

Auction System Technical Supplement for Atlantic Wind Lease Sale 9 for Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Carolina Long Bay Area

Introduction

This is a Technical Supplement to the Final Sale Notice for Atlantic Wind Lease Sale 9 (ATLW-9) for Commercial Leasing for Wind Power on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Carolina Long Bay Area held by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). This reference contains additional information on the Auction System that will be used to manage competitive bidding for Lease OCS-A 0545 and Lease OCS-A 0546.

The software used for the auction and certain related documentation (including an Auction Manual to be distributed directly to bidders) are licensed from Power Auctions LLC. All rights reserved by Power Auctions LLC.

Disclaimers—*Internet and Security Issues*

Risks, delays and failures in the internet and the software and hardware used to provide access to the Auction Site may occur due to factors outside the control of BOEM or its agents. Neither BOEM nor its agents warrant that the Auction Site will be uninterrupted or error free. In no event shall BOEM, or any of its officers, employees or agents, be liable for any damages whatsoever, including but not limited to loss of business profits, business interruption, loss of business information, or any other loss, arising out of or relating to the existence, furnishing, functioning or use of the Auction System that is accessible to bidders in connection with this auction. Moreover, no obligation or liability will arise out of BOEM or its agent's technical, programming or other advice or service provided in connection with the Auction System.

The World Wide Web exists across open public networks that are neither secure nor private. Accordingly, notwithstanding the use of the Transport Layer Security (TLS) technology, there is a risk that any communication to or from the Auction Site may be intercepted, used or modified by third parties; and material obtained in communications to or from or through the Auction Site may contain computer viruses and other defects.

Bidders must use the Auction Site in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Bidders must not use the Auction Site for illegal purposes and must not interfere with or disrupt networks connected to the Auction Site. Bidders must not connect the Auction Site to any computer software or take any other action that may cause the Auction Site to fail or perform in a manner otherwise than in accordance with its intended functionality.

Authority

All bidders are required to comply with any rules or instructions in this Supplement, except to the extent that any of the information in this guide is inconsistent with the Final Sale Notice, in which case, the provisions of the Final Sale Notice shall take precedence over this Supplement.

Authorized Users

Bidders are responsible for ensuring that each and every individual nominated on the Bidder's Financial Form maintains the confidentiality and security of their authentication details and the security of the systems used to connect to the Auction Site. Bidders agree to notify the Auction Manager immediately upon becoming aware of any unauthorized use of their account or any other breach of security. Each authorized individual acknowledges on behalf of that bidder that neither BOEM nor its subcontractors are responsible for any damage the bidder may suffer through failure by any of its authorized individuals to maintain security in relation to their systems, their authentication details or through unauthorized use of their authentication details.

System Requirements

The auction system can be accessed using an Internet connected PC with an Internet browser using TLS protocols and a minimum cipher strength of 128-bit. The recommended configuration is detailed below:

- Intel Pentium (or equivalent) with 1.2 GHz processor or faster;
- Either Windows 10 or Windows 11 operating system with a recent version of Google Chrome™ or Microsoft Edge¹; or Mac platform with a recent version of Google Chrome™;
- The browser must be configured to accept cookies and JavaScript;
- Access to the internet;
- 1920 x 1080 screen resolution or higher; and
- Smartphone with recent operating system for two-factor authentication.

Bidders should use the same hardware configuration for the mock auction as they intend to use for the live auction. Each bidder should ensure that its computer has the maximum protection against security vulnerabilities. This includes installing the latest security updates for operating systems and browsers, and installing anti-virus software. Bidders are discouraged from using internet browsers containing third-party modifications such as search bars, tool bars, or other third-party browser extensions. If in doubt, seek the advice of your IT department in order to disable third-party browser extensions or, if necessary, obtain clean installations of a recommended internet browser.

Bidders are encouraged to set up an alternative way to connect to the internet in case the primary internet access fails. For example, a bidder could set up mobile broadband in advance as a backup mechanism. Bidders should also have access to a phone for two-factor authentication, a phone for calls (if different) and a printer during the auction.

System Access

The URL for the web site where the auction will take place will be distributed to each qualified bidder prior to the auction. When the auction has been opened for bidders to log in, a link will

¹ Versions of Microsoft Edge prior to 79 (known as “legacy Edge”) are not supported.

appear on that page. Bidders need three pieces of information in order to log in:

- A username, which will be provided to bidders before the start of the auction;
- A temporary password, which will be provided to bidders before the start of the auction; and
- A numerical code, read off of a smartphone app, which is specific to the token that will be provided to bidders prior to the auction.

Bidders may be required to change their temporary password shortly after signing in. Instructions for doing so will be provided prior to the auction.

Privacy Notice

The web site will contain the following warning. Use of the system constitutes acknowledgement of the notice and consent to its terms.

This web site is operated for the U.S. Government. Any unauthorized access is prohibited. Access of this system may be monitored, recorded, and subject to audit. Use of this system indicates consent to the monitoring and recording of the user's use of the system. The data and documents on this system include Federal records that may contain sensitive information protected by various Federal statutes. Unauthorized user attempts or acts to (1) access, upload, change, delete or deface information on this system, (2) modify this system, (3) deny access to this system, or (4) otherwise misuse this system are strictly prohibited and may result in criminal or civil penalties.

All phone communications with the Auction Manager during the auction will also be recorded.

Submitting Bids

The timing of when bidders enter a bid during any given bid round has no effect on the outcome of the Auction, *i.e.*, it does not matter whether your bid is made early or late in the round. Bidders are free to revise bids as they wish during the round. Only the bids that are in place at the time that the round closes are final bids for that round (absent manual entry of bids by the Auction Manager). No information will be provided to bidders during the round about the aggregate demand corresponding to the bids placed in the current round—the results are only provided during the inter-round recess period.

All auction transactions made through the Auction System are deemed to occur at the time logged by the Auction System.

Messages

The Auction System supports two types of messages: announcements and conversations. An announcement is a one-direction message from the Auction Manager to all bidders. A conversation is a two-directional message stream that is sent from the Auction Manager to a

bidder and/or from an authorized individual of a bidder to the Auction Manager. The Auction Manager may use both types of messages to communicate with bidders throughout the auction.

Internet or Computer Failure

In the event bidders experience an internet outage during the auction, bidders may contact the Auction Manager by phone. Phone numbers for this purpose will be given to bidders prior to the auction. Acceptance of bids made according to alternate bidding procedures is within the sole discretion of the Auction Manager. Such bids will be manually entered by the Auction Manager on behalf of a bidder into the Auction System. If the bidder's internet access is restored, it is expected that the bidder would revert to using the online Auction System.