



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Add-On

J.1.

3/2/2023

Subject:

Letter of support to Malta Inc. for its proposed Bluefin Energy Storage project

Fiscal Impact:

None

Dept/Office:

District 1 Commission Office

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached letter addressed to Benjamin Bollinger, PhD, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives with Malta Inc.

Summary Explanation and Background:

The attached letter expresses support for the proposed Bluefin Energy Storage project (Bluefin). Malta, Inc. plans to build an innovative, emissions-free energy storage facility at the existing Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) Indian River Plant site (IRP) in Brevard County.

As a major infrastructure investment, the project is projected to bring more than 200 to 250 high-paying jobs to the area during peak construction. In addition to the skilled trades necessary for construction, the new facility is anticipated to create approximately 50 permanent jobs for operation of the plant and maintenance of the facility and grounds.

By replacing the out-of-service fossil fuel-burning power plant structure, including the tall red and white towers, currently on site, new construction will also beautify the location and eliminate towers that are currently visible from U.S. Highway 1 and to the local community of Port St. John.

This project represents a unique opportunity to benefit the community economically while also making the electric grid more resilient for Florida and enabling the increased use of clean energy statewide. With the limited land available for development in the region, repurposing the Indian River Plant site into a clean energy facility should be a critical priority for the county.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Include copy of signed letter in minutes for March 2, 2023 meeting.



March 3, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Rita Pritchett, District 1 Commissioner

RE: Item J.1., Letter of Support to Malta Inc. for its Proposed Bluefin Energy Storage Project

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on March 2, 2023, approved and authorized the Chair to sign the letter addressed to Benjamin Bollinger, PhD, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives with Malta Inc. The executed letter was provided to District 1 at the Board meeting.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kimberly Powell", is written over the typed name and title.

Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

cc: Each Commissioner



BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Rita Pritchett
Chair, District 1

Tom Goodson
Commissioner, District 2

John Tobia
Commissioner, District 3

Rob Feltner
Commissioner, District 4

Kristine Zonka
Vice-Chair, District 5

March 2, 2023

Benjamin Bollinger, PhD
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives
Malta Inc.
One Broadway, 14th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Dr. Benjamin Bollinger,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners in support of Malta Inc.'s proposed Bluefin Energy Storage project (Bluefin), which plans to build an innovative, emissions-free energy storage facility at the existing Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) Indian River Plant site (IRP) in Brevard County. This utility-scale energy infrastructure project offers significant, tangible benefits to the Space Coast region while bolstering OUC's electricity system.

As a major infrastructure investment, the project will bring more than 200 – 250 high-paying jobs to the area during peak construction, putting food on the table for the families of our local skilled laborers. Local business owners, from those that directly contract to supply equipment and materials for the construction efforts to local restaurants, lodging, gas stations, and stores, will all see the immediate, substantial economic impact of this project.

In addition to the skilled trades necessary for construction, the new facility will create approximately 50 permanent jobs for operation of the plant and maintenance of the facility and grounds. As the technology used in Malta's solution repurposes components of conventional power plants, the newly created plant operator jobs will require workers with similar skillsets to those that operate other power generation facilities. By replacing the out-of-service fossil fuel-burning power plant structure, including the tall red and white towers, currently on site, new construction will also beautify the location and eliminate the eyesore visible from U.S. Highway 1 and to the local community of Port St. John, raising local property values.

This project represents a unique opportunity to benefit the community economically while also making the electric grid more resilient for Florida and enabling the increased use of clean energy statewide. With the limited land available for development in the region, repurposing IRP into a clean energy facility should be a critical priority for the county.

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners endorse the Bluefin project and encourage others to do the same. If you would like to discuss further how this Project will improve the local community and lead the way for long-duration energy storage, please contact me at Rita.Pritchett@brevardfl.gov or (321) 607-6901.

Sincerely,

Rita Pritchett, Chair
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners



BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Rita Pritchett
Chair, District 1

Tom Goodson
Commissioner, District 2

John Tobia
Commissioner, District 3

Rob Feltner
Commissioner, District 4

Kristine Zonka
Vice-Chair, District 5

March 2, 2023

Benjamin Bollinger, PhD
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives
Malta Inc.
One Broadway, 14th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Dr. Benjamin Bollinger,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners in support of Malta Inc.'s proposed Bluefin Energy Storage project (Bluefin), which plans to build an innovative, emissions-free energy storage facility at the existing Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) Indian River Plant site (IRP) in Brevard County. This utility-scale energy infrastructure project offers significant, tangible benefits to the Space Coast region while bolstering OUC's electricity system.

As a major infrastructure investment, the project will bring more than 200 – 250 high-paying jobs to the area during peak construction, putting food on the table for the families of our local skilled laborers. Local business owners, from those that directly contract to supply equipment and materials for the construction efforts to local restaurants, lodging, gas stations, and stores, will all see the immediate, substantial economic impact of this project.

In addition to the skilled trades necessary for construction, the new facility will create approximately 50 permanent jobs for operation of the plant and maintenance of the facility and grounds. As the technology used in Malta's solution repurposes components of conventional power plants, the newly created plant operator jobs will require workers with similar skillsets to those that operate other power generation facilities. By replacing the out-of-service fossil fuel-burning power plant structure, including the tall red and white towers, currently on site, new construction will also beautify the location and eliminate the eyesore visible from U.S. Highway 1 and to the local community of Port St. John, raising local property values.

This project represents a unique opportunity to benefit the community economically while also making the electric grid more resilient for Florida and enabling the increased use of clean energy statewide. With the limited land available for development in the region, repurposing IRP into a clean energy facility should be a critical priority for the county.

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners endorse the Bluefin project and encourage others to do the same. If you would like to discuss further how this Project will improve the local community and lead the way for long-duration energy storage, please contact me at Rita.Pritchett@brevardfl.gov or (321) 607-6901.

Sincerely,

Rita Pritchett, Chair
Brevard County Board of County Commissioners