

**Energy and Water Agency Initiative
to promote the Deployment of Renewable Energy Sources by Voluntary Organisations**

Rules Applicable to the First Call – October 2023

In order to further encourage the use of renewable sources of energy, the following Initiative is being launched to enable Voluntary Organisations (VO) to install and run a Photovoltaic (PV) System to be used on their premises.

1. Interpretation

In this Initiative, unless the context otherwise requires:

'Applicant' means a compliant voluntary organization, as defined in the Voluntary Organizations Act (Cap. 492), which is enrolled with the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organizations and which, on the date of submission of an application in terms of this Initiative, meets all the eligibility criteria laid down in these Rules and any other applicable guidelines, provided that for this First Call published in relation to this Initiative, they shall furthermore be voluntary organisations which have submitted an Application under the Second Call or Third Call of the Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development Scheme for the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources for Voluntary Organisations;

'Application' means an application for participation in the Initiative;

'compliance with planning permission requirements' means that the site or building upon which the Voluntary Organisation proposes to install a Photovoltaic (PV) installation is compliant with all relevant and required building and development permits, and that same proposed installation is covered by a valid development permit or is permitted development under the Development Notification Order and the Planning Authority's procedures and guidelines including the "Development Control Policy and Design Guidance and Standards 2015" and/or any later updates.

'durability period' means three years following the date of the commissioning of the PV installation;

'effective date' means the dates and times establishing the period during which Applications may be validly received under this Initiative, as published in the relevant Government Notice applicable to any specific call;

'Energy and Water Agency' or 'EWA', referred to also as "the Agency" means the Energy and Water Agency, as established by Legal Notice 50 of 2014;

'Grant' means the financial grant which is to be awarded as part of the Initiative and as referred to in clause 2.

'Initiative' means the Initiative governed by these Rules whereby Voluntary Organizations may apply to be awarded a financial Grant towards the installation and commissioning of a PV system consisting of either twelve (12) or twenty-four (24) PV panels for an installed capacity of around 3.6kWp or 7.2kWp respectively, to be kept functional throughout the durability period on the premises used by the Voluntary Organizations for their voluntary activities. Complementing the Grant, the Initiative shall also provide each successful Applicant with twelve (12) or twenty-four (24) PV modules as applicable;

'Malta' means the Maltese Islands;

'owner' includes 'joint ownership', 'emphyteuta' includes 'joint-emphyteuta' and 'tenant' includes 'joint-tenant', and 'emphyteuta' includes 'sub-emphyteuta' and 'tenant' includes 'sub-tenant';

'premises' means the premises used by the Voluntary Organisation for the purposes of their voluntary activities, where a proposed Photovoltaic system is to be installed by the Voluntary Organisation subject to the successful submission and positive evaluation of an application under this Initiative and the signing of the relative Agreement.

2. Grant Payable under the Initiative

2.1. This Initiative consists of a financial Grant and a number of PV panels. The Initiative is administered and governed in terms of these Rules as supplemented by the guidelines also downloadable from the same website.

2.2. The applications under this Initiative will be received and evaluated on a first come first served basis, subject to availability of both funds and PV modules.

2.3. Successful Applicants will be provided with either:

- (i) A Grant of five thousand euro (€5000) together with twelve (12) PV panels;
OR
- (ii) A Grant of seven thousand five hundred euro (€7500) together with twenty-four (24) PV panels.

2.4. The Grant is intended to cover costs associated with the installation and commissioning of the PV system to be installed by successful Applicants under this Initiative, including costs related to connections, the purchase of any components required to complete the PV installation, the supporting structure of the PV system, any works required to ensure the safety of the installations and professional services by Perit and Engineer. The PV panels shall be delivered to the premises of the VO.

3. Eligibility

3.1. This Initiative is open only to VOs for use on the premises used for their voluntary activities and where they are the ARMS account holder with respect to the electricity service, provided that for this First Call published in relation to this Initiative, they shall furthermore be voluntary organisations which have submitted an Application under the Second Call or Third Call of the Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development Scheme for the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources for Voluntary Organisations.

3.2. To be eligible under this Initiative an Applicant must satisfy all of the following criteria. The Applicant must:

- (i) have obtained planning permission (if applicable) for the installation of the PV system prior to installation, provided that confirmation by an architect may alternatively be

submitted to the effect that no planning permission from the Planning Authority is required for the installation of the PV system and that the PV installation will be in compliance with the Development Notification Order, 2016 and the Planning Authority's procedures and guidelines including "Development Control Policy and Design Guidance and Standards 2015" and/or any later updates;

- (ii) be the owner or an emphyteuta of the premises OR be the owner of a long leasehold interest in the premises, applicable for buildings which are being leased for 20 years or more with all necessary consents from the owner of the premises. The premises must be used principally by the applicant for the purposes that the same organization has been set up for. The applicant is not entitled to benefit from this Initiative if the premises is used principally for business purposes, including the letting of the premises on a commercial basis;
- (iii) not apply for or obtain, prior to or after an Application is submitted under this Initiative, any other grants or subsidies (including a Feed-in Tariff for the proposed PV system) or any other support for the proposed PV system that will be installed and commissioned by the Applicant under this Initiative; this includes support from any other support initiatives including national or public funds such as Government of Malta funds;
- (iv) allow relevant organizations involved in the implementation and control of this Initiative including EWA officers and Auditors to inspect the PVs installed within the Applicant's premises after due notice is given;
- (v) accept that the Applicant's data, including those of the individual/s signing the application on the Applicant's behalf, may appear on public documents or published on the EWA website;
- (vi) connect the PV installation to the Enemalta grid and undertake proper and continued operation as well as maintenance of the same equipment;
- (vii) not exercise the right to obtain, or has not obtained any tax rebate, deduction including deductions of input tax credit from the output tax in terms of the Value Added Tax Act (Cap 406), or other tax refund however so described, with regard to the PV system installed under this initiative.
- (viii) present a valid electricity bill, issued in the name of the VO for the consumption of electricity at the premises where the PV system is to be installed. The name of the applicant and the service address should refer to the premises where the system is to be installed and the electricity service point to be used to connect the system to the grid. The electricity bill presented shall have been issued within the twelve (12) months preceding the date of application. The applicant may also submit a statement signed by an ARMS Ltd. official confirming that an electricity account exists for the VO's premises and that said account is in the VO's name.

4. Applicability

- 4.1. This Initiative applies to an eligible applicant (VO) operating in Malta, for which an Application has been submitted, subject to its approval as confirmed by a confirmation letter to this effect.

4.2. VOs which submitted an Application under the Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development Scheme for the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources for Voluntary Organisations (Third Call) as governed by Government Notice No. 1293 published on the 28th of September 2021, but which to date have not been invited to sign an agreement in relation thereto, shall have their Applications automatically transferred for consideration and evaluation under this Initiative, subject to its terms and conditions, provided that they:

- (i) remain at this time fully compliant with the eligibility criteria established in Section 3 hereabove and provide a declaration to this effect; and
- (ii) submit any relevant updates which may be required by EWA;

provided that they do not oppose such automatic transfer and provided further that it shall not be possible to benefit from this option in the event of any material changes (such as changing from a 12-panel system to a 24-panel system) being proposed in respect of the original Application;

4.3 VOs which submitted an Application under the Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development Scheme for the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources for Voluntary Organisations as governed by Government Notice No. 758 published on the 10th of July 2020 (Second Call) and which:

- (i) passed the evaluation stage of the Second Call;
- (ii) signed an Agreement in relation thereto, which Agreement remains in force as of the effective date; and
- (iii) have not to date had a PV system installed under said Agreement;

may choose to have their **original application as evaluated and accepted** transferred to this Initiative provided that they:

- (i) have not benefitted in any manner by virtue of the Agreement entered into under the Second Call (i.e. there has not been a delivery of panels or a start of works);
- (ii) remain at this time fully compliant with the eligibility criteria established in Section 3 hereabove and provide a declaration to this effect; and
- (iii) submit any relevant updates or additional documentation which may be required by EWA;

provided further that it shall not be possible to benefit from this option in the event of any material changes (such as changing from a 12-panel system to a 24-panel system) being proposed in respect of the original Application and provided further that a new Agreement shall be entered into with the Agency to this effect.

4.4 An Applicant may submit more than one application under this Initiative, provided that each application shall refer to separate distinct premises used by the VO for the purposes of their voluntary work, and that each distinct premises fully complies with the eligibility criteria laid down in Section 3.

4.5 For the purposes of Section 2.2, each application shall be assigned a ranking number indicating the order in which it was received, provided that the original date of submission shall apply in respect of those Applications transferred to this Initiative in terms of Sections 4.2 and 4.3.

5. Application Process and documents to be submitted together with the Application

- 5.1. A valid application under this Initiative shall contain all the information, details and documents as mentioned in the application form (as referred to in clause 2.1). Incomplete and/or modified application forms will not be processed.
- 5.2. Only those Applications that comply with all the requirements of this Initiative shall be eligible for participation in the Initiative governed by these Rules. Applications that fail to meet any of the criteria required by this Initiative at the time of the submission of the Application shall be **rejected**.
- 5.3. The number of PV panels available for allocation under this initiative is limited. The number of eventual beneficiaries shall accordingly be limited so that the maximum number of PV modules allocated will not exceed the amount available.
- 5.4. Applications shall be received and evaluated on a first come first served basis.
- 5.5. Without prejudice to the Applications transferred to this Initiative in terms of Section 4.2 and Section 4.3, Applications that are submitted prior to the effective date shall be rejected and shall be deemed automatically invalid.
- 5.6. The following are mandatory criteria for an application to be considered eligible:
 - (i) declaration regarding building ownership and use, as per definitions included in Section 1 and Eligibility criteria included in Section 3. Declaration must be endorsed by Voluntary Organisation's Legal Representative; and
 - (ii) full application including contact details, copies of deeds and water and electricity bills issued on VO address and including all declarations and permits required as specified in this document and application form.

6. Payment Process

- 6.1. Sixty percent (60%) of the Grant shall be paid against a request for payment which may be issued by the VO upon the signing of an agreement with EWA.
- 6.2. The balance shall be paid against a request for payment which may be issued by the VO following the submission of the commissioning report of the PV system, and acceptance of same report by the Agency, provided that the Agency reserves the right to carry out any verification and, or inspection of the installed system.

7. Validity of Application

An application shall not be deemed to have been submitted unless it is full and complete in all material aspects and unless it contains all the information required and is accompanied by all documentation requested. An application shall be deemed to have been approved for funding by the Agency only when a letter of confirmation is sent to the Applicant by the

Agency to this effect.

8. Duration of the Initiative

Without prejudice to the Applications transferred to this Initiative in terms of Section 4.2 and Section 4.3 Applications for this Initiative may be validly received during the effective date of this Initiative. This Initiative may be renewed as may be deemed necessary by EWA.

9. Obligation of the Voluntary Organisation

- 9.1. The Applicant shall abide by the terms and conditions established by these Rules, and the clauses of the contract which is to be entered into by and between the respective VO and EWA after the issue of the confirmation letter.
- 9.2. Prior to application, the VO has a duty to obtain a confirmation by a Perit that the building on to which the system will be installed is of adequate stability and structurally robust to be able to carry the load of the proposed PV installation.
- 9.3. The VO is to have confirmation by a warranted Engineer that the site provides adequate space for the size of the installation and that the site does not provide any constraints (shading) for the efficient running of the proposed PV installation.

10. Amendments to the Initiative

- 10.1. The Agency reserves the right to make any amendments to this Initiative at any time by means of a notice published in the Government Gazette.

11. Liabilities

11.1. The Agency:

- (i) cannot be held liable for damages incurred by the VO or third parties, related with the installation during both the setting up of the installation or during the lifetime of the installation; and
- (ii) cannot and does not guarantee the performance of any technology deployed under this Initiative.