

EARLY MARKET ENGAGEMENT NOTICE

Energy Transition, Efficiency and Expansion Project (ETREEP)

African Development Bank-Financed | P-ST-FAB-003

1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) has received financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the implementation of the Energy Transition, Efficiency and Expansion Project (ETREEP). The Project Development Objective is to expand access to reliable, affordable, and clean electricity in São Tomé and Príncipe while strengthening the operational and institutional capacity of the energy sector.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources (MIRN) hereby issues this Early Market Engagement (EME) Notice to inform interested firms, contractors, and industry stakeholders of upcoming procurement opportunities under ETREEP.

2. PURPOSE OF THE EARLY MARKET ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of this EME is to:

- Provide advance visibility of the planned procurement packages and their technical scope;
- Gather market insights on (i) technical options, (ii) risk allocation, (iii) contract modalities and (iv) best practices relevant to small island energy contexts;
- Allow potential bidders to assess their capacity and interest in the upcoming packages including potential barriers to participation;
- Obtain feedback on the proposed packaging strategy and contract structure (including EPC-type approaches) to optimize competition and bidder diversity;
- Signal market appetite and support the refinement of bidding documents prior to formal tendering.
- Stimulate innovation in the design and delivery of solutions, including consideration of emerging technologies suitable for small island energy system.

In particular, MIRN seeks feedback on:

- Preferred technical approaches for dispatch centre modernization;
- Optimal level of integration between the dispatch centre, substations, and MV/LV networks;
- Appropriate contract packaging and risk allocation;
- Implementation timelines and key technical and operational risks.

Participation in this EME is open to all interested and eligible firms. This notice is for information purposes only and does not constitute a formal solicitation, a request for proposals, or any commitment by the Government of STP or MIRN to proceed with any procurement.

3. PROJECT OVERVIEW

ETREEP is an African Development Bank-financed operation designed to build upon the foundations established under the predecessor Energy Transition and Investment Support Project (ETISP). It targets three interrelated areas of the energy sector in STP:

Component	Description
Renewable Energy Generation & Storage	Installation of Solar Photovoltaic (Solar PV) systems and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to reduce reliance on fossil fuel generation, improve grid stability, and increase the share of renewables in the national energy mix.
Distribution Network Rehabilitation & Expansion	Rehabilitation and expansion of the electricity distribution network, including low-voltage (LV) upgrades, installation of prepaid meters, and extension of connections to underserved communities across the islands.
System Modernization	Upgrade of the national energy dispatch and control centre to improve real-time monitoring, operational efficiency, and system reliability.

4. INDICATIVE PROCUREMENT PACKAGES

The following procurement packages are envisaged under ETREEP. The packaging strategy consolidates technically interrelated activities into integrated contracts to reduce interface risks, enhance market attractiveness, and promote efficiency in delivery. All packages are currently planned as Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts.

All packages are expected to interface with each other, particularly with respect to SCADA/EMS integration, communication systems, and data exchange between generation, distribution, and control infrastructure.

Package 1 — Renewable Energy Generation and Storage (Solar PV + BESS)

This package covers the supply, installation, and commissioning of solar photovoltaic generation capacity combined with battery energy storage on the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe. The scope includes, but is not limited to:

- Design, supply, and installation of solar PV arrays (capacity to be confirmed following market engagement);
- Design, supply, and installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for grid balancing and reserve capacity;
- Grid interconnection, civil works, and associated infrastructure;
- Integration with the Dispatch and Control Centre to be financed under the ETREEP program.
- Commissioning, testing, and performance guarantees;
- Operations and maintenance support during the defects liability period.

Package 2 — Distribution Network Rehabilitation and Expansion

This package covers the rehabilitation of the existing distribution infrastructure and its expansion to increase access and improve service quality. The scope includes:

- Rehabilitation of medium- and low-voltage (MV/LV) distribution lines and substations;
- Extension of the distribution network to underserved areas on both islands;
- Supply and installation of smart/prepaid electricity meters for residential and commercial consumers;
- Civil works, trenching, and associated infrastructure;
- Commissioning, testing, and performance guarantees.

Package 3 — System Modernization: Dispatch and Control Centre

This package covers the upgrade of MIRN's national energy management infrastructure. A more detailed breakdown will be presented during the Early Market Engagement (EME), as the optimal operation of the Dispatch and Control Centre is expected to require coordinated interventions at the associated substations covered by the Control Centre. In addition, the package may include tele-signalling of selected MV and LV network segments not currently covered by the Control Centre.

The indicative scope may include:

- Upgrade or reconstruction of the Dispatch and Control Centre;
- Supply, installation, and commissioning of SCADA/EMS systems;
- Tele-signalling and remote monitoring of selected MV/LV distribution network segments;
- Reconstruction or upgrading of substations associated with the Dispatch Centre;
- Integration with generation and distribution assets financed under other ETRREP packages;
- Operator training, maintenance, and technical support during the warranty period.

The final scope and packaging of this package will be refined based on technical assessments and feedback received during the Early Market Engagement.

5. EARLY MARKET ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

MIRN will conduct the EME through a structured information-sharing and consultation process. Interested parties are invited to attend an online session where MIRN and the African Development Bank will present the project scope, procurement approach, and key technical requirements.

Date EME	Thursday, 19 May 2026
Time	Local time — STP -9:00 am to 11:00 AM
Format	Virtual
Language	French / English
Virtual Link	[Link to be communicated upon registration]
Expression of Interest Deadline	Monday, 13 May 2026

During the session, participants will have the opportunity to raise questions and provide written feedback. MIRN will circulate a summary record of the meeting, including questions and responses, to all registered participants within five (5) business days after the event.

A probity/confidentiality commitment: MIRN will treat commercially sensitive supplier information confidentially, and participation confers no competitive advantage.

The Early Market Engagement will be guided by a structured Market Engagement Plan, which defines the objectives, target suppliers, engagement approach, roles and responsibilities, and timeline. A summary of this plan is provided in Annex 1.

6. TRANSPARENCY AND PROBITY

MIRN will conduct the Early Market Engagement in accordance with the principles of transparency, fairness, and equal treatment.

In particular:

- All relevant information will be shared equally with all interested participants;
- A record of discussions and responses will be maintained;
- Commercially sensitive information provided by participants will be treated confidentially;
- Participation in the EME will not confer any advantage in future procurement processes;
- MIRN reserves the right to engage independent probity assurance, if deemed necessary.

7. HOW TO EXPRESS INTEREST

Companies and entities interested in participating in the Early Market Engagement session are requested to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to MIRN no later than the deadline indicated above. The EOI should be submitted by e-mail to the contact address below and include the following information:

- Name and legal status of the company or entity; (*indicate whether the company intends to participate as sole entity, JV lead, or subcontractor*)
- Country of registration and principal place of business;
- Sector of activity and core area(s) of expertise relevant to ETREEP packages;
- Name and contact details of the designated representative;
- Brief description of relevant experience in energy projects of similar nature and scale (particularly in island or developing country contexts);
- Indication of which package(s) the company is interested in.
- Any specific concerns/questions about procurement approach to be addressed.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

Entity	Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources (MIRN)
Attention	Project Implementation Unit — ETREEP Project coordinator: Helder do Rosário Fernandes
E-mail	etreep2026@gmail.com / etisp2025@gmail.com
Address	Headquarters of MIRN, São Tomé, Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe

9. IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This Early Market Engagement Notice is issued for information and market intelligence purposes only. It does not constitute a solicitation, invitation to bid, or formal procurement notice, and shall not confer any right, obligation, or competitive advantage on any participant. MIRN reserves the right to modify, suspend, or cancel any aspect of the planned procurement at any time without prior notice and without incurring any liability. All future procurement activities will be conducted in strict accordance with the African Development Bank's Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations and the principles of transparency, competition, value for money, and equal treatment.

Issued by: Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources (MIRN)| São Tomé, April 29, 2026
Address: Avenida Marginal 12 de Julho; Largo das Alfândegas
São Tomé, Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe