected to provide power to the following locations: S. Hithadhoo, S. Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo, Gn. Fuvahmulah, GDh. Thinadhoo, HDh. Kulhudhuffushi, B. Eydhafushi and Lh. Hinnavaru.

The second tendered battery, with a capacity of 16 MW/16 MWh, is planned for the locations of L. Atoll Islands, Lh. Naifaru, Dh. Kudahuvadhoo, GA. Villingili and Sh. Funadhoo.

The Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) installations covered in this tender is supported through a US\$23 million concessional loan to the Government of Maldives, allocated from Clean Technology Fund; the ministry said in a statement.

Both projects will be developed under the umbrella of the World Bank's Accelerating Renewable Energy Integration and Sustainable Energy (ARISE) initiative, which is aimed at helping Maldives accelerate its

transition to renewable energy sources.

Despite these and other plans to develop renewables throughout the islands of the Maldives, the country still depends heavily on diesel fuel and is plagued by intermittent energy supplies and high costs. It is also particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as rising sea levels continue to swallow up its coastline.

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