

## Utility-scale solar kuwait

Kuwait has tendered a 1.1 GW solar project to supply electricity to the Ministry of ...

Kuwait will be releasing the Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the various phases of the much anticipated 4-gigawatts (GW) Shagaya solar power project by the end of this year, a government official disclosed.

Gannam Al Ajmi, Project Engineer, Renewable Energy, Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy (MEWRE) said the RFQ for various phases will be launched one after the other later this year and all the phases are expected to be connected to the grid by 2027-28.

The project is being tendered as an Independent Power Project (IPP) with MEWRE as the off-taker for the electricity generated, he said, adding that studies indicate Kuwait could get fairly good LCOE (levelised cost of electricity) bids.

"Last year we signed on a technical advisor and have signed agreements for the land....around 87 square kilometres," Ajmi said while speaking at a webinar organised by the Dubai-based MESIA (Middle East Solar Industry Association).

Giving details on the tendering process, technologies and capacities for the much-delayed project, he said: "Phase 1 of the Shagaya project will be 1,100 MWac (Megawatt, Alternating Current) and be fully based on photovoltaic (PV) solar technology. The RFQ document for Phase 1 is ready and will be launched in two to three months."

He said Phase 2 will comprise a 200MW Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plant with around five hours of storage capacity.

"We are already doing the RFP for Phase 2," he disclosed.

Kuwait was earlier considering a mix of CSP, wind and PV solar for the project but decided to choose CSP and PV and ditch wind.

He said MEWRE has completed feasibility and technical studies, but the developer may need to study further and decide on specific technologies.

"We are talking about four developers," he said, adding that he expects Phases 3 and 4 to adopt similar technologies.

The Shagaya project was first announced a decade ago, shelved due to Covid and underwent several changes



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in its configuration. A pilot 70MW project comprising 50MW CSP, 10MW wind and 10MW PV started commercial operations in February 2019 at Shagaya desert, 100 km west of the capital Kuwait City.

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