

United States Energy Association
Just and Secure Energy Transition Program (JSET)

Cooperative Agreement #7200AA22CA00028

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
(RFP)

PLEXOS Optimization Analyses of European Gas Vertical Corridor Initiative to Improve Ukraine
and Moldova's Energy Security

RFP Closing Date: January 9, 2025

1. What is the exact role of the JSET VGC working group in the project? Will they review and/or approve scenarios and methodologies developed throughout? How exactly is the Consultant expected to lead and support the involvement and understanding of the working group?

The Working Group will provide data, approve the scenarios and methodologies provided by the Consultant, review deliverables as well as provide commentary on draft and final reports. The Consultant will develop power point presentations to lead the meeting discussions regarding scenarios, methodologies, findings and results.

2. Can you please clarify that the Gas Dataset you are referring to is the latest combined Pan-European Electricity/Hydrogen and Gas Dataset? Perhaps Energy Exemplar can help in this question

It is the European gas dataset.

3. There is no reference to confidential data that could be provided from the participating G TSOs. Is the Consultant expected to get such data as well?

The Working Group will provide their data on the proposed investments. The Consultant will be required to execute an NDA with each of the Working Group members.

4. By when is the project expecting the VGC to reach those 10 BCM? Can we assume that the timeline of the analysis will be to 2050?

10 BCM is expected to be reached as defined by Level One of the joint proposals - by 2028, at the latest. The Consultant should assume the timeline of the analysis is 10 years or to 2035.

5. 10 BCM incremental capacity to which capacity? The ENTSOG's TYNDP 2024 declared capacity

The project seeks to support additions to the current interconnection capacity such that the entire corridor can transfer 10 BCM. The GSO's will nominate the current capacities. The project will follow the joint proposals from the TSOs, rather than the ENTSOG TYNDP.

6. The Security of Supply description reads more like a sensitivity analysis than a scenario. Specifically, a sensitivity analysis with respect to UGS capacity in Ukraine and demand for natural gas in the countries along the corridor. Please confirm you intend this to be undertaken as sensitivity analysis of the Baseline scenario, to be undertaken in Task Six. Because the combination of the two sensitivity parameters (UGS Ukraine and Natural Gas demand) can produce a large number of variants (at least four), please suggest a maximum of total model runs to be undertaken for the specific task (e.g four).

Based on their expertise and knowledge of the region, the offerors will suggest in their technical proposal the number of scenario and sensitivity analyses and model runs to support the project objectives and explain the basis for their suggestion. USEA reserves the right to adjust the number of scenarios, sensitivity analyses, and model runs proposed by the offeror based on its expertise and knowledge of the region and budget resources for the project.

7. In Task Four you refer to the methodology developed in Task One. In TASK One there is no such methodology to be developed, do you mean Task Four? Please clarify.

Yes, we mean Task Four.

8. What do you mean by "Level One" in Task Five?

Level One is described by the joint proposals of the Vertical Corridor Initiative, which are publicly available. They are linked to the 10 BCM in total capacity through the corridor.

9. Do you mean cost-savings compared to the current ENTSOG's TYNDP projects or something else?

Cost savings means the CAPEX defined by Level One.

10. Do you mean Task Four when you refer to applying the methodologies developed in Task Two? "

Yes, we mean Task Four.

11. The Pan European model/dataset already includes transmission tariffs for foreseen projects along the ENTSOG TYNDP and beyond. However, these tariffs may not include projects for the VGC. This means that simulation of VGC projects will not include the appropriate level of tariffs, as those will have to be calculated after the simulation (model run). Can you confirm that simulations will be undertaken with tariffs not reflecting the VGC projects costs?

The optimization of the VGC projects will consider the existing entry-exit tariffs at the interconnection points along the Corridor. After the optimization is performed then the tariffs methodology should be developed. The tariff methodology will consider the optimized VGC costs based on the model run. The derived methodology will be the base to calculate the tariffs associated with the optimized VGC costs.

12. Do you mean the transmission tariffs only for the incremental capacity of VGC projects or the total capacity including projects already present in TYNDP?

The transmission tariff for the total capacity, including projects already present in the TYNDP.

13. Do you envisage that the Consultant will have to provide training to working group members on the delivered plexos model? Or/else how do you expect the Consultant to improve the working group members' understanding of the Plexos VGC model?

Yes, the offerors are asked to suggest training sufficient enough to understand the study results.

14. Does this include the timeline and Gantt chart?

The 10 page limit does not include the timeline and Gantt chart.

15. What do you mean a fee on their cost? Do you mean a fee other than labor and travel costs?

A fee is the amount a contractor is paid that is not intended to cover its costs.

16. In case we have to travel, is there a policy or other equivalent document that you have that shows how you plan to cover travel costs, allowances, who pays what, invoicing etc.?

USEA will minimize the out of pocket expenses incurred by the Consultant. USEA and the Consultant will jointly determine the number of trips and travelers required to execute the scope of work. USEA will fund the following costs directly: airfare, ground transportation to/from hotel in the destination country, medical and evacuation insurance, and lodging. USEA will reimburse the Consultant for a U.S. Government approved daily meal and incidental allowance, parking or local ground transportation to/from the home country airport.

17. The link to the USAID Employee Contractor Biodata Form redirects to a Page Not Found, please update accordingly or share another link or a template.

The USAID Employee Contract Biodata Sheet document has been added to the RFP web page on the USEA website.