

Ministry of Power
NRE Section
Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi

**Guidelines for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme for
development of Battery Energy Storage Systems
(BESS) supported through Power System Development
Fund (PSDF).**

1. Introduction

1.1 Objective: Development of 30GWh BESS capacity for deployment to ensure grid integration of RE and reliable electricity supply.

1.2 Energy storage systems are essential for integration of variable renewable energy (vRE) sources in the electricity grid. With an installation target of 393 GW (293 GW Solar and 100 GW Wind) by 2030, vRE will constitute approx. 50% of the installed generation capacity by 2030.

1.3 Increasing share of RE also necessitate flexible operation of thermal generation plants. The variability of renewable generation requires thermal generators to back down during periods of high RE availability, especially during solar hours. However, during evening peak hours, when solar generation is not available, thermal plants are essential to meet the evening peak. Therefore, BESS may also be installed with thermal power stations to leverage existing generation and transmission infrastructure efficiently.

1.4 As per CEA, 37GWh BESS capacity is required by 2027 and the requirement will increase to 236 GWh by 2031-32. BESS capacity of 13.2 GWh has been approved under the ongoing VGF scheme for development of BESS.

2 Scheme Overview

2.1 Viability Gap Funding (VGF): VGF of Rs 18 lakh per MWh, shall be provided and is aimed at supporting a BESS capacity of 30 GWh.

2.2 Scheme Budget: This scheme has a budgetary allocation of Rs 5,400 Crore. The VGF shall be a non-recurring expenditure and

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shall be fully funded from Power System Development Fund (PSDF). The disbursement of funds shall be as per procedure applicable for PSDF. The VGF for each project shall be disbursed to the Eligible Entity/ REIA, once CEA certifies the achievement of the disbursement schedule milestone and submission of the required BG.

2.3 Commissioning Period: The projects are required to be commissioned within a period of 18 months from the date of signing of Battery Energy Storage Purchase Agreement (BESPA) / Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).

2.4 Eligible Entities: State utilities or agencies authorized by States Governments or Central Government shall be eligible. (refer Annexure).

2.5 Disbursement schedule: The VGF amount to the eligible projects shall be disbursed in three tranches as detailed below.

Milestone	% VGF disbursed
On financial closure, subject to submission of bank guarantee.	20
On Commercial Operation Date (COD)	50
Completion of 1st year from COD	30
Total	100

2.5 Storage Duration: The BESS capacity should preferably be with 2-hour discharge duration and average 1.5 cycles in a day i.e within 24 Hour period. However, the Eligible Entity may vary the duration, no of cycles as required.

3. Implementation Model

3.1. Bidding Process: BESS projects shall be awarded using the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process under section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

3.2 Contract Period: The contract period shall be specified in the RfS document, in accordance with the BESS TBCB Guidelines. The contract shall be awarded on Build Own Operate (BOO)/ Build Own Operate Transfer (BOOT) basis preferably for a contract period of 12 to 15 years.



3.3 Bidding Parameter: Developers shall compete based on the annualized fixed cost they offer, expressed in rupees per Megawatt (MW) per Month or on Rs/kWh after factoring in the VGF specified in the RfS.

3.4. Eligible Entities are required to invite bids, either by themselves or through Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies designated by Central Government, following the bidding guidelines issued under section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The BESPA / PPA shall be signed within 9 months from the date of issue of these guidelines, to be eligible for VGF.

3.5 States / NTPC desirous of availing the VGF are required to submit their proposal to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) within 60 days from the date of issue of these Guidelines, specifying the implementing agency, location(s) and size of BESS capacity planned for implementation for screening and approval for VGF funding through PSDF.


3.6 The project may be connected at InSTS or ISTS. The land and InSTS grid connectivity shall be provided by the respective Eligible Entities.

3.7 The payment security mechanism shall be as per Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge & Related matters), Rules 2022 as amended from time to time. CEA will monitor the implementation of the scheme as well as the progress of the awarded projects under the Scheme through a Management Information System (MIS) portal and submit monthly reports to the Ministry of Power. The monitoring parameters shall include details of physical and financial progress vis-a-vis the agreed milestones. The performance levels may also be verified by CEA on at least quarterly basis.

3.8. Bank Guarantee: The Eligible Entities/REIAs shall be required to obtain a Bank Guarantee (BG) of value equal to the VGF to be disbursed, prior to its release to the developer, as specified in the RfS. This BG shall be liable for encashment to recover the VGF amount in the event of non-fulfilment of the scheme conditions specified in the Bidding Documents. The BG for the VGF sanctioned up to COD may be released within one year of COD.

4. Eligible Entity/REIA Responsibilities

- 4.1.** The Eligible Entity/REIA shall be responsible for:
- (i) inviting bids, and selecting the developer(s) for the allocated



- quantum and entering into contracts with the selected developer(s);
- (ii) ensuring and certifying that the bidding process complies with the Scheme guidelines and that all specified conditions are met;
 - (iii) acting as purchaser of energy storage services or output of BESS and entering into a BESPA / PPA with the developer for the contract period and BESSA / PSA with Eligible Entities, as applicable;
 - (iv) submit to CEA, all the requisite information for monitoring of the project including the audited Statement of Expenditure (SoE) and Utilization Certificate (UC) in the prescribed format of GFR 19 (A) as amended from time to time;
 - (v) comply with the provisions of General Financial Rules, 2017, as amended from time to time;

4.2. The VGF amount (Grant-in-Aid) is also subject to the Chapter 9 of the General Financial Rules, 2017, as amended from time to time, read with the Government of India's decisions incorporated there-under, and any other guidelines which may be issued in this regard.

4.3. Assets acquired wholly or substantially out of Central Government Grants shall not be disposed of during the contract period without obtaining the prior approval of the sanctioning authority of Grants-in-Aid {Rule 230(9)}. Shareholding of the bidding entity in the SPV/ project company executing the BESS project shall not fall below fifty-one per cent at any time prior to Commercial Operation Date (COD).

4.4. The accounts of Eligible Entity / REIA shall be audited by C&AG or by any person authorized by him on his behalf in accordance with the provisions laid down in Section 14 of the C&AG (DPC, 1971) and as amended from time to time.

4.5. The accounts of Eligible Entity / REIA shall be open for inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India under the provision of C&AG (DPC) Act, 1971 and internal audit party by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry or Department whenever it is called upon to do so.

5. Notwithstanding the aforementioned provisions at para 3 and 4, NTPC may implement its allocated capacity under section 62 of the Electricity Act 2003, as per CERC Regulations/ Orders.



6. Amendment to the Operational Guidelines

6.1. These guidelines may be amended with the approval of Secretary, Ministry of Power, to address implementation challenges.

6.2. The implementation model in these guidelines may be modified by the Ministry of Power, if required.

Annexure Allocation of BESS Capacity under the Scheme

S.N.	State / Entity	BESS Capacity Allocation (MWh)
1	Rajasthan	4000
2	Gujarat	4000
3	Maharashtra	4000
4	Tamil Nadu	1500
5	Karnataka	2000
6	Andhra Pradesh	2000
7	Madhya Pradesh	1500
8	Telangana	1500
9	Uttar Pradesh	1500
10	Haryana	500
11	Kerala	500
12	Punjab	500
13	Chhattisgarh	500
14	Odisha	500
15	Uttarakhand	500
16	NTPC	5,000
	TOTAL	30,000

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