

# Australian Industry Participation (AIP) plan Summary

## – Project Phase

### 1. Project Details

**Designated project proponent:** ACEN NESF HoldCo Pty Ltd

**Project name:** New England Solar and Battery Energy Storage System

**Description of the project:** Enter project description here

ACEN New England Solar Pty Ltd (ACEN) is proposing to construct New England Solar with approximately 720 MW capacity across two solar fields and Battery Energy Storage System with approximately 200 MW/2hr, and potential to an additional 1200MW/2hr capacity near Uralla in the New England region of NSW. Rows of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels will be installed on a single axis tracking system that follows the path of the sun, and collocated rows of grid-connected battery racks. ACEN Australia to stage the development of New England Solar in the following distinct stages and timing:

- Stage 1a: Construction of a 400 megawatt (MW) solar farm within the Northern Array (completed Feb 2024);
- Stage 1b: Operation of the 400 MW solar farm in the Northern Array (commenced Jan 2024);
- Stage 2a: Construction of a 320 megawatt (MW) solar farm within the Central Array (early works commenced in 2024);
- Stage 2b: Operations of the 320MW solar farm in the Central Array (no date at this stage);
- Stage 3a: Construction of 200MW/2hr BESS (commenced in 2024);
- Stage 3b: Operations of 200MW/2hr BESS (Proposed to commence in 2026);
- Stage 4a: Construction of 1200MW/2hr BESS (no date at this stage);
- Stage 4b: Operations of 1200MW/2hr BESS (no date at this stage);
- Stage 5: Decommissioning.

Note construction start times are indicative only due to various approval pathways, and may be subject to change.

ACEN will utilise several contract methods including but not limited to separate engineering design, procurement and construction services (EPC Contracts) for each stage of works and associated high voltage electrical infrastructure as well as minor works agreements contracts for enabling works.

**Estimated project total value:** \$1.7B

**Project location:** Uralla, NSW

**Link to project information:** [www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au](http://www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au)

**Project contact for procurement information:** Tim Greenaway, 0413 625 097, [info@newenglandsolarfarm.com.au](mailto:info@newenglandsolarfarm.com.au)

**Other project proponents involved in the project:** EPC Contractors will be engaged to deliver the construction stages of the project. Suppliers may also be engaged for the Operational stages.

### 2. Opportunities to supply Goods and Services

Expected opportunities	Opportunities for Australian entities	Opportunities for non-Australian entities
<b>Goods</b>		
Steel Piles	Yes	Yes
Single axis solar trackers	Yes	Yes
Solar PV Modules	Yes	Yes
Electrical Cable	Yes	Yes
Electrical protection equipment, combiner boxes, DC junctions	Yes	Yes
Inverters and 33kV transformers	Yes	Yes
330kV transformers and Ring Main Units	Yes	Yes
High voltage electrical switchgear	Yes	Yes
Civil engineering structures including road construction and fencing	Yes	Yes
Battery enclosures (B Vault Product)	Yes	Yes
MV Station	Yes	Yes
<b>Services</b>		
Engineering Design	Yes	Yes
Owner's Engineer / Contract Management Services	Yes	Yes

Disclaimer: The information provided in the table above is based on an initial assessment by the company. Any questions or issues should be raised with the project contact.

**Explanation for item(s) in list above where it is indicated 'No Opportunities for Australian entities'**

N/A

**3. Standards to be used in the project**

- Australian Standards (including AS/NZS) are used throughout the Principal's Requirements for the project. ISO and IEC standards may also apply in respective quality and technical matters

**4. AIP activities to be undertaken by the Project Proponent**

- ACEN will appoint several EPC Contractors whose roles will include procurement of materials and services for the construction of the solar arrays and BESS. The EPC Contractors will be

required to demonstrate its plan for engaging and consulting with the Australian market prior; the EPC Contractor may choose to use a vendor identification agency to assist in this regard. If the EPC Contractor chooses to use a vendor identification agency the details of this agency will be published on the project website.

- Potential suppliers to the project can register their interest to participate in the construction of the project via the project website – <https://newenglandsolarfarm.com.au/contact-us/>. This register of suppliers will be shared with the EPC Contractors.
- The project specification has been prepared with reference to Australian Standards to ensure Australian entities have the ability to meet the requirements of the specification.
- ACEN will require the EPC Contractors to comply with this AIP Plan, which will include the implementation of a documented formal policy and plan for AIP including the collection of evidence for the production of the Compliance Report.

#### **5. AIP activities to be undertaken by procurement entities**

- ACEN has established the project website at [www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au](http://www.newenglandsolarfarm.com.au). The EPC Contractors may choose to make use of other websites or procurement streams; a link to the alternate websites or procurement streams will be provided on the above website.
- The EPC Contractors will publish on the procurement websites the requirements potential bidders must satisfy in order to supply goods and services for the project.
- ACEN will require that the EPC Contractors to provide all potential suppliers with the same opportunity to participate in the project as existing or global supply chain partners by making EOI/RFT documents available to all possible suppliers at the same time, allowing reasonable time frames for companies to respond to EOIs and RFTs, structuring EOI/RFTs for Australian and overseas suppliers on the same basis and keeping the cost of tendering as low as possible by using web portals and email as a key communication and submission tools.
- Where appropriate and feasible, ACEN will require the EPC Contractors to use local businesses to undertake works that are within their capability and experience and encourage local participation in undertaking specialist works through partnership arrangements or upskilling.
- Where appropriate and feasible, the EPC Contractors must arrange discussions with global manufacturers briefing them on the capabilities and past achievements of Australian entities engaged on the project and potentially capable Australian suppliers, where known.
- The EPC Contractors are to support Australian suppliers to adopt world's best practice standards by undertaking supplier audits, where practical, to benchmark and disseminate best practice and providing in our contracts with foreign suppliers to actively engage in the development programs to identify capable Australian manufacturers and encouraging technology transfer, where appropriate. Also, where appropriate, encourage foreign suppliers to engage with and undertake technical consultations with Australian entities engaged on the project and other potential and capable Australian manufacturers.