



POWER SECTOR

NEWSLETTER | WEEK 17 | APR 24



RENEWABLES

» TATA POWER AND INDIAN BANK COLLABORATE TO OFFER FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

- > Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL) partners with Indian Bank to facilitate affordable rooftop solar adoption in the residential segment by providing low-interest loans to consumers.
- > The collaboration offers financing solutions for rooftop solar installations ranging from 3 kW to 10 kW, catering to both the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and regular programs.
- > Homeowners can access loans up to ₹ 200,000 (\$2,401) at a 7% annual interest rate, with a nominal margin money requirement of 10% and collateral-free financing, extendable up to 10 years.
- > For installations between 3 kW and 10 kW, customized financing solutions are available, allowing loans up to ₹600,000 (\$7,204) with a margin money requirement of 20% and interest rates ranging from 8.4% to 10.85% per annum.
- > The collaboration aims to promote rooftop solar adoption, aligning with government initiatives like the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, and contribute to India's energy objectives with a budgetary outlay of \$9.04 billion.





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» RUMSL RELEASES TENDER FOR 170 MW SOLAR PROJECT IN NEEMUCH.

- > Rewa Ultra Mega Solar (RUMSL) has issued a request for proposal for a 170 MW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic project in the Neemuch Solar Park, Madhya Pradesh. The project's power will be procured by Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company and West Central Railway.
- > RUMSL/Government of Madhya Pradesh will provide land and power evacuation infrastructure for the project.
- > The bid submission deadline is June 07, 2024, with bids to be opened on the same day. Bidders need to submit an earnest money deposit and meet minimum net worth requirements. Further, any delay in project commissioning may lead to exclusion from future bids.
- > Bidders must not have breached contracts exceeding a certain value in the past three years.



- > Earlier this year, RUMSL issued a tender for 400 MW of dispatchable grid-connected renewable power, and in 2022, a tender for Phase II 300 MW, won by NTPC, SJVN, and Hinduja.



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» OPENS TENDER BY BIHAR FOR 200 MW ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECTS

- Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) is seeking expressions of interest for agencies to empanel for grid-connected rooftop solar projects in government buildings.
- The project aims to add 200 MW of rooftop solar capacity under the CAPEX model, with a focus on design, supply, erection, testing, commissioning, and comprehensive operation and maintenance for five years. The deadline for bid submission is May 27, 2024. And the bids will be opened the following day.
- Tender document fee is ₹11,800 (\$141.60), with an earnest money deposit of ₹210 million (\$120,000). The successful bidders must provide a contract performance guarantee equivalent to 5% of the work order value.
- Qualification criteria include a minimum operational capacity of 10 MW and experience in executing at least 5 MW of solar projects in India's government sector over the past five years.
- Bidders should demonstrate a minimum average annual turnover of ₹150 million (\$1.8 million) over the last three financial years and furnish proof of a line of credit of ₹250 million (\$599,947).
- BREDA has also invited bids to connect non-functional off-grid solar projects on government buildings to the grid and previously invited bids for a 10 MW floating solar project on Phulwaria Dam under the renewable energy service company model in November 2023.





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POLICY AND REGULATORY

» APERC NOTIFIES THE APERC (GREEN ENERGY OPEN ACCESS, CHARGES, AND BANKING) REGULATIONS, 2024

- > The Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) notified the APERC (Green Energy Open Access, Charges, and Banking) Regulations, 2024.
- > The new regulations are applicable for allowing Open Access (OA) to electricity generated from Renewable Energy Sources, for use of Intra-State Transmission System/s (InSTS) and/or distribution system/s of licensee/s in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- > The new regulations cater to consumers with a contracted demand or sanctioned load of 100 kW or more; however, captive consumers face no load limitations.
- > Under the new regulations, consumers can access renewable energy from various sources, including Small Hydro, Wind, Solar, Biomass, Biofuel, Cogeneration, Municipal Solid Waste, RE Hybrid, Hydro, Storage (utilizing renewable energy), and other sources recognized by the Government of India or State Government.
- > Consumers can avail themselves of OA under three categories first one is short-term (less than 1 year), Medium-term (1 to 5 years), and long-term (25 years)





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- > Banking operates on a monthly billing cycle basis, with unutilized energy reimbursed at 75% of the last Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) tender rate for the given RE source. The energy can be banked during peak and off-peak Time-of-Day slots, with limitations on usage during different slots. The maximum banking allowed is 30% of total monthly consumption from green energy sources. Banking charges are set at 8% of the energy banked by the consumer.
- > Consumers and generators must adhere to a priority list for settling open access energy, including transmission charges, wheeling charges, cross-subsidy, additional surcharge, standby charges, banking charges, State Load Despatch Center fees, scheduling and deviation settlement charges, reactive energy charges, and OA application processing fees.
- > The priority of settlement of OA energy for consumers is OA power through Exchange/Bi-lateral transactions, followed by Captive Power/Third Party (Non-RE), followed by RE generation after losses deduction, followed by Banked Energy, and lastly, DISCOM's power.
- > The priority of settlement of OA energy for generators is OA power through Exchange/Bi-lateral transactions, followed by OA Power through intrastate consumer transactions.





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>> CERC GRANTS CONNECTIVITY FOR 300 MW SOLAR PROJECT CITING FORCE MAJEURE EVENTS

- > In a recent order, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has relaxed rules for ACME Solar, allowing the switch of connectivity for their 300 MW solar project to the land route.
- > ACME Solar had initially received connectivity based on a Letter of Award (LOA) from Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company (MSEDCL). However, due to Force Majeure events and the subsequent termination of the LOA, ACME Solar faced challenges in utilizing the granted connectivity.
- > Despite the absence of provisions for transferring connectivity between projects under different routes, the CERC decided to exercise its power under Regulations 41 (Power to Relax) and 42 (Power to Remove Difficulty) of the CERC (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) Regulations, 2022, to allow ACME Solar to convert connectivity to the land route.
- > This decision is based on the significant progress made by ACME Solar in project implementation, including land acquisition and equipment procurement, with a target commissioning date of September 1, 2024.

