Following are a set of Frequently asked questions. Further down you can also find the questions and answers in Maltese

1. How do I choose among PV retailers?

Send for catalogues from the many renewable energy companies registered with the Malta Resources Authority and read them. You will learn that the equipment is fairly standard and the costs are similar. You can familiarise yourself with the types and sizes of components available. Solar electric components are well made.

Photovoltaics are manufactured by major world corporations who are already in the energy business. Solar photovoltaics have a lifetime of 20 or more years and new ones have good manufacturers guarantees.

After you are fairly confident that you understand this technology, find a provider who is experienced. If you are going to have a system installed get references. Get at least three quotes from photovoltaic sellers and compare costs. The installers should visit the site of installation and ensure that a photovoltaic installation is feasible in terms of space, direction and shading. The installer should do a shading analysis that tells you the percentage of annual solar energy blocked by shade. Once you have compiled a list of providers, the next step is to call and ask them questions.

2. Is the lowest price the "best deal"?

It might not be. You must decide how much you wish to pay for your PV system, but price should not be your only consideration.

As with any project that necessitates hiring a contractor, due diligence is recommended; check if the company has any pending or active judgements against it.

3. How do I obtain quotes and choose among competing retailers?

You should get more than one quote for your system installation, making sure that the quotes are made on the same basis. Similarly, there are different types of PV panels, some of which generate more electricity per square meter than others. Quotes should clearly state the quantity, make and model of the equipment, including details about where it will be installed and the maximum generating capacity of the system, measured in watts or kilowatts. Quotes should also include estimates of the system's annual energy production, measured in kilowatt-hours, the total cost of getting the PV system up and running, including hardware, installation, connecting to the grid, permitting, VAT, and warranty. Get warranties for panels, inverters and installation in writing and ensure that the warranty includes the output performance of the system. Beware of quotes which do not specify a total installation cost.

Some quotes include offers of 'free' equipment or 'special' discounts. Do look at the net price you are paying apart from the discounts, and use your judgement to value the 'equipment', as well whether you need the equipment or not. Furthermore, to be clear, all such offers are discounted from the amount eligible for the rebate (i.e. you will not get the full amount.)

4. What permits do I need?

In most cases, no MEPA permit is required. There is additional information on this issue on the MRA website www.mra.org.mt as well as on MEPA's website www.mepa.org.mt.

To generate electricity, in most cases, you only need to 'notify' the MRA on the appropriate form.

An application form to Enemalta for a meter completes the process of connection to the grid.

5. What form of payment should be used?

You should not leave a deposit before a grant offer is issued by the MRA stating that you are eligible for a grant. Withhold a significant sum until the photovoltaic equipment is commissioned and connected to the Enemalta grid and the guarantee is signed. In order to be eligible for the pv grant scheme, all payments must be made by bank transfer. An original bank transfer statement and an original fiscal receipt, both dated after the date of the grant offer, must be submitted with Part B of the application.

6. Why do I need an engineer?

A PV system generates electricity and should be connected properly. It may be dangerous to you, Enemalta personnel, or your neighbours if not installed properly. It is essential that the Enemalta Network Code, as well as the Wiring Regulations are followed scrupulously.

7. Can I generate my own electricity when there is a power failure?

NO. This is a special situation called 'islanding' and is strictly prohibited. Such a situation can be dangerous to yourself or persons working on the power lines (who may be assuming that the electricity has been completely switched off), it can result in loss of synchronisation with the power system once restored, with possibly damaging effects. An inverter should not allow islanding to occur.

8. Can I pay a deposit prior to the grant offer?

No. All payments must be done by bank transfer and must all be carried out after the issue of a grant offer from the Malta Resources Authority.

9. What happens if the address on my ID card does not match that on the electricity bill?

The address on the application must match the service address on the electricity bill. There is no requirement for the address on the ID card to match. However, discrepancies may be queried and explanations requested.

10. What happens if I sell my house?

Clause 12 of the guidelines states "The Applicant must obtain the prior authorisation of the MRA for any changes in the equipment (location and/or operation), as well as inform the MRA of any change in contact details during this period. Applicants are to inform MRA as soon as they decide to sell the property on which the PV system is installed. Transfer of ownership is only permissible in case of sale of property, in which case, the contract of sale shall specify the transfer of obligations from the Applicant to the new owner of the premises

11. Am I eligible for the feed-in tariff if I take the grant?

Yes, you are eligible for a feed-in tariff if you take the grant. Details on how the feed-in tariff is going to be applied were published in a press release issued by the Department of Information. More details will be given with the publication of the Legal Notice governing feed-in tariffs that is due to be published soon.

12. Can I use net metering instead of the feed in tariff?

The details of how the feed in tariff will operate have been announced in the Press Release issued by the MRRA. Further details will be clarified in the Legal Notice to be issued shortly.

13. Can I apply for the grant if I don't have a meter installed?

No, a grant can only be given for those premises were an electricity meter is installed.

14. Should the quotation be in the specific format shown in the Annex to Part A of the application?

No, the suppliers are not being requested to change their software/quotation book to comply with this format, but are required to complete the annex and attach it to their quotation. However, if suppliers change their quotation format, ALL details in the itemisation should be reproduced. An original quotation is, in any case, requested from the supplier (even if the supplier completes the Annex).

15. Do retailers have to register their models again?

No, models do not have to be registered again, but if prices have changed, please advise the MRA with the new prices.

16. Can installation be given free?

Yes, however the costs of the installation must be shown as part of the ineligible costs, and an equivalent discount shown on the eligible costs. The MRA will not accept a zero cost of installation.

17. Is there any limit to the discount?

There is no limit, but all discounts must be shown. Excessive discounts will be questioned.

18. What happens if I install the PV myself?

Yes, however the costs of the installation must be shown as part of the ineligible costs, and an equivalent discount shown on the eligible costs. The MRA will not accept a zero cost of installation. All costs of materials used must be included.

19. Will changes in models be accepted?

Yes, but there must be a valid reason.

20. My pv installation has been designed with an oversized inverter. Will I be disqualified?

No, however the difference in cost between a matched inverter and an oversized inverter has to be included as a discount. Furthermore, your retailer has to demonstrate that there is no deterioration in performance when the oversized inverter is installed. Without prejudice to the eventual assessment of your application by the MRA, it is suggested that performance with the recommended inverter is also included with your application.

MISTOQSIJIET ĠENERALI

1. Kif nista' nagħmel għażla bejn bejjiegħ tal-pv għal ieħor?

Iġbor katalgi ta' sistemi differenti ta' pannelli fotovoltajċi mingħand bejjiegħa differenti li huma reġistrati mal-Awtorità ta' Malta dwar ir-Riżorsi u aqrahom. Permezz tagħhom issir taf li t-tagħmir hu ġeneralment wieħed standard u l-ispejjeż huma simili. Sir familjari mat-tipi u d-daqsijiet differenti ta' tagħmir li hawn fis-suq.

Il-pannelli fotovoltajċi huma manifatturati minn korporazzjonijiet globali ewlenin li jinsabu fin-negozju tal-enerġija. It-tagħmir għandu ħajja ta' 20 sena jew aktar u l-pannelli fotovoltajċi l-moderni għandhom garanziji tajba mingħand il-manifatturi.

Jekk inti fiduċjuż/a li fhimt kif din it-teknoloġija taħdem, għamel kuntatt ma' bejjiegħ ta' dawn is-sistemi. Jekk tkun se tinstalla s-sistema iġbor mill-inqas tliet stimi mingħand bejjiegħa tal-pvs u qabbel l-ispejjeż bejn wieħed u l-ieħor. Dawk li jkunu se jinstallaw is-sistema għandhom iżuru l-post fejn tkun se titpoġġa s-sistema u għandhom jassiguraw li s-sistema tal-pvs hi viabli f'dak li hu spazju, direzzjoni u l-aċċess għax-xemx. Min ikun se jinstalla s-sistema għandu jagħmel analiżi li turik il-perċentwal annwali ta' enerġija mix-xemx li tkun se tintilef minħabba xi dellijiet.

2. L-irħas prezz hu l-aħjar?

Jista' ma jkunx il-każ. Int għandek tiddeċiedi kemm tixtieq tħallas għas-sistema ta' pannelli fotovoltajċi, iżda l-prezz m'għandux ikun l-uniku fatttur li tikkunsidra.

Bħal kull proġett fejn tkun teħtieġ tqabbad kuntrattur, hu rakkomandat li l-klient jara li l-kumpanija jkolliex xi każijiet pendenti kontriha.

3. Kif nista' nikseb stimi u nagħżel minn fost bejjiegħa differenti?

Għandek tiġbor aktar minn stima waħda kif ukoll għandek tiċċekkja li l-istimi li tingħata jkunu fuq bażi simili. There is a list of PV retailers on the MRA website. Ftakar li hemm tipi differenti ta' pannelli, uħud li jiġġeneraw aktar enerġija għal kull metru kwadru minn oħrajn. L-istimi għandhom jiddikjaraw biċ-ċar il-kwantità, l-isem u l-mudell tat-tagħmir, inkluż dettalji dwar fejn se jkun installat u l-ġenerazzjoni massima li tagħti s-sistema, li titkejjel jew f'watt jew f'*kilowatts*. L-istimi għandhom jinkludu wkoll il-produzzjoni annwali tal-enerġija li tiġġenera s-sistema li titkejjel f'*kilowatt-hours*, l-ispejjeż involuti biex is-sistema tkun installata u tibda taħdem, inkluż il-*hardware*, l-installazzjoni, l-ispejjeż biex is-sistema titqabbad mal-grid, il-permessi meħtieġa, il-VAT u l-garanzija. Il-garanziji bil-miktub għandhom jingħataw fuq il-pannelli, l-inverters u l-installazzjoni. Assigura wkoll li l-garanzija tinkludi l-*output performance* tas-sistema. Oqgħod attent minn dawk l-istimi li ma jispeċifikaw l-ispejjeż totali tal-installazzjoni.

Ċertu stimi jinkludu offerti ta' 'tagħmir b'xejn' jew 'skontijiet speċjali'. Agħti każ tal-prezz nett li tkun se tħallas, mhux biss l-iskontijiet li tkun se tingħata, imbagħad għamel l-għażla tiegħek bejn tagħmir u ieħor. Ftakar li, jekk int se tapplika għal għotja fuq il-PV, l-offerti kollha jridu jitnaqsu mis-somma finali li hi eliġibbli għall-grant (jiġifieri ma tieħux lura l-ammont sħiħ.)

4. X'permessi għandi bżonn?

F'ħafna mill-każi m'hemmx bżonn permess tal-MEPA biex tinstalla pannelli fotovoltajċi fuq il-bejt. Wieħed jista' jsib aktar informazzjoni dwar dan jew il-websajt tal-MRA www.mra.org.mt kif ukoll fuq il-websajt tal-MEPA www.mepa.org.mt.

Biex tiġġenera l-elettriku, f'ħafna każi kull ma jkollok bżonn hu li tinnotifika lill-MRA permezz ta' formola apposta.

Wieħed irid ukoll jibgħat applikazzjoni lill-Korporazzjoni Enemalta biex is-sistema tkun tista' titqabbad mal-grid.

5. Kif nista' nħallas għas-sistema tal-pvs?

Int ma tistgħax tħalli deposit għand il-bejjiegħ qabel ma' tinħareġ l-ittra mingħand l-MRA li tiddikjara li int eliġibbli għall-*grant*. Tħallasx is-somma sħiħa tal-pannelli fotovoltajċi qabel mas-sistema tkun *commissioned* u mqabbda mal-grid tal-Enemalta u l-garanzija tkun iffirmata. Biex tkun eliġibbli għall-iskema tal-*grants*, il-pagamenti kollha jridu jsiru permezz ta' bank transfer. Meta ddaħħal il-Part B tal-applikazzjoni magħha trid twaħħal l-istatement oriġinali tal-bank transfer u l-irċevuta oriġinali tal-VAT, it-tnejn bid-data wara l-ħruġ tal-ittra tal-offerta mill-MRA.

6. Għaliex hemm bżonn ta' inġinjier?

Sistema tal-pvs tiġġenera l-elettriku u għandha tkun installata sewwa. Tista' tkun ta' periklu għalik, għall-ħaddiema tal-Enemalta jew għall-ġirien jekk ma tkunx installata tajjeb. Hu importanti li wieħed jaderixxi man-Network Grid tal-Enemalta u mar-Regolamenti tal-Wiring.

7. Nista' niġġenera l-elettriku meta jkun hemm qtugħ fis-sistema tal-elettriku?

Le. Din hi sitwazzjoni speċjali magħrufa bħala 'islanding' u hi strettament projbita. Sitwazzjoni bħal din tista' tkun perikoluża għalik u għal dawk li jkunu qed jaħdmu fuq id-dawl (għaliex ikunu qed jaħsbu li tfew is-sistema tal-elettriku kompletament). Tista' twassal ukoll biex ikun hemm telf ta' synchronisation ladarba s-sistema tad-dawl terġa' tkun irrestawrata, bil-possibbiltà li ġġarrab ħsarat fit-tagħmir tiegħek. L-inverter għandu jkun wieħed li ma jippermettix sitwazzjoni ta' 'islanding'.

8. Nista' nħallas depositu qabel toħroġ l-ittra ta' offerta?

Le. Il-pagamenti kollha jridu jsiru permezz ta' bank transfer u kollha jridu jitwettqu wara l-ħruġ tal-ittra tal-offerta mingħand l-Awtorità ta' Malta dwar ir-Riżorsi.

9. X'jiġri jekk l-indirizz fuq il-karta tal-identità ma jkunx l-istess bħall-indirizz li jidher fuq il-kont tad-dawl?

L-indirizz fuq l-applikazzjoni għandu jkun l-istess bħall-indirizz fuq il-kont tad-dawl. M'hemm ebda rekwizit li jgħid li l-indirizz fuq il-karta tal-identità għandu jkun l-istess. Madankollu, l-Awtorità ta' Malta dwar ir-Riżorsi għandha d-dritt li titlob spjega f'każ ta' diskrepanzi.

10. X'jiġri jekk inbigħ id-dar?

Klawsola 12 tal-linji gwida tgħid li l-applikant għandu l-ewwel jikseb awtorizzazzjoni għal kull bidla fit-tagħmir (bdil ta' post jew/u l-operat) kif ukoll għandu jinforma lill-MRA f'każ ta' bidla fil-kuntatti tiegħu matul dan il-perjodu. L-applikanti għandhom jinfurmaw lill-MRA f'każ li jkunu se jbiegħu l-proprjetà fejn ikun hemm is-sistema tal-pvs installata. It-trasferiment ta' pv mingħand persuna għal oħra hu permess biss f'każ ta' bejgħ ta' proprjetà, f'liema każ il-kuntratt tal-bejgħ għandu jispeċifika t-trasferiment tal-obblikazzjonijiet għand l-applikant għal għand is-sid il-ġdid tal-proprjetà.

11. Inkun eliġibbli għall-*feed-in-tariff* jekk nieħu l-grant?

Iva, inti eliġibbli għall-*feed-in tariff* jekk tieħu l-*grant*. Id-dettalji dwar kif se taħdem il-feed-in-tariff tħabbru fi stqarrija maħruġa mid-Dipartiment tal-Informazzjoni. Aktar dettalji se jkunu kjarifikati permezz ta' Avviż Legali li mistenni jkun pubblikat dalwaqt.

12. Nista' nagħżel bejn *net-metering* u *feed-in tariff*?

L-applikanti għall-iskema li kienet pubblikata f'Ġunju m'humiex intitolati għal net metering.

13. Nista' napplika għall-grant jekk m'hemmx *meter* installat fil-post?

Le, grant tista' tingħata biss fuq dik il-proprjetà fejn hemm meter tad-dawl installat.

14. L-istima għandha tkun l-istess bħall-Annex li hemm f'Part A tal-applikazzjoni?

Le, il-bejjiegħa m'humiex qed jintalbu li jbiddlu s-*software/il-ktieb tal-quotations* tagħhom biex ikunu simili għall-format, iżda huma mitluba li jimlew l-annex u jwaħħluh mal-istima li joħorġu huma. Madankollu, jekk il-bejiegħa ibiddlu l-format tal-istima, id-dettalji KOLLHA jridu jkunu riprodotti. F'kull każ hu meħtieġ li tingħata stima oriġinali mingħand il-bejjiegħ (anke jekk il-bejjiegħ jimla l-Annex.)

15. Il-bejjiegħa għandhom jirreġistraw il-mudelli tagħhom mill-ġdid?

Le, il-mudelli differenti tal-pvs m'għandhomx ikunu reġistrati mill-ġdid iżda jekk il-prezz tagħhom jinbidel, għandhom javżaw lill-MRA bil-prezzijiet il-ġodda.

16. L-installazzjoni tista' ssir b'xejn?

Iva, madankollu l-ispejjeż tal-installazzjoni għandhom jintwerew bħala parti mill-ispejjeż li m'humiex eliġibbli, imbagħad għandu jkun inkluż skont ekwivalenti fl-ispejjeż eliġibbli. L-MRA mhux se taċċetta li l-ispejjeż tal-installazzjoni jidhru bħala zero.

17. Hemm xi limitu fuq l-iskontijiet li jingħataw?

M'hemm ebda limitu, imma l-iskontijiet kollha jridu jkunu dikjarati. Skontijiet esaġerati se jkunu mistħarġa.

18. X'jiġri jekk ninstalla l-pv jiena stess?

Iva madankollu l-ispejjeż tal-installazzjoni jridu jintwerew bħala parti mill-ispejjeż mhux eliġibbli u skont ekwivalenti jrid jintwera fl-ispejjeż li huma eliġibbli. L-MRA ma taċċettax li l-ispiża tal-installazzjoni tkun zero. Fl-istima jridu jkunu nklużi wkoll l-ispejjeż kollha tal-materjal intużat.

19. Ikunu aċċettati bidliet fil-mudelli?

Iva, imma trid tingħata raġuni valida.

20. L-installazzjoni tal-pv tiegħi kienet disinjata b'inverter li hu akbar mill-kapaċita tal-pannelli. B'hekk inkun skwalifikat?

Le, madankollu id-differenza fl-ispejjeż bejn inverter li jaqbel mad-daqs tal-pannelli u l-inverter li hu akbar trid tkun inkluża bħala skont. Barra minhekk, il-bejjiegħ tal-pannelli jrid juri li l-inverter il-kbir mhux se jħalli effett fuq il-performance tal-pannelli. Mingħajr preġudizzju għal meta niġu biex nipproċessaw l-applikazzjoni, hu suġġerit li l-performance bl-inverter rakkomandat tkun inkluża wkoll mal-applikazzjoni.