



**mineral resources
& energy**

Department:
Mineral Resources and Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Release

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DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY ANNOUNCES REVISED TIMELINES FOR THE COMMERCIAL CLOSE OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCER PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME BID WINDOW 5 (REIPPPP BW5)

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (the Department) has considered and approved that Commercial Close timelines for the Twenty-Five (25) Preferred Bidders announced under REIPPPP BW 5 will be undertaken in a phased approach with all Projects expected to sign Project Agreements by no later than end of September 2022.

This decision was informed by the confirmed timelines from Eskom to issue the Budget Quotes to all Preferred Bidders. The Budget Quotes are required in order to finalize costing and commercial operation timelines, all of which is necessary to be incorporated into the final Project Agreements and preparations for Commercial Close.

The Department has engaged Eskom extensively on these matters and Eskom has committed to a timetable that will enable the first batch of 14 Projects to sign their Projects Agreements at end of July 2022, accommodating those Preferred Bidders that will receive their Budget Quotes by the end of June 2022. The remaining 11 Projects are expected to receive their Budget Quotes by August 2022, which will enable the signing of the balance of Project Agreements by the end of September 2022.

Background

The 5th Bid Window under the Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme (REIPPPP BW 5) was launched on 12 April 2021. The Department announced the appointment of 25 Preferred Bidders on the 28th October 2021. The total new contracted capacity will be 2583 MW, of which 1608 MW will be procured from 12 Wind projects, and 975 MW from 13 Solar PV projects. These projects are expected to attract over R50 billion in investment and will create around 14 000 new jobs during construction and operations of the renewable power plants. The projects are expected to reach commercial operation within 24 months from commercial close.

End.

Issued by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy

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