





MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT NEPAL (MCA-NEPAL)

Minutes of Pre-Bid Conference

PROCUREMENT OF PLANT DESIGN, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF

LOT 1: LAPSIPHEDI-RATMATE-NEW HETAUDA 400KV D/C
TRANSMISSION LINE

LOT 2: RATMATE-NEW DAMAULI 400KV D/C
TRANSMISSION LINE

LOT 3: NEW DAMAULI-NEW BUTWAL 400KV D/C
TRANSMISSION LINE (BASE) AND NEW BUTWAL NEPAL/INDIA BORDER 400KV D/C TRANSMISSION LINE
(OPTION)

Ref No: MCA-N/ETP/CB/003

VENUE: RADISSON HOTEL, LAZIMPAT, KATHMANDU

19 January 2023

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I. MEETING

The Pre-Bid Conference session was called to order by the Procurement Agent Manager of the MCA-Nepal Procurement Agent who welcomed all the attendees and briefly highlighted the conference agenda and its objectives. The Pre-Bid Conference started from 10:00 AM (Nepal Standard Time) on 19 January 2023.

II. AGENDA

- Welcome by the Procurement Agent
- Welcome Remarks by MCA-Nepal
- Presentation on technical aspects of Bidding Document
- Presentation on Environmental, Social and GSI aspects of the Bidding Document
- Procurement Briefing on the Bidding Document
- Lunch Break
- Question and Answers Pre-Bid Conference
- Closing Remarks

III. MEMBERS PRESENT

Attendance sheet is attached in Annex A.

IV. Welcome by Procurement Agent

The Procurement Agent Manager of the Procurement Agent of MCA-Nepal welcomed all the conference participants and provided a brief presentation about the objectives of the Pre-Bid Conference, agenda, key information about the timeline and dates of the procurement process.

V. Welcome Remarks by MCA-Nepal

The Executive Director of MCA-Nepal appreciated all the participants who have attended the Pre-Bid Conference and provided his welcome remarks with a brief presentation regarding difference between MCA-Nepal and MCC, highlighted the organizational structure of MCA-Nepal and the current status of the project.

VI. Presentation on technical aspects of Bidding Document

The Project Manager-Transmission Line of MCA-Nepal provided the technical presentation with the information about updates on TL Route Alignment, project timeline, site access, and main project requirements.

VII. Presentation on Environmental, Social and GSI aspects of the Bidding Document

The ESP Specialist of MCA-Nepal provided a brief description on the requirements such as MCC Environmental guidelines, IFC Performance Standard, EIA/ESIA, ESHSMP and other ESP requirements. The GSI Specialist highlighted the GSI requirements such as prevention of gender-based violence, sexual harassment, children employment, TIP and other GSI requirements.

VIII. Procurement Briefing on Bidding Document (Procurement Presentation)

The Senior Procurement Specialist from the Procurement Agent of MCA-Nepal presented the Bidding Document, highlighting and emphasizing important provisions of the Bidding Document to avoid common mistakes in the bid submission and where bidders need to have a clear understanding to develop a sound bid.

The Senior Procurement Specialist of the Procurement Agent of MCA-Nepal clarified that in case of discrepancies between the presentations (during the conference) and the Bidding Document, the information provided in the Bidding Document shall prevail; any response provided during the conference shall be considered as a draft response as final official response to the questions will be in writing. Thus, all prospective bidders including the participants in the conference were highly encouraged to send their questions in writing by the clarification's submission deadline.

IX. Question and Answers - Pre-Bid Conference

After the technical presentations and lunch break, the participants of the bidders' representatives were provided the opportunity to ask queries/questions. The queries raised by the participants were responded by MCA-Nepal team comprise of technical, procurement, legal and finance team and the Procurement Agent team. It was informed that MCA-Nepal will provide the answers in writing for the queries in which there was no specific answers at the conference. The questions raised by the bidders' representatives and their responses made by MCA-Nepal team are presented in Annex B.

X. End and Closing Remarks

The Deputy Executive Director of MCA-Nepal thanked all participants for attending/joining the conference and for their active participation and requested them to submit any remaining questions in written which will be responded by MCA-Nepal in due course.

Annexes:

Annex A: Attendance Register

Annex B: Presentations

Annex C: Questions and Answers

ANNEXES/ATTACHMENTS

Annex A

Attendance register





attendance-pre bid Registrants for meeting tl.pdf Online Participatns_Z



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ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of

Lot 1: Lapsiphedi-Ratmate-New Hetauda 400kV D/C Transmission Line
Lot 2: Ratmate-New Damauli 400kV D/C Transmission Line
Lot 3: New Damauli-New Butwal 400kV D/C Transmission Line (Base) And
New Butwal -Nepal/India Border 400kV D/C Transmission Line (Option)
Ref No: MCA-N/ETP/CB/003

PRE BID Meeting

Date: 19 January 2023

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39 Renu Singhal 40 Gokul Mishra	37	Çağlar TEPE
39 Renu Singhal 40 Gokul Mishra	38	Neelam Thapa
40 Gokul Mishra		Renu Singhal
41 ROHIT BERDE	40	Gokul Mishra
	41	ROHIT BERDE

42	Pinak Sarkar
43	RAJENDER GANTYALA
44	Ashish Bhandari
45	Jared Turner
46	Korhan Kuşculuoğlu
47	RAJIB DAHAL
48	Pawan Joshi
49	Drishya Mudbhary
50	Richard Orlandella
51	Sitaram Shrestha
52	Rahul
53	Yogesh Joshi
54	Harishchandra Jakhmola
55	Srinivas N
56	alok prasad
57	Pawas Pandey
58	Bilash Koirala
59	Kiran Mudbhary
60	Deepak Yadav
61	K.B.Anantha Reddy
62	Anil Thaman
63	Kaushal Sheth
64	Ramesh Nepal
65	Ahmed Al Lawati
66	Narendra Karumuri
67	Apoorv Singhal
68	Luis Villalta

Annex B

Presentations







230118_ETP_TL_Pre- 230118_PreBid_ED.p bid-Meet-Technical_ ptx

230119 Pre-Bid Conference Transmis







Electricity Transmission Project

Transmission Line Pre-Bid Conference

19 January 2023







Objectives of the Pre-Bid Conference





Objective of the Presentation

- Provide Relevant Information/Clarifications
 To Prospective Bidders
 - Technical Information
 - Environmental, Social, GSI
 - Procurement Information
- Discuss Important Highlights of the IFB
 - Provide Tips and recommendations for submission of Proposals
- Receive Questions Clarifications from Prospective Bidders







Agenda

- From 10:00 AM to 3PM
- During first Half: Presentations
- After Lunch Break: Questions and Answers session
- Closing Remarks
- Most Important Session:
 - Interactive Q&A session







Timeline

Event	Date	Remarks
Publication Date	28-Nov-2	2
Pre-information meeting	14-Dec-2	2 Completed
Site visit	10 January 2023 to 17 January 2023	Completed on 15 January 2023
Pre-Bid conference	19-Jan-2	3
Last date for requesting Clarification	10-Feb-2	3 45 days before deadline for Bid submission
Last date for responding to request for Clarification	24-Feb-2	3 31 days before deadline for Bid submission
Submission Deadline	27-Mar-2	3
Expected Entry into Force" (EIF) for the Compact	Aug-2	3
Bid validity period	22-Nov-2	3 240 days
Validity of Bid Security	20-Dec-2	3







Question and Answers

- MCA-Nepal will try to provide best answers to raised queries
- All answers shall be considered as "draft answer" as the official shall be in writing
- It is possible that some clarifications and its responses may trigger an addendum to the bidding document.
- Minutes of the meeting and recording of the meeting (as available) will be circulated







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Millennium Challenge Account Nepal (MCA-Nepal)

Electricity Transmission Project Pre-Bid Meeting







MCA-Nepal Formation and Structure

Formation

Government of Nepal (GoN) agency, formed under the Development Board Act 2013 BS (1956 AD) on 18 April 2018 to implement MCC Nepal Compact

Board of Directors

Chair: Secretary, Ministry of Finance (MoF) Members:

- Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT)
- Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI)
- Managing Director, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA)
- Private Sector Representative
- Civil Society Representative
- Executive Director, MCA-Nepal (Member Secretary)



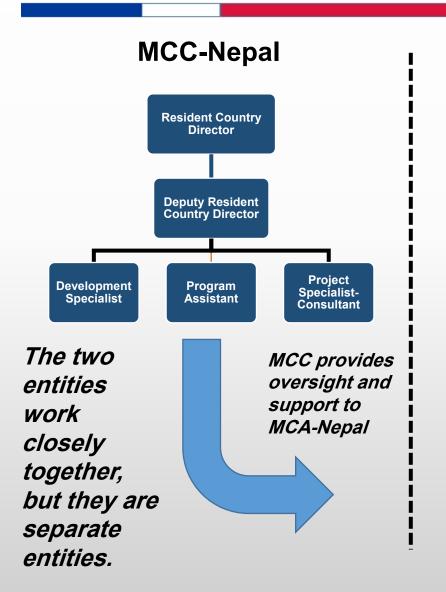
Compact signed on 14 September 2017



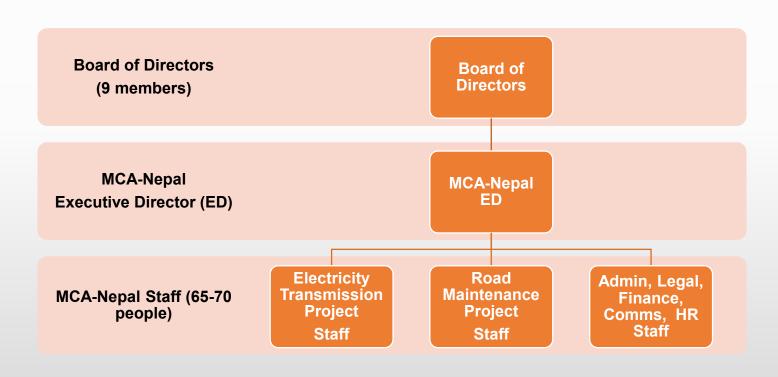




MCC and MCA- Separate Entities



MCA-Nepal









Projects- Snapshot

Electricity Transmission Project (ETP)

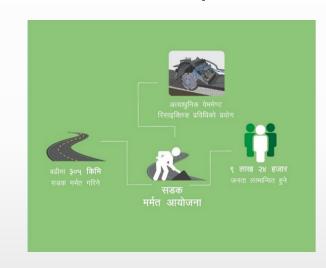


USD 398.2 million



- MCC's USD 500 Million Grant assistance
- GoN's USD 130 Million investment

Road Maintenance Project (RMP)



USD 52.2 million

- Construction of up to 315 km long 400 kV electricity transmission line.
- Three new 400 kV Sub-stations (Ratmate, Damauli, New Butwal).
- Technical Assistance to NEA and ERC.

- Maintenance with modern technology of up to 77 km road segment of East-West Highway in Dang district.
- Technical Assistance to DoR and RBN.







Condition Precedents – for Project Implementation

- ✓ Declaration of ETP as a National Pride Project
- ✓ Formation of Electricity Regulation Commission
- ✓ Program Implementation Agreement
- ✓ Nepal India agreement on the construction of New-Butwal Gorakhpur Transmission Line
- ✓ Parliamentary Ratification of the Compact
- Land Acquisition, Forest Clearance and Site Access to working areas



Parliamentary Ratification
- Feb 27, 2022



Nepal-India agreement
- Oct 15, 2019







Timeline of the Program

Compact
Signing:
14 Sept 2017

Entry Into Force –EIF
August 2023
(Estimated)

Compact Closeout August 2028

5 Years after EIF



Project Preparation and Conditions Precedent



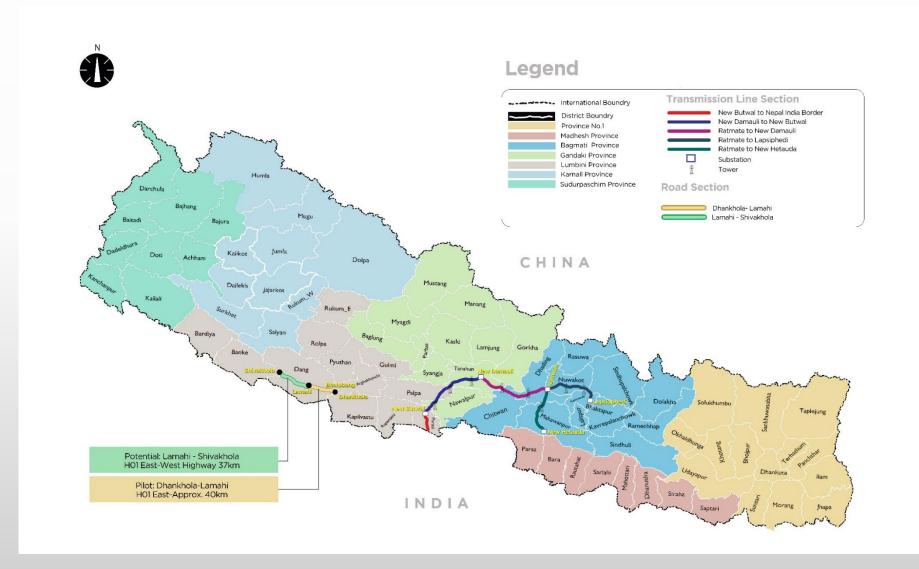
Project Implementation







Projects- Working Areas

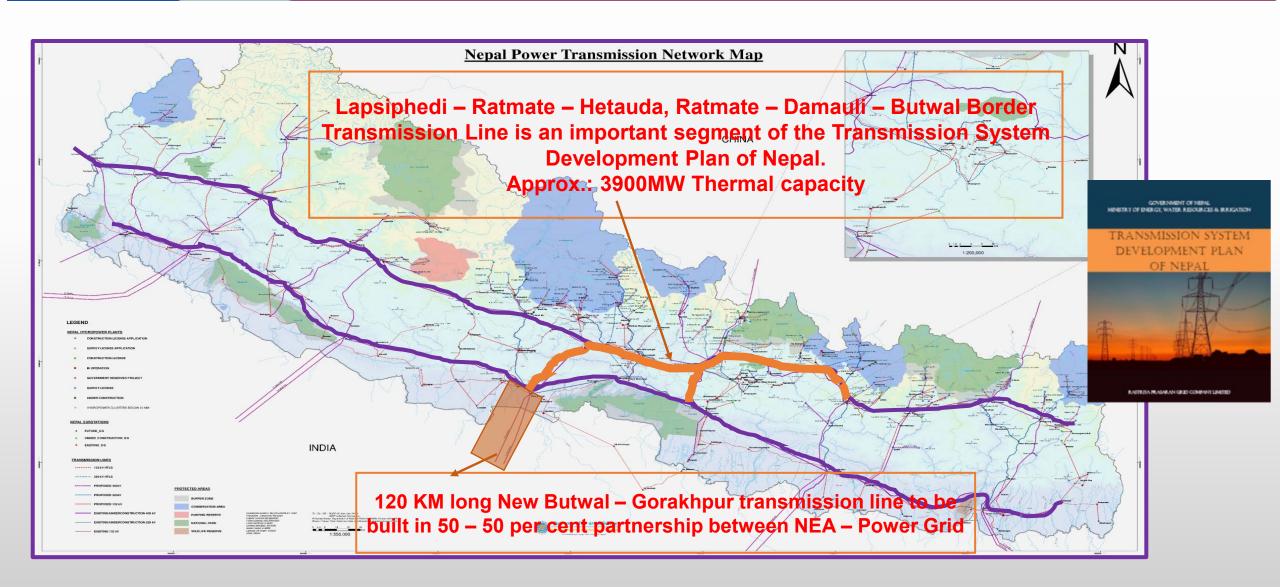








TL: An important segment of Transmission System Dev. Plan of Nepal









ETP: Overall Work Progress

- Designs of transmission lines and substations finalized;
- GoN has approved the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report;
- Consultations and Public Hearing events with stakeholders of project affected areas conducted.



Public hearing program at Belkotgadhi in Nuwakot.







ETP: Substation Work Progress

- Land acquisition for Ratmate Substation site completed (98 % compensation distributed)- Boundary wall construction work to begin;
- Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) for Project Affected People in Ratmate Substation site ongoing;
- Tender documents related to Invitation for Bids (IFB) for construction of substations at Ratmate, New Damauli and New Butwal ready to be launched in Jan 2023.



LRP training in Nuwakot.







ETP: *Transmission Line Work Progress*

- Re-survey of around 30 km of 315 km transmission line route alignment ongoing;
- Transmission Line Consultant hired for Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) work;
- Invitation for Bids (IFB) for transmission lines launched;
- Procurement for Supervision Engineer launched.







Transmission Line Status

- Transmission Line Route Alignment frozen for all five segments
 - ✓ Lapsiphedi Substation Ratmate Substation
 - ✓ Ratmate Substation New Hetauda Substation
 - ✓ Ratmate Substation New Damauli Substation
 - ✓ New Damauli Substation New Butwal Substation
 - ✓ New Butwal Substation Nepal/India Border
- Geotechnical survey works completed







Transmission Line Status- Resettlement and Land Acquisition

- RAP Preparation Activity ongoing and Compensation Fixation Committee (CFC) rate determination for land associated with tower footprint and easement area is expected to be completed by August 2023.
- Majority of land acquisition is expected to be completed by August 2024 before commencement of tower foundation activities.







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Millennium Challenge Account Nepal (MCA-Nepal)

Electricity Transmission Project (ETP)

Highlights of Section V of TL IFB- Transmission Line Activity

Pre-Bid Meeting







Update in TL Route Alignment

• The revised KMZ file (route alignment), PLS-CADD drawings (profile drawings) and Tower Schedule will be shared with the bidders tentatively by 10 Feb 2023 as addendum to Section V, B1 of the bid document.







Project Timeline (Transmission Line)

Estimated Timeline for Each Lot (Tentative)

Activity	Duration (approx.)
Check Survey and Design (Including ESP Clearance)	7 months
Available Duration for Foundation Work	21 months
Available Duration for Erection work	18 months
Available duration for Stringing work	15 months
Testing, Commissioning and Energization	2 months
Defect Notification Period	12 months
Contract Closure	4 months

The contractor shall determine how many shifts they will operate to complete the work in time and accordingly estimate the cost.







Site Access

- Please refer to section 5.6.4 stating MCA-Nepal Expectations of Contractor's Environmental and Social Planning in TL IFB Section V - B0. The Contractor must comply to all requirements before commencement of any site activity.
- The Employer will provide temporary site access clearance to the Contractor within fifteen (15) days after the commencement of the Contract in accordance with the temporary land access procedures defined in the ESHSMP.
- The clearance for the actual construction work will be issued to the Contractor in a phased manner.
 The clearance for construction of first lot of towers will be issued before commencement of foundation work as defined in the ESHSMP document.
- The Contractor must adhere to the access schedule while mobilizing construction teams for foundation and other work.







- The Contractor can propose their own design based on the design criteria described in the IFB. However, the tower footprint cannot exceed the specified area for each tower. The details of the area specified for each tower will be provided tentatively by 10 Feb 2023 to the bidder as addendum to Section V, B1.
- The height of tower as specified in the tower schedule available in Annex H1 of Section V, B1 of the bid document cannot be decreased without prior approval of the Engineer.
- Transportation of Materials: No new road construction is allowed and the Contractor should use the existing roads. However, the Contractor is also allowed for temporary lease hold of private lands for transportation of construction materials at their cost and time as defined in ESHSMP document (refer to Section V/B0/Annex 10). Construction of new foot trails to a maximum width of 1.25 meter is also allowed and to be rehabilitated at the time of site closure.







- Quad- Circuit Towers: Some sections like New Damauli to New Butwal, Ratmate to New Hetauda includes quad circuit towers, the bidder should consider those towers while preparing the bid.
- Aviation Lights: The SoW also includes marker balls, Aircraft Warning Light on tower with Solar Power Supply with Battery Back-up.
- Bird Diverter and Guard: The SoW also includes bird diverter and bird guard.
- Live Line Maintenance: It must be considered while designing the tower design. (in terms of additional clearance)
- Tower Protection and Leg Extensions: Route alignment is in hilly area which attracts the tower protection and leg extensions work in several locations; the bidder has to consider all these things while preparing the bid.







- **Power Line Crossing:** While preparing the cost estimation, the Bidder should consider the cost associated with the crossing of any transmission/distribution lines. The bidder should also be responsible for arrangement of such power outages in coordination with the Engineer.
- Diversion of existing transmission/distribution lines: As of now the work is not in the scope of IFB.
- Road Crossing: While preparing the cost estimation, the Bidder should consider the cost associated with the crossing of all type of roads including arrangement of scaffolding and road blockages in coordination with the Engineer.
- Long Span : Bidder has to consider
 - ✓ Major river crossings, like in (Trishuli, Kaligandaki, Rapti, Seti) up to 800m (approx.)
 - ✓ Long spans (Hill to Hill) up to 1500m (approx.)







- Extra Height Tower: The bidders has to consider towers for crossings of 400kV, 220 kV and 132kV line crossing towers while preparing their bids. Tower height may go up to 100m (approx.) or more.
- Conductor stringing: The Contractor may consider using pilot wires, drones, etc. during stringing activities to minimize the tree cutting as mentioned in the IFB.
- **Sign board and Branding**: Refer to section V/ B0- Annex 4 MCA-Nepal Branding Guidelines. The Bidder must consider the associated cost to comply the guideline in the annex 4. The project signs need to be installed at every 20km interval.
- Temporary site installation: While preparing the bid document the Bidder must consider the associated cost to comply the Section V/B0/ 5.A 102.
- The Bidder has to submit both Price Schedule and Price Reasonability as a part of their bid document.







ESP-Requirements

- ➤ MCA-N/MCC ESP Compliance is very stringent. The Contractor has to set up their ESP team with resources of international quality so that the ESP deliverables meet the Employer's requirements.
- Consistent with MCC Environmental guidelines, IFC standards (PS 1-8), all risks/impacts associated with construction/implementation of the project must be avoided, mitigated or compensated.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental Social Health and Safety Management Plan (ESHSMP) and Environment Social Management System (ESMS) are important part of the of the TL IFB which identify all the impacts and mitigation measures associated with construction activities and linked cost implication.







ESP-Requirements

The works shall include as a minimum, not-limiting to:

- ➤ The cost associated for the ESHSMP related works defined in ESHSMP BoQ attached as Annex 6A. The Bidder must fill up the rates and other information required in the BoQ.
- ➤ The cabinet approval for tree clearance will be obtained by MCA-Nepal. The Contractor will be responsible to obtain work permits from DFO and affected Community Forests User Groups (CFUGs), clearance of trees under the supervision of the Office of DFO and CFUGs, transportation of felled trees to the designated area as determined by DFO and all other associated work as mentioned in IFB.







GSI-Requirements

- 1. Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Harassment, Children Employment
 - Zero tolerance policy against sexual harassment
 - Develop and implement Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy
- 2. Prevention and Mitigation of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Risk
 - Zero tolerance policy against TIP
 - Entire ETP alignment is at high risk of TIP
 - Develop and implement TIP Risk Management Plan
- 3. Labor and Employment Opportunities including women employment
 - Work plan, methodology to prioritize women workers
 - Safe and harassment free working environment
 - Anonymous complaint mechanism system







GSI-Requirements

- Dedicated GSI Manager in the Contractors team
- Training sessions to the entire team, refresher every year
- Separate accommodation for women and men staffs
- Separate accommodation camps at work site
- Water closet toilet facilities with waste bins, separate for women and men workers at office/site
- Transportation services to women workers







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Annex C

Questions and Answers

#	Questions	Answers
Questi	ons sent via Zoom message:	
1.	Request to please provide this editable / Microsoft word version of submission forms (technical and financial offer) for ease of bid preparation.	Thanks, we sent the submissions forms to all registered bidders. If you have not received, please send a request to mcanepalpa@dt-global.com
2.	Can you please elaborate the Price Adjustment applicable as per 15.8 and 19.3	The Price adjustment clause as per ITB 15.8, refers to the adjustment of Contract price as per GCC Sub-Clause 13.8 Adjustment for Changes in Cost. In this case, the adjustment is as per GCC Sub-Clause 13.8.
		ITB clause 19.3 is related to price adjustment in case MCA-Nepal request extension of bid validity due to delay in award of the contract. In this case there will be no adjustment to the quoted price.
3.	Is there any preference for Nepalese Bidders?	No. The MCC Program Procurement Guidelines doesn't allow National Preference.
4.	As confirmed there will be no time extension. If the awarded lot/project is not completed in stipulated time than what will be way forward?	What was stated is that there will be no extension of time for implementation of the MCC Compact, it will be only for 5 years after Entry Into Force date. In case there will be delays in the project completion and there are justified reasons for delays occurred within Compact duration, the Contract will be extended as per Contract provisions (Sub-clause 8.4 of Conditions of Contract).
		If MCC agrees, there might be extension of the Contract duration within the Compact implementation period. However, in the case that the Defects Notification Period (DNP) and/or Contract closeout may go beyond the Compact End Date, the

#	Questions	Answers
		left-over work may be assigned to NEA or other Government Entity.
5.	There are various discrepancies / unclarity on Insulator String Requirements, please clarify the followings: 1. Whether 120KN Insulator for Jumper String is Glass Type or Porcelain Type. In Technical Data Sheet, Part-I, Porcelain given, while as per Section-B1, its Glass type, please clarify. 2. Whether Suspension Insulator String on Suspension Tangent Towre (DA type) is of Single I type or V string, please confirm?? 3. For Tension String 222KN Insulator given in Section-V, B1while, as per Technical Data Sheet Part-1, 300KN / 210KN given. Please Clarify. 4. 222KN Insulator not given in Technical Data Sheet, Part-I?	 All insulators string shall be of Glass type. An addendum will be issued to correct the discrepancy in the bidding document. The D1A suspension towers with I-Strings, and for the D1B-ALT/D1C-ALT suspension towers with V-Insulator strings UTS=300 kN; D=320 mm; S=195 mm UTS = 222 kN; D=280 mm; S=156 mm UTS = 222 kN; D=280 mm; S=156 mm
6.	According to the Technical Data Schedule, insulating material for 120 kN insulator is specified as Porcelain. However, for other insulators (530 kN, 400 kN, 300 kN, 210 kN) it is specified as glass. Please confirm the type of material to be used for the Insulators.	All insulators string shall be of Glass type. An addendum will be issued to correct the discrepancy in the bidding document.
7.	Project insurance purchased from outside Nepal shall be acceptable. Please confirm.	The Insurance provided should be applicable/enforceable in the territory of Nepal for it to be acceptable.
8.	Tax, VAT, WHT exemption applicable to subcontractors and suppliers ??	Compact Section 2.8 read along with Annex VII – Tax Schedules provide the conditions for tax exemption, refund or reimbursement of Taxes. The bidder needs to assess the application of taxes on its own depending on its status of incorporation and prior registration in Nepal.
9.	Please clarify tower design and type testing subject whether provided by Employer or new designs will be required. Please note that, in order to Provide the equal competition in this tender Tower Designs and Foundation Designs (including all drawings, weights and details) must be provided by Employer Company. Otherwise, If each winner company will design their own towers, there will be many type of tower design about each of tower type.	New design will be required. The bidder should propose their own design including prototype testing of Towers and accordingly include the cost of the same in the Financial Offer.

#	Questions	Answers
10.	Please provide tax exemptions details (coverage etc.)	Detail coverage of tax exemption is provided in Section 2.8 and ANNEX VII – Tax Schedules of the Compact Agreement.
11.	Whether Import of Civil Materials (Rebar / Cementetc.) from outside Nepal, with exemption of Custom Duty / VAT allowed for this Project ?	There is no restrictions on the Compact for imports of any raw materials or inputs and it shall be regulated under the Laws of Nepal. With respect to taxes, detail coverage of tax exemption is provided in Section 2.8 and ANNEX VII – Tax Schedules of the Compact Agreement.
12.	Kindly arrange to provide the Price Schedule in EXCEL format	Price Schedule in Excel format will be issued. However, in case of discrepancy between the PDF and Excel version, the PDF version issued along with the Bidding Document shall prevail.
13.	Please confirm whether the live metal clearance indicated in the tender drawings are inclusive of the altitude correction factor?	No adjustment has been used for this preliminary design provided with the IFB. The Bidders should consider altitude correction factors and accordingly include the price for the same in their Financial Offer.
14.	Line length for respective packages specified in Section-V of B0- Part2 of the bidding document is deviating with the line length specified in the price schedules and other documents.	The latest tower schedule including the latest line length will be issued to the bidders by 10 Feb 2023. The bidders should estimate based on the latest tower schedule.
15.	Please allow bidders to propose Price Adjustment Indices for Tower as an IEEMA, which is very well internationally acceptable by various utilities.	The bidding document requirement will not change.
16.	As MCA has done Aerial Survey and Tower Quantities are Fixed, we request MCA to Quantify the Price Schedule with Tower Types and Foundation Classes. It is also standard practice by most client to Quantify or provide Quantities in the price schedule to avoid any ambiguity in the Execution stage and also to ease the Evaluation of the Bid of all Bidders with Standard Quantities / Soil Classes.	This is a Lumpsum contract following the FIDIC Yellow Book concept and rules. As such, the BOQ can't be provided. The Bidder shall do their own assessment and accordingly estimate.
17.	For BID Submission, we request you to accept 1 original + 2 hard copies + 5 USB Soft Copies instead of 5 Hard Copies to avoid logistic difficulties in handling big boxes, as there are Three Lots which shall also ease all Bidders documentation requirements.	The bidding document requirement will not change.

#	Questions	Answers
18.	Whether Contractor is also allowed for temporary lease hold of Govt Lands to create required access for transportation of machinery & materials at contractor cost & time? Because in PPT presentation, its only mentioned about temporary lease hold of Pvt Landplease clarify.	It may be possible, but the contractor must make arrangements with the Governmentt organisation holding the land for temporary access.
19.	Route Marking / Stretches along the route, where Aviation Lights are required not given in provided Tower Scheduleplease provide, since complete EIA study already done by MCA. Please provide.	(A) No of Aviation Marker Balls- The information is already available in IFB Aviation indicators - Please refer to- Section V/B0/Annex 8- EIA document Annex E-Transmission Tower
		(B) Aviation Lights requirements along the route – All towers above 60 m of length to be equipped with aviation light with solar power battery backup.
20.	Whether MCA can provide searchable PDF file for EIA & other relevant reportfor easiness / convenience of working. Please provide	Searchable PDF file is not available. In Nepal the final approved EIA is always signed, stamped and scanned.
21.	What is the status of 18kms Option TL route included in Lot-3. We understand that its handed over to NEA for execution. So it will remain part of MCA scheme or probability is more to exclude from the scope ????? please clarify.	The bidder shall consider 18 KM route length as mentioned in the IFB.
22.	Qualification & Experience requirements for Manufacturers / Sub-contractors given in Part-1 is quite different from requirements mentioned in relevant technical specifications in Section-V, B1. Please clarify, which QR criteria required to be followed.	Qualification & Experience requirements for Manufacturers / Sub-contractors provided in Part-1 is required to be considered.
23.	Any specific base width restrictions in Hilly terrain towers?	MCA-Nepal will provide available tower footprint area for each tower by 10 Feb 2023.
24.	As per the Tender documents final KMZ file of all the packages is suppose to be provided today. But unfortunately, it could not be provided now it is confirmed that it will be provided on or before 10.02.2023. But there will be very less time to assess the benching and revetment quantities if we deploy our teams also.	We will issue the KMZ file by 10 February 2023, so that the prospective bidder will have enough time to assess the benching and revetment quantities.
25.	To reach the same start point for all bidders, will you please consider to give initial tower unit weights table and foundation types with the material quantities	The bidding document requirement will not change.

#	Questions	Answers
26.	a. As per Bidding Document Ref No: MCA-N/ETP/CB/003, Form TECH – 5: Project Management Organization (section IV, page no. 98) - the CV's of 9 Key personnel (each lot) are given but in Technical Evaluation Criteria for each Lot (Section III, page no. 60 to 62) – 10 key Personnel are required, included the position of "Social Safeguard Manager" but not given in form Tech -5, Please Clarify	a. This is a mistake; the requirement is of 10 personnel. We will issue an addendum to correct it.
	b. As per Bidding Document Ref No: MCA-N/ETP/CB/003, In Form TECH – 5: Project Management Organization (section IV, page no. 98) – No.5 & Technical Evaluation Criteria for each Lot (Section III, page no. 61) – Position for Construction Supervisor/QA Manager is the same or different, please clarify.	b. They are same positions.
27.	May a bidder, qualified for one lot but giving offers for all lots, submit only one bid security valid for all lots?	As per Bidding Document requirement it is not possible. Please refer ITB 20.1 under Section II. Bid Data Sheet.
28.	Whether, Bidders allowed to modify Breakdown of Price for Price Reasonability given in Bidding Documents as per their design & assessment of BOQ ????? Please Clarify.	No. The Price Reasonability File can not be amended. However, MCA- Nepal may ask further breakdown during evaluation, if required.
29.	Without an estimated volume and its cutting/transfer cost, each bidder will have different assumption. Thus, it's better to include a fixed provisional sum for tree cutting. Please consider!	The bid was launched based on design and build Conditions of Contract. The details available with the Employer have already been provided in the bidding document. The bidding document requirement will not change.
30.	The SPT and Bearing Capacity Values are not provided in below mentioned locations for recommendation of deep foundation in Geotechnical Report. Borehole No. B9, B10, B11, B23, B24, B30, B45, B47, B59 B60	We have information on 83 boreholes instead of expected 93 boreholes which are good enough to size the tower foundations. However, please note that the Bidders are requested to carry out all required surveys and investigation before submitting their Bid.
31.	In the specification, depth of foundation and minimum thickness of concrete slab to be considered is not given. However, in drawing number FDN-PC-1-1, Note no.6, the stub depth is given as 3300mm. Hence, it seems that the foundation depth of 3.5m is need to be kept. Kindly confirm whether our understanding is correct?	We confirm that your understanding is correct.
32.	In the geotechnical specification, it is suggested to use FAD (Foundation analysis and design software by EPRI) and L Pile software for drilled shaft and rock anchor type foundations. Kindly confirm whether it is mandatory to use this software.	It is not mandatory to use these software's, but it is recommended.

#	Questions	Answers
33.	1.25 mtr width access might not be sufficient for movement	Tower access restrictions associated
	of machinery / excavators etc. to reach the relevant tower	with the EIA development are as
	locations. Construction of Access Road @ Contractors	follows.
	Cost shall also be allowed for Govt Land, like allowed for	 No new roads to access tower
	Pvt Land. Please review & clarify.	sites may be constructed on
	Otherwise, excavation with breakers (Manually) will take	any land. This is to control
	quite longer time and difficult to complete the foundation	erosion.
	work within stipulated time. Please review.	• Existing roads may be
		upgraded, but not widened or extended. This is for the same
		reason.
		No trees may be felled on any
		land. This is to reduce the
		loss of forests.
		• Foot trails to a width of 1.5
		metres may be constructed on
		any land with the correct
		arrangements (such as by
		leasing) and with appropriate
		environmental controls, and
		with the land rehabilitated
		afterwards.
		IFB Part 2 – Employer's
		Requirements, Section V – B1, clause
		5.A410.1 (Environmental
		Protection):
		"In terms of environmental risks to
		the Contractor's works, the most
		significant is likely to be the
		difficulty of access to the tower
		sites. The Project must necessarily
		avoid the construction of access roads on account of the long-term costs and
		liabilities associated with road
		construction in steep terrain. The
		Contractor will therefore need to use
		non-motorized access processes, as
		has traditionally been the case in
		Nepal. Instability or potential
		instability of the tower foundation
		sites may be an issue at some
		locations, although detailed design
		work has endeavored to site all
		towers on stable ground; further information on physical soil
		information on physical soil properties will be determined during
		the geotechnical study. The
		seasonality of rainfall in South Asia,
<u></u>		boasonancy of familian in boath Asia,

#	Questions	Answers
		dominated by the intense monsoon period, means that earthworks are not feasible between mid-July and mid-September. For a longer period (May to October, and sometimes outside these months), soil erosion is a significant problem on any unprotected earth slope. Not only is soil a valuable resource that society cannot afford to lose, but once it is eroded it becomes a pollutant in water courses."
34.	Are Indian Govt owned Enterprises eligible for bidding?? Otherwise can they bid for PMC separately if being considered by MCA Nepal?	Please refer ITB 5.6 (Government-Owned Enterprises), which states "Government-Owned Enterprises ("GOEs") are not eligible to compete for MCC-funded contracts for goods (which includes contracts for the supply and installation of information systems) or works.". For further detail, you are requested to refer MCC Program Procurement Guidelines Part 13.
35.	Whether Bidders allowed to provide Tower Quantity in MT & Foundation volumes in Cubic Meteretc., with relevant unit rates in Price Breakdown for reasonability analysis, instead of per structure / per no items given in Bidding Documents. Please review & clarify. This will certainly help during progressive payment during contract executions and relevant modifications as per variations in actual BOQ. Please review & accept.	No.
36.	The Kmz file provided has preliminary routes and final routes in blue and red colors etc. please provide us the final route for all the three (3) lots, so that it will be easy for us to understand the final route	The final KMZ file will be provided to the bidder by 10 Feb 2023 along with a revised Tower Schedule.
37.	Please refer clause ITB 15.6 (a), Section-II Bid Data Sheet, where in last para its mentioned that The successful bidder/Contractor shall be required to submit Pro forma invoice 60 days before arrival of Equipment/Goods to Nepal border and the delivered items shall be exactly same items described in the Pro-forma invoice." In ref to above, please note that for Indian Origin Items, transportation time will hardly take 10-15 days to reach at border from Manufacturers place. Pro-forma Invoice 60 days in advance seems not practicalplease review & request to reduce this period for max up to two weeks.	Getting custom exemption from GoN takes some time (around 30 days). So this is a safety margin to get timely Custom Exemption Certificate and to avoid demurrage. We may reduce this time period based on mutual understanding as the main target is to get Custom Exemption Certificate prior to goods arriving at custom point.
38.	Please note that, the quantities in BoQ such as tower quantities/weights/conductor lengths must be issued by	The bid is launched based on design and build Conditions of Contract. The

#	Questions	Answers
	Employer company in order to provide equal competition	details available with the Employer
	in this tender. All the participant companies should provide	have already been provided in the
	their commercial offers for similar quantity.	bidding document. The bidding
		document requirement will not
		change.
39.	In the foundation Drawing FDN-DR-1-1, it is mentioned	Both design methods are acceptable.
	that pad and chimney foundation is need to be designed as	
	per EPRI Transmission Line foundation design, while in	
	specification its mentioned that we can adopt for IS	
	456:2000 and CBIP Publication no. 523 also. Kindly	
	clarify.	
	There is variance cum addition in the strength reduction	
	factors given in the overload and strength reduction factors	
	for foundation design (Ref : Final design report for	
	transmission lines Rev1) and in the drawings FDN-MP-1-	
	1 (Micro Piles) and FDN-RA-1-1 (Rock Anchors). Please	
	clarify and suggest which strength reduction factors are to	
	be adopted for foundation design.	
40.	In case the handed over access road get eroded / damaged	Maintenance and restoration of the
	due to rain or natural calamity during construction phase.	damaged access road shall be on
	We presume that the maintenance and restoration of the	account of the Contractor.
	damaged access road shall be on account of client /	
41.	employer. Please clarify and confirm? We kindly ask you to publish all those Q&A sessions as	All questions noted during the Pre-
41.	written clarification. Some of the replies are not audible	Bid Conference are listed here.
	enough for online participants.	Bid Comercine are fished fiere.
42.	In the geotechnical report recommendations, and seismic	Deep Foundation types will primarily
	study recommendations, deep foundations are suggested	be micro piles and cap. Additionally,
	for liquefaction prone areas. Kindly suggest what type of	where solid rock is encountered, rock
	deep foundations are to be considered, and their inclusion	anchors are an acceptable foundation.
	in BPS.	
43.	The provided tender PLS CADD Back up files are in the	The profile drawing only can be
	format of PLS CADD SAPS, which are incompatible with	opened in PLS CADD SAPS as the
	systems having only PLS CADD. Kindly look into the	design has been based on Finite
	matter, and provide unlocked files in PLS CADD format or extracted .dxf files for working of tender.	Element Method for better accuracy. However, the PDF of Profile
	extracted .dxf files for working of tender.	drawings are available. Please refer
		Section V/B1/Annex B1 - B -
		Appendix 11.
Questi	ions from the Floor:	I F F
1.	Clarity on the payment terms, retention percent, schedule	Retention provision will remain the
	of payments	same. The payment terms may be
	First set of questions (first set of questions to be issued by	revised based on the requests
	21 st jan, 23	received from bidders.
	Addendum to be issued	
	Issuance of the kmz	First clarification already issued. We
	Nature of contract being lumpsum is a concern	will be issuing second set on coming
		weeks.

#	Questions	Answers
2.	Clause of Tax, Scope of Contractor or 15.6, 38.5, however incoterm is DDP basis, clarity on tax, in case tax is exempted, exemption on sub-cons or else?	MCA-Nepal has launched this procurement process which is based on standards of the financers and thus, we will not be able to amend the provisions of the Contract. The tax exemption certificate will be issued as per the provisions of the Contract.
3.	Will WHT also be exempted?	Compact Section 2.8 read along with Annex VII – Tax Schedules provide the conditions for tax exemption, refund or reimbursement of Taxes. The bidder needs to assess application of taxes on its own depending on its status of incorporation and prior registration in Nepal.
	Exemption certificate normally 30 days, locally registered entities will not get tax exemption, income tax and WHT	• MCC Funding will be free from the payment of taxes and other similar charges on income, profits or gross receipts attributable to work performed in connection with the Program and related social security taxes and other similar charges on all natural or legal persons performing work in connection with the Program except (1) natural persons who are citizens or permanent residents of Nepal and (2) legal persons formed under the laws of Nepal (but excluding MCA-Nepal and any other entity formed for the purpose of implementing the Government's obligations hereunder).
	Cement and other items procuring from Nepal, VAT exempt?	 For Goods procured and supplied by any Exempt Entity, VAT will be refunded if it has been paid.
	MCA-Nepal, schedule 4 and schedule 4, subject to procurement of services locally	Question not clear

#	Questions	Answers
	• Compact section 2.8	Compact Section 2.8 is useful for tax provision.
4.	Tax, vat, what exemption applicable to subcontractors and suppliers ??	Compact Section 2.8 read along with Annex VII – Tax Schedules provide the conditions for tax exemption, refund or reimbursement of Taxes.
		Please refer to answer #3 above.
5.	Replacement of Key Personnel	The Employer does not expect any replacement of key personnel as the proposed personnel are one of the bases for selection of the Bidder for award.
		In case there will be need for replacement, the replacement shall only be done in accordance with the Bidding Document and MCC Program Procurement Guidelines provisions
6.	Site Access on phased basis, from day 1, or something like first 20 km is handed over to the contractors	For the check survey and geotechnical activities, the Employer will provide temporary site access clearance to the Contractor within Fifteen (15) days after the commencement of contract in accordance with the temporary land access procedures defined in the ESHSMP. However, the field activities for Survey and Geotechnical investigation can only start after fulfilling the criteria as mentioned in Section V, B0, 5.6.4 MCA-Nepal Expectation of Contractor's Environmental and Social Planning Bidding Document. The clearance for permanent access for the actual construction work will be issued to the Contractor in a phased manner. The clearance for construction of the first lot of towers will be issued before commencement of foundation work as defined in the ESHSMP document. However, the field activities can only start after

#	Questions	Answers
		fulfilling the criteria as mentioned in Section V, B0, 5.6.4 MCA-Nepal Expectation of Contractor's Environmental and Social Planning Bidding Document. The Contractor must adhere to the permanent access schedule while mobilizing construction teams for foundation and other work.
7.	Lump sum contract, check survey, tower changes in a lump sum arrangement is to be addressed.	The latest tower schedule including the latest line length will be issued to the bidders by 10 Feb 2023. The bidders should estimate based on the latest tower schedule. Any change of route length or tower number during check survey will be considered as a variation (subject to approval by Engineer).
8.	Are Bird diverters and aviation indicators details available?	Yes. (A) Aviation Marker Balls- The information is already available in IFB Aviation indicators - Please refer to- Section V/B0/Annex 8- EIA document Annex E-Transmission Tower (B) Aviation Lights requirements along the route – All towers above 60 m of length to be equipped with aviation light with solar power battery backup. (C) Bird Diverters / Bird Nesting Platforms requirements - The information is already available in IFB (Details of Bird diverters- Please refer to Section V/B0/Annex 8- EIA document Annex E-Transmission Tower Details.
9.	Geotechnical report and contours to be made available, (assess benching, revetment will be difficult)	Contours:-The bidders may assess the requirement of benching and revetment from the LiDAR data which will be provided by MCA-Nepal by 10 Feb 2023 for the entire route except 30km (in different stretches). The contour data for 30km will also be provided separately by 10 Feb 2023.

#	Questions	Answers
		Geotechnical Report: The report is already available in Section V/B1/6. Annex D-Technical Specifications-Final Design Report-2019-11-08/Appendix 2 - Geotechnical Engineering Services Specification Rev 3. In addition, the bidder is requested to carry out all required surveys and investigation to calculate the required quantity of benching. Revetment etc.
10.	Forest clearance- approval one time? Forest clearance permit from the cabinet (SKU answer, tree cutting respective DFO should be informed, tree enumeration process, tree marked/stamped, actual cutting, renewal responsibility is with MCA-Nepal, process is not completed on time contractor is responsible for facilitation.	The cabinet approval for tree clearance will be obtained by MCA-Nepal. The Contractor will be responsible for obtaining the work permits from DFO and affected Community Forests User Groups (CFUGs), clearance of trees under the supervision of the office of DFO and CFUGs, transportation of felled trees to the designated area as determined by DFO and all other associated work as mentioned in IFB. The bidder should consider the associated costs in their Financial Offer.
11.	In case a bidder has Qualification Requirement for only one lot can he apply for all three lots and in this case how the bids will be evaluated.	The Bidder having qualification criteria for one lot (assuming that the qualification capacity of the bidder satisfies the maximum requirement of any lot) and wants to apply for three lots is possible. Assume during evaluation the Bidder is highest ranked in all three lots, but satisfy the requirement of only one lot. In that case, the Employer will award the bidder one of the lots considering for the contract award the sequence that provides the optimum economic combination for MCA-Nepal as per the requirements of the bidding document.
12.	Consortium and JV partner limit? No limit	The Bid Document does not provide any limitation on the number of JV partner.
13.	Registration of JV is needed in Nepal	Yes, it is needed as per Nepal's Law.

#	Questions	Answers
14.	Bank guarantee, has to be counter guaranteed by a bank in Nepal	Yes, as per the requirement of Bidding Document.
15.	Kmz file in Annex 1, three lines, which line to follow!! Yellow- prelim, red-line after pegging to check feasibility at site at tower location, blue for 30 km for changes in alignment, final will only have one line	The final kmz will be provided by 10 Feb 2023 compiling the entire route.
16.	Bidder can be direct supplier and also a direct bidder??	Subject to abiding the provisions stated under ITC clause 5.8.
17.	FAT nothing mentioned about per-diem.	Please refer to Section-V-B0- Annex 3 (FAT Witness)
18.	Village road damage, who pays?	The Contractor is responsible for the maintenance of the village road.
19.	Payment for price adjustment be made from which month?	From IPC number 2 as first IPC will be for Advance Payment.
20.	Key Personnel, from bidder company or anybody?	Key Personnel can be from the Bidder or any individual who can commit his/her availability for the works.