



A shining example of investment

The sun is shining, at least in the tax world. There is currently a tax mitigation opportunity, only available over the next couple of months, which may be of interest to those looking for a home for investment capital.

The idea of an Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) has been around for many years and an EIS is a long-established investment and tax vehicle. An EIS can deliver 30% Income Tax relief, is exempt from Inheritance Tax after two years and remains free of Capital Gains Tax. Despite investment options becoming ever more sophisticated, there remains nothing else with the same type of benefits.

Recently, the opportunity has arisen to structure an EIS so that it attracts income from the UK government – in the form of the feed the government receives from its tariff on solar energy. The effect of this is that the investment risk element of the EIS is reduced, whilst leaving the tax planning efficiencies in place.

The window of opportunity is limited – as this type of scheme's success means the government are planning to cap the size of the solar installations that qualify in the near future. The upshot of this is that many EIS providers will withdraw their schemes soon.

EIS investments are higher risk in nature given they invest into smaller unquoted companies but when balancing this against the tax benefits available they may be worthy of consideration for some investors.

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