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## **IPPO-SAPVIA meeting with EPCs re BW5 LC requirements**

12 January 2021, 08h00 – 09h00

### **Minutes**

**Facilitator:**

IPPO; Maduna Ngobeni  
SAPVIA; Niveshen Govender

**Attendees:**

Thuli Dlamini, IPPO  
Pervelan Govender, IPPO

Richard Dolye, juwi  
Wido Schnabel, Canadian Solar  
Chanda Nxumalo, SAPVIA  
Norman Moyo, DPA  
Mike Levington  
Gerhard  
Hano  
Julian Pillay  
Lawrance Pratt, CSIR  
Leigh-Anne Steede  
Mercia Grimbeek  
Nathan F  
Regaugetwe Nkgabutle  
Shenelle Nair  
Sicelo Mthombeni  
Stephen Koopman  
Tafadzwa  
Amo Motukisi  
Christo Botha  
Colin M  
De Villiers Botha, Solareff  
Duncan Palmer  
Elizabeth Ngoasheng  
Eugene Williams  
Colin Schroder  
Lineo Masopha, SAPVIA  
Kim Thomas, SAPVIA

**Context:**

The meeting was a follow up on the last meeting had with the IPP Office, as they prepare for Round 5 and subsequent rounds. The engagement with industry is to address Local Content and seeking viable solutions together with other stakeholders such as the DTIC and National Treasury, as they move forward with the Programme.

**Independent Study**

Because there is no basis upon which industry can provide the IPP Office with information or solutions regarding Local Content, a proposal was put forward to commission an independent study, that will look across the entire value chain to help identify areas of focus in Local Content or Local Manufacturing.

The IPP Office is in agreement with the proposed study, even though the study is a long-term solution and does not address the immediate issues with the current round.

The study should consider what is in the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan conducted by Green Cape and other Stakeholders.

**Working Group**

Once focus areas have been identified in the study, a Multi Stakeholder Working Group, funded by IDC, should be established to develop a plan with realistic targets and timescales and gaps that need to be closed.

**SAREM**

The IPP Office is happy to engage with Green Cape as proposed, regarding the South African Renewable Energy Master Plan. The purpose of the Master Plan is to start trying to set out an Industrialization Plan for the Renewable Energy Sector in South Africa and how that can also contribute towards the Just Energy transition, and help the National Programme over the next 5/10 years.

If government does not act reasonably and rapidly, and put together a proper plan for IPPs, then there's a big risk in private IPPs developing big projects with no Local Content requirements restrictions.

**Accelerated Stress Testing Laboratory**

The CSIR Energy Centre has developed an Accelerated Stress Testing Laboratory for PV Modules, following along some of the global trends. There's additional reliability testing of PV Modules above and beyond certification to really support the quality of the supply of PV Modules for projects.

This will contribute in creating confidence in the quality of locally manufactured PV Modules.

**In summary**

- In order to rebuild/restore the economy, a steady energy source is essential.
- Local Content requirements hinder the process of addressing the national energy crisis, through Renewable Energy as far as Bid Window 5 is concerned.
- The IPP Office has no mandate on LC requirements, and there is very little or nothing they can do to make any changes to the requirements.
- It was vital for the DTI to attend this meeting, as they form part of this discussion however, they could not attend.
- Unfortunately, a resolution was not achieved due the fact it is not possible to provide solutions without the basis.

- It was agreed that an independent study should be commissioned to inform future Bid Window Rounds on Local Content requirements, subsequent to that an ongoing Multi Stakeholder Working Group to develop a long-term plan.
- Funding for the study would not be an issue as it is readily available.
- IPP Office agrees to engaging with Green Cape to discuss the SAREM.
- Any inputs that the industry might have can be shared with SAPVIA and subsequently forwarded to the IPP Office.

Adjourned