

Submitted Questions and Answers.

Q. Does EECA project cover service providers, more specifically e-waste management services such as battery repair/recycling and capacity building initiatives?

A. No, RFA/USAID EECA/01/2024 will fund activities aiming to create demand for Productive Use of Energy (PUE) appliances. PUE is defined as the use of renewable energy to power appliances/devices to increase income and productivity.

Q. BaseCharge power station is a high capacity li-ion battery storage device that can be charged with solar or the grid and powers both AC and DC appliances. Does it qualify as a PUE?

A. Yes.

Q. How much is Co-finance from the applicant?

A. There is no limit, however if you match 1:1 you get maximum points during the review of your application.

Q. A company is developing and operating mini grids where they deploy PUE machines/appliances. So, the question is if they have sites which are under construction and to be commissioned soon, are those sites eligible to be proposed for this program?

A. No. Note only sites that have already been commissioned will be eligible for application

Q. We operate with two separate legal entities in two eligible countries. Is it possible to apply with 2 separate applications for the two countries or do we need to choose only one country? If the two separate applications are possible, is each application possible up to 150k max or are we looking at a combined max budget of all countries of 150k max?

A. Yes, it is possible to make two separate applications. However, the application being competitive, there is a high likelihood that only one application may be considered (the best). The maximum request is US\$ 150,000 for each application.

Q. Could you please clarify on the co-financing requirement. Both on the MUST co-financing requirement in terms of % of the total budget and the IDEAL % that you would like to see in case there is no must co-financing %.

A. Leveraging of resources from other sources improve the best value for money and increase the impact of the proposed intervention. For an application to be given more preference, they should be willing to contribute to the project. Leverage contribution is not a must, but an application will score zero out of fifteen on evaluation criteria D (Leveraging of other funds/resources).

Q. Could you please elaborate more on eligible costs, especially with regard to internal personnel expenses directly working on the project and % overhead costs of head office and partially allocated supervisory personnel?

A. Personnel costs are eligible costs that can be funded by EECA. The indirect costs that may be considered include Rent, Water, Electricity expenses among others. The indirect cost should not be more than 15% of the activity and personnel costs.

Q. The RFA mentions that activity proposed can be over US\$ 150,000. However, it also states that applications for grant amount which exceed US\$75,000-US\$150,000 range will be rejected and will not be evaluated. Could you please clarify this discrepancy?

A. The maximum amount to be requested from EECA is US\$ 150,000. However, the project amount could be more than US\$ 150,000. Anything above US\$ 150,000 should be funded by leverage funds.

Q. Are companies that have been actively involved in developing markets for new PUE products but have not yet made any sales, eligible to apply under the RFA?

A. Yes. However, Preference will be given to companies with at least 3 years of experience in operation with proven sales of at least 500 PUE devices.

Q. We are considering including the procurement of solar panels to be installed on movable equipment as part of our proposed activities. Could you please confirm if this would be eligible under the RFA?

A. Procurement for solar panels is not eligible under this RFA. However, you can use your own source of funds (or from other donors apart from US Government) to purchase the solar equipment.

Q. The Request for Application is open to private sector companies that have been in the PUE development, sales, and/or distribution chain for at least 3 (three) years. For us, we are a newly established e-mobility company in Uganda yet it is co-founded by two Ugandan companies who have been in the solar sector and sales and distribution of vehicles (including electric vehicles) for over three years and meet all your criteria. Since, we have not been operational for three years, are there possibilities of co-applications or for consortiums where we co-apply with one of our founder companies?

A. Yes, you can co apply. When submitting the application, please include the Memorandum of Understanding between the partners.

Q. It states that motor vehicles are restricted by USAID and require prior written approval from EECA and USAID to be allowable costs. For an e-mobility company, I assume that electric vehicles is an approved cost?

- A. Please note the difference between Restricted and Unallowable. Restricted commodity means you have to seek prior approval. You are right Motor vehicle is an example.
- A. Electric Vehicle in this case is considered as a PUE.
- Q. It states that construction and infrastructure is prohibited costs. For an e-mobility company, you have to install charging infrastructure. Is this then prohibited?**
- A. The installation of charging infrastructure is considered as construction and will not be funded. However, you can use leverage funds to construct the charging infrastructure.
- Q. We are seeking guidance on whether we can collectively apply with several partners in countries like Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya (where we will apply directly as SureChill), Rwanda, Tanzania, etc. Can we apply together, and how many applications should we limit ourselves to for a better chance of being awarded?**
- A. All received applications will be subjected to Competition. Partnership is allowed. During the application, you need to provide us with Memorandum of understanding with the partners.
- A. In addition, if the products in each of these countries are different, you can make different applications.
- Q. Are marketing expenses eligible under this grant funding?**
- A. Yes. Marketing expenses are eligible.
- Q. OffgridSun has been operating in Tanzania since 2022, and has recently opened OffgridSun East Africa Limited, its branch company based in the country. We would then like to ask if we would be eligible to apply as OffgridSun East Africa Limited using the references of OffgridSun Italy, since we have long-term experience in productive use of solar energy in developing countries?**
- A. Yes. You can use OffgridSun for your references in the application.
- Q. I'd like to know whether joint participation in the programme is allowed and if so, what are the parameters -**
- A. Joint participation in making application is allowed. You need to provide us with Memorandum of understanding among the partners.
- Q. Are partnerships between 2 companies allowed? Does any of the individual companies need to meet the programme requirements or is it sufficient that jointly they cover all criteria? Can an East and West African company partner up? Are there any requirements in terms of the programme management, fund allocation and key activities completion that need to be shared between the partners?**
- A. Yes, partnership is allowed. During the application, you need to provide us with Memorandum of understanding clearly stipulating the roles of each party.
- A. One of the partners must meet the eligibility requirements.
- Q. I would like to know if a consortium would be able to apply for this call. The call documents seem to indicate that only one entity can apply. If a consortium can apply, then does the lead applicant have to meet all eligibility requirements?**
- A. Yes, a consortium is allowed. During the application, you need to provide us with Memorandum of understanding among the partners.

A. One of the partners must meet the eligibility requirements.

Q. Are solar washing machines part of the acceptable PUE devices? they were not listed among the PUE devices in the RFA.

A. Yes, if it is used for income generation. The provided list was not exhaustive.