



City of Bexley – Police Department Solar Carport Project

Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Solar Energy Design-Build Contractors

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Image: A Melink Solar solar array installed at Kent State University's Trumbull campus; 1 of 3 systems installed in 2021 across three KSU sites totaling 2.25 MW-DC. Melink Solar finished a 7.15 MW-DC Phase II at KSU's Main Campus in 2025.

Section A: Letter of Transmittal

Elizabeth Ellman
Sustainability Programs Coordinator, City of Bexley
2242 E. Main St., Bexley, Ohio 43209
eeleman@bexley.org

Dear Elizabeth, and the City of Bexley team,

Melink Solar, LLC (Melink Solar) is pleased to provide a response to the referenced Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the City of Bexley. Melink Solar is a commercial, turnkey Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) firm. Melink Solar would be responsible for the design, permitting, safe construction, project management, quality control (including safety and scheduling) and commissioning of the system.


We would like to highlight to your team that Melink Solar has been empowering people to build their own sustainable future since 1987. Our core values include Sustainability Leadership, Integrity, Excellence, Reliability, and Quality. Below are bullet points of why we believe Melink Solar is the most uniquely qualified for this project, as detailed in our RFQ response document.

- **Experience and Expertise:** Melink has installed nearly 300 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity with unrivaled customer service.
 - **#1 commercial & industrial EPC** in the Midwest
 - **#1 solar firm headquartered in Ohio** by installed commercial solar capacity.
 - **#7 commercial & industrial EPC in the US** for completed national capacity.
- **Leadership:** Melink Solar is a national leader and ‘walks the talk’ in energy efficiency and renewable energy. Melink Solar began in a LEED® Platinum Certified and net-zero Energy headquarters: both buildings are two of the greenest buildings in the world.
- **People:** Melink Solar’s engineers, project managers, and construction managers are among the best trained, experienced, and passionate professionals in the industry. Team members have led nonprofits like SonLight Power, Shared Power Network and Green Energy Ohio. Every Melink Solar Project Manager is NABCEP-certified, yet we set our standards even higher than certification requirements. We hire based on technical skills, cognitive aptitude, and personality profile, using advanced screening & selection criteria to ensure our team is composed of subject matter experts with a clear focus on customer priorities.
- **Engineering Approach:** Melink Solar has developed a proprietary engineering specification based on our experience as a system owner, operator, and through

years of close collaboration with utility solar customers, with a goal to minimize total cost of ownership. We design our systems to meet or exceed the unique requirements of each project, using utility standards rather than basic code minimum requirements.

- **Material Quality:** Melink Solar systematically evaluates our vendors, focusing on both their financial stability and product quality, durability, and performance. We review vendor financial health so you can have confidence in the underlying manufacturer product warranties. We evaluate product quality, durability, and performance based on rigorous third-party testing, so your investment will not be sidelined with faulty equipment. Since 2007, Melink has been testing solar panels on-site at its headquarters for efficiency, performance, seasonal cleaning impacts, thermal characteristics, and resilience to weather, hail, wind, and storm damage.
- **Operational Excellence:** Melink Solar has spent over a decade building our Proprietary Project Management Platform. Our Project Management Platform ensures each project is built to utility-scale standards, with safety, budget, quality, schedule, and customer experience in mind. Additionally, our platform enables us to achieve flawless execution across our customer projects regardless of project size, type, or location.
- **Customer First Approach:** Melink Solar knows that 74% of safety or reliability issues are related to workmanship in the direct current (DC) distribution side of the system, not equipment issues. Our Project Execution team intentionally takes an “Owner-Rep” approach to ensure the system is installed per Melink Solar’s strict engineering technical specifications.
- **Best Value:** Simply put, Melink Solar became the #1 EPC in the Midwest by elevating the standard for delivering the best value in distributed generation and commercial-scale solar. We design and build systems to have the **lowest cost of ownership over its 30-plus-year lifespan.**

Melink Solar confirms receipt of all RFQ appendices. The proposal shall remain valid for 90 days. All information submitted is true and correct, and there has been no collusion. Melink Solar does not have a general fax number. Please contact me with any questions regarding this RFQ response.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Parker".

Seth Parker
CEO, Melink Solar
513-965-7348

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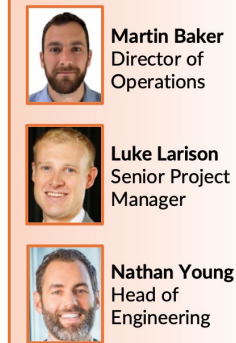
Section B: Project Team

Melink Solar assigns a dedicated “Project Team” to each project to ensure seamless execution. This team includes a Project Engineer, Project Manager, Associate Project Manager, and Construction Manager, all working in close collaboration. The Project Team is further supported by a Senior Project Manager, the Director of Operations, the Head of Engineering, and the CEO.

- **Pre-Construction Phase:**
 - During this phase, the assigned Project Engineer serves as the primary customer contact, as most discussions focus on system design. The Project Engineer is supported by the Project Manager, the Director of Engineering, and the CEO to address design-related inquiries and ensure alignment.
- **Construction Phase:**
 - The Project Manager becomes the primary customer contact, supported by the Associate Project Manager and Construction Manager in managing daily activities. The Project Engineer remains actively involved to review and respond to contractor RFIs (Requests for Information) and ensure installation methods comply with Melink Solar’s specifications.
- **Escalation and Oversight:**
 - The Senior Project Manager oversees multiple Project Teams and acts as a point of escalation if challenges arise.

While Seth Parker (CEO), Nathan Young (Head of Engineering), and Martin Barker (Director of Operations) are not formally part of the Project Team, they play an active role during both pre-construction and construction phases. Their priority is to ensure the project is managed effectively and to participate in key meetings. Weekly executive-level check-ins with the Senior Project Manager and Project Manager will provide updates and address any issues. Should challenges arise, these executives will be directly involved in resolving them to keep the project on track.

The following image depicts an example of the Melink Solar Project Team:

PROJECT TEAM**PROJECT SUPPORT****OFFICE SUPPORT**

Below are the relevant experiences, qualifications, and educational backgrounds of the Melink Solar Project Team.

Seth Parker – CEO

Seth Parker joined Melink in 2015 and is currently serving Melink Solar as CEO, where he oversees the day-to-day operations and ensures projects are properly staffed with experienced team members to exceed customer expectations. Seth has 250+ MW of solar EPC experience. He holds a M.S. in Renewable and Clean Energy from the University of Dayton and a B.A. in Economics from Wittenberg University. Seth has also obtained his OSHA-30 and Certified Energy Manager (CEM) certifications.

**Drew Guthridge – CFO**

Drew joined the Melink Solar team in 2023. Drew has his B.A. in Accounting from Wright State University and an M.B.A. from Wright State University. Prior to joining Melink Solar, Drew worked 10+ years in automotive manufacturing including CFO & CEO roles in global organizations. During his time in manufacturing, Drew lead sustainability initiatives including solar implementations, carbon footprint analyses and net-zero carbon roadmaps.



Nathan Young – Head of Engineering

Nathan joined Melink in 2014 as the Solar Asset Manager. Nathan has 17 years of experience in the construction industry and has spent the last 10+ years in the solar sector with over 275 MW of experience. He is a NABCEP Certified PV Installation Professional™. Nathan is active in his community as a volunteer soccer and volleyball coach. Nathan graduated from Northern Kentucky University with a BS in Construction Management and Cincinnati State Technology College with an AAS in Civil Engineering Technology-Architecture.



Martin Baker – Director of Operations

Martin joined Melink Solar with 12 years of leadership & project management experience. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and majored in mechanical engineering with a sub-discipline of power and energy. Upon graduating college, Martin served in the United States Army in the 101st Airborne Division as an Infantry officer and Ranger and in 5th Special Forces Group as a Green Beret and ODA Commander. After 10 years of service in the Army, Martin joined Cincinnati-based Ethicon Endo-Surgery as the Senior Project Manager of an estimated \$1 billion USD integrated surgical tower platform.



Luke Larison – Senior Project Manager

Luke Larison joined Melink Solar in 2018 as a Project Manager. Luke has experience managing over 100 MW of solar installations, including roof mount, canopy, pile driven fixed tilt, ballasted fixed tilt, single axis trackers, and experience with landfill projects. Luke holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics, a Minor in Nuclear Engineering, and a Minor in Business from The Ohio State University. Luke has his OSHA-30 and is a NABCEP Certified PV Installation Professional™.



JR Stoll – Project Manager

JR Stoll joined Melink Solar in 2021 as a Construction Manager after three years in the construction industry as a Project Engineer. JR has worked in engineering and solar construction groups within Duke Energy, ensuring projects are completed on time and on budget. JR has experience managing over 50+ MW of solar installations including roof mount, canopy, pile driven fixed tilt, ballasted fixed tilt, and single axis trackers. JR holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. JR has his OSHA-30 Hazard Training and has completed 40 hours of NABCEP Advanced PV Certification Training and is obtaining his PMP Certification.



Justin Ehren – Project Engineer II

Justin joined Melink Solar in 2019 as a sales engineer co-op while pursuing his master's degree in Renewable and Clean Energy at the University of Dayton. Upon graduating in 2020, Justin transitioned to a full-time role as a Project Engineer. Justin has extensive experience with various systems, including flat and pitched roof mounts, fixed tilt and tracking ground mounts, as well as canopy/carports. Over the past 5 years, he has designed technical drawing sets for over 50 MW of solar PV projects, spanning nearly 50 constructed projects. Furthermore, Justin is proficient in modeling solar PV systems and providing accurate projections for system performance over its lifetime.



Zachary Lehman – Associate Project Manager

Zachary joined Melink Solar in 2024. He joins Melink Solar having spent much of his career in the environmental management sector working with organizations including Environmental Management Services, Superior Environmental Services & Thompson Industrial Services with a focus on project management, site management, and sales.



Sub-contractors and Sub-vendors

At this stage of the process, Melink Solar is unable to disclose specific sub-contractors and sub-vendors due to confidentiality agreements and competitive considerations. The team is already engaged with a small group of vetted partners with a proven track record in solar PV installations, electrical work, civil engineering, and other relevant scopes.

Upon interview or contract award, Melink Solar will promptly provide a more detailed breakdown of the sub-contractor team. The team appreciates the City's understanding and is committed to full transparency and compliance throughout the contracting process.

Melink Solar's typical sub-contracted workflow is as follows:

- After the design is complete, Melink Solar will create a Bill of Materials for materials that are needed and create detailed scopes of work for the various scopes necessary for the project.
- Prospective bidders/partners will be notified the bids are forthcoming so they can proactively allocate resources for the bid response.
- Melink Solar will create a detailed Gantt chart for the entire project, suggesting the expected timeframe so bidders can evaluate the necessary resources required as well as other factors such as weather.
- Melink Solar will provide all bidders with an expectation of the bid due date.
- Upon receiving the bids, the team will review them for cost and completeness.

- Melink Solar will hold meetings with bidders to clarify questions, ensure there are no scope gaps, and ensure scopes are assigned to the appropriate subcontractor.
- Melink Solar will conduct further qualification research as needed on perspective bidders to determine who is going to provide the best value.
- Melink Solar will also evaluate from a risk management standpoint. In other words, Melink Solar will look to identify and mitigate potential risks associated with subcontractor performance, material availability, and other factors that may impact project delivery.

Section C: Proposed Project Approach

To help the City enact its Sustainability Action Plan, halve carbon emissions by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions in the 2040s, Melink Solar has crafted its scope of work to include all fees, materials, fixed equipment, labor and services necessary to successfully design, engineer, install, operate, and maintain a solar canopy system.

To better understand the Melink Solar's approach, follow the team's intended workflow:

1. Evaluation of City's goals, priorities, properties, existing facilities and utility infrastructure to determine the sites capability for supporting solar installation:

The team has all the interdisciplinary skills needed for successful project development. As part of the team's standard due diligence process for a ground-mounted array and from a zoning perspective, considerations include land surveys, topographic mapping review, flood plain mapping review, drainage, and any special permits that may be required by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

The final solar PV system will be designed and engineered to meet the City's goals. This will be accomplished by maximizing the solar energy resources, taking into consideration the electrical demand and load patterns, proposed installation site, available solar resources, existing site conditions, proposed future site improvements, and other relevant factors.

2. Development of Permit and Construction Engineering Documents:

Upon contract execution, Melink Solar will enter the detailed engineering phase. The team has designed solar PV arrays for various locations all over the country including ground mounts, roof mounts and canopy solutions. The applicable version of the National Electric Code (NEC) Standards and inverter string sizing tool will be used for determining the number of modules per string to meet the startup voltage requirements of the inverter and the number of strings per inverter to have the optimal DC amperage.

All applicable electrical components meet IEEE1574 and UL1741 compliance and installation will be performed by licensed electricians. All electrical engineering drawings will be reviewed and stamped by an Independent third-party engineer.

Upon completed stamped electrical drawings, Melink Solar will submit for Interconnection Approval with the utility. An interconnection study, if required, will be coordinated and approved with Duke Energy prior to final system design and start of construction. Utility upgrades are not included in Melink Solar's cost and are not typically included up front by other solar companies as well.

On the mechanical and structural side of a ground mount system, the engineering analysis will include anchor/pile testing to determine proper foundation requirements. Melink Solar will engage an independent third-party engineer to create the required civil engineering drawings, storm water management and erosion control management plans, where applicable. All engineering drawings and plans will be available to the City for review. This is commonly done at 90% completion of drawings.

3. Procurement of Long Lead Time Equipment:

The Melink Solar team starts the procurement phase by placing orders for all specified long lead time equipment. Ordering solar panels, distribution panels, switchboards, transformers, and medium voltage (MV) switches as soon as possible is key to getting the project completed in the shortest amount of time, due to global supply chain issues with these products.

The team stages material delivery to align with projected work schedules and mitigate risk of vandalism or theft, while also minimizing laydown footprint on-site. Melink Solar will also inspect material upon delivery to ensure proper quality and quantities designated. The team uses only top tier (Tier 1) equipment from reputable manufacturers who can stand behind their equipment warranties over the life of the systems. Melink Solar does not pursue the lowest up-front cost at the expense of long-term performance.

4. Permitting and inspection required prior to installation:

In parallel with obtaining interconnection approval, Melink Solar will pursue zoning (if required) and permitting as required. The jurisdiction may have its own unique requirements for specific permits but, in general, electrical, building permits, and environmental permits will be required for the arrays. From a zoning perspective (if required), the team will attend any zoning board hearings to secure approval. Once all the applicable information relating to the above is compiled, Melink Solar offers to meet informally with any technical review committee members from the local permitting authority who might like to discuss one-on-one questions.

5. Quality Control, Safety, and Communication Plans:

Before starting any work, a Quality Control Plan, Safety Plan, and Communication Plan will be provided to the customer for review and approval. For a communication plan, Melink Solar typically recommends a weekly conference call or an on-site meeting. Additionally, Melink Solar will provide a written summary report on a weekly basis at the end of the week.

6. Site preparation:

Melink Solar prefers to disturb the site as little as possible to accommodate the solar PV system. The goal of the site work operation is to allow normal activities at the site and affect the least disturbances to others with regards to noise and obstructions. To start, the site is surveyed by a professional to identify the clearing areas and locations of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) best management practices (BMPs). The surveyor will return as necessary to mark additional points such as underground utilities, and locations of equipment. SWPP BMPs, such as silt fencing or filter socks will be installed prior to landscaping the site area. Where applicable, after landscaping, the perimeter fence can be installed to ensure a secure working site. Other site preparation activities for a ground array will include the installation of gravel as needed for laydown areas and access.

7. Installation of racking, solar panels, inverters, and balance of system equipment:

The first step in this phase is to complete all underground DC work within the array areas. Then the team starts the foundation installation (typically pile driven), followed by racking. Racking installation will start roughly a week after pile installation has started, and the work will be completed simultaneously. Roughly one to three days following the start of racking installation, crews begin work installing the solar PV panels, continuing their work in parallel with the remaining racking and electrical installation. Completion of home-run wiring and connecting the PV panels in series to string level, comprises the final stage of the electrical installation. On-site work is completed with transformer and recloser installation, where required, and final interconnect run to the utility's designated point of interconnection.

Throughout the construction process, the project team will adhere to the Quality Control Plan and Safety Plan. Melink Solar has always held safety as one of the team's most important responsibilities in the operation of the company. Melink Solar firmly believes that production and safety go hand in hand and that a safe working environment leads to improved production. Accident prevention through pre-planning and daily evaluation of work activities is an integral part of every project undertaken and provides the foundation for a safe work environment.

Prior to engaging in work activities, Melink Solar conducts a pre-job orientation to any subcontractors. This consists of hazard communication, issuing a Stop Work Order, alcohol and drug abuse policy, incident reporting, and other general requirements. When on site, the team then administers a site orientation training. This covers site-specific

safety information such as emergency procedures, housekeeping, and locations of important safety equipment. Melink Solar crew leaders give their employees a daily job briefing at the beginning of each day and they review a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) prior to starting any new tasks to ensure proper safeguards, personal protection equipment, and training is made readily available. The JHA is amended as new hazards are discovered or if the current controls are inadequate or can be improved. In the event of an incident, a detailed report is completed, followed by a systematic investigation into the causes so future prevention can be implemented. At the end of the construction process, Melink Solar will perform a final grade and remove all ruts.

8. Interconnection from solar array to grid:

Melink Solar is confident and has experience with taking responsibility for connecting the array to the grid at the correct voltage parameters as well as attaching metering functionality. Melink Solar is familiar with protection equipment such as gang-operated air brake switches and reclosers, depending on what is required by the local utility, and always uses cutouts to ensure that the array is safely connected to the utility grid. For behind-the-meter applications, Melink Solar connects directly to customer-owned distribution panels and performs upgrades where necessary to align with code requirements and ensure safe functionality of the system.

9. Revenue-grade networked metering capabilities:

Revenue grade production meters are used on all Melink Solar's solar arrays for measuring the continuous power output at all times of the day. Data connections are landed between inverters and to the main monitoring hub for communication to the web-based monitoring software. The arrays will have one weather station measuring irradiance, ambient temperature, and module temperature. These systems report through a web interface, typically with a cellular modem but can also be hard wired via Fiber or Ethernet provided by the customer. The chosen monitoring system and platform is AlsoEnergy.

10. Testing, inspection, and/or commissioning at start-up

To ensure that the systems will produce the forecasted electricity and are functioning properly, Melink Solar will perform a series of testing including.

- Modules
- DC String Wire to Inverter
- Inverter to MDP
- MDP
- DAS (AlsoEnergy)
- Transformer
- Transformer to MV Switch
- MV Switch to POI
- Start-up:
 - Turn on MV Switch.

- Check voltage on MDP.
 - Close main breaker at MDP.
 - Close all inverter breakers at MDP.
 - Verify voltage on AC side of inverter.
 - Turn on AC disconnect, and DC disconnect at inverter. Verify proper operation.
- Performance Testing:
 - System output is monitored and compared to expected output (given site irradiance) for 1-2 weeks to verify system is functioning properly.

11. Ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M)

Melink Solar can provide comprehensive O&M for the City. Each system and each customer are different, so the scope and total cost is site-specific. Additionally, it is impossible to properly quote O&M for a 30-year stretch due to fluctuating material and labor costs. Melink Solar will work with the City to create an agreed upon O&M contract with reasonable term length.

Read below for a breakdown of Melink Solar's example O&M quote for a single carport system. Also note that meter verification, annual performance reports and module testing are not included in this estimation. If the City decides to utilize Melink Solar for O&M, the team is happy to discuss adding services.

Preliminary O&M Contract Summary Table	
Service Selections	
Preventative Maintenance (including one detailed visit with report)	
Remote Monitoring (daily system checks)	
Reactive/Corrective Maintenance (20 prepaid hours)	
Drone Thermal Imaging (one time per year)	
Year One Est. Total	\$5,469.00

Section D: Feasibility Assessment

Per the site visit and answers posted to the RFQ website, Melink Solar has focused on the north end of the parking lot (Site 2) for the feasibility assessment. Additionally, per the RFQ language and Addendum G, the team specifically designed an array of 110' x 24' to match the RFQ parameters. To the "L-Frame" frame type noted in the RFQ, Melink Solar has quoted a single cantilever design.

With the guidelines mentioned, Melink Solar is quoting a 51.33 kW-DC/50.0 kW-AC carport system with an estimated annual production of 63,360 kWh. Referencing the April 2025 bill provided, this single site would offset about 14.5% of the police department's electric load. Attachment A includes more information. Despite the small size of the system, payback metrics still show the impact of this single site with a positive net present value (NPV), indicative of worthwhile investment, and overall lifetime electric bill savings of \$460,125. Increasing the total number of carports will steadily improve payback figures if the systems are designed and built simultaneously.

Please note that this design complies with Ohio Building Code, meeting top snow loads of 20 PSF and the top wind loads of 115 MPH. Melink Solar followed these same guidelines on the 2.8 MW-DC carport system completed at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Adhering to 170 MPH wind load and 80 PSF would drastically increase the price of the canopy system.

Site	Module Count	System Size (DC)	System Size (AC)	Total Price
City of Bexley PD Carport Site 2	87	51.33 kW	50.0 kW	\$ 385,021

Site	ITC Incentive	ITC Eligibility	Annual Production	Overall Savings
City of Bexley PD Carport Site 2	\$115,506,30	30%	63,360 kWh	\$460,125



Please see Appendix 3: Pricing Clarifications for more information on Site 2. Also, a PDF of the full Helioscope report is included in the RFQ response packet.

Project Schedule

Due to the open-ended nature of this RFQ, this schedule only details this single site. It is worth noting that the original completion date noted in the RFQ (June 1, 2026) is unrealistic at this time. That said, completion in 2026, and securing the federal ITC are feasible and included in this **schedule – linked here**.

Melink Solar has full confidence that this project (and other carports on site) could secure the federal investment tax credit (ITC) with a 5% expense of the total project cost by July 4, 2026, thereby opening a four-year runway for project completion. Please reference RFQ response Section F for more information on securing the ITC.

Melink Solar Pricing Suggestion

The team heavily suggests an “open book” pricing model for the City of Bexley. Melink Solar has routinely used this method in state-led RFPs, including the successful bid for two sites at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In that scenario, the University used *Document 00 11 19 – Request for Proposal, State of Ohio Standard Requirements for Public Facility Construction*.

Described as “open book” by the State of Ohio, the parties essentially engage in an “open book” pricing method in which all subcontracted work shall be based upon competitive pricing that will be reviewed by the City and Melink Solar. The City shall have access to all books, records, documents, and other data in Melink Solar's possession related to itself, its subcontractors and material suppliers pertaining to bidding, pricing or performance of the Agreement.

Melink Solar will work cooperatively with the City, and will provide, among other services, schedule development, estimate development, program verification, schematic design, design development, Guaranteed Maximum Price (“GMP”) proposal, subcontractor prequalification and bidding, construction documents preparation, constructability review, permits, budgeting, value engineering, and preconstruction planning throughout the preconstruction stages.

When the drawings and specifications are at a stage of completion specified in the Agreement, such partially completed documents (the “Basis Documents”) shall be provided to the City. Contingent upon the City's approval of the GMP, the parties will enter into an amendment to the Agreement establishing the Contract Sum (“GMP Amendment”). If the proposed Contract Sum exceeds the Project Budget established for construction, then the City may terminate the agreement with Melink Solar and seek proposals from other firms for completion of the Project.

Key Benefits to “Open Book” Pricing

1. Transparency and Accountability
 - Cost-plus pricing requires Melink Solar to provide detailed cost breakdowns (labor, materials, overhead), which promotes transparency.
 - The City can verify that pricing is fair and reasonable, reducing the risk of hidden markups or inflated bids.
2. Risk Mitigation
 - Melink Solar is reimbursed for actual costs plus a fixed margin, reducing Melink Solar’s financial risk. A reduced risk for Melink Solar results in an overall lower cost for the City.
 - The City gains visibility into cost structures, which helps prevent cost overruns and supports better cost control.
3. Flexibility and Collaboration
 - Encourages a cooperative relationship between the City and Melink Solar, as both parties can work together to optimize costs and improve quality.
 - With carports, aesthetic decisions and specifications can play a significant role as well. This allows for a review of all options.
 - This is particularly useful for projects with uncertain scope or fluctuating material costs.
4. Fairness and Budget Predictability
 - The City knows exactly what it is paying for: actual costs plus a pre-agreed margin, limited by the GMP.
5. Compliance with State of Ohio Procurement Rules
 - Cost-plus models fit well within this framework because state rules support structured evaluation and transparency.

Section E: Proposed Equipment Specifications

In accordance with Addendum G, Melink Solar has designed the carport to meet all noted items in sections 1-5, with a few exceptions. Wind load and snow load are detailed in RFQ response Section D. Addendum G, Section 2 mentions four modules in portrait – this configuration would exceed the maximum dimensions of the array noted in Section (110’ x 24’).

Steel certifications, structural engineering, permitting requirements and warranty information will be provided upon final design. As noted, without geotechnical information, final decisions on carport structure cannot be reached. Melink Solar has quoted USA-made steel structures for Site 2. Structural engineering is an expense included in the bid.

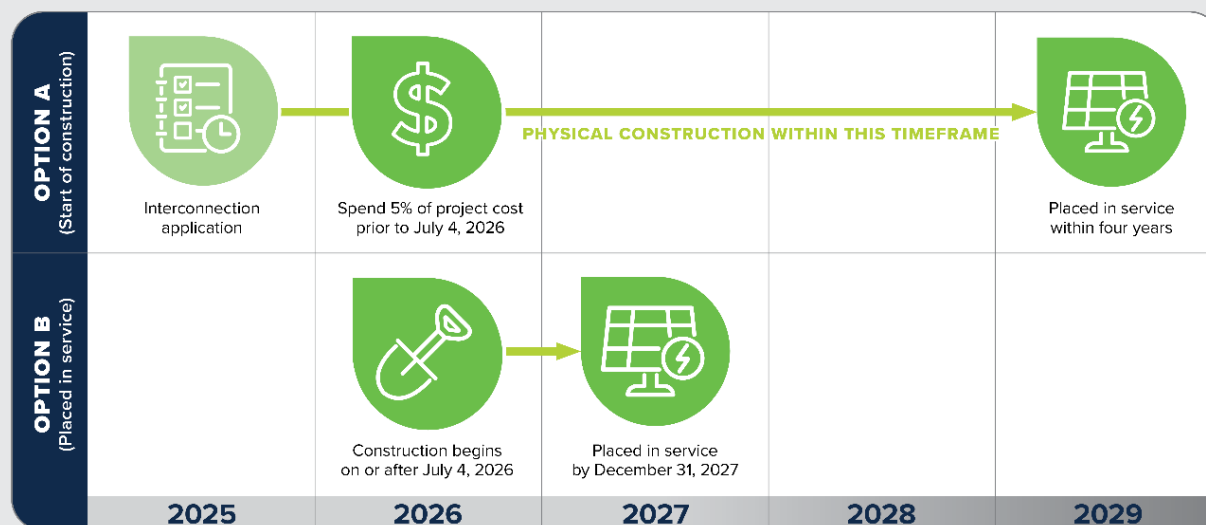
Please see below the quoted equipment for Site 2. Specification sheets for the modules, inverters and data acquisition system (DAS) are noted in the appendices and included in the RFQ response packet.

- Modules: VSUN (VSUN590N-1448 MH-DG, 590W)
- Inverters: Chint (CPS SCA50KTL-DO/480)
- Carport structure: Terrasmart
 - o Confirmed built in the U.S. Per Terrasmart:
 - 100% domestic use for all structural steel. Meet domestic content requirements for the Buy American Act; Build America, Buy America Act; and Inflation Reduction Act
- Data acquisition system (DAS): AlsoEnergy

Section F: Proposed Financing Structure

As confirmed by the City, this will be a self-financed project. There are currently no rebate programs available in this location or through this utility. In terms of the federal ITC, there are two potential paths forward for the City – both tracks are detailed below in the infographic. Option A, which would be the recommendation from Melink Solar, is to spend 5% of total project cost by July 4, 2026. If met, this leaves a four-year window of continuous construction to complete the project and earn the ITC.

30% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) Timeline PROJECTS UNDER 1.5 MW



*Most projects take 9-18 months to complete, depending on scope and size.

Melink Solar is not a licensed tax advisor, accountant, or attorney. Any information provided herein should not be construed as legal or tax advice. Customers are encouraged to consult with their own qualified tax advisors or legal counsel.

Option B, if the July 4, 2026, 5% spend deadline is missed, is another option. The major caveat with Option B is that the project must be “placed in service” by December 31, 2027. This leaves the project at the mercy of utility interconnection and any additional unforeseen externalities. For reference, interconnection applications, and impact studies, if necessary, can take several months.

An additional financial lever for the City is the sale of solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs). Melink Solar notes the City states it is not interested in exploring this currently, but want to acknowledge the opportunity is available to:

- Sell the SRECs outright to pay down on the installation more quickly.
- OR perform a ‘REC swap’ or ‘REC arbitrage’ where the City sells its SRECs at a higher price and secures lower-cost RECs to replace those green attributes.

A single carport is too small to explore a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). If the City does explore a portfolio of carports, the option may become financially viable. Melink Solar is happy to delve deeper into these options should the need arise.

Section G: Relevant Project Experience

Below, the team has included an example list of municipality-owned and nonprofit-owned projects that Melink Solar has completed in the last two years and projects currently in progress. “Community-owned projects,” or projects owned by the municipality, are **in bold**.

Additional Projects	Capacity	Completed
West Chester Township, Ohio	81.8 kW-DC	2025
City of Loveland, Ohio	16.7 kW-DC	2022
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden – Vine St. Canopy*	2.85 MW-DC	2024
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden – Elephant Trek	157 kW-DC	2024
Mt. St. John (Beavercreek, Ohio)	854 kW-DC	2023
City of Fairfield	999 kW-AC	Engineering phase
Miami University (Ohio)	1.97 MW-DC (two sites)	Under construction
Michigan Municipality	2.69 MW-DC (four sites)	Under construction
Province of the Franciscan Friars (PA)	815-kW-DC	Under construction
*Melink Solar has completed six projects with the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden.		

It is also worth noting Melink Solar's total canopy experience over the years.

Location (Client, if permissible)	Capacity (kW-DC)	Completed
Novi, MI	405	2025
Cincinnati, OH (Cincinnati Zoo)	2,845	2024
Falmouth, MA (Barnstable County)	6,854	2024
San Jose, CA (Electrify America)	83	2023
Oahu, HI (Villa Rose)	1,426	2023
Omaha, NE (LinkedIn)	559	2022
San Jose, CA (Electrify America)	78	2021
Baker, CA (Electrify America)	75	2020
Cincinnati, OH (Melink Solar)	81	2019
Oahu, HI (Villa Rose)	1,426	2018
Cincinnati, OH (Cincinnati Zoo)	1,564	2011

Section H: Sample Agreement

Melink Solar uses the American Institute of Architects (AIA) A104-2017 standard abbreviated form of contract between owner and contractor. Due to the public nature of this RFQ, the team requests that Melink Solar's final agreement form, a slightly amended AIA A104-2017, be shared only at the time of award. For more information on the agreement, please [follow this link](#).

Section I: Required Information

The City provided a great deal of information for the RFQ. Additional information requests will undoubtedly crop up during the construction process. At this time, the team compiled the following:

- Geotechnical study
- Additional Information on underground utilities, infrastructure and conditions including soil, foundation, topography and grading
- Confirmation of desired carport locations
- Strategic goals for available funds for additional carport structures
- Parking lot lighting requirements
- Future EV charging infrastructure plans

Section J: References

	The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden	Miami University
Name	Mark Fisher	Joel Fellman
Title	VP of Facilities, Planning & Sustainability	Project Manager & Electrical Engineer
Phone	513-559-7707	513-529-3585
Email	Mark.Fisher@cincinnati-zoo.org	fellmajl@miamioh.edu
Contact Address	3400 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45220	101 South Fisher Dr, Oxford, Ohio 45056
Size / Location	Five separate RFP projects, totaling 4,600+ kW-dc, including large carports	Two ground-mount sites, totaling 1.98 MW-dc

	City of Fairfield, Ohio	City of Loveland, Ohio
Name	Adam Sackenheim	David Kennedy
Title	Asst. City Manager & Director of Infrastructure	City Manager
Phone	513-896-8153	513-707-1454
Email	ASackenheim@fairfield-city.org	dkennedy@lovelandoh.gov
Contact Address	5350 Pleasant Ave, Fairfield, OH 45014	120 W Loveland Ave, Loveland, OH 45140
Size / Location	One municipal ground mount project, totaling 1.58 MW-dc	One municipal rooftop project, totaling 16.7 kW-dc

Section K: Closing

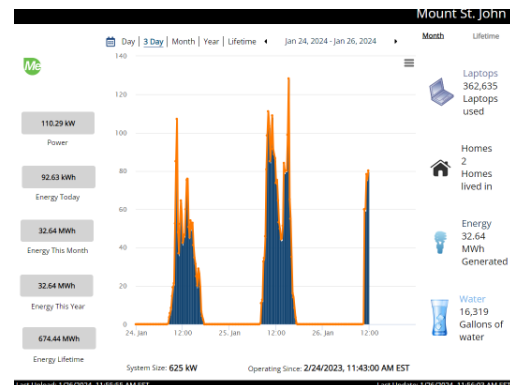
Marketing and Educational Benefits

Melink Solar would like to host several events with the City to help educate those interested in renewable energy and promote the new array. Melink Solar would like to engage community members for a ground-breaking ceremony, as well as local press to bring awareness to the City's efforts.

Like Melink Solar's approach with educational entities, the team would also like to nurture educational opportunities with interactive events as well as signage around the facility that illustrates the technology, and the benefits associated with the project. Melink Solar's educational nonprofit partner, Shared Power Network, has worked with municipalities to tout the benefits of solar energy and the impact it will have on the workforce of tomorrow.

Melink Solar's 2023 project with Mount Saint John in Beavercreek, Ohio was featured on Channel 2 News. Melink Solar planned a press day to help facilitate the discussion with reporters.

On their website, Mount Saint John shows real-time data, with the monitoring and production dashboard, with greenhouse gas equivalences. Melink Solar can help make this a reality for the City as well. It will be important for community members to have an interactive experience with renewable energy to attract top talent, as well as increase marketing, public relations, and human resources/staffing benefits.



Closing

Melink Solar hopes to be the City's preferred local solar partner as the City continues to transition to clean energy.

Additionally, if the City has additional questions or areas of concern, the Melink Solar team is happy to provide more information. On previous RFPs, the team has provided detailed follow-up on obtaining the ITC, addressing power quality concerns and strategy for materials procurement during the interview round or pre-award. The Melink Solar team looks forward to supporting more municipalities across the region. Thank you for your consideration.

Appendices

Appendix 1: All ground-mount and roof-mount PV experience (in tables)

Melink Solar ground-mount experience:

Scope	City	State	Year	Size (kW)
EPC	Urbana	OH	2012	521
EPC	Cedarville	OH	2013	2,150
EPC	Claremont	NC	2016	5,254
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2017	48
EPC	Rochester	MA	2017	1,072
EPC	Coldwater	MI	2018	1,680
EPC	Haskins	OH	2018	891
EPC	Dayton	OH	2018	1,259
EPC	Bargersville	IN	2019	244
EPC	Brewster	OH	2019	2,204
EPC	Piqua	OH	2019	15,510
EPC	Louisville	KY	2019	512
EPC	Wadsworth	OH	2019	8,554
EPC	Wadsworth	OH	2020	3,200
EPC	Boone Grove	IN	2020	535
EPC	Dayton	OH	2020	670
EPC	Louisville	KY	2020	515
EPC	Marengo	IL	2020	2,855
EPC	Mt. Morris	IL	2020	2,855
EPC	Northern	OH	2021	2,253
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2021	196
EPC	Calaveras	TX	2021	9,850
EPC	Ridgeway	NY	2021	3,823
EPC	Peoria	IL	2021	2,395
EPC	Buckhannon	WV	2021	530
EPC	Penfield	NY	2022	6,144
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2022	1,306
EPC	Syracuse	NY	2022	7,519

Scope	City	State	Year	Size (kW)
EPC	Lexington	KY	2023	2,379
EPC	Bristol	IN	2023	718
EPC	Mounds	IL	2023	608
EPC	Dayton	OH	2023	854
EPC	Delaware	OH	2024	1,346
EPC	Amelia	OH	2024	1,474
EPC	Columbus	OH	2024	34,040
EPC	Columbus	OH	2024	23,480
EPC	Saginaw	MI	2024	8,423
EPC	Freeport	IL	2024	3,026
EPC	Pontiac	IL	2024	6,049
EPC	Green Valley	IL	2024	3,056
EPC	Kent	OH	2024	7,164
EPC	Fostoria	OH	2024	2,354
EPC	Celina	OH	2024	431
EPC	Villa Maria	PA	2024	1,773
EPC	Baldwinsville	NY	2024	7,519
EPC	Ann Arbor	MI	2024	151
EPC	Ann Arbor	MI	2024	607
EPC	Ann Arbor	MI	2024	1,301
EPC	Rockford	IL	2024	2,831
EPC	Rockford	IL	2024	2,703
EPC	Ahsmore	IL	2024	2,830
EPC	Pontiac	IL	2024	2,703
EPC	Pontiac	IL	2024	2,990
EPC	Germantown	OH	2024	9,603
EPC	Ada	OH	2024	6,500
EPC	Eaton	OH	2024	6,739

Melink Solar roof-mount experience:

Scope	City	State	Year	Size (kW)
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2014	31
EPC	Indianapolis	IN	2016	6,294
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2016	34
EPC	Beaver Falls	PA	2017	365
EPC	Buffalo	NY	2017	133
EPC	Chicago	IL	2017	162
EPC	Corapolis	PA	2017	530
EPC	Livonia	MI	2017	186
EPC	Lodi	NJ	2017	329
EPC	Dayton	OH	2017	48
Owner Rep		RI	2018	2,180
EPC	Dayton	OH	2018	57
EPC	Georgetown	KY	2018	463
EPC	Princeton	NJ	2019	586
C	Chicago	IL	2019	2,105
C	Chicago	IL	2020	1,799
EPC	Lakewood	OH	2020	611
C	Chicago	IL	2020	1,100
EPC	Cleveland	OH	2020	828
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2021	87
EPC	Loveland	OH	2022	17
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2022	44
EPC	Worthington	OH	2022	311
EPC	Indianapolis	IN	2022	119
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2022	429
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2023	131
EPC	Denver	CO	2023	2,356
EPC	Pittsburgh	PA	2023	3,845
EPC	Solon	OH	2023	132
EPC	Columbus	OH	2023	307
EPC	Covington	KY	2023	1,698
EPC	Hebron	KY	2023	308
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2024	165
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2024	104
EPC	Columbus	OH	2024	1,256
EPC	Cincinnati	OH	2024	276
EPC	Ann Arbor	MI	2025	644

Appendix 2: Additional Documents

- Insurance Certificate: in the RFQ Response packet, please check the following:
City of Bexley PD Solar Carport RFQ – Melink Solar – COI.

- Bonding Capacity Verification: in the RFQ Response packet, please check the following: *City of Bexley PD Solar Carport RFQ – Melink Solar – Surety Letter*.

Appendix 3: Pricing Clarifications, Assumptions and Exclusions

- Third party inspections are included (typically required by most AHJs for canopies)
 - Includes concrete testing and inspection of structural steel.
- Private Utility Locate included.
- Canopy structure assumptions:
 - Type: CP-Tee, Wide Flange w Z-purlin
 - Finish: Galvanized ASTM A123 (G165 purlins)
 - Wind Load: 119
 - Snow Load 20
 - Risk category: IV
 - Wind Exposure: B
 - Minimum Clearance: 14'
 - Foundation/Colum Spacing: 27'
- Geotech report is excluded. We assume the owner has a preexisting report that can be utilized. Foundations design and spec may vary after review of Geotech.
- Lighting under canopy is included.
- Union labor is excluded.
- Sales and use taxes are excluded (solar projects in Ohio are tax exempt).
- Prevailing wages are excluded.
- Deviations from the proposed interconnection plan are excluded.
- Upgrading existing equipment is excluded.
- Removal and relocation of existing equipment, including but not limited to panels, transformers, cameras, alarms, fire alarms, and lightning protection systems are excluded.
- Utility required upgrades or utility service upgrades of any kind are excluded.
- Payment and performance bonds are excluded.
- Tree planting or other landscaping screens are excluded.
- Change in Law risk is assumed to be by Owner.
- No power quality studies and improvements are included.
- Decommissioning bonds and decommissioning scope are excluded.
- SEL Relays or curtailment controls are excluded.
- Equipment warranties will be transferred to Owner at the end of the project. One-year labor workmanship warranty is included.

Appendix 4: Specification Sheets

- Modules: *City of Bexley PD Solar Carport RFQ – Melink Solar – Spec Sheet - VSUN*
- Inverters: *City of Bexley PD Solar Carport RFQ – Melink Solar – Spec Sheet - Chint*
- DAS: *City of Bexley PD Solar Carport RFQ – Melink Solar – Spec Sheet – AlsoEnergy*