

## **INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN HOSTING THE AFRICAN ENERGY MODELLING NETWORK (AEMN)**

Africa's energy transition is accelerating, driven by rising electrification demand, climate commitments, and significant infrastructure investment. Yet energy planning capacity across the continent remains fragmented, often dependent on proprietary tools, external consultants, and short-term studies that limit transparency, local ownership, and sustained learning.

The African Energy Modelling Network (AEMN) is being established to address this gap. It is a pan-African, African-led platform dedicated to advancing open, transparent, and collaborative energy system modelling. AEMN enables African institutions to lead their own energy transition planning through shared tools, data, and expertise. AEMN builds on the EU-funded OpenMod4Africa (<https://openmod4africa.eu/>) project (2023–2026), which developed the OM4A Toolbox—an interoperable suite of open-source energy modelling tools tailored to African contexts. AEMN serves as the institutional legacy of this initiative, ensuring continuity of tools, knowledge, and collaboration beyond the project's duration.

The establishment of AEMN formally commenced with the appointment of its leadership. On 25 June 2024, Dr. Dawit H. Gebremeskel and Ms. Kanchi A. Gashaw were appointed by the OpenMod4Africa Consortium as Co-Chief Officers of AEMN. This marked the beginning of the structured development of the Network, including the definition of its mission, core activities, and governance framework.

AEMN is now fully operational, with an established governance structure, a dedicated secretariat, and leadership comprising the Co-Chief Officers, Executive Directors, and an Advisory Board. Its work is organised around three core pillars: capacity building, expert peer review, and open-source tools and data. The Network is supported by a growing and active community of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners across Africa, engaged through its digital platform, training programmes, and outreach activities.

### **Why AEMN**

Despite increasing demand for data-driven energy planning, modelling capacity in Africa remains uneven and often externally driven. Limited access to transparent tools, fragmented skills development, and the absence of long-term institutional anchoring weaken the link between analysis, policy, and investment. Knowledge generated through projects is rarely sustained beyond funding cycles. AEMN addresses these challenges by embedding modelling capacity within African institutions, promoting open and adaptable tools, and fostering continuous peer learning. It strengthens African ownership while maintaining strategic collaboration with European and global partners.

### **What AEMN Delivers**

AEMN is designed as a long-term, high-impact platform that sustains and advances open-source modelling tools, builds a critical mass of African experts, and provides a

trusted space for collaboration among researchers, governments, utilities, and development partners. It promotes open access to data and methodologies while enhancing the credibility and policy relevance of energy analysis across the continent.

### **Call for Hosting Institutions**

AEMN is transitioning from a project-based initiative to a legally established, African-led institution by 2030. To support this transition, expressions of interest are invited from qualified institutions to host the Network over the period 2026–2030.

Two hosting models are envisaged: a single lead institution serving as the primary host, or a consortium of African institutions with a designated coordinating lead.

The host institution(s) will play a central role in supporting AEMN’s five-year roadmap, which includes continent-wide capacity building, development of the next generation of African energy modelling experts, annual online/in-person workshops, strategic engagement at major global events including COP-32, expansion of fellowships, and strengthened partnerships with governments and development actors.

The Network anticipates mobilizing approximately USD 1–2 million over five years through a phased growth strategy and diversified funding sources, with early operations launched through a lean startup budget and expansion tied to partnerships and demonstrated impact.

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

Hosting institutions should be international organisations based in Africa, preferably with a presence in Addis Ababa, or reputable African universities/research institutions.

Depending on the hosting model selected, AEMN seeks one or more host institutions that:

- a) Are international organisations with a mandate in the energy sector, or highly reputable universities or academic institutions with a strong track record in research, training, and stakeholder engagement in the field of energy;
- b) Commit to hosting AEMN free of charge or under favourable financial conditions for a period of up to five years (through 2030), including the provision of suitable office space for AEMN leadership and staff;
- c) Provide a stable, secure, and enabling environment for AEMN operations;
- d) Operate in accordance with and actively enforce principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, irrespective of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, language, religion, political or other opinion, disability, age, or sexual orientation;
- e) Offer good international accessibility, including proximity to an airport with strong connections across Africa and, preferably, to major global destinations;

- f) Are able to support both virtual and in-person engagement by facilitating participation in training, research, and policy dialogue activities, including access to suitable accommodation and conference facilities nearby;
- g) Can provide, on a cost-recovery basis, essential logistical and administrative support services, including IT infrastructure, communications services, facility management, and travel support. Preference will be given to institutions with a suitable campus or premises for hosting in-person training and events;
- h) Demonstrate the ability to facilitate efficient administrative and financial operations, including, where possible, reductions related to AEMN activities, and to ensure the smooth transfer of funds into and out of the country, subject only to standard banking procedures.

### **Submission of Expressions of Interest**

Interested institutions are invited to submit a proposal by **24 June 2026**. Proposals should indicate the preferred hosting model and demonstrate how the institution meets the stated requirements. Relevant supporting documentation may be included, along with details of logistical and administrative support services available.

### **Selection Process, Transition and Establishment**

Proposals will be reviewed by the AEMN leadership in consultation with the advisory board. A decision will be made within two weeks of the submission deadline. Subsequently, the selected institution(s) will work with AEMN leadership to formalise hosting arrangements and governance principles.

The transition to the selected host institution(s) will be completed within six months. This process will include finalisation of governance structures, operational arrangements, and a refined programme of activities supported by a sustainable financing plan. The selection of the AEMN Chief Officer will be conducted through an open and transparent process, proposed by the Co-Chief Officers and approved by the Advisory Board, with due consideration given to the views of the host institution(s). AEMN's future governance will be guided by principles of excellence, independence, and responsiveness to the needs of Africa's energy sector. In case no agreement could be reached with the selected host institution(s), AEMN reserves the right to engage alternative candidates.

### **Digital platform and contact information**

**Website:** <https://africanenergymodellingnetwork.net/>

**Toolbox:** <http://africaenergymodels.net/>

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/18946017/>

**YouTube channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2uO6ek2CjZyJtEC8VLMxVw>

**Training Platform:** <https://github.com/OM4A-Training-Material>

**Email:** [info@africanenergymodellingnetwork.net](mailto:info@africanenergymodellingnetwork.net)

With copy to: [dawit.habtu@aau.edu.et](mailto:dawit.habtu@aau.edu.et) and [kanchi.gashaw@veritasethiopia.com](mailto:kanchi.gashaw@veritasethiopia.com)