FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Is funding available for young/start-up enterprises that do not necessarily have significant capital but have high-impact ideas?

Answer:
As the RFP states, applicants must demonstrate a proven track record of experience or have project sponsors or partners with a proven track record of related experience. At least two years of operating experience are preferable although not required.

2. Can the funding be used for innovative ready-made concepts (for example, a new solar system model) that require funds for implementation or piloting?

Answer:
Enterprises are welcome to use innovative technologies. However, they must have some proven track record.

3. Can USADF provide information about the localities that are outside the coverage network of the state-owned electric utility, the energy capacity needed to electrify the locality, and the detailed scope of the project?

Answer:
No, that is information that the applicant should be able to provide.

4. Are applicants allowed to partner with other companies to execute projects?

Answer:
As the RFP states, applicants are welcome to have partners and other investors/funders.

5. While it says that projects will last a period of 18 months, is the funding disbursed progressively during the whole period or disbursed all at one time?

Answer:
The funding is disbursed progressively throughout the 18-month project period.

6. After the installation and commissioning of a solar system, who is entrusted with the management of the system (for example reading of meters, recovery of customer invoices, maintenance and expenses related to maintenance, payment of the wages of personnel etc.)? Is it the responsibility of the enterprise or the local authorities or a management committee constituted by members of the zone trained technically and financially to ensure the sustainability of the system?

Answer:
That will depend on the model that the enterprise is utilizing.

7. Are projects in zones or villages already partially covered by solar energy eligible, to extend the coverage to the rest of the area?

Answer:
8. Is it correct that for any type of project proposed, the budget must not exceed USD 100,000?

**Answer:**
Correct.

9. Does the project consist of solar streetlights or an autonomous solar mini-grid?

**Answer:**
That will depend on the model that the enterprise is utilizing.

10. What are the different rural villages that are being considered? Are the villages already identified?

**Answer:**
No, the project sites have not yet been identified – they are to be proposed by the applicants.

11. If we plan to collaborate with local partners, what information must be put in the application?

**Answer:**
The application should be filled in by the enterprise that is actually applying, which should be 100% local.

12. In cases where our local partner does not have enough history, how should we present the information in the application?

**Answer:**
As stated above, the local partner should demonstrate a proven track record of experience or have project sponsors or partners with a proven track record of related experience. At least two years of operating experience are preferable although not required.

13. Regarding the three quotations that must be submitted for all items over the equivalent of USD 3,000, is that for the unit price of an item or the total cost of all items of the same type? For example, a solar panel costs USD 100 and we plan to purchase 200 solar panels, therefore the cost would be USD 20,000.

**Answer:**
It is applicable to both individual items and for the total cost of all items of the same type exceeding the equivalent of USD 3,000. In this case, you would submit a quotation for the total cost (USD 20,000).

14. Is there a specific number of letters of recommendation we must submit? To whom should the letters of recommendation be addressed?

**Answer:**
At least two business references should be submitted. They do not need to be addressed to an individual.