



## **Alabama A&M University**

### **RFP 2 2k25 – Turnkey Installation of Photovoltaic Solar System and Battery Energy Storage**

Since its founding in 1875 in Huntsville, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University or Alabama A&M University (AAMU) has become known throughout the world for encouraging academic excellence among its diverse student body. The school is a member of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. The campus includes over 2,300 acres with facilities for research, classrooms, student residences and athletic complexes, encompassing over 3 mil. square feet of building space.

**Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical  
University (AAMU)**

**RFP 02 2k25 – Turnkey Installation of  
Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy  
Storage System (BESS)**

**Proposal Due Date: November 10, 2025 at 2:00 PM  
Central Time.**

# RFP – Turnkey Solar PV and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for AAMU Campus

## Introduction & Project Overview

Alabama A&M University (hereafter “the University”) is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for the design, installation, and operation of a turnkey Photovoltaic (PV) solar power system integrated with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The project will be located on the University’s campus location- 4900 Meridian St., Normal, Al. 35762. The selected contractor will provide engineering, procurement, construction, testing, and commissioning of the integrated PV+BESS system, delivering reliable power to the campus under a long-term agreement. The system is expected to supply 100% of the University’s energy needs and provide uninterrupted power during outages or adverse weather events. The contractor will own and operate the system during an initial Power Purchase Agreement PPA term, after which the University may choose to assume ownership. This project aims to enhance campus energy resilience, achieve cost savings on electricity, and further the University’s efficiency and sustainability goals.

## Project Objectives

- **Energy Resilience:** Provide a highly reliable power supply for the entire University campus. The system must support the full campus electrical load continuously. The design should ensure at least 7 days of autonomy (i.e. the BESS can power the campus for approximately 168 hours with little to no solar input) to ride through extended cloudy or rainy periods.
- **Cost Savings via PPA:** Optimize the delivered cost of energy. The University intends to purchase electricity from the PV+BESS system under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) at a rate significantly lower than the current utility rate. The PPA is anticipated to have a fixed term of 10 years (exact term to be finalized), during which the University will buy up to 100% of the system’s output. The project should yield immediate and long-term cost savings for the University. Guaranteed minimum annual or quarterly energy outputs and price escalators (if any) will be specified to ensure the promised savings materialize.
- **Sustainability and 100% Renewable Energy:** Maximize the use of on-site solar energy to meet 100% of campus power demand on an annual basis. Excess solar generation can be stored in the BESS or fed back to the grid under net metering (if available), but the primary goal is for the campus to be effectively solar-powered. This will reduce reliance on fossil fuels and support the University’s sustainability and carbon-reduction targets.
- **Future Growth and Flexibility:** Design the system with scalability in mind. The campus may grow in terms of load over the coming years (new buildings, higher enrollment, etc. Proposals should account for potential future load. The solar array and BESS capacity should be sized (or be easily expandable) to accommodate reasonable growth in electricity usage
- **Safety and Code Compliance:** Ensure the system is designed with best-in-class safety standards. The BESS must utilize Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO<sub>4</sub>) battery chemistry for its enhanced thermal stability and safety profile (less risk of thermal runaway). The system should comply with all relevant electrical codes, fire codes, and standards (e.g. NFPA 70 (NEC), NFPA 855 for

energy storage systems, UL 9540/9540A, IEEE standards for microgrids, etc.). Fire suppression and thermal management systems must be included as appropriate to protect facilities and personnel. The contractor will be responsible for obtaining all permits and inspections as required by local authorities and the utility.

- **Performance and Longevity:** The proposed solution should be a long-term, turnkey installation. All equipment (PV panels, inverters, batteries, control systems, etc.) should be of high quality with appropriate warranties. Comprehensive warranty (based on the potential buyout of the system by the University after 10 years) is required on the entire system, covering repair/replacement for any component failures and guaranteeing performance levels. The system's design life should be 20–25 years or more. The University's intent is that after the 10-year PPA term, it could purchase the system and continue to operate it for at least another 10+ years of useful life. Therefore, bidders must specify expected performance degradation by year 10 and guarantee a minimum remaining capacity at that point. For example, the contractor might guarantee that the BESS will retain at least 80% of its original energy storage capacity after 10 years of operation (and specify the degradation parameters for the next 10 years), and that solar PV output degradation will be limited (most Tier-1 solar panels degrade at ~0.5% per year or less). Proposals offering performance guarantees or capacity maintenance (such as augmentation of battery capacity in year 10 if needed to meet the original resilience spec) will be rated highly, as this ensures the University does not inherit an under-performing system at buyout.

## **Scope of Work**

The scope of this RFP includes tasks/details necessary to deliver a fully operational solar PV and BESS installation, as well as ongoing operation during the PPA term. Key scope elements are:

- **Design & Engineering:** Perform detailed engineering design of the PV+BESS system in accordance with the requirements to provide reliable power to the University. This includes solar array layouts (roof mounts, ground mounts, or canopies), battery system design (sizing calculations to meet peak demand and autonomy, single-line electrical diagrams, protection schemes, control strategies for islanding, etc.), and integration with the campus grid. All designs must be stamped by a licensed Professional Engineer (electrical PE for electrical plans, structural PE for any structural plans such as rooftop installations). The design must be approved by the University prior to construction.
- **Equipment Procurement:** Provide all equipment and materials for the project. This includes but is not limited to solar PV modules, panel racking/mounting hardware, inverters (grid-forming inverters or microgrid-capable inverters if needed for islanding), the battery energy storage system (battery racks, Battery Management System, power conversion system/inverters, HVAC/cooling for battery enclosure, fire suppression for battery, etc.), transformers, switchgear, wiring, and a SCADA/EMS (Energy Management System) for monitoring and controlling the PV and BESS. All equipment should be new and of proven quality. Batteries must be LiFePO<sub>4</sub> chemistry and preferably have UL 9540/9540A certification (or equivalent testing) to validate safety. Include any protective relays or controls necessary for seamless transition to island mode during outages (if intended to operate as a microgrid).

- **Turnkey Construction:** Perform all construction and installation work on campus. This is a turnkey EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) project – the contractor will handle all aspects of construction including site preparation (trenching, pouring pads or foundations for battery enclosures, etc.), mounting of solar panels on rooftops or ground, battery enclosure installation, electrical cabling and conduit, interconnection to the campus electrical system, and restoration of any affected site areas. The contractor must coordinate with the University to minimize disruption: for example, any necessary power tie-ins or shutdowns must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance and preferably done during off-peak hours or semester breaks to avoid disrupting classes and research. The contractor is responsible for site safety during construction and must maintain a safe work environment complying with OSHA regulations. All workers on site must have appropriate identification (company ID or University-issued badges) at all times.
- **Testing & Commissioning:** After installation, the contractor shall test and commission the system to demonstrate it meets all performance requirements. Commissioning tests should verify the solar PV output, battery charge/discharge functionality, the ability to seamlessly supply the campus load, and all protective functions. The University (and/or its representatives) will witness testing and will perform a final inspection. The system will not be accepted (and the PPA billing will not commence) until all requirements are met, and the system is deemed safe, code-compliant, and fully functional. Written approval from the University's Contracting Officer will signify acceptance to begin the PPA operational phase.
- **Operations & Maintenance (O&M):** The contractor is responsible for comprehensive O&M of the PV+BESS system throughout the PPA term. This includes proactive maintenance such as regular panel cleaning (to remove dust, leaves, or debris that can reduce output), inspections of wiring and connections, preventive maintenance on inverters and battery systems per manufacturer guidelines, and immediate corrective maintenance as needed in the event of any failures. The contractor must monitor energy production and system health continuously (remote monitoring is acceptable that the University has access too – Real-time Dashboards) to detect any issues early. The University should be kept informed of major maintenance or any downtime. All maintenance must be done in a manner that minimizes impact on University operations. If any maintenance activity will require a system shutdown or any disturbance to the normal power supply, it must be scheduled and approved with at least two weeks notice to the University, and such work will generally be required during off-hours (night or weekends) unless otherwise agreed. During the O&M phase, contractor personnel (or subcontractors) shall have reasonable access to the site to perform maintenance, but they must notify University facilities management in advance and follow all campus access protocols (sign-in, badging, etc.).
- **Metering & Billing:** The contractor will install a revenue-grade meter to measure the electrical energy delivered to the University by the PV+BESS system. This meter (or meters) will be the basis for the monthly PPA billing. The meter should meet ANSI C12 accuracy standards. The University reserves the right to test the meter or use its own measurement equipment to verify the readings. If discrepancies are found in meter accuracy or performance, the contractor must promptly recalibrate or replace the meter. The contractor's invoicing must detail the metered energy (in kWh) each billing period, the PPA rate, and the total amount due. In addition, each invoice should include a running total of energy supplied that quarter and year-to-date, to track

against any guaranteed output commitments. If in any quarter the delivered energy is less than the guaranteed minimum output for that period (see Performance Guarantees below), the invoice should include a credit or reimbursement such that the University is compensated for any shortfall (e.g. the contractor may have to cover the difference between the PPA rate and what the University would have paid the utility for the shortfall energy). Invoices will be paid by the University Net 30 days upon receipt and verification.

## **Technical Requirements & System Specifications**

### **Energy Load and System Sizing**

Contractors must perform their own assessment of the University's electrical loads to properly size the PV array and BESS. Historical consumption data may be provided as available (e.g. past utility bills), but it is ultimately the proposer's responsibility to confirm the campus's average daily energy use and peak demand (in kWh and kW). The system should be sized such that it can meet 100% of the campus's peak power demand at any given time and provide 100% of daily energy consumption on an average day using solar generation and stored energy. The design should also account for seasonal variations – for instance, solar production will be lower in winter, so adequate panel capacity or battery storage should be in place to still meet the load. Proposals should clearly state the assumed campus load profile (day/night, seasonal) and how the system will meet those needs. Note that there are no specific “critical loads” to isolate – the expectation is the entire campus load is supported. (During an outage, the intent is to carry on normal campus operations, not just a subset of loads.) This is a campus microgrid-like solution, though initially the system will operate grid-connected delivering energy to the campus and only island in outage scenarios.

### **Photovoltaic (PV) System**

The solar PV portion of the project will generate the renewable energy needed to power the campus. Key requirements include:

- **Capacity:** The PV system should be large enough to produce the annual energy required (100% of campus usage). The exact size (MW-DC of panels and MW-AC of inverters) must be determined by the proposer based on load and available space. Utilizing vacant land identified by the University for a ground-mounted Solar Farm is encouraged (to minimize roof penetrations and allow easier maintenance). Proposals should describe where and how the PV will be installed (rooftop vs ground, etc.), and how much area is needed.
- **Equipment:** Use tier-1 solar modules with proven performance and warranties (typical solar panel warranty is 25+ years performance warranty to ~80% output). Panels should ideally be high efficiency (monocrystalline, PERC or similar) to maximize output in limited space. All racking, mounting, and attachment systems must be engineered for local wind loads and climate (the region can experience severe weather, so panels must be securely installed to withstand high winds, etc.). Inverters should be high-quality (UL 1741 SA or SB compliant, capable of grid support functions). If multiple inverters are used, they should be appropriately distributed and monitored. The system should include monitoring so that both contractor and University can see the solar production in real time and historically (for educational and troubleshooting purposes).

- **Interconnection:** The PV system will connect to the campus electrical distribution system. The contractor must coordinate the interconnection with the local utility (Huntsville Utilities) and adhere to any requirements for grid-tied solar. The RFP respondents should clarify in their proposals whether net metering is available under current regulations and how they plan to optimize its use. Any contractual arrangements with the utility (interconnection agreements, net meter agreements) are the contractor's responsibility, with the University cooperating as needed to sign or authorize since the system is on University property.
- **Reliability and Performance:** The PV array should include protections and controls to ensure safe operation under all conditions. This includes rapid shutdown functionality (for rooftop segments per NEC 690), appropriate overcurrent protection, lightning surge protection, etc. The output of the PV should be integrated with the BESS through an energy management system so that solar can charge the batteries when excess is available, and the batteries can discharge when solar output is insufficient or during peak load periods. The proposal should outline expected annual energy production from the PV system (in kWh), including estimated performance in each quarter (taking into account solar insolation data for northern Alabama).

### **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**

The BESS is a crucial component to provide reliability (time-shifting solar energy to night and backup power during outages). Key requirements and specs for the BESS include:

- **Technology:** The battery system must use Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO<sub>4</sub>) chemistry or an equivalently safe lithium-ion technology. LiFePO<sub>4</sub> offers improved thermal stability and is less prone to fire, which is essential for on-campus deployment. The system should ideally be a commercially available containerized BESS solution (e.g., factory-built battery enclosure with HVAC, fire suppression, BMS, etc.) or modular cabinet system. It should have relevant certifications (e.g., UL 9540 (energy storage system), UL 9540A (fire testing) or equivalent) to ensure safety compliance.
- **Capacity & Autonomy:** The BESS must be sized to support the entire campus load for at least 7 days (168 hours) with minimal or no solar input. This is a high autonomy requirement for a campus-sized microgrid and will require very substantial storage capacity. Bidders should calculate the required energy (in kWh or MWh) storage based on the campus's daily consumption. Proposers may consider if a slightly reduced load during extended outages is practical (load shedding or demand response), but the baseline assumption should be full load. The BESS power output (in MW) should be able to meet the campus peak demand at any moment (e.g., if peak is 5 MW, the BESS inverters must supply 5 MW).
- **Lifespan and Cycling:** The battery system will likely charge and discharge daily (to maximize solar utilization and peak shaving benefits). Therefore, it should be built with a high cycle life in mind. LiFePO<sub>4</sub> batteries can typically handle thousands of cycles; the vendor should specify the expected cycle life and capacity retention. The system must carry an appropriate warranty for the buyout to be considered as an option (with performance guarantee as noted earlier). For example, many industry-leading BESS solutions guarantee ~80% capacity after 10 years or a set number of cycles. The proposal should detail any augmentation plans – e.g., if the batteries are expected to degrade, will additional battery modules be added mid-life to maintain the

autonomy requirement? The University wants to be confident that at the end of the 10-year PPA, the BESS is still capable of providing reliable backup power (and ideally still has ~10 years of life left, as typical BESS and microgrid systems can last 20+ years with proper maintenance).

- **Power Conditioning and Controls:** Transition between grid-connected mode and island mode should be seamless or have a very short transfer to avoid disrupting sensitive equipment on campus. An Energy Management System (EMS) or microgrid controller should coordinate the dispatch of the BESS and PV: for instance, during normal operations the EMS could optimize to shave peaks (using battery to reduce demand charges) and store excess midday solar for evening use; during an outage, the EMS would shed non-critical loads if necessary (though none identified at this time) and manage solar and battery to extend the run time (e.g., using solar in daytime to charge batteries and directly power loads, with batteries supplementing as needed). Proposals should describe the control strategy and any load management techniques employed.
- **Safety Systems:** The BESS installation must include robust safety features: fire detection and suppression (e.g., smoke detectors inside battery containers, clean agent or aerosol fire suppression systems that activate if a thermal event is detected), thermal management (HVAC to keep batteries in their optimal temperature range), and isolation/protection (battery disconnects, arc flash safety, etc.). Since this is on campus, ideally the BESS should be sited a safe distance from buildings or in a controlled-access area to mitigate any risks. Provide details on how the battery system is tested and certified for safety (for instance, mention if modules have passed UN38.3 transport tests, if the system underwent UL9540A fire propagation testing, etc.). The contractor will also need to coordinate with the University's fire marshal or local fire department on emergency response planning (what to do in case of a battery fire, ventilation, etc.). A battery safety and emergency response plan will be required of the winning bidder before commissioning.

### **Performance Guarantees and PPA Terms**

This project will be structured such that the University purchases the power output from the system under a long-term PPA, with an option to buy out the system later. Key terms and performance requirements include:

- **PPA Term and Rate:** The University will enter into a PPA for a fixed term of   x   years (anticipated to be around 10 years). During this period, the contractor (system owner) sells all energy from the PV+BESS to the University at a contractual rate per kWh. The starting PPA rate shall not exceed \$[X] per kWh – as noted, this should be significantly below the University's current utility rate to guarantee cost savings. The PPA rate may include an annual escalator not to exceed [X]% per year (e.g. a 2-3% escalation cap). Proposers should clearly state their offered PPA price in \$/kWh and any escalation. The University will use current utility tariffs (approximately \$0.xx/kWh as a benchmark) in evaluating price competitiveness.
- **Guaranteed Energy Output:** The contractor must guarantee a minimum energy output (in kWh) from the system for each year (or quarter) of the PPA. This ensures the University is receiving the expected energy and savings. For the purposes of proposal evaluation, bidders should assume the following approximate breakdown of the campus energy needs and guarantee that the system will produce at least these amounts (or a percentage of them) in each period:

- January – March (Q1): [X] kWh minimum
- April – June (Q2): [X] kWh minimum
- July – September (Q3): [X] kWh minimum
- October – December (Q4): [X] kWh minimum

The above values can be proposed by the bidder based on system size; essentially the sum of all four quarters' guarantees should equal the annual expected output which covers 100% of campus usage. The University's historical usage may be provided to shortlisted bidders to guide these figures. The guarantee can account for normal weather variations, but should assume a typical meteorological year. Shortfall provisions: If in any quarter the actual delivered energy is less than the guaranteed minimum for that quarter, the contractor must reimburse the University within 30 days after quarter's end for the difference in energy *at the cost differential*. For example, if the PPA rate is \$0.08/kWh and the University's backup utility rate is \$0.11/kWh, and the system under-delivered by 10,000 kWh in Q1, the contractor would owe 10,000 kWh \* (\$0.11-\$0.08) = \$300 to the University to compensate for the higher cost the University incurs to buy that 10,000 kWh from the utility. This mechanism ensures the University realizes the promised savings and the contractor has incentive to maintain system performance. Proper metering and consumption quantification dashboards are mandatory.

- Buyout Option: At the end of the PPA term (e.g. year 10), the University will have the option to purchase (or not) the PV+BESS system at a fair market value or a pre-agreed residual price. This transfer of ownership should be at a substantially reduced cost since the system will be partially depreciated. The proposal should outline the anticipated residual value or formula (for instance, some PPAs set the buyout price as a percentage of initial cost or an appraised value). Critical: Because the University is considering owning the system for years 10–20 (after buyout), the contractor must ensure the system is still in good condition at year 10. This means all warranties should be transferable, and as mentioned, the expected capacity of major components (especially batteries) at year 10 should be clearly stated (e.g. XX% of original capacity remaining) and guaranteed if possible. If any component replacements are likely around that time (inverters often have 10-15 year life, for example), the proposal should indicate how those will be handled (perhaps the contractor includes pro-rated replacement costs or the University can negotiate extended maintenance). The University wants to avoid a “bad investment” where it buys the system at year 10 only to have to immediately invest in major replacements. Thus, proposals with strong warranty and maintenance assurances – for example, guaranteeing inverter functionality or replacing inverters if they fail within 15 years, and guaranteeing battery throughput/capacity – will be given favorable consideration.
- Regulatory Compliance: The contractor must comply with all utility rules during both construction and operation. This includes executing an Interconnection Agreement with Huntsville Utilities (the local power company) for operating the solar and battery in parallel with the grid. The University will assist as needed but assumes no liability for delays in interconnection. Any requirements from the utility (such as protection settings, remote disconnects, telemetry for the utility, etc.) must be met by the contractor. Likewise, all local building codes, electrical codes, and permitting processes must be followed. The contractor is responsible for securing all permits (electrical permit, building permit for any structures,

environmental permits if required, etc.) and scheduling necessary inspections. The schedule should account for permitting timelines.

## **Site Considerations and Installation Constraints**

### Use of Roofs and Land

The University has designated a parcel of open land on campus for a potential ground-mounted solar array. This area can be used for installing solar panels and related equipment. Roof space on certain campus buildings may also be available for PV installation, as well as possibly canopy installations over parking areas. When utilizing University property, the contractor must adhere to the following:

- **Roof Installations:** Minimize roof penetrations. If any penetrations are necessary for mounting or running conduit, they must be University approved and properly weather-sealed and not void existing roof warranties. The contractor should work with a structural engineer to verify roof structural capacity for added loads and ensure mounting is done safely. All rooftop work must maintain a safe environment (no unprotected roof edges, etc.). After installation, the roof area should be maintained such that University personnel or other contractors can still access roof HVAC equipment or other infrastructure – do not box out or restrict access to existing equipment with solar panels. Regular inspections should be conducted to check for any wind damage or loose components on the roof.
- **Ground Installations (highly encouraged):** The vacant land must be used efficiently and without causing damage to surrounding property or ecosystems. The contractor should avoid removal of trees unless absolutely necessary (and if so, may be required to plant replacements elsewhere). Any fencing installed around a solar farm for safety should have proper gates for access. The ground mount system should be kept secure and safe to prevent injury to anyone who might wander near (e.g., no exposed wires, and appropriately labelled high-voltage areas). If the land is near athletic fields or public areas, consider protective measures against vandalism or errant projectiles. Additionally, the aesthetic impact should be considered – low-profile solar arrays or landscaping to screen the installation might be requested by the University or community.
- **Equipment Placement:** All major electrical equipment (inverters, switchgear, battery containers, transformers, etc.) should be placed in locations approved by the University. Where possible, use ground-level electrical rooms or outdoor pads. Do not install bulky or noisy electrical equipment in sensitive areas or where they could block walkways or create an eyesore. The battery system, in particular, may need to be in a dedicated fenced area or enclosure – the location should consider fire code setbacks and be acceptable to the University (e.g., possibly a corner of the parking lot or field, not right next to a building unless necessary). The contractor should also allocate any space needed for EV charging stations or other future integrations if that is part of their proposal (for example, if proposing solar carports with EV chargers, detail how those will tie into the system).
- **Maintenance and Housekeeping:** The contractor must keep the PV system and all associated areas clean and orderly. For example, vegetation under a ground solar array should be managed (mowing or pollinator-friendly low-growth plants) to prevent shading and maintain appearance. If using rooftops, ensure no debris accumulates that could clog drains or pose hazards. All

equipment should be clearly labeled and secured to prevent any safety incidents. The installation should not pose any tripping hazards or obstructions for University staff or other service providers.

#### Access and Scheduling

During Construction: The contractor will coordinate with the University's facilities department for site access. A work schedule shall be submitted and updated regularly, showing key construction activities and their timing. If any work will disrupt normal campus activities (noise, dust, utility shutdowns), the contractor must obtain prior approval. Power outages or testing that affects campus power must be approved by the University's building manager and generally must occur outside of normal class/business hours (evenings, weekends, or academic holiday periods) to avoid disruption. The contractor should request access at least 7 days in advance (the University may allow shorter notice at its discretion for routine site visits, but anything major needs scheduling). All contractor and subcontractor personnel on site must wear either company ID badges or University-issued visitor badges at all times for security. The contractor is responsible for site security and safety; any area under construction should have proper barriers and signs to keep students, staff, and visitors safe. The University reserves the right to inspect the work in progress at any time, and if any unsafe conditions or code violations are observed, the University can order work to stop until resolved.

During Operations (PPA phase): The contractor will still require access for routine maintenance or any repairs. This will be arranged through University facilities. Typically, at least 24-48 hours notice should be given for site visits during the operations phase (except in emergency situations where immediate access is needed to address an outage – in those cases, the contractor should have an emergency contact procedure in place with campus security to allow rapid access). Maintenance work that could be disruptive (e.g., testing batteries that might require taking the system offline, or inverter replacement, etc.) must also be scheduled two weeks in advance and done during off-hours unless otherwise agreed. Contractor personnel must continue to wear identification and adhere to all campus rules while on site. The University will provide reasonable accommodation for access, but the contractor must respect that campus operations (classes, events) are ongoing – e.g., avoid noisy testing during exam weeks, etc., whenever possible.

#### **Design Review, Inspection, and Acceptance**

The contractor's final system design will be subject to University approval before a green light for construction. Key deliverables and milestones:

- **Design Submittals:** The contractor shall submit a complete design package for review, including at least: (1) Site plan and layout drawings (showing PV panel locations, inverter and BESS locations, trench/conduit routes, any roof penetration details, etc.), (2) Electrical one-line diagram and schematics, (3) Engineering calculations for system sizing and expected performance, (4) Equipment datasheets for all major components, (5) Structural drawings or letters for any roof or canopy installations (stamped by structural PE), (6) Protection study or relay settings if applicable (especially if operating as a microgrid), (7) Controls architecture description (how the PV, BESS, and grid tie interact), and (8) Maintenance plan outline. The University will review these documents for compliance with RFP requirements and may request changes or clarifications. The contractor shall not commence construction until the University's

contracting officer (or designated representative) has provided written approval of the design. Any substantive changes from the original proposal must be justified and approved in this process (for example, if the contractor needs to substitute a different inverter model than originally proposed, they need University consent).

- **Pre-Commissioning Inspection:** During and after construction, University officials (or third-party inspectors on behalf of the University) may inspect the work to ensure it adheres to the approved design and code standards. If any deficiencies or unsafe practices are noted, the contractor must address them. The University may halt work if necessary until issues are resolved. Upon mechanical completion of the project (everything installed), the contractor should notify the University for a formal inspection and commissioning test schedule.
- **Commissioning and Acceptance Testing:** The contractor must perform a full commissioning test sequence to demonstrate the system's capabilities. This includes testing the PV output (e.g., compare expected vs actual production on a sunny day), testing the BESS charge/discharge at various loads, and critically, a resilience demonstration – for example, a simulated outage where the system goes into island mode supplying the campus. The system should be able to carry the campus load for the specified duration (practically, a short-duration test will be done, not a full 7-day outage, but the contractor should simulate or provide data to prove that 7-day autonomy is achievable, perhaps via calculations of state-of-charge over a worst-case week). Any shortcomings revealed during testing (e.g., if an inverter trips under full load, or if control algorithms misbehave) must be fixed by the contractor. Only when the University is satisfied that the installation is complete, safe, and meets all requirements will the system be accepted. Formal written acceptance will be provided by the University's contracting officer, marking the transition to the operational/PPA phase. PPA billing will start only after this acceptance. If the contractor fails to achieve an operational system by the agreed date (e.g., due to delays or performance issues), it may face penalties or extension negotiations – timely completion is important especially if any incentives depend on it. The University will work in good faith on any reasonable extension requests (for example, if supply chain issues outside the contractor's control caused delays, or if permitting took longer than expected, etc.), but reserves the right to enforce contract terms if deadlines are missed without adequate justification.

### **Operations, Maintenance, and Warranties**

As noted, the contractor is fully responsible for O&M during the PPA term. To reiterate and expand on those expectations:

- **Ongoing Monitoring:** The contractor should continuously monitor system performance (ideally through a remote monitoring portal). Any significant drop in output or any alarms (from the BESS or inverters) should be addressed proactively. The University will also have access to view the monitoring data as well, both for transparency and for educational use (solar generation data can be useful for academic projects, dashboards displaying campus sustainability metrics, etc.).
- **Preventive Maintenance:** Follow manufacturer recommended maintenance schedules for all equipment. This includes things like inverter servicing, battery system check-ups, HVAC filter replacements for the battery container, etc. PV panels generally require minimal maintenance

but benefit from periodic cleaning (especially in dusty seasons) to maintain efficiency – a schedule for panel cleaning (perhaps quarterly or as needed based on soiling) should be in the maintenance plan. All maintenance activities must be logged, and a report of maintenance and inspections should be provided to the University annually.

- **Repair Response:** In the event of a component failure (e.g., an inverter fault or a battery module issue), the contractor must respond quickly to repair or replace the faulty component. The RFP requires that proposals include a description of how the contractor will support the system, e.g., availability of spare parts, guaranteed response times, and location of nearest service personnel. Ideally, critical spares (such as a spare inverter or a set of spare battery modules) will be kept on hand to minimize downtime. The University's expectation is that any outage of the system (especially if it impacts the ability to supply power to campus) is rectified as soon as possible – for example, a 24-48 hour repair timeframe for critical issues is desirable. During any downtime of the system, the University will fall back on grid power; if downtime extends and causes the guaranteed output for a quarter to not be met, the shortfall compensation provisions apply as described earlier.
- **Warranty Coverage:** The contractor must provide robust warranties for all equipment and the overall system. If something fails under warranty, the contractor shall manage the RMA process and ensure replacement at no cost to the University. Additionally, any warranties should be transferable to the University at the end of the PPA (so the University can continue to benefit from manufacturer warranties on panels, etc.). Proposals offering extended warranties or performance guarantees (such as guaranteeing a certain percentage of uptime or committing to capacity augmentation if the batteries degrade more than expected) will be evaluated favorably, as they reduce risk for the University.

### **Vendor Qualifications and Experience Requirements**

Because of the scale and importance of this project, the University requires that proposers demonstrate strong qualifications in relevant areas. The proposal must include evidence of the following minimum qualifications, and these will be evaluated in the selection process:

- **Relevant Project Experience:** The firm should have a proven track record of designing, building, and operating solar PV and battery storage projects of similar scale. Ideally, the proposer has completed at least [X] PV projects and with a cumulative installed capacity of at least [X] megawatts (MW) under PPA or ownership arrangements. Experience with campus or microgrid projects (e.g., installations that provide backup power to an isolated system, not just simple solar farms) is highly desirable. The proposal should list at least three (3) recent projects (preferably within the last 5-7 years) comparable in size and complexity. For each reference project, include a brief description (size of PV and battery, use case such as peak shaving or backup, whether it was a PPA or owned by client, etc.), the commercial operation date, and a client contact person the University may reach out to for reference. These references will be used to verify past performance regarding meeting schedules, performance targets, and client satisfaction.
- **Technical Team & Personnel:** Identify the key team members who will be responsible for this project. This should include at minimum: a Project Manager (overall responsibility for execution

and point of contact), a Lead Design Engineer (licensed PE responsible for the system design), a Construction Manager or Site Supervisor (who will oversee on-site work), and a Safety Officer or safety manager for the project. Provide brief bios emphasizing experience on similar projects and relevant certifications or licenses (e.g., state PE license numbers, NABCEP certification for solar installers, etc., if applicable). Highlight any special expertise, such as team members who have designed microgrid controls or have implemented large-scale BESS before. The University wants to ensure the contractor's team has the technical and managerial capability to deliver a complex integrated system in an active campus environment.

- **Safety and Regulatory Compliance:** The proposer must demonstrate a strong safety record and knowledge of all regulatory codes for solar and battery installations. Include any relevant safety certifications, training programs, or performance metrics (e.g. OSHA recordables). The University expects a site-specific Safety Plan will be developed by the contractor prior to construction – in the proposal, describe at a high level how you approach safety (for example, lock-out/tag-out procedures, fall protection for roof work, fire safety especially regarding battery systems, training of local first responders for battery incidents, etc.). If the proposed battery system has undergone safety testing like UL 9540A (battery fire propagation test), mention that and provide data or summaries if available. Compliance with transportation regulations for batteries (UN38.3) and any hazmat handling should be noted. The contractor should also be aware of any utility interconnection standards (e.g., IEEE 1547) and assure compliance. A strong commitment to safety and code compliance is paramount in the evaluation.
- **Financial Capability:** Because the contractor will finance, own, and operate the system under a PPA, they must have the financial strength to handle the upfront investment and long-term operation. Bidders should provide evidence of financial capability – for example, a letter from a bank or financial partner indicating support, or proof of access to tax equity investors, etc. The University may request financial statements (these can be provided separately as confidential, if needed) to ensure the company is stable and able to fulfill a 10+ year contract. The contractor should be able to obtain necessary insurance (see Appendix C for minimum insurance requirements, including general liability, workers comp, builder's risk, etc.). Additionally, disclose any litigation or bankruptcy history – if the firm has been involved in lawsuits or claims related to past projects or if it or its affiliates have ever filed bankruptcy, that must be disclosed with an explanation of circumstances. The University needs confidence that the selected partner will not default or face financial trouble that could jeopardize the project.
- **Warranty and Support Commitments:** As discussed under performance section, the vendor must commit to robust warranty terms and post-installation support. In the proposal's O&M section, clearly state the length and coverage of warranties for all components (panels, inverters, batteries, balance-of-system). Also describe the support model: will you have a local O&M presence or technicians who can be on site within a certain time frame? Is there a 24/7 monitoring center or helpline for the University to contact if something goes wrong? The University will also want training for its facilities personnel – the vendor should provide initial training sessions to University staff on the basic operation of the system, emergency procedures, and routine checks (even though the vendor is responsible for O&M, campus facility managers may interface with the system). Confirm that documentation (as-builts, O&M

manuals, troubleshooting guides) will be turned over as part of project close-out. Proposals that offer extended maintenance contracts or service agreements beyond the PPA term (e.g., an option for the University to contract the vendor to continue maintenance after buyout) can also be mentioned. Essentially, demonstrate that the company will be a reliable long-term partner for the University in operating this system.

## **Proposal Submission Requirements**

Interested contractors shall submit a written proposal that addresses all aspects of this RFP. The proposal should be clear, concise, and complete. To facilitate equitable comparison and evaluation, please organize your proposal in the following format with corresponding section numbers:

1. **Executive Summary:** Provide a high-level overview of your proposal. Summarize the proposed solution and how it meets the University's objectives. Highlight any unique value propositions, such as innovative technology, exceptional warranties, or creative financing that sets your offer apart. This section should be 1-2 pages maximum, giving evaluators a clear snapshot of your overall approach.
2. **Technical Solution:** Describe in detail the technical design and approach of your PV+BESS system. This section should cover: the size/capacity of the PV array and BESS and how they were determined, the configuration (single line description), key equipment specifications (make/model of panels, inverters, batteries, etc.), and how the system will operate. Explain how the system meets the requirements (100% load, 7-day backup, etc.). Include discussion of how the solar and battery integrate with the campus grid and each other (control strategy). If you plan to incorporate additional elements (e.g. a small backup generator, integration with EV charging, or other generation sources), describe them here. Address safety features and code compliance in the design (fire suppression, etc.). You may attach/append product cut sheets for major components. This section is the heart of your proposal, demonstrating your understanding of the project and your solution's soundness.
3. **Implementation Plan and Schedule:** Provide a comprehensive plan for executing the project from contract award to final commissioning. Include a timeline with key milestones – design phase (with estimated duration for drawings and approvals), procurement lead times for major equipment, site mobilization, construction phases (foundations, electrical work, interconnection), testing, and commissioning. Show an anticipated start date (assuming award by November 30, 2025, as currently planned) and completion date. The schedule should also note any critical path items or potential risks (e.g., if batteries have a 6-month lead time, or if certain permits could delay start) and how you will mitigate them. Also outline your approach to project management – how will you ensure on-time delivery (regular meetings, reporting to the University, etc.) and how will you minimize disruption during construction.
4. **Experience and Qualifications:** In this section, include the information about your company's experience and the project team as requested in the Vendor Qualifications part of the RFP. Provide the list of reference projects with details and client contacts. Include short resumes or summaries of key personnel who will be assigned to this project, highlighting relevant experience. Also mention any partnerships or subcontractors you will use (for example, if you are teaming with a specialized battery integrator or a local construction firm for installation –

identify them and their experience). The goal is to assure evaluators that your team is highly capable of delivering the project successfully.

5. **Warranty, Operations & Maintenance Plan:** Clearly state the warranties provided on the system and components (duration and what is covered). Then describe your plan for operating and maintaining the system during the PPA term. Include monitoring strategy, maintenance activities frequency, staffing (who will do the maintenance – in-house team or third-party O&M contractor?), and how you will ensure performance guarantees are met (e.g., “we will perform annual capacity tests and preventative replacements as needed to guarantee battery capacity remains above X%”). Also describe the training and documentation you will hand over to the University. If you offer an extended O&M or performance guarantee beyond the basic term, describe it here as well.
6. **Pricing Proposal:** Provide the pricing and financial terms of your offer. (Note: This may be requested as a separate sealed submission – follow any instructions in the cover letter of the RFP about how to submit pricing.) At minimum, the pricing should include: the proposed PPA rate (\$/kWh) and any annual escalation, the length of the PPA term, the estimated first-year energy delivery (kWh), the guaranteed minimum output per quarter or year (as discussed), and the proposed buyout price or formula at year 10. You should also outline any assumptions used (for example, if you assume receiving a 30% tax credit and accelerated depreciation – you do not need to show your internal financial model, but ensure the PPA price accounts for that). Also indicate if there are any upfront costs to the University (the preference is zero upfront cost from the University; if your model requires the University to contribute capital or pay a development fee that should be made explicit). The University is looking for a cost-effective solution, so this section will be heavily scrutinized for value.
7. **Compliance and Exceptions:** Include a section stating your compliance with all RFP terms and requirements. If you have any exceptions or proposed modifications to the contract terms or specifications, list them clearly here. Each exception should reference the specific RFP section and the proposed alternative wording or solution. Be aware that substantial exceptions (especially to critical terms like performance guarantees, insurance, or service obligations) may render a proposal non-responsive or less favorable. It’s in the proposer’s interest to accept the terms as much as possible or clarify any issues in the question period before the submission deadline. This section can also include any additional terms and conditions you propose (the RFP mentions the contractor can propose supplemental T&Cs for maintaining tax status, etc. – include those here). If you have a sample PPA contract or term sheet, you may include it for reference.

**Proposal Format:** Proposals should be clear and well-organized, using headings and subheadings as outlined above. Avoid overly long narrative; use bullet points or tables where appropriate to concisely present information (for example, a table of the key performance metrics, or a bullet list of safety features). The entire proposal should be printed on standard letter-size paper, bound or stapled, with sections clearly labeled. An electronic copy (PDF) is also required (see submission details below). Brevity is appreciated, but not at the expense of missing details – ensure all questions posed by the RFP are answered. The University may disregard any information not relevant to the requirements (so staying focused on the requested content is important).

## Evaluation Criteria and Selection Process

This procurement will be a “Best Value” selection based on both price and non-price factors. While price (PPA rate and guaranteed savings) is very important, the University will also heavily weigh the technical strength and reliability of the proposals. The goal is to select the solution that offers the best overall value and lowest risk to the University, not necessarily the lowest price on paper. Each proposal will be evaluated by a selection committee using the following criteria:

- **Price and Guaranteed Savings (Weight: 30%) – *PPA Rate and Cost Savings*:** The proposed price per kWh and the guaranteed cost savings to the University over the term of the agreement. This includes the offered PPA tariff (and any escalator) compared to the University’s current and projected utility rates, and the guarantee that the University will save money annually. Proposers should include an estimate of annual savings (in dollars or percentage) based on current usage. Proposals that include a performance shortfall compensation (as required, reimbursing the University if output or savings are below guarantee) will be scored satisfactory. Higher scores for this factor will go to proposals that demonstrate significant savings and a strong guarantee (e.g. a fixed low rate, generous production guarantee, etc.).
- **Past Performance and Experience (Weight: 20%) – *Contractor Experience*:** The track record of the firm and team in successfully completing similar projects. This covers both the quantity/scale of past projects (do they meet the minimum MW and project count?) and quality (were those projects successful, operating as intended, with satisfied clients?). Strong references, evidence of meeting performance targets in the past, and relevant campus/microgrid experience will yield a higher score. A “satisfactory” proposal will have at least the minimum experience required and no negative references. Additional credit will be given for firms that showcase exceptional experience, such as multiple projects of equal or greater size, especially under PPA structures (demonstrating they understand how to own/operate long term).
- **Financial Capability (Weight: 15%) – *Financial strength and project financing plan*:** The University will evaluate the risk of the contractor failing to deliver or defaulting due to financial issues. A satisfactory proposal will demonstrate the firm has the financial backing or partnerships to finance the construction and operation of the system (for example, a letter indicating ability to secure the multi-million-dollar investment required). Strong balance sheets, a parent company guarantee, performance bonds, or other financial assurances will merit additional credit. The University is also interested in minimizing any requirement for it to provide capital – proposals that do not require any University capital contribution and instead leverage the contractor’s own financing (or third-party financing) entirely will be viewed more favorably. Essentially, the contractor should absorb upfront costs and recover through the PPA payments. A particularly strong financial offer might also include things like shared savings or a lower buyout price if the University opts to purchase the system early, etc., but the primary evaluation is on stability and capability to perform long-term.
- **Proposed System Design & Impact (Weight: 10%) – *Quality of the proposed technical solution*:** This factor assesses how well the proposed system meets the RFP requirements and the degree to which it minimizes negative impacts on the campus. Key considerations: Does the design

reasonably limit roof penetrations and preserve roof integrity? Does it avoid impeding University access to roofs or equipment? Are the inverters/batteries in acceptable locations (from both a practical and aesthetic standpoint)? Is the visual/aesthetic impact minimal or addressed (for instance, panels are flush on roof or ground array is screened)? And what is the anticipated disruption for maintenance? A satisfactory rating would mean the proposal meets all basic requirements: e.g., it uses the available land effectively, any rooftop work is well thought out, and maintenance downtime is manageable. Additional credit will be given if the design offers innovative or particularly convenient features: for example, using mostly ground space (so almost no roof work needed), or a design with no roof penetrations at all (perhaps ballasted roof mounts), or extremely compact equipment that doesn't consume much valuable space. Also, a maintenance plan that assures minimal disruption (like mostly remote monitoring, only occasional brief outages for maintenance) would score better. Essentially, the University prefers a system that "integrates into campus seamlessly" without causing headaches for facility access or campus life.

- Value-Added Features and Supplemental Terms (Weight: 25%) – *Resilience, Innovation, and Extra Benefits*: This factor rewards proposals that go above and beyond the base requirements in ways that benefit the University. This can include:
  - Resilience & Reliability: Beyond the 7-day requirement, does the system have features that make it extra resilient (e.g., redundant inverters or spare capacity, black-start capability, hardened against extreme weather like tornadoes)? The University values a robust design that can withstand extreme events (storms, grid blackouts, etc.) without failing.
  - Integration of Additional Needs: Ability to incorporate EV charging infrastructure or future expansions easily as part of the project. For instance, a proposal might include the installation of EV charging stations powered by the solar/BESS, or at least conduit/wiring to support future chargers.
  - Energy Efficiency Measures: If the proposer can also offer complementary building efficiency improvements (LED lighting upgrades, smart thermostats, etc.) to reduce the overall load, that could amplify the benefits of the project. While not required, such offerings would be a bonus (perhaps as an added service or separate financing).
  - Schedule and Speed: A commitment to an aggressive yet realistic timeline can be a plus. If one bidder can deliver operational system faster than others (and thus start savings earlier), that could be favorable. Timeliness of construction and having the system online by a desired date (for example, if the University has a target to have backup power by hurricane season or by a particular event) is considered.
  - Other Innovations: This could include use of advanced control software (like AI-based forecasts to optimize battery use), community engagement (like involving students in project monitoring or providing data for research), or any terms in the contract that are particularly favorable to the University (for example, flexibility to extend the PPA or early buyout options, performance guarantees with substantial liquidated damages, etc.).

The University will score each factor and combine weighted scores for a total evaluation score. Price (PPA rate & savings) is the single most important factor, but collectively the non-price factors (70% combined weight) are also significant. The University is not obligated to select the lowest-price proposal if other proposals provide better overall value or lower risk.

#### Evaluation Process:

After the submission deadline, the University's evaluation committee will review all proposals for responsiveness to the RFP. Proposals not meeting the mandatory requirements or missing material information may be rejected. The committee will then evaluate and score proposals according to the criteria above. The University may establish a competitive range and short-list the top-ranked proposals for further negotiations or clarifications. Short-listed firms might be invited to a presentation and Q&A session (possibly via videoconference or in person) to discuss their proposal in detail. The University reserves the right to negotiate terms (such as the PPA rate, contract clauses, scope clarifications) with one or more of the top-ranked offerors. After negotiations, best-and-final offers may be requested. Final selection will be made to the offeror that represents the best value to the University. The University's decision will consider all factors – it may choose a slightly higher-priced proposal if it offers significantly better reliability or terms, for example. Conversely, if none of the proposals are financially attractive (e.g., if all PPA prices offered are higher than the utility rate), the University reserves the right not to make an award. Huntsville Utilities' current rates will serve as a benchmark; the University will not proceed with an award if it cannot realize savings compared to status quo.

All bidders will be notified of the outcome once a decision is made. The University aims to complete the selection and contract award by November 30, 2025 (approximate), so that the project can move forward without delay. Unsuccessful bidders will have the opportunity to request a debriefing to learn why their proposal was not selected, in accordance with University procurement policies.

## Proposal Schedule & Submission Instructions

- **RFP Issue Date: October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- **Non-Mandatory Site Visit: Date/time, if applicable, e.g. "October 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM"** – A tour of the campus areas designated for the project will be provided. This is optional but recommended. RSVP to (contact email) if attending.
- **Deadline for Questions: (Date, "October 25, 2025")** – Any questions or requests for clarification regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to [jeffrey.robinson1@aamu.edu](mailto:jeffrey.robinson1@aamu.edu). Answers will be provided in the form of an addendum sent to all prospective proposers.
- **Proposal Due Date: November 10, 2025 at 2:00 PM Central Time.** Late proposals will NOT be accepted. Proposals must be received by the University's Purchasing Department by this deadline. It is the proposer's responsibility to ensure on-time delivery; allow ample time for mail or courier, or deliver in person.
- **Submission Format:** Proposers shall submit one (1) original hard copy, five (5) hard copies, and one (1) electronic copy (PDF format on a USB flash drive) of the proposal. The hard copies and USB should be sealed together in a package. The outside of the package must be clearly labeled with the proposer's name and address and marked: **"Proposal RFP 2 2k-25 – Turnkey Installation of Photovoltaic Solar System and Battery Energy Storage System."** The original

should be marked "Original" and the copies numbered. In case of discrepancies, the signed original will be considered the official proposal.

**Delivery Address:**

**AAMU Department of Purchasing Services  
453 Buchanan Way  
4900 Meridian St.  
Normal, AL. 35762**

- Proposal Validity: Proposals must remain valid for at least 90 days from the submission deadline to allow time for evaluation and University approvals.
- Opening: Proposals will be opened administratively by the University (no public bid opening due to the best-value nature). The University may request additional information or clarification from proposers during the evaluation.

After evaluation and any negotiations, the University expects to issue an intent to award by late November 2025. Contract execution will follow, and the project would commence immediately upon contract award. The University expects the contractor to be prepared to begin design work promptly so that any deadlines (such as qualifying for tax incentives or meeting a desired operational date) can be achieved. **AAMU RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONTRACT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF AAMU, AND TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO AWARD.**

Additional Terms and Conditions

This section summarizes additional standard terms, and refers to required forms included in appendices:

- Governing Law: The contract will be governed by the laws of the State of Alabama and University policies. Any disputes will be resolved in accordance with Alabama law.
- Insurance: The contractor must carry adequate insurance as outlined in Appendix C. This includes general liability coverage, workers' compensation, automobile liability, and umbrella/excess liability. The University should be named as an additional insured on the general liability policy. Minimum coverage amounts are specified in Appendix C. Proof of insurance will be required before contract award.
- Termination: The University will include standard clauses allowing termination of the contract for cause (e.g., contractor default) and for convenience (with appropriate notice and compensation for work performed). If terminated for cause, the University may claim any applicable performance bond.
- Performance Bond: The selected contractor will be required to furnish a performance bond and payment bond for the construction portion, especially if there are any upfront payments. This ensures completion of work and payment to subcontractors/suppliers. Specific bond requirements will be detailed in contract negotiations if applicable.

- **Records and Audit:** The contractor shall maintain records of project costs, energy output, and maintenance activities. The University (or its auditors) reserves the right to audit relevant records during the contract to verify billings and compliance.
- **Equal Opportunity:** The contractor must comply with all applicable EEO laws and University non-discrimination policies. No person shall be excluded from participation in this project on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The contractor may be asked to provide an affirmative action plan or non-discrimination statement.
- **Immigration Law Compliance:** As required by Alabama Law (Act 2011-535, as amended), the contractor must enroll in and use E-Verify to verify employment eligibility of its workers. By submitting a proposal, the contractor certifies compliance with immigration laws. The State of Alabama Immigration Compliance Certification (Appendix D) must be signed and submitted with the proposal, along with evidence of E-Verify enrollment (e.g., the E-Verify Memorandum of Understanding).
- **Vendor Disclosure:** In accordance with Alabama ethics laws and University policy, proposers must disclose any potential conflicts of interest. Appendix B contains a Vendor Disclosure Statement that must be completed, identifying any University employees or officials who have an interest in the company or any family relationships, etc. This is to ensure transparency and compliance with Alabama Code §41-16-82.
- **Public Records:** Be aware that proposals may be subject to Alabama Public Records Law. If any portion of your proposal is confidential or proprietary, please mark it as such; however, the University cannot guarantee that information will be exempt from disclosure if requested by law. Pricing is generally not considered confidential.
- **Reservation of Rights:** The University reserves the right to amend or cancel this RFP at any time, and to reject any and all proposals if deemed in the University's best interest. This RFP does not commit the University to award a contract, pay any costs incurred in preparing a proposal, or procure or contract for services. The University may accept or reject any exception taken by the proposer to the terms and conditions. Award of the contract is contingent on approval by University authorities and possibly the Board of Trustees, as well as availability of funds.

Thank you for your interest in partnering with AAMU on this innovative solar and energy storage project. We look forward to reviewing your proposal. By participating in this solicitation, you are contributing to the University's mission to improve sustainability, resiliency, and cost-effectiveness of campus operations. Please direct any questions to the Purchasing Department by the deadline indicated.

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**Appendices:**

- **Appendix A – University Standard Terms and Conditions: (General provisions that will be incorporated into the contract, such as those relating to legal compliance, dispute resolution, etc.)**

- **Appendix B – Vendor Disclosure Statement: (Form to disclose any relationships as required by Alabama law.)**
- **Appendix C – Insurance Requirements for Contractors: (Details of required insurance coverages and minimum limits.)**

<b>Type of Insurance</b>	<b>Minimum Limits (typical)</b>
Workers' Compensation / Employers' Liability	Statutory (AL) / \$1,000,000 each accident, each Employee policy liability
Commercial General Liability	\$2,000,000 each occurrence; \$4,000,000 aggregate
Automobile Liability	\$2,000,000 combined single limit each accident
Professional Liability (A/E or CM/Design-Build, if Applicable)	\$1,000,000–\$10,000,000 per claim and aggregate
Information Privacy & Security (if applicable)	\$1,000,000–\$10,000,000 per claim and aggregate

- **Appendix D – State of Alabama Immigration Compliance Certification: (E-Verify confirmation form to be signed).**