



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-25-021

Independent Power Producer-Solar Photovoltaic with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
for all Islands, CNMI

Question (RFI/C) No. 026: Energy Pool Development

Date: September 26, 2025

CUC provides the following responses to the Request for Information/Clarification (RFI/C):

1. **Paragraph 1.4, page 3** – What is exactly expected in “Ensure . . . safety of people”?

CUC RESPONSE: CUC expects that the Proponent’s proposal will comply with all safety and building codes, as well as applicable local and federal law.

2. **Paragraph 1.4, page 4** – “Provide fast recovery during outages or blackout” means BlackStart procedure managed by Grid Controller System?

CUC RESPONSE: Blackstart and system restoration will follow CUC’s standard operating procedures for grid restoration.

3. **Paragraph 1.4, page 4** – What’s the communication protocol used by CUC’s Scada system?

CUC RESPONSE: Currently, CUC does not have a fully integrated SCADA system in operation across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Each island presently operates its power generation facilities and distribution systems manually or with limited local monitoring.

CUC has initiated the implementation of a centralized SCADA system under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Resiliency and Modernization Grant Program, which will establish a unified SCADA platform for all power generation (PG) facilities. This project is presently under subgrant award review and approval.

Once implemented, the SCADA system will serve as the foundation for future grid automation and integration, enabling real-time monitoring, control, and coordination between the PV+BESS plants, diesel generation facilities, and distribution networks on all three islands.



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4. **Paragraph 1.4, page 4** – Could you clarify the future exchanges between the actual CUC SCADA and the new Grid controller? Who is the master of the grid?

CUC RESPONSE: CUC is the master of the grid. IPP shall be responsible for providing its own supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system in their local area and to connect to the existing small-scale SCADA network of CUC. However, CUC does not presently have a fully integrated SCADA system operating across all three islands.

5. **Paragraph 1.4, page 4** – Could you provide us a simple Single Line Diagram of all controllers and SCADA system that will be installed. This diagram is useful to have an overview and a good understanding of the project.

CUC RESPONSE: CUC will provide the Single Line Diagram of its small-scale SCADA system. This will be uploaded to the CUC website as soon as available.

6. **Paragraph 1.4, page 4** – In this SLD, can you specify which assets will be controlled by CUC, by our grid controller solution, or by another third-party controller?

CUC RESPONSE: Refer to CUC's Responses to Question Nos. 4 and 5 above. There is no third-party controller. At this time, CUC is operating its own small-scale SCADA system.

7. **Paragraph 1.4, page 4** – Will genset be controlled by CUC, by our grid controller solution, or by another third-party controller?

CUC RESPONSE: CUC will maintain control of CUC-owned gensets at all times.

8. **Paragraph 1.7, page 6** – Should the Grid Controller System be monitoring and controlling the Saipan Aggreko's 12MW gensets? Or is it expected to control only the CUC's gensets?

CUC RESPONSE: CUC will maintain control of CUC-owned gensets at all times. Aggreko will maintain control of Aggreko's gensets. Monitoring of third-party units is allowed for situational awareness and coordination.

9. **Paragraph 1.7, page 6** – What are the providers of Genset controller? Should the "old" board (without remote control) be changed?

CUC RESPONSE: CUC's small-scale SCADA system utilizes Orion.



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10. **Paragraph 7.10, page 25** – “The power plant controller shall be capable of receiving active and reactive power commands, automatic generation control signals, active power-frequency droop settings, and reactive power -voltage control settings from CUC via SCADA.” What do you mean by “Automatic generation control signals”?

CUC RESPONSE: In an electric power system, automatic generation control (AGC) is a system for automatically adjusting the power output of multiple generators at different power plants, in response to changes in the load.

11. **Paragraph 7.10, page 25** – Is it expected to have the certification on the IEEE 2800 Standard as soon as the contract starts?

CUC RESPONSE: Full IEEE 2800 performance compliance is required prior to energization/commercial operation date (COD) and will be verified by factory/field tests. CUC does not require any formal certification document.

12. **Paragraph 7.10, page 25** – What does CUC mean by “ability to operate in grid forming mode in parallel with a utility power system”? Energy Pool has a strong track record in operating utilities grids with the BESS in grid forming. Is CUC expecting the Grid Controller System to operate the full grid of the island?

CUC RESPONSE: CUC remains the system operator; the Grid Controller System coordinates resources but does not replace CUC Operations.

13. **Paragraph 7.10, page 25** – Will the gensets be operated in grid forming or baseload mode?

CUC RESPONSE: The gensets will be operated as baseload.

14. **Paragraph 7.10, page 25** – The proof and results of “rigorous grid-forming test procedure such as the “Advanced Grid Support Energy Storage Resource – Functional Specification and Test Framework for the ERCOT Grid” is expected to be provided to CUC before the signature of the contract?

CUC RESPONSE: Testing will be conducted after the proponent has been selected.

15. **Paragraph 7.10, page 25** – What is the scope of the PPC (Power Plant Controller)? Is it dedicated to the PV plant? And especially to inverters?

CUC RESPONSE: The scope of the PPC covers the PV plant and the inverters.



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16. **Paragraph 7.10, page 25** – As frequency response requirements, have you got voltage response requirements related to the grid code?

CUC RESPONSE: The solar plant shall meet the reactive power capability and voltage control requirements specified in IEEE Standard 2800, clause 5.

17. **Paragraph 7.10, page 25** – To what extent are grid simulations and model validations (PowerFactory, PSCAD, etc.) required before commissioning and after integration – should our solution provide and validate those, or is validation a third-party-only obligation?

CUC RESPONSE: Refer to page 25 of 31 in the Scope of Work – Section 7.11 Model and Study Requirements.

18. **Paragraph 7.12, page 26** – What information is expected by CUC in the “Multi-day (planning): 2-7 days ahead, hourly granularity, updated at least 4 times daily”? Only PV active production forecast?

CUC RESPONSE: Refer to page 26 of 31 in the Scope of Work – Section 7.12 Grid Controller System Requirements.

19. **Paragraph 7.12, page 27** – What is expected by “DER modeling based on Geographic Information System (GIS)” for the operations of the Grid Controller System?

CUC RESPONSE: Answer not available at this time.

20. **Paragraph 7.12, page 27** – Please precise what is expected by “DER Registration & Program Manager” for the Grid Controller System?

CUC RESPONSE: Answer not available at this time.

21. **Paragraph 7.12, page 27** – The Grid Controller System should manage some switchgear installed on different locations in the island? In this case, is the optical fiber installed? What’s the communication protocol?

CUC RESPONSE: Where available, CUC uses fiber for primary backhaul; in some areas, licensed microwave or utility radio is used. Protocols are IEC-104/DNP3 with time sync via PTP/NTP and encrypted VPNs. The Grid Controller System will interface through CUC’s



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comms network; any new site links required by an IPP to its POI are the Proponent's responsibility and must meet latency, availability, and security requirements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin O. Watson".

KEVIN O. WATSON, MPA
Executive Director
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

*****END OF RFI/C Response No. 025*****