AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

1. CONTRACT ID CODE

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2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO. 0002

3. EFFECTIVE DATE 04/21/2026

4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO.

5. PROJECT NO. *(If applicable)*

6. ISSUED BY CODE OCON

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
MRC 1200
PO Box 37012
Washington DC 20013-7012

7. ADMINISTERED BY *(If other than Item 6)* CODE OCON

OCON
MRC 1200
PO Box 37012
Washington DC 20013-7012

8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRACTOR *(No., street, county, State and ZIP Code)*

CODE

FACILITY CODE

(x) 9A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO. 33330226RF0010008

x 9B. DATED *(SEE ITEM 11)* 04/21/2026

10A. MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT/ORDER NO.

10B. DATED *(SEE ITEM 13)*

11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS

☒ The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers ☐ is extended, ☒ is not extended.

Offers must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended , by one of the following methods: (a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning _____ copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted ; or (c) By separate letter or electronic communication which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted , such change may be made by letter or electronic communication, provided each letter or electronic communication makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.

12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA *(If required)*

13. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO MODIFICATION OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS. IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.

CHECK ONE

A. THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: *(Specify authority)* THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.

B. THE ABOVE NUMBERED CONTRACT/ORDER IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES *(such as changes in paying office, appropriation data, etc.)* SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(b).

C. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:

D. OTHER *(Specify type of modification and authority)*

E. IMPORTANT: Contractor ☐ is not ☐ is required to sign this document and return _____ copies to the issuing office.

14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION *(Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.)*

This is Amendment Number 002 to Solicitation 333302-26RF-0010008 for the Solar Arrays for Agrivoltaics Research Project at Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC).
This Amendment formally incorporates clarifications and modifications to the Solicitation resulting from Requests for Information (RFIs). These changes shall be considered part of the Solicitation and govern proposal preparation.

1. Responses to RFI's
2. Interconnection Basis, O&M Scope Revision, and Monitoring System Clarification
3. One-line exhibit

All RFI responses issued to date are hereby incorporated into the Solicitation. In the

Continued ...

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9 A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER *(Type or print)*

16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER *(Type or print)*

Christine Grant

15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR

(Signature of person authorized to sign)

15C. DATE SIGNED

16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Signature of Contracting Officer)

16C. DATE SIGNED

NAME OF OFFEROR OR CONTRACTOR

ITEM NO. (A)	SUPPLIES/SERVICES (B)	QUANTITY (C)	UNIT (D)	UNIT PRICE (E)	AMOUNT (F)
	event of conflict, this Amendment shall take precedence. This Amendment supersedes any prior RFI responses to the extent of any inconsistency. THE PROPOSAL DUE DATE IS JUNE 22, 2026, AT 3:00PM ET All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.				

333302-26RF-0010008 Design Build - SERC Solar Arrays for Agrivoltaics Research			
RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
1	Permitting and Approvals	Confirm whether zoning approval has already been obtained for this project, or if this will be part of the contractor's scope?	The current status of zoning and permitting approvals is reflected in the RFP. Offerors are responsible for identifying and obtaining permits required for execution of the Work unless otherwise specified in the solicitation.
2	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Is the attached BGE conditional approval the latest and current interconnection status?	The BGE conditional approval included in the RFP represents the latest information available to the Smithsonian Institution. Final interconnection requirements remain subject to BGE review, design, and approval processes, but the contents of the attachment are expected to prevail.
3	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Has the project team selected one of the proposed BGE interconnection options?	This project will use BGE Option 2 (Attachment 2); proposals shall be developed accordingly. No other options will be considered.
4	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Are there any additional utility upgrade requirements anticipated beyond the information included in the BGE approval letter?	No additional utility upgrades beyond those identified in the BGE interconnection letter are currently known; however, the Contractor remains responsible for all interconnection requirements in accordance with the solicitation.
5	Existing Electrical Infrastructure (Site Integration)	Provide any available information regarding the existing electrical infrastructure at the site, including: existing transformer quantities and sizes, main service ratings, existing switchgear or breaker configuration, proposed point of interconnection	Detailed knowledge of existing electrical infrastructure is not required for proposal preparation. Net metering aggregation will be coordinated with the serving utility. Offerors shall develop their proposals based on reasonable assumptions for system integration consistent with the RFP.
6	Performance Requirements	Is there a target annual energy production in kWh for the project?	The RFP does not prescribe a target annual energy production. Offerors shall propose system performance consistent with their technical design and project objectives. The primary goal of the project is agrivolatics research and not necessarily to maximize electrical production.
7	System Design Criteria	Are there any preferred or restricted module, inverter, or tracker manufacturers?	The RFP does not prescribe specific manufacturers. All proposed equipment shall comply with applicable codes, standards, and performance requirements stated in the solicitation.
8	Research / Agrivoltaics Objectives	Is the intent for proposers to optimize overall system production, or to primarily follow the agrivoltaics research configurations described in the RFP?	The project is intended to support agrivoltaics research while delivering a functional solar installation. Offerors shall propose designs that support the research objectives described in the RFP while also delivering efficient and practical electrical production.
9	Bonding and Contract Requirements	Could you please confirm the bonding and insurance requirements for the project?	Payment and performance bonds for 100% of the project's estimated cost are required for all construction projects over $100,000. Insurance requirements are in Section I.
10	Bonding and Contract Requirements	Are there any expected performance guarantees related to annual system production?	The RFP does not prescribe specific performance guarantees tied to annual energy production. Offerors may propose performance approaches consistent with their technical solution.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
11	Schedule and Coordination	Is there a target construction start date and required substantial completion date?	The RFP provides anticipated project durations and requires Offerors to propose a detailed schedule as part of their submission. The project is intended to be completed and commissioned no later than December 30, 2027.
12	Schedule and Coordination	Are there any seasonal site-access restrictions or environmental limitations that proposers should consider during construction planning?	There are no seasonal site access restrictions or environmental limitations other than potential for large snow accumulation obstructing the access road.
13	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Would the Owner/Design Team consider alternative ground improvement methods, including high-density polyurethane injection and soil densification technologies, as acceptable value-engineering alternatives to conventional over-excavation/replacement, engineered fill placement, or deep foundation systems for portions of the project where geotechnically appropriate? These methods may offer reduced excavation, reduced disturbance to active agricultural land, accelerated construction schedules, reduced imported/exported materials, and simplified long-term site restoration/decommissioning compared to traditional deep foundation systems. If acceptable for consideration, please advise what geotechnical, engineering, testing, and performance criteria would be required for evaluation of such systems as part of the design-build process?	Alternative ground improvement and foundation approaches may be considered as part of a design-build proposal, provided they meet all applicable performance requirements, codes, and standards. Offerors are responsible for demonstrating technical suitability, constructability, and compliance as part of their design submission. Alternative methodology that would reduce disturbance to agricultural land is allowable.
14	Contract Requiments	Executive Order (EO) 14603 indicates that all federal projects valued at $35 million and above will require a project labor agreement (PLA) unless a federal contracting agency expressly grants an exception. As the expected project value is under this limit, please confirm if a project labor agreement will be required on this project.	Total Estimated cost range is between $5,000,000 and $10,000,000. PLA is not required.
15	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Please clarify if an existing/preliminary Geotech report is available to base structural design on. If not available, can direction be provided on assumed soil profiles and bearing pressures for design assumptions including rack mounting? Various rack mounting systems will affect project costs.	Preliminary soil composition was provided in attachment 3. Contractor is responsible to verify soil profiles and bearing pressures.
16	Civil / Geotechnical Design	In the event a Geotech is not provided by SI, will there be an opportunity to perform Geotech site investigations during the bid period?	Geotech investigation may not be performed during bid process. Contractor is responsible to perform investigation during the design. See Attachment 3 for preliminary soil composition for site.
17	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Please confirm rock excavation, contaminated soils, or other unforeseen conditions below grade should be excluded. If they are to be accounted for, please provide an allowance for all contactors to carry.	Unforeseen conditions shall be addressed in accordance with the contract provisions set forth in the solicitation.
18	Operations and Maintenance	Option 1 requests a price for O&M services for one year with the opportunity to exercise further options to extend the service for up to four additional one-year periods. Is the price provided on the bid form for Option 1 intended to reflect a yearly rate?	Yes, O&M price should represent a yearly rate.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
19	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	BGE conditional approval was provided on 09/24/25 per Attachment 2. Has BGE been notified that Smithsonian intends to move forward with Option 2 (per C.3, pg 10 of Solicitation)? Has the 12 week period for planning, engineering, design, and pricing commenced?	BGE is aware that Option 2 is the intended interconnection approach. The 12-week period for planning, engineering, design, and pricing has not yet commenced.
20	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	BGE conditional approval (Attachment 2) expires one year from issuance on 09/24/25. The document notes that certificate of completion must be issued before expiration, however the period of performance is 474 days as noted in the Solicitation. Please confirm if the awarded offerer will need to request extensions on the BGE approval.	The Contractor shall coordinate with BGE regarding any required extensions to the interconnection approval. BGE has indicated that extensions can be granted as needed to accommodate the project schedule.
21	System Design Criteria	On the Fixed Tilt array, Is the noted height minimums from the lowest panel edge, or from the height of where the panel table is secured to the racking post?	Lowest edge of the panel.
22	System Design Criteria	Can we be provided with the product information regarding the farming data sensors that the racking systems must be able to accommodate and where those might be located within the arrays?	The Contractor is not responsible for furnishing or installing research sensors. Agricultural and research sensors will be provided and installed by SERC or its research partners. The Contractor shall coordinate to accommodate future installation as required.
23	System Design Criteria	Where should we assume the “crop zones” will be in order to design wiring routes and equipment locations to avoid potential conflict.	Crop zones include areas beneath panels and between panel rows. Wiring between rows or arrays shall be installed a minimum of 3 feet below grade. Equipment should be located near structural supports or at the ends of panel rows to minimize interference with agricultural use.
24	System Design Criteria	Attachment 4 notes that the inverters should be placed outside of the array - is there a desired distance away from the array? Inside/outside the perimeter fence?	Inverters can be installed at end of each row, inside the fence. Refer to RFP for details of spacing required between array and the fence.
25	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Please provide a copy of the single line diagram that was submitted to BGE in relation to the conditional approval received. If not shown on the single line diagram, can the proposed location for the customer owned pad-mounted gear and planned POI be provided on a site plan?	A copy of the relevant one-line diagram is provided with the interconnection location identified. Refer to Attachment 1 for the site map showing the electrical connection location.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
26	System Design Criteria	Is there a required or preferred location for additional pad-mounted equipment?	This will be determined during the design.
27	Permitting and Approvals	Can we please receive a copy of the Conservation Easement that is potentially impacted by this project?	Smithsonian has full approval for construction of this project for scientific research.
28	Performance Requirements	Please confirm that the final production value is not guaranteed (vs. theoretical values). Solar production will depend also on environmental factors.	The RFP does not prescribe any guaranteed final energy production value. System performance will vary based on design, site conditions, and environmental factors.
29	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Please provide BGE specific scope of work, lead times, schedule milestones and constraints that should be incorporated into the offeror's proposal.	Offerors shall reference the BGE attachment for applicable requirements and incorporate those constraints into their proposal. Offerors may coordinate directly with BGE as needed.
30	Operations and Maintenance	What type and size of vehicle would utilize the access road beyond a typical maintenance pickup truck?	Fire and emergency response vehicles and agricultural equipment, including tractors, may utilize the access road beyond standard maintenance vehicles. The access road shall be designed to accommodate these vehicle types.
31	System Design Criteria	Will the SERC dictate the type of sensors to be used for soil conditions and vegetation growth performance? What type of system would be used to monitor these conditions? Is it intended that the soil and vegetation tracking data will need to be integrated into the microclimate tracking system?	Agricultural-specific sensors and instrumentation will be provided separately by SERC or its research partners.
32	System Design Criteria	What is the deepest a farming tractor is expected to dig/till?	Tractor will till no deeper than 12 inches. Any electrical cabling and conduit installed will be a minimum of 3 feet subsurface.
33	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Please provide a site plan showing the proposed connection point to the BGE primary per BGE option 2 noted in Attachment 2.	A copy of the relevant one-line diagram is provided, with the interconnection location identified. Refer to Attachment 1 for the site map showing the electrical connection location.
34	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	For the BGE option 2 where SERC will own medium voltage switchgear and BGE will connect to it – will there be any accessibility issues for BGE to access the customer owned switchgear? BGE will require a single accessible disconnecting means to disconnect the entire PV system, so clear access for BGE will be required.	Reference BGE link provided for Option 2 in Attachment 2 for Medium Voltage equipment requirements. BGE will have full access.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
35	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	The BGE letter implies net meter aggregation. Is the intention to offset the electrical loads of the SERC buildings with the PV production? Will any excess power be exported to the grid?	The system will operate under net metering aggregation to offset SERC electrical loads; generated energy will be exported to the grid and credited against those loads.
36	System Design Criteria	Will a CAB cable management system be considered for both DC and AC cables across the site? This may alleviate any concerns of farming equipment disrupting underground cables, allows for reduced cable sizing, and ease of maintenance.	Yes, CAB system may be considered if it alleviates concerns of interference with farming equipment. Any CAB system should seek to minimize maintenance due to potential degradation from UV / weather exposure.
37	System Design Criteria	Is there a preference between Helioscope and PVSyst for energy modeling?	The RFP does not prescribe a required software platform for energy modeling. Offerors may utilize industry-standard tools as appropriate to support their proposed design.
38	Contract Requiments	For a small business submitting as the General Contractor, can the past performance of specialty subcontractors on its team be used to fulfill the requirements of Tab 1.b.i?	Past performance is not acceptable.
39	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Have any geotechnical investigations been performed on this site or any adjacent sites that could be shared with the bidders for use in the concept design development?	See attachment 3 for preliminary soil compositions. No other investigations have been performed.
40	Civil / Geotechnical Design	For the concept plan included as part of the RFP submission, has a survey been performed? If not, is a survey required? Will a GIS basemap be provided?	A GIS reference is provided in Attachment 7 for planning-level use. The Contractor shall be responsible for performing any required survey, field verification, and development of final design documents as part of the design-build scope. The provided GIS data is not based on a field survey and shall be treated as conceptual only.
41	Civil / Geotechnical Design	For the concept design, what specific standards are to be followed for access road design (width, distance to panels, radii, etc.)?	Access road design for the concept shall comply with applicable NFPA 1 / International Fire Code (IFC) fire apparatus access road requirements, supplemented by AASHTO Guidelines for Low-Volume Roads and MDOT SHA standards where appropriate. Final design shall be coordinated with the COTR. Road must be permeable (gravel) and support up to 40 tons. See details in RFP civil site work section
42	Research / Agrivoltaics Objectives	What agricultural operations (crops, livestock, or other land use) have taken place on the 12-acre project parcel during the past five years? Specifically: (a) How recently was the land actively farmed, and what was grown or raised? (b) Is farming ongoing or planned during the design and construction period, and if so, what coordination protocols will SI require? (c) Will future agricultural use on the site be dependent on the major crop and livestock practices prevalent in Anne Arundel County or Maryland broadly, or will it be driven by independent experimental research decisions made by SERC staff?	The site has been farmed in the past five years including soy and corn for animal feed. It will not be farmed during the construction period. Future farming will be informed by research needs but will be directed toward farm practices in Maryland broadly.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
43	Civil / Geotechnical Design	What are the existing soil conditions, drainage patterns, and known drainage infrastructure on the project parcel? Specifically: (a) Are there any areas of known saturation, seasonal high water table, or hydric soils within or adjacent to the array footprint? (b) The ERG Technical Memo (Attachment 3) identifies slopes ranging from 2–25% with Marr-Dodon Complex (HSG B/C) and Donlonton fine sandy loam (HSG D) soils — can SI confirm which of the four site alternatives in the Memo corresponds to the selected 12-acre parcel? (c) Has SI conducted soil nutrient testing on the parcel? If so, can results be made available to Offerors, as nutrient levels directly inform the selection of crops and ground cover appropriate for the agrivoltaic research	Attachment 3 has some information for soil comp and draining. SI has not conducted soil nutrient testing.
44	Civil / Geotechnical Design	What stormwater best management practices (BMPs), erosion and sediment controls, or other green infrastructure measures, if any, are currently in place on or adjacent to the project parcel? Has any MDE-approved stormwater management plan previously been submitted for this site?	MDE has not approved any plans, and there are no BMPs at the moment on or adjacent to this parcel.
45	Licensing	Section L of the RFP (p. 99) states that the General Contractor and all subcontractors must maintain and provide a copy of a valid Class A Contractor License in the State of Maryland. If a proposed subcontractor responsible for array design does not currently hold a Maryland Class A Contractor License, is that subcontractor ineligible to participate, or may the Offeror propose the unlicensed firm in a design-only capacity with construction work self-performed or assigned to a licensed firm?	The Designer does not need a Class A Contractor License.
46	Licensing	Section L (p. 99) requires that design drawings be prepared by professional engineers registered in the State of Maryland. Is a Maryland PE registration required at the time of proposal submission, or is it sufficient for the Offeror to commit in its proposal that a Maryland-registered PE will be designated upon award? If required at proposal time, must the PE be a direct employee of the Design-Build team or may a licensed Maryland PE be engaged as a consultant?	The Maryland PE designation is not required at the time of proposal. Offerors shall identify the overall project team, including the Design Team and their qualifications, in accordance with the RFP.
47	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	The BGE conditional approval letter (Attachment 2) presents three options. The RFP specifies a 2.0 MW DC system and includes a $600,000 BGE Reimbursable Allowance Item, which aligns with BGE Option 2 (2,000 kW AC). Can SI confirm that Offerors should base their proposals on Option 2 (2,000 kW AC, $600,000 allowance)? If Option 1 (750 kW AC) is also an acceptable basis for proposals, should Offerors price both options or select	This project will use BGE Option 2 (Attachment 2); proposals shall be developed accordingly. No other options will be considered.
48	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	The BGE conditional approval letter (Attachment 2) is dated September 24, 2025, and states it expires in one calendar year (i.e., approximately September 24, 2026) unless a Certificate of Completion is submitted or a written extension is requested. Given that the proposal due date is June 22, 2026 and contract award and NTP are likely to follow, does SI intend to request a BGE extension before the conditional approval expires? Will the selected Contractor be responsible for requesting BGE extensions, or will SI manage this?	BGE has confirmed that they will extend the approval until project is complete.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
49	System Design Criteria	Attachment 4 specifies four array configurations (SAT 6' GCR 0.37; SAT 8' GCR 0.37; SAT 6' GCR 0.21; Fixed south 35° tilt 8' GCR 0.37), each approximately 500 kW. (a) Are Offerors required to replicate these configurations exactly, or is there scope to propose alternative designs — including adjustments to hub height, panel tilt, GCR, or row spacing — based on agrivoltaic research considerations, site topography, or cost optimization, provided the research objectives are met? (b) The attachment notes a preference for tilt capability of approximately 60 degrees for agricultural clearance and shading experiments — is this preference a firm requirement or a desired feature that will be weighted favorably in	The configurations shown in Attachment 4 are not prescriptive requirements. Offerors may propose alternative array configurations, including variations in hub height, tilt, GCR, and row spacing, provided the proposed design supports the project's agrivoltaic research objectives and overall system performance. The referenced tilt capability of approximately 60 degrees is not a mandatory requirement. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in the solicitation.
50	Research / Agrivoltaics Objectives	The RFP describes the array as a research platform for studying 'crop performance, soil health, environmental impact and economic benefits' relevant to 'farmers in Maryland and mid-Atlantic states' (Attachment 4). (a) Will the agricultural research conducted at the site be oriented primarily toward crops and practices representative of major commercial agriculture in Anne Arundel County and Maryland (e.g., corn, soybeans, small grains, vegetables, or hay)? (b) Or will SERC pursue independent experimental crop trials of its own design, potentially including non-commercial or experimental species? (c) Will the Contractor be expected to design the array to accommodate specific farming equipment (tractors, implements) of a particular size or type, or should designs assume a standard Maryland farming equipment profile as referenced in Attachment 4?	Designs should assume standard Maryland farming equipment profile as referenced in Attachment 4.
51	Research / Agrivoltaics Objectives	Attachment 4 states the array will support 'collaborative research with an inter-disciplinary and inter-sector network of research partners.' (a) Does SI have an existing experimental research design for the four array configurations — including specific crop trials, plot layouts, sensor requirements, and measurement protocols — that the Design-Build Contractor will be expected to accommodate? Or is the Contractor expected to propose an experimental framework as part of its concept design submission? (b) If SI has an existing research design, can it be made available to Offerors prior to proposal submission, as it would directly affect array layout, conduit routing, sensor integration requirements, and underarray infrastructure? (c) To what extent does SI expect the Design-Build Contractor to coordinate directly with SERC researchers during the design phase to ensure the array layout, conduit routing, access pathways, and underarray infrastructure are compatible with planned crop layouts, treatment zones, and experimental management protocols? Or does SI anticipate that research operations planning will occur independently after construction is complete?	The Contractor is not expected to propose or develop an experimental research framework. Research activities and requirements will be established separately by SERC and will not impose additional design requirements or scope beyond those defined in the solicitation.
52	System Design Criteria	Section C.3 requires the final design package to conform with NREL (NLR inSPIRE) agrivoltaics design guidelines. Are there specific inSPIRE guideline documents or versions that SI considers authoritative for this project? If so, can SI provide or confirm a link to the applicable documents, as the inSPIRE program has published multiple resources?	Offerors shall reference the NREL inSPIRE agrivoltaics guidelines as a general framework. No specific document or version is mandated. Equivalent design approaches that support the project objectives are acceptable.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
53	Contract Requiments	The RFP requires a Small Business Subcontracting Plan with a minimum of 40% of planned subcontracting dollars to small businesses and 7% to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB). Are these percentage goals applied to the total contract value or only to the subcontracted portion? Additionally, does participation by a SDVOSB as a prime contractor's subcontractor automatically satisfy the 7% SDVOSB goal, or must the SDVOSB's scope be specifically designated in the Subcontracting Plan?	The subcontracting goals apply to the total contract value. Participation by a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) as a subcontractor may count toward meeting the SDVOSB goal, provided the scope is clearly identified in the Subcontracting Plan.
54	System Design Criteria	Section C.3 requires the monitoring system to be integrable into the Stem Athena platform or an equivalent clean energy management system for display on the SI network, subject to SI OCIO review and approval. (a) Has SI selected Stem Athena as the required platform, or is an equivalent system acceptable without prior SI approval? (b) Is the SI OCIO review and approval process expected to occur during design, prior to NTP, or during construction? A delay in OCIO approval could impact the commissioning	Stem Athena or an equivalent clean energy management system is acceptable. Stem Athena has been approved by SI. Any proposed equivalent system will require SI OCIO review and approval, which may occur during the design phase.
55	Schedule and Coordination	Section F and the Schedule submission (p. 107) require commencement of some on-site work within 60 days of NTP while design work may still be ongoing. What categories of on-site work does SI consider acceptable to satisfy this requirement? For example: site clearing, survey/geotechnical investigation, access road work, staging area preparation, or perimeter fencing installation?	Site clearing and other early-phase activities (e.g., survey, geotechnical investigation, and site preparation) may be considered commencement of on-site work.
56	Permitting and Approvals	Section C.3 requires the Contractor to identify trees recommended for removal at the 50% design submission and obtain SI approval before proceeding. The 50% design milestone falls at Week 8 and the 100% design at Week 12. What is the expected SI review and approval timeline for tree removal recommendations, and will SI approval of tree removals be incorporated into the design review process or handled separately? Delays in tree removal approval could affect the construction schedule.	SI approval will be provided within two weeks of receipt of the submission or request.
57	Contract Requiments	Please confirm whether a design-build team may include non-U.S. affiliates, technology providers, equipment suppliers, or subcontractors, provided the prime contractor and required construction/design team members satisfy all SAM registration, licensing, Buy American Act, and prohibited foreign entity requirements.	Offerors shall comply with the requirements of the Buy American Act and all applicable contract provisions. Team composition, including use of suppliers or subcontractors, shall be consistent with these requirements.
58	Licensing	Please confirm whether the Maryland Class A Contractor License requirement applies only to the General Contractor and construction subcontractors performing on-site work, or also to equipment manufacturers, EMS/software providers, technology providers, and other non-construction suppliers.	The Maryland Class A Contractor License requirement applies only to the General Contractor and construction subcontractors performing on-site work; not to equipment manufacturers, EMS/software providers, technology providers, and other non-construction suppliers.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
59	Licensing	Please confirm whether the named Lead Civil Engineer and Lead Electrical Engineer must be Maryland-registered Professional Engineers at proposal submission, or whether the offeror must commit that the final construction documents will be signed and sealed by Maryland-registered Professional Engineers after award.	The Lead Civil Engineer and Lead Electrical Engineer shall be licensed Professional Engineers in the State of Maryland. Offerors shall identify these individuals as part of the Design Team in their proposal, and final construction documents shall be signed and sealed by Maryland-registered Professional Engineers
60	Contract Requiments	Please identify the acceptable documentation/certification to demonstrate compliance with U.S. manufacturing, Buy American Act, and "no material assistance from a prohibited foreign entity" requirements, including whether manufacturer letters or certificates are sufficient.	Offerors shall provide manufacturer documentation and certifications demonstrating compliance with applicable U.S. manufacturing and Buy American Act requirements as part of the submittal process.
61	Contract Requiments	Please clarify which components require U.S. manufacturing / prohibited foreign entity documentation, including whether the requirement applies only to major components (modules, inverters, racking, transformers) or also to switchgear, combiner boxes, meters, monitoring equipment, EMS hardware/software, sensors, cabling, and ancillary electrical components.	Buy American Act requirements apply to all applicable construction materials and project components as defined in the solicitation. Offerors shall ensure compliance for major system components and supporting materials in accordance with contract requirements.
62	Contract Requiments	Please clarify whether U.S. final assembly is sufficient for the applicable equipment requirements, or whether specific domestic manufacturing, domestic content, or supply-chain thresholds must be met.	Compliance with Buy American Act requirements shall be demonstrated in accordance with the solicitation and applicable federal provisions. Offerors shall ensure that proposed equipment meets required domestic sourcing criteria.
63	System Design Criteria	Please clarify the "same manufacturer and product line" requirement for primary solar array components. Specifically, does this requirement apply within each individual array, across all four arrays, separately by component category (modules and inverters), or to both modules and inverters as a combined manufacturer requirement?	This requirement only applies within each of the four configurations. It is not required that manufacturer and product line are the same across the entire 2MW system.
64	System Design Criteria	The RFP requires a 2.0 MW DC system and a DC-to-AC ratio of 1.2, subject to SI authorization. Please confirm whether offerors should design the base bid around approximately 1.67 MW AC, or whether a different AC capacity is expected.	Offerors shall base their design on a 2.0 MW DC system with a DC-to-AC ratio of approximately 1.2, as specified in the RFP. Accordingly, the nominal AC system capacity should be on the order of approximately 1.67 MW AC.
65	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Please confirm whether the base bid should assume BGE's 2,000 kW AC interconnection option requiring customer-owned medium-voltage switchgear and transformer, or whether another BGE interconnection option should be assumed for the base proposal.	Yes, option 2 will be pursued.
66	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Please clarify whether the customer-owned medium-voltage switchgear, transformer, protective relaying, metering cabinets, equipment pads, grounding, duct banks, and ancillary equipment required by BGE are included in the base bid scope outside the BGE reimbursable allowance.	Customer-owned medium-voltage equipment and associated infrastructure (including switchgear, transformer, and related components) required for interconnection are part of the Contractor's base scope unless specifically identified as part of the BGE reimbursable allowance.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
67	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	The BGE conditional approval letter is dated September 24, 2025 and states that conditional approval expires in one calendar year unless extended. Please confirm which party is responsible for requesting and maintaining any required BGE extension if award, design, permitting, or construction milestones extend beyond the current approval period.	BGE has confirmed that they will extend the approval until project is complete.
68	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	The RFP states that no additional BGE interconnection study will be required, while also stating that the contractor is responsible for interconnection approvals, studies, upgrades, and BGE requirements. Please confirm that the contractor's responsibility is to design in compliance with the existing BGE conditional approval, and that new studies, utility upgrades, or requirements imposed by BGE outside the contractor's final design assumptions would be addressed through the allowance and/or	Confirmed. The Contractor shall design in accordance with the existing BGE conditional approval. Interconnection costs and requirements within the defined scope shall be addressed through the allowance; any changes required by BGE beyond those assumptions will be managed through the contract in accordance with applicable provisions.
69	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Please confirm where the $600,000 reimbursable allowance for BGE interconnection/upgrades should be shown in Attachment 5 Bid Schedule, and whether this allowance should be included in the Base Bid Total for evaluation purposes.	The $600,000 BGE allowance shall be included in Division 33 of Attachment 5 and carried in the Base Bid Total for evaluation purposes.
70	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Please confirm whether SI will provide CAD, GIS, topographic survey, geotechnical, wetland/buffer, conservation easement, existing utility, tree survey, and boundary/limits-of-disturbance files to offerors before proposal submission, or whether offerors should base their proposals only on the PDF attachments provided.	Site boundary, topographic information, and environmental features are provided in Attachment 7 for use in proposal development and conceptual design. The data represents planning-level information and shall be incorporated into design assumptions. No additional data will be provided prior to proposal submission.
71	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Please provide the georeferenced project boundary and expected limits of disturbance for the 12-acre agrivoltaics area, and confirm whether access road, BGE utility extension, and interconnection work may extend outside the mapped project area.	The project boundary is provided in Attachment 7 and defines the approximate project area for development. Final limits of disturbance and infrastructure may extend beyond the boundary as required for access, utility interconnection, and life safety improvements, subject to permitting and site constraints.
72	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Attachment 3 evaluates multiple potential stormwater sites. Please identify which evaluated site corresponds to the final project area shown in Attachment 1 and the pre-proposal slides, or provide the updated stormwater assessment that should be used as the basis for pricing and scheduling.	Sites 1 and 2 in attachment 3 correspond to the project area.
73	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Please confirm whether SI will be the applicant or co-applicant for MDE, stormwater, erosion and sediment control, wetland/buffer, tree removal, BGE, health department, and other required permits, with the contractor preparing and supporting submissions, or whether the contractor is expected to act as applicant of record where legally permitted.	The Contractor shall prepare permit applications in the name of the Smithsonian Institution and shall be responsible for obtaining all required permits.
74	Permitting and Approvals	Please clarify whether permit review durations and third-party agency delays outside the contractor's control will be treated as excusable delays, provided the contractor submits complete and timely permit packages.	Offerors shall incorporate anticipated third-party agency review durations into their proposed project schedule. Delays associated with such reviews will be addressed in accordance with the contract terms.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
75	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Please disclose any known conservation easement, cultural resource, archaeological, habitat, forest conservation, seasonal tree-clearing, wetland, buffer, or other environmental restrictions that offerors should incorporate into price, schedule, tree removal assumptions, grading, trenching, fencing, access road construction, and BGE work.	Environmental constraints applicable to the site are reflected in the solicitation and associated attachments.
76	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Please clarify the required access road scope, including point of origin, approximate route and length, permanent vs. construction-only access, gate locations, emergency/fire turnaround requirements, BGE vehicle access requirements, and any route restrictions created by the conservation easement, topography, wetlands, or existing utilities.	Access roads shall meet applicable life safety and emergency access requirements and the provisions of the solicitation. Permanent access roads shall be constructed of permeable material (e.g., gravel) and may be phased with construction. The access route should generally follow the existing road alignment along the tree line to the north of the agrivoltaic site, where practicable.
77	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Please provide the precise location and available details for the electrical point of interconnection, existing service/metering arrangement, existing transformer/service equipment, and any known BGE connection constraints that should be used for the concept design.	A copy of the relevant one-line diagram is provided, with the interconnection location identified. Refer to Attachment 1 for the site map showing the electrical connection location.
78	Performance Requirements	The pre-proposal slides reference renewable energy generation capable of offsetting approximately 85% of SERC's aggregate annual electricity consumption. Please confirm whether this is a target, evaluation consideration, or informational objective, and please provide the annual consumption data, meter accounts, and aggregate net metering accounts that should be used to evaluate energy offset.	The access route should generally follow the existing road alignment along the tree line to the north of the agrivoltaic site, where practicable.
79	Performance Requirements	Please clarify whether SI expects any minimum annual energy production, performance ratio, availability guarantee, or production guarantee for the base system and/or the O&M option. If so, please define the weather-adjustment methodology, baseline assumptions, reporting requirements, and remedy structure.	The RFP does not prescribe specific performance guarantees tied to annual energy production. Offerors may propose performance approaches consistent with their technical solution, which should provide a best-value outcome considering electrical production, agricultural research support, and cost.
80	System Design Criteria	Attachment 4 describes four proposed configurations at approximately 500 kW each. Please clarify the acceptable capacity tolerance for each array and whether maintaining electrical separability, dedicated inverter/MPPT architecture, and research comparability is more important than equal 500 kW DC sizing for each configuration.	Maintaining research comparability across array configurations is more important than exact equal capacity for each array. Offerors shall achieve the overall required system capacity while supporting comparable research conditions across configurations.
81	System Design Criteria	Please identify which agrivoltaics design parameters are mandatory versus preferred, including tracker override/manual tilt control, approximately 60-degree tilt capability, bifacial modules, hub heights, row spacing, north-south alignment, farming access pathways, and perimeter/edge buffers. Please also provide acceptable design tolerances for these parameters.	Requirements explicitly stated in the RFP are mandatory. Features identified as preferred in Attachment 4 are not required. The configurations shown in Attachment 4 are not prescriptive. Offerors may propose alternative array configurations, including variations in hub height, tilt, GCR, and row spacing, provided the proposed design supports the project's agrivoltaic research objectives and overall system performance. Designs will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in the solicitation.

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82	System Design Criteria	Please define the contractor-furnished sensor and instrumentation scope. Specifically, should the contractor furnish and install weather, irradiance, soil, microclimate, crop/vegetation, and research sensors, or only provide monitoring infrastructure and capacity for future SI/research partner sensors?	The Contractor shall provide a monitoring and metering system in accordance with the solicitation requirements. The system shall support collection, display, and analysis of system performance data, including the parameters identified in the solicitation. Agricultural and research-specific sensors and instrumentation will be provided and installed separately by SERC or its research partners.
83	System Design Criteria	For the required weather parameters in the monitoring system, please confirm the required quantity, location, accuracy, calibration, data interval, maintenance responsibility, and data format/protocol for weather stations and related measurement equipment.	The monitoring system shall include the weather-related parameters identified in the solicitation. The solicitation does not prescribe specific requirements for the means by which these parameters are obtained, including quantity, location, accuracy, calibration, or data intervals. Agricultural and research-specific sensors and instrumentation will be provided separately by SERC or its research partners.
84	System Design Criteria	Please confirm whether clean energy management systems equivalent to Stem Athena are acceptable, and identify the minimum functional, protocol, API, cybersecurity, data retention, user access, and SI OCIO approval requirements for an equivalent platform.	Clean energy management systems equivalent to Stem Athena are acceptable, subject to SI OCIO review and approval. The monitoring system shall support system performance data and the parameters identified in the solicitation. Agricultural and research-specific sensors will be provided separately by SERC or its research partners.
85	System Design Criteria	Please clarify SI's requirements for monitoring data ownership, hosting location, remote access method, user permissions, cybersecurity review, network connectivity, API access, historian/database structure, and long-term data retention beyond the minimum three-year storage requirement.	Monitoring systems shall comply with the requirements of the selected clean energy management platform and support the parameters identified in the solicitation. Stem Athena has been approved by SI. Any proposed equivalent system will require SI OCIO review and approval to confirm compliance with SI requirements.
86	System Design Criteria	Please confirm whether offerors may include voluntary value-engineering concepts or optional technical enhancements, such as advanced EMS functionality, power quality monitoring, future-ready battery storage provisions, microgrid-ready controls, spare conduits, or resilience features, without affecting responsiveness to the base bid. If permitted, please identify where such information should be included and how pricing should be handled without placing cost information in the technical proposal.	Proposals shall include only the requirements identified in the RFP. Voluntary value-engineering concepts or optional technical enhancements shall not be included in the base proposal.
87	System Design Criteria	Please confirm whether battery energy storage, microgrid functionality, backup/resilience capability, or future-ready storage interconnection provisions are excluded from the base bid, allowed as a voluntary alternate, or not desired under this procurement.	Battery energy storage systems, microgrid functionality, and resilience features are not included in the RFP. Limited provisions for future storage interconnection (e.g., space allocation and spare conduit) may be included, provided they do not alter the base system design or cost.
88	System Design Criteria	Please clarify the expected scope of Option 2 beyond the well, pump, VFD, flow meter, and testing requirements, including distribution piping to each array, terminal irrigation points/hydrants, controls, trenching, power supply, metering, integration with farming/research operations, permitting responsibilities, and ownership/maintenance after completion.	The scope of Option 2 includes only the well, pump, VFD, flow meter, and testing requirements.

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89	Contract Requiments	Two wage determinations are provided: Heavy/Highway and Building. Please confirm which wage determination applies to each major portion of work, including PV installation, electrical interconnection, medium-voltage equipment, civil/site work, access road, fencing, stormwater improvements, communications/monitoring, and the optional agricultural well system.	(1) Building construction is generally the construction of sheltered enclosures with walk-in access, for housing persons, machinery, equipment, or supplies. It typically includes all construction of such structures, installation of utilities and equipment (both above and below grade level), as well as incidental grading, utilities and paving, unless there is an established area practice to the contrary. (2) Highway construction is generally the construction, alteration, or repair of roads, streets, highways, runways, taxiways, alleys, parking areas, and other similar projects that are not incidental to "building," "residential," or "heavy" construction. (3) Heavy construction includes those projects that are not properly classified as either "building," "residential," or "highway," and is of a catch-all nature. Such heavy projects may sometimes be distinguished on the basis of their individual characteristics, and separate schedules issued (e.g.,"dredging," "water and sewer line,"
90	Contract Requiments	Please confirm how offerors should reconcile the CSI 33-division Schedule of Values requirement with Attachment 5 Bid Schedule, including whether the Attachment 5 format is mandatory and whether offerors must also provide a separate CSI breakdown that identifies prime vs. subcontractor, material, labor, equipment, sales tax, overhead/profit, and subcontractor markups.	Attachment 5 is the required pricing format and shall be completed for proposal submission. Offerors shall organize their pricing consistent with CSI divisions as specified in the RFP. No additional cost breakdown or separate Schedule of Values is required.
91	Bonding and Contract Requirements	Please confirm whether performance/payment bond pricing and bonding capacity should be based on the base bid only, the base bid plus evaluated options, and/or the base bid plus evaluated options plus reimbursable allowances.	Performance and payment bonding shall be based on the total evaluated contract value, including the base bid and any options exercised at award.
92	Contract Requiments	Please confirm whether SI will provide any tax-exempt certificate or other tax guidance for this project, and whether offerors should include Maryland sales/use tax in their cost proposal where applicable.	No additional prescribed format is required.
93	Permitting and Approvals	The proposal instructions require commencement of some on-site work within 60 days of Notice to Proceed while design work may still be ongoing. Please clarify what types of on-site work SI expects or permits before completion of final design and before receipt of all required MDE, BGE, and environmental approvals.	On-site work within 60 days of Notice to Proceed may consist of early-phase activities such as survey, geotechnical investigation, site preparation, installation of erosion and sediment controls, mobilization, or other initial activities that do not depend on completion of final design or permitting.
94	Civil / Geotechnical Design	With regards to Attachment 3 from the RFP and Table 1 within the attachment, which site(s) listed in that table reference the proposed project site?	Sites 1 and 2 identified in Attachment 3 correspond to the project area.
95	System Design Criteria	It was noted in the pre-bid meeting that the layout of the 4 arrays shown in Attachment 4 was an example only and could be changed based on the design. Does this include the location of the control site or is that location stipulated where it's depicted in Attachment 4?	The control area location shown in Attachment 4 represents the intended location and shall be maintained as part of the project layout.
96	Schedule and Coordination	What is the anticipated award date?	The anticipated award date is September 1, 2026.
97	Schedule and Coordination	Will there be a short list?	The evaluation process will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in the solicitation. No further information regarding shortlisting will be provided.

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98	Schedule and Coordination	What is the anticipated construction timing? Mobilization? Mechanical Completion?	Project timing, including mobilization and construction milestones, shall be proposed by the Offeror in accordance with the schedule requirements outlined in the solicitation.
99	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Does SI have a design build construction contract/EPCA that is preferred or would SI use the chosen contractor's EPCA? If SI has an EPCA that is preferred, can it be provided to review?	The contract will be based on the terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in the solicitation. The solicitation documents constitute the basis of the contract. No separate design-build contract or EPCA will be used.
100	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Has SI updated and resubmitted the IA per the 9/24/2025 Level 4 Application/Conditionally Approved letter since option 2 from the High-Level Scope Options was chosen?	The interconnection application has not been resubmitted. Progression beyond the current approval stage is dependent on development of the final design, which will be the responsibility of the Contractor.
101	Contract Requiments	Two wage determination sheets have been provided. Please confirm that the Heavy and Highway will be used.	Refer to RFI 089.
102	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	How many tie-ins will there be? One or multiple?	One.
103	Permitting and Approvals	Can you clarify information around SI being the AHJ on this project? Who is issuing the building permit, who issues the electrical permit, who is performing code enforcement or code compliance inspections/who is the code enforcement officer?	The Smithsonian Institution will serve as the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and will oversee permitting, inspections, and code compliance for the project.
104	System Design Criteria	Is there a preferred module and inverter manufacturer pairing? Is it acceptable to use Silfab or Heliene modules with Solectria inverters?	No preferred manufacturer pairing is specified beyond the requirements set forth in the solicitation. Proposed equipment shall comply with all applicable requirements, including the "same manufacturer and product line" provisions where applicable.
105	System Design Criteria	Due to needing to avoid human and livestock interaction, please confirm that the DC wire management also is required to be underground.	Confirmed.
106	System Design Criteria	Where are the crop zones that the wire routes must avoid?	Crop areas to avoid include areas beneath panels, between panel rows, and along equipment access paths. Wiring within these crop areas shall be buried a minimum of 3 feet below grade or otherwise protected, such as within cable management systems (e.g., CAB), to avoid interference with agricultural activities.
107	System Design Criteria	Please confirm that inverters/junction boxes can be located within the arrays as long as they do not interfere with vegetative maintenance (i.e. mounted at the end of a row).	Confirmed.

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108	Licensing	We are seeking clarification regarding the Class A Contractor License requirement. The solicitation states in Section J - Attachments: "Offeror's Proposal must commit that the prime contractor and all subcontractors maintain, and provide a copy of, a valid Class A Contractor License in the State of Maryland." After consulting the Maryland Board of Contractors, we were informed that Maryland does not issue a Class A Contractor License for commercial construction. Additionally, our research indicates that Class A licensing is a designation used in Virginia/DC area, where the Smithsonian Institution is based. Given this, we wanted to confirm whether this licensing requirement is indeed applicable to this project or if it may have been carried over from a prior solicitation in another jurisdiction. Could you please confirm if a Class A Contractor License is required for this solicitation? If so, could you provide guidance on the specific Maryland licensing equivalent that would satisfy this requirement?	Contractors and subcontractors shall comply with applicable State of Maryland licensing requirements for construction work. Offerors are responsible for ensuring that all required licenses are obtained and maintained in accordance with state law.
109	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Has SI conducted any geotechnical investigation of the project site? If so, will those reports be made available to offerors prior to proposal submission? If not, are offerors expected to carry a geotechnical allowance in their pricing or arrange their own investigation prior to award?	A preliminary geotechnical assessment is provided in Attachment 3. No additional geotechnical reports will be provided prior to proposal submission. The Contractor shall be responsible for conducting any additional investigations necessary to support final design and construction.
110	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	Can SI provide electrical as-built drawings for the externally located pad-mounted equipment, including MV switchgear and transformer pads, to support underground MV routing design for the BGE interconnection?	Provided by design-build contractor.
111	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Can SI confirm the limits of any wetland buffers and Resource Conservation Areas (RCA) relative to the proposed array footprints and access aisles? Are there any known conflicts or constraints in these areas that would affect array placement or access road alignment?	Environmental features shown in Attachment 7 include buffers, topographic contours, and other site constraints; Offerors shall incorporate these features into design assumptions and coordinate final limits with applicable permitting requirements. There are no known constraints.
112	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Are there any limitations on tree trimming or clearing in the western-most areas of the site, nearest to the main site entrance? If so, can SI define the extent of those restrictions so that offerors can design the access road and array layout accordingly?	There are no restrictions on tree trimming along the road in coordination with the SERC facilities management department. There are no restrictions against removal of trees within the boundaries of the project site.
113	System Design Criteria	Does SI have a preferred location for the agricultural water well required under Option 2? If so, can SI identify that location on the site plan so that offerors can account for it in their design and pricing?	The location of the agricultural well is not prescribed. The well shall be located outside the fenced array area and determined by the Contractor during design.
114	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Can SI confirm whether the native topsoil excavated during site preparation and grading must be preserved and reused as the same material restored to the site following construction, or whether imported and amended topsoil would be acceptable to supplement or replace it where volumes are insufficient?	Native top soil must be preserved, which will be integral to crop health and research.
115	System Design Criteria	Does SI require a critter gap at the base of the perimeter fence to allow passage of small wildlife? Additionally, does SI have a preference for fence material beyond the 8-foot chain link specified in the solicitation?	The RFP does not include a requirement for a critter gap. Fencing shall meet the requirements specified in the solicitation, as amended.

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116	System Design Criteria	Can offerors assume ASCE 7-16 Risk Category I as the governing design standard for the structural design of the racking system and associated site structures, or does SI require a higher risk category designation?	The Contractor shall design all ground-mounted solar arrays, racking, foundations, and associated equipment in accordance with the International Building Code (IBC) and all applicable state and local building codes. Structural calculations shall utilize a minimum of Risk Category II (as defined by ASCE 7 / IBC). In the event of a conflict between the IBC, ASCE 7, or local building regulations, the most stringent requirement yielding the highest design load shall govern. The Contractor shall document how conflicting code requirements were resolved in the final stamped structural engineering calculations.
117	Schedule and Coordination	Does SI have a preferred location for contractor use as a laydown area for material storage and delivery, as well as placement of a temporary construction office? Can SI identify any areas of the campus that are off-limits for these purposes?	We have a preference for the trailer and contractor parking to be located in the gravel lot to the north of the utility yard.
118	Schedule and Coordination	Can the Smithsonian Institution please confirm that the Concept Design Submission referenced in the solicitation is not intended to represent a Construction Drawing set, but rather a preliminary design deliverable more closely resembling a pre-35% drawing package?	Confirmed.
119	Contract Requiments	Can the Smithsonian Institution please confirm whether the Small Business Subcontracting Plan goals identified in the solicitation are satisfied by a demonstrable good faith effort on the part of the Prime Contractor, or whether the stated percentage goals represent absolute thresholds that must be met or exceeded? What form of deliverable is the SI looking for the Prime to confirm compliance during the solicitation phase?	The solicitation identifies the subcontracting goals. Reporting requirements are located in the solicitation.
120	Operations and Maintenance	The RFP's description of Option 1 includes solar panel cleaning but defines no methods, equipment, or qualification standards. Without this, bids will reflect vastly different quality levels, from deionized water / PV-rated equipment to a garden hose. This makes costs comparisons unreliable and exposes Smithsonian to risks like module damage and warranty avoidance. Will the owner issue an addendum defining minimum requirements such as water quality (TDS), pressure limits, brush standards, and manufacturer	Solar panel washing is not required as part of the Operations and Maintenance scope.
121	System Design Criteria	The solicitation requires the monitoring system to be capable of integration into Stem's Athena platform and notes that the SI Office of the Chief Information Officer must review and approve the submitted protocol. Can SI clarify the typical timeline for OCIO review and whether that review process is expected to occur during the design phase or prior to commissioning? This has direct schedule implications. Should this be included in the overall	The SI OCIO review and approval process may occur during the design phase. Offerors shall account for this coordination and review in their project schedule.
122	System Design Criteria	Can the Smithsonian Institution please clarify the intended extent of the irrigation distribution system associated with the agricultural well under Option 2? While the solicitation defines well and pumping requirements, the distribution scope once water is brought above grade is not clearly defined. Please confirm whether a full irrigation system is required or if a more limited approach such as a point of connection for agricultural use.	The Contractor shall design all ground-mounted solar arrays, racking, foundations, and associated equipment in accordance with the International Building Code (IBC) and all applicable state and local building codes. Structural calculations shall utilize a minimum of Risk Category II (as defined by ASCE 7 / IBC). In the event of a conflict between the IBC, ASCE 7, or local building regulations, the most stringent requirement yielding the highest design load shall govern. The Contractor shall document how conflicting code requirements were resolved in the final stamped structural engineering calculations.

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RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
123	Contract Requiments	Can the Smithsonian Institution please confirm whether subcontracting dollars for purposes of meeting Small Business and SDVOSB goals include material and equipment procurement, or if these goals are intended to apply only to labor based scopes of work?	Confirmed - material and equipment procurement is included.
124	System Design Criteria	Can the Smithsonian Institution please confirm whether mobile or temporary irrigation systems will be considered acceptable for the Option 2 scope, or if a permanent fixed irrigation system is preferred? If mobile systems are acceptable, please advise on any performance expectations or limitations so that all offerors can base their proposals on a consistent approach.	The RFP calls for a well and well pump and testing only. No irrigation is included in the RFP.
125	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Has SI previously commissioned an underground utility locate for the project site, or does one exist from prior construction activities in the area? If so, we respectfully request that this information be shared with offerors during the concept drawing phase, as it would meaningfully support accurate underground routing design and help avoid conflicts during construction.	No, land was actively farmed up to winter 2025.
126	Permitting and Approvals	Is there a need for bat boxes, as per IPAC report, Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolor Bat may be present (wherever found)?	No.
127	Licensing	Does the project require a Maryland licensed surveyor?	Licensed MD surveyors shall be used where required to perform survey work necessary for design and construction in accordance with applicable state and local requirements.
128	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Is topography available for the site for use in preparing a concept plan?	Topography is in attachment 3 and a follow on GIS amendment.
129	Civil / Geotechnical Design	In addition to the ERG Tech Memo solar stormwater considerations, are there any ground slope requirements or constraints to support the research on the site?	Not that SERC is aware of.
130	Research / Agrivoltaics Objectives	Can the Smithsonian Institution please clarify the requirements for post-construction vegetation and seeding within the agrivoltaic array areas? Specifically, please confirm whether a defined native seed mix, establishment criteria, or performance requirements will be provided, or if offerors are expected to propose their own approach, so that all proposals	No specific vegetation or seeding requirements are prescribed in the solicitation.
131	Civil / Geotechnical Design	Can SI confirm whether the access road is intended to be constructed as a permanent installation at initial construction, or if phased construction is acceptable?	Phased is acceptable, as long as safety requirements can be met in case of emergency response.
132	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	The RFP requires a 2.0 MW DC agrivoltaics system interconnected to the BGE distribution system but does not explicitly define where this 2 MW requirement is to be demarcated in the distribution system. Please confirm how the 2 MW requirement is defined and at what exact point in the system (DC array level, AC inverter output, or utility interconnection point) the 2 MW limit is to be measured for compliance.	The 2.0 MW requirement refers to DC system capacity. Interconnection requirements and AC capacity shall be consistent with the design criteria and coordination with BGE.
133	System Design Criteria	The RFP states that wiring shall be designed and installed in a manner to minimize likely interference with proximate agricultural activities, and that solar array connections to the point of interconnection shall be underground and in compliance with SI and BGE requirements. Please provide further clarification on what types and locations of at grade or near surface conductors (e.g., above ground raceways, low mounted combiner boxes, exposed cable trays, etc.) the Smithsonian considers incompatible or in conflict with anticipated agricultural uses, so that we can clearly design out	Wiring shall be installed in a manner that minimizes interference with agricultural activities. Above-grade or surface-mounted conductors that may interfere with farming operations are not preferred. Subsurface or protected routing methods shall be used where necessary to avoid conflicts.

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134	System Design Criteria	Option 2 in the RFP describes an "Agricultural Water Well System… suitable for year round usage for agricultural watering purposes only," but the documents do not clearly define how SI/SERC expects the well to be powered (e.g., dedicated PV fed service, connection to the agrivoltaics electrical distribution, or separate BGE service). Please clarify the required or preferred power source, voltage, and metering arrangement for the site	The agricultural well system shall be powered by utility service. Final connection details shall be determined during design.
135	System Design Criteria	The RFP and attachments reference a "Control Area" associated with the agrivoltaics project, but the intended use, access limitations, and design constraints for this space during design, construction, and in the final condition are not fully defined. Please provide additional clarification on: – The functional purpose of the Control Area – Any restrictions on contractor access and use of this space during construction – Any long term use restrictions, dimensional requirements, or special requirements that must be	Control area will be farmed as normal.
136	System Design Criteria	On page 11, the RFP notes that "regularly collected data must be included in monitoring and metering," but it focuses primarily on electrical and system performance variables. From an agriculture perspective, what specific variables does SERC intend to measure in association with the agrivoltaics research and which of these does SERC expect the contractor to provide instrumentation, power, and data pathways for?	The Contractor is not responsible for providing agricultural monitoring instrumentation. Agricultural research variables and associated sensors will be defined and implemented by SERC. The Contractor shall provide a monitoring system consistent with the solicitation requirements.
137	System Design Criteria	Please confirm whether SI/SERC anticipates any landscape visual screening beyond the perimeter security fencing and standard best practices already described in the RFP and Smithsonian agrivoltaics guidelines, and if so, provide any preferred locations, constraints, or performance objectives.	No additional landscape visual screening is required beyond the perimeter fencing and standard site design practices described in the solicitation.
138	Research / Agrivoltaics Objectives	The RFP indicates that the agrivoltaics system will support agricultural research, but that the agricultural component itself will not be constructed by the contractor. For the period between construction completion and implementation of the agricultural operations, what surface cover condition is required within and between the arrays (e.g., stabilized with permanent grass, native meadow mix, temporary stabilization only, or a specific Smithsonian seed mix)? Please also confirm any minimum stabilization/permanent vegetation requirements for turnover to SI, in coordination with MDE stormwater criteria.	Offerors shall provide site stabilization consistent with applicable permitting requirements and project objectives. Final vegetation and agricultural implementation will be coordinated by SERC.
139	System Design Criteria	Attachment 4 and the RFP describe four distinct array configurations, including SAT and "Wide Row SAT" layouts, but do not prescribe explicit row spacing or panel to panel spacing values. – What minimum and/or target row to row spacing (in feet or meters) does SERC require for: 1.the standard SAT array, and 2.the Wide Row SAT array? – What minimum/maximum panel to panel (edge to edge) spacing, if any, does SERC require within a row? – Are these requirements driven primarily by agricultural access/equipment, research plot geometry, or by solar performance	Offerors shall propose row spacing and layout consistent with agricultural access requirements, equipment operability, and research objectives. No fixed minimum spacing is prescribed beyond the requirements stated in the RFP.
140	System Design Criteria	The project acreage and array locations are depicted in the RFP and attachments, but it is not explicit whether the illustrated project boundary is intended to represent: – The maximum/restricted limit of disturbance, or – A broader potential panel area within which the contractor may define an LOD Please clarify whether the project area shown in the RFP documents represents the restricted LOD or the possible panel area, and whether there is flexibility to adjust LOD limits (with appropriate MDE stormwater compliance) provided we remain within Smithsonian property boundaries.	The boundary shown in Attachment 7 represents a planning-level development area and is not a fixed limit of disturbance. Final limits shall be determined by the Contractor during design, subject to permitting and site constraints.

333302-26RF-0010008 Design Build - SERC Solar Arrays for Agrivoltaics Research			
RFI #	**Category**	**Question**	**Final Answer**
141	Interconnection and Utility Coordination	The BGE conditional interconnection approval and high level options for service extension and customer owned medium voltage gear are provided, but existing conditions drawings for the BGE feeders and point of interconnection are not included. Please provide any available existing conditions documents—such as as built drawings, GIS exports, or one line diagrams—for the BGE tie in, including: – Existing feeder and distribution layouts in the vicinity of the site, – Existing service(s) to SERC that may be relevant for net meter aggregation, and – Any prior as built drawings associated with the BGE interconnection study referenced in the RFP.	The information provided in the RFP and attachments represents the available interconnection data. Offerors shall base their proposals on this information and coordinate with BGE as necessary during design.

Amendment Number 002 to Solicitation 333302-26RF-0010008

Agrivoltaics Research Project
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)

Interconnection Basis, O&M Scope Revision, and Monitoring System Clarification

1. Interconnection Requirements (RFIs 3, 47, 65)

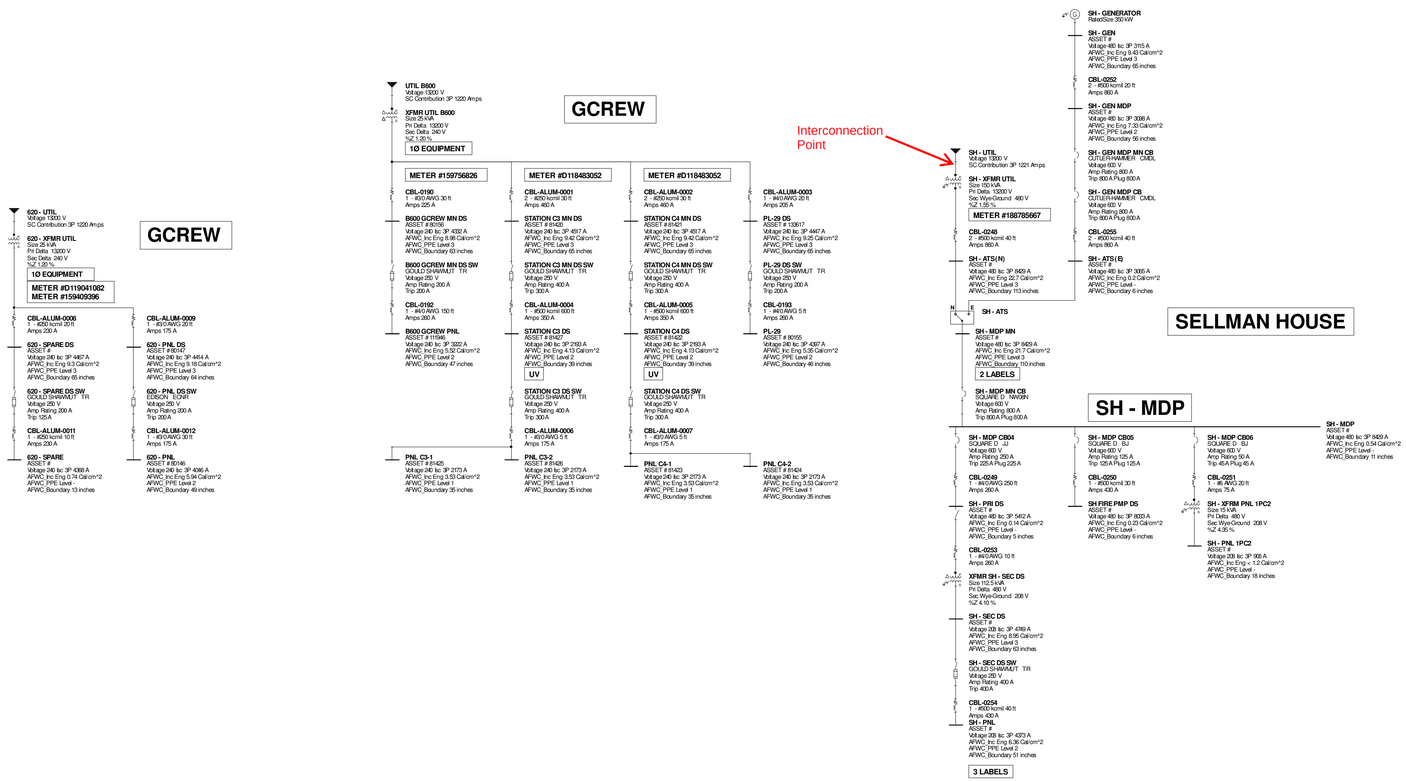
Revision to Section C.3 / Attachment 2 (Interconnection): The project shall utilize BGE Interconnection Option 2 (2,000 kW AC) as described in Attachment 2. Proposals shall be developed based on Option 2. No other interconnection options will be considered. The Base Bid shall assume Option 2, including all associated design, equipment, and coordination requirements consistent with the BGE conditional approval documentation.

2. Operations And Maintenance Scope (RFI 120)

Revision to Option 1 (O&M Scope): Solar panel washing is not required as part of the Operations and Maintenance scope.

3. Monitoring System Clarification (RFIs 82, 83, 84, 85)

Clarification to Attachment 4 — Monitoring System: The monitoring system shall include the parameters identified in the solicitation, including weather-related parameters. Solicitation does not prescribe the method by which these parameters are obtained, and does not require specific instrumentation, quantity, location, or accuracy.



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I hereby certify that this engineering document was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Registered Professional Engineer under the Laws of the State of Maryland.

LEGEND

- CIRCUIT BREAKER
- FUSE
- WIRE/CONDUCTOR
- TRANSFORMER
- PANEL/ LABELING POINT

REVISION TABLE

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Smithsonian- SERC
647 Contees Wharf Rd
Edgewater, Maryland

Arc Flash Study and Labeling

ISSUE INFORMATION:
Project Engineer - Ryan Miller
Drawn By - Bob Marshall
Issue Date - February 21, 2022
Plan Type - Preliminary Review

PROJECT NUMBER:
HE-2020-06-05-11

DRAWING NAME

SELLMAN-GCREW