



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT NEPAL (MCA-NEPAL)

Minutes of Pre-Proposal Conference

for

**Procurement of “Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance
Electricity Use”**

MCA-N/ETP/QCBS/011

VENUE: HOTEL ROYAL SINGHI

02 January 2024

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I. Introduction:

The pre-proposal conference session was called to order by the Senior Procurement Specialist of MCA-Nepal Procurement Agent. He welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their attendance. The pre-proposal conference was also conducted via web conference from 4:00 PM (Nepal Standard Time) on 02 January 2024.

II. Agenda:

- Registration
- Program Opening and welcome remarks by the Procurement Agent
- Welcome remarks by MCA-Nepal
- Procurement Overview by the Procurement Agent
- Presentation on technical aspects of the Request for Proposal (RFP) Document – Technical Presentation
- Procurement Briefing on the RFP Document
- Question and Answers – Pre-Proposal Conference
- Closing remarks

III. Registration:

The attendance sheet is attached in Annex A.

IV. Program Opening and welcome remarks by the Procurement Agent

The Senior Procurement Specialist of the Procurement Agent of MCA-Nepal welcomes the attendees and opened the Pre-Proposal Conference session.

V. Welcome remarks by the MCA-Nepal:

The MCA-Nepal Deputy Executive Director for Project Delivery expressed gratitude towards all the participants and delivered a welcome address. He presented a brief description of the project. In addition to this, he also briefly described the requirements of the procurement of Consultant for Capacity Building Activities and advised the consultants to seek clarifications if any.

VI. Overview of Procurement by the Procurement Agent:

The Senior Procurement Specialist of the Procurement Agent of MCA-Nepal highlighted the following points to be noted:

- (i) In case any discrepancies between the presentation and the RFP, the RFP shall prevail.
- (ii) The answers provided in the Pre-Proposal Conference shall be considered as draft answers, and the final answers will be provided in writing through the Minutes of the Meeting.
- (iii) In addition to the points presented during the pre-proposal conference, it is advised to the consultants to review the RFP document thoroughly.
- (iv) Any further questions shall be submitted in writing.

VII. Presentation on technical aspects of Request for Proposal (RFP) Document – Technical Presentation:

Presenting the technical aspects of the project, Sajhedari Bikas, Program Specialist with the support of the ESP Specialist-Environment and GSI Specialist delivered a presentation that included the Compact objectives related to the MCA Partnership Program, Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use, brief description of tasks, Consultant's responsibilities, Environmental and Social considerations, Gender and Social Inclusion considerations, requirement of Key Personnel, timeline and other relevant information. The presentation is attached as Annex B of this minutes.

VIII. Procurement Briefing on the RFP Document:

The Senior Procurement Specialist of the Procurement Agent for MCA-Nepal presented the important parts of the RFP document and emphasized key points, particularly those points which consultants typically encounter difficulties and provided tips to avoid common mistakes in the submission of their proposals. The Specialist also highlighted important points where the consultants need to have a clear understanding while developing their proposals.

IX. Questions and Answers:

The participants of the Consultants' representatives were provided the opportunity to ask queries/questions. The queries raised by the participants were responded by MCA-Nepal technical and procurement team as well as by the Procurement Agent team. It was informed that MCA-Nepal will provide the answers to the raised queries during the conference, in writing. The questions raised by the consultants' representatives and MCA-Nepal team responses are presented in Annex C.

X. Closing Remarks:

The Procurement Manager of MCA-Nepal thanked the participants for the raised questions and to MCA-Nepal team and procurement team for responding to the questions. He also requested to submit any remaining questions in writing which will be responded in writing in due course by MCA-Nepal and wished all consultants for a successful proposal submission.

The conference closed around 7:00 PM.

Annexes:

Annex A: Attendance Register

Annex B: Presentations

Annex C: Questions and Answers

Annex D: Video Recording of the Conference

Annexes/Attachments

Annex A

Attendance register In-Person Attendance



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT NEPAL (MCA-NEPAL)
Pre Conference Meeting
Procurement of Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use
(Ref MCA-N/ETP/QCBS/011)
Registration Sheet

Date: 2 January 2024
Time: 4:00 pm – 8 pm
Venue: Hotel Royal Singhi and through Zoom web conference

No	Name	Organization	Designation	Email Address	Signature
1	Mr. Mahesh Prasad Acharya	MCA-Nepal	DED-PD	mahesh.acharya@mcanp.org	<i>Mahesh Prasad Acharya</i>
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6	Mr. Suman Shrestha	MCA-Nepal	MPP Specialist	suman.shrestha@mcanp.org	<i>Suman Shrestha</i>
7	Mr. Janak Raj Pathak	MCA-Nepal	ESP Specialist-Environment	janak.pathak@mcanp.org	<i>Janak Raj Pathak</i>
8	Ms. Kalawati Rai	MCA-Nepal	GSI Specialist	kalawati.rai@mcanp.org	<i>Kalawati Rai</i>



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9	Mr. Ashish Bhandari	MCA-Nepal	Procurement & Contracting Specialist	ashish.bhandari@mcanp.org	<i>Ashish Bhandari</i>
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16	Mr. Manish Regmi	DT Global	Procurement Assistant	manish.regmi@dt-global.com	<i>Manish Regmi</i>
17	Ms. Alina Rajbhandary Shrestha	MCA-Nepal	Manager-Communications & Public Affairs	alina.rajbhandary@mcanp.org	<i>Alina Rajbhandary Shrestha</i>
18	Avash Gupta Lawyer	MCC-RCM	RCM	gupta@mcrc.gov	<i>Avash Gupta</i>
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54	Sanjeev Pokhrel	RIME	Energy Specialist	ev.sanjeepokhrel@gmail.com	<i>S. Pokhrel</i>
55	Sankit Saha	Smart put Ltd.	-	-	<i>S. Saha</i>
56	Shreyas Pandey	Bright Future International	bf.international2020@gmail.com		<i>S. Pandey</i>
57					
58					
59					
60					
61					
62					
63					
64					

Zoom Registrants:

Registrants

1. Kala Timalcina
2. Susil Chhetri
3. Shubham Dhawan
4. manish Regmi
5. Arun Thapa
6. Tek Raj Subedi
7. Akash Yadav
8. Pushpanjali Dhakal
9. Ramsundar Khadka
10. Shree Raj Shakya
11. Anil Neupane
12. Ajay Kumar Jha
13. Subhrajit Datta Ray
14. Anurag Raizada
15. Sachin Garg
16. Tri Ratna Bajracharya
17. Badri Baral
18. Samrat Roy
19. prabin raj sharma
20. Aavas Pokharel
21. Sushmita Dulal
22. Roshan Ghimire
23. Muhammad Imran Malik
24. Sanjay Sah
25. Siddharth Mani
26. Suchana Baniya
27. MVS Vijay Kumar
28. Dilli Ghimire
29. Bhumika Rijal
30. Jagadish Khoju
31. Jeetendra Yadav
32. Ramesh Nepal
33. Ashish Bhandari
34. Tayyab Tariq
35. Uddhav Raj Acharya
36. Uday Raj Kafle
37. Rameez M
38. binita poudel
39. Badri Pyakurel
40. Pawan Joshi
41. Nischeet Kumar Maharjan
42. Amitabh Saha
43. Parashu Nepal
44. Mohnish Manchanda
45. James Walsh
46. Sunita Tamang

- 47. Anu Gurung
- 48. shweta karna

Annex B

Presentations



combined
presentations.pdf



Millennium Challenge Account Nepal (MCA-Nepal)

2 January 2024



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)

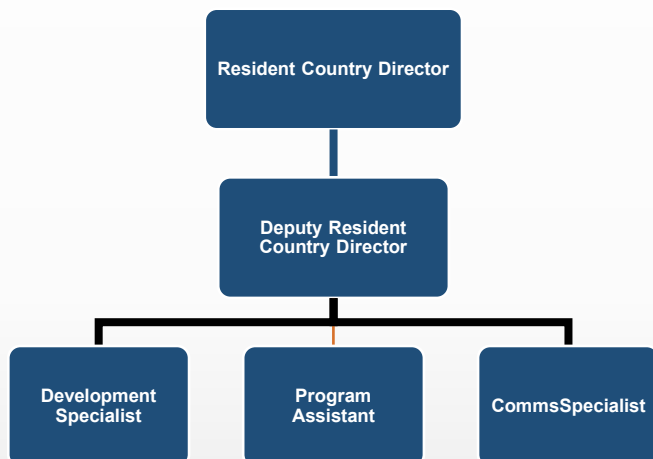


Compact signed on 14 September 2017



MCC and MCA– *Separate Entities*

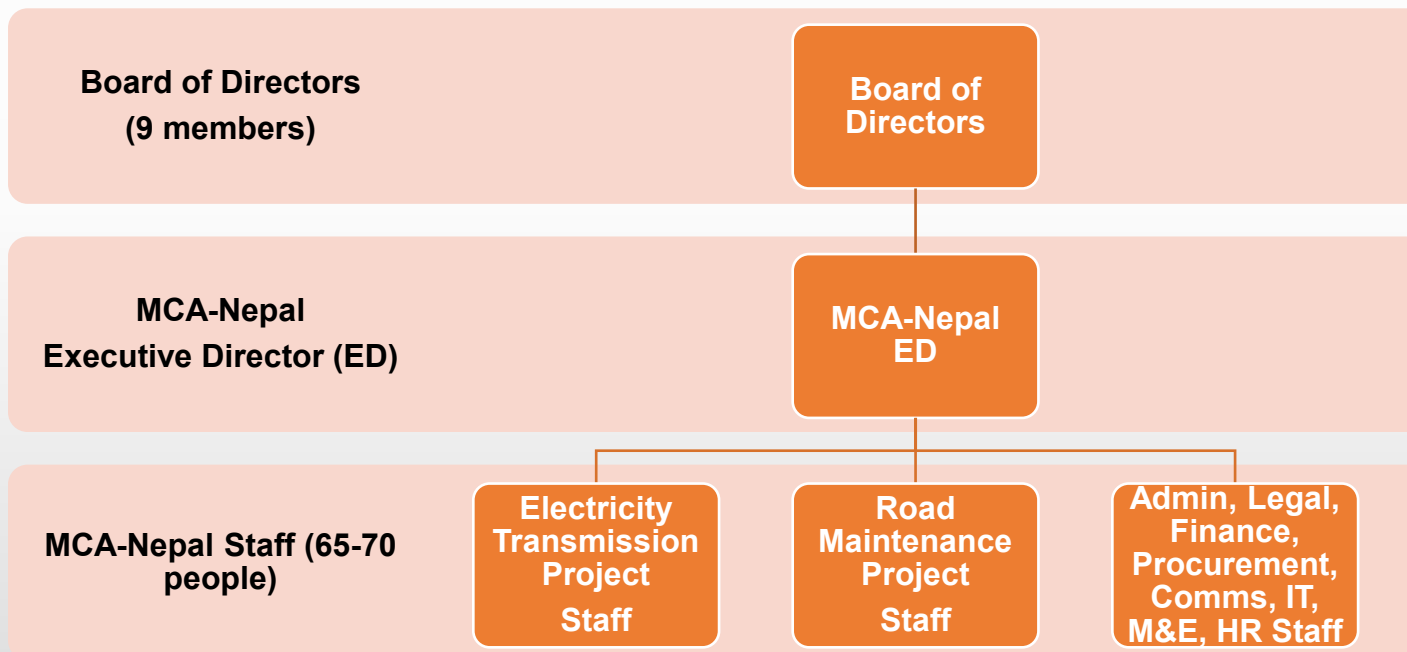
MCC-Nepal



The two entities work closely together, but they are separate entities.

MCC provides oversight and support to MCA-Nepal

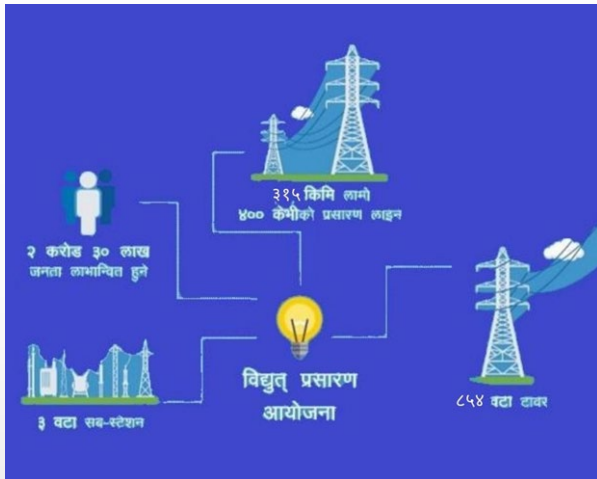
MCA-Nepal





Projects- Snapshot

Electricity Transmission Project (ETP)



USD 582.4 million

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



- MCC's USD 500 Million Grant assistance
- GoN's USD 197 Million investment

Road Maintenance Project (RMP)



USD 54.9 million

- Maintenance with modern technology of up to 40 km road segment of East-West Highway in Dang district.
- Technical Assistance to DoR and RBN.



Condition Precedents – *for Project Implementation*

- ✓ Declaration of Electricity Transmission project as a *National Pride* Project
- ✓ Formation of Electricity Regulation Commission
- ✓ Program Implementation Agreement
- ✓ Nepal – India agreement on the construction of Cross Border Transmission Line
- ✓ Parliamentary Ratification of the Compact
- ✓ Site Access : Land Acquisition, Forest Clearance access to construction sites



Parliamentary Ratification: Feb 27, 2022



EIF achieved on 30 August 2023



Timeline of the Program

**Compact Signing:
14 Sept 2017**


**Entry Into Force –EIF
30 August 2023**

**Compact Closeout
30 August 2028**

5 Years after EIF

**Project Preparation and
Conditions Precedent**

**Project
Implementation**


**MCC BoD
Selects Nepal**





Projects- Working Areas



Legend

	International Boundary	Transmission Line Section	
	District Boundary		Lapsjehedi to Ratmate
	Koshi Province		Ratmate to New Hetauda
	Madhesh Province		Ratmate to New Damauli
	Bagmati Province		New Damauli to New Butwal
	Gandaki Province		New Butwal to Nepal India Border
	Lumbini Province		Substation
	Karnali Province		Tower
	Sudurpaschim Province	Road Section	
			Dhankhola- Lamahi

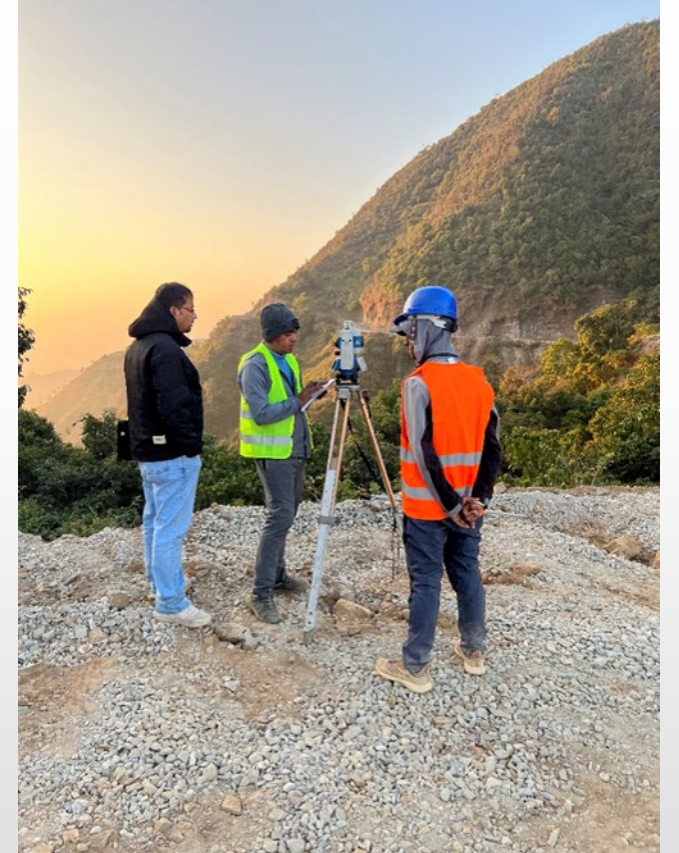


Dhankhola-Lamahi
40km Maintenance works



Electricity Transmission Project : *Overall Work Progress*

- Designs and alignment of transmission lines and substations finalized;
- Consultants-Supervision Engineers selected;
- Bids for substations works contract already launched, evaluation process ongoing to select contractors for transmission lines.
- Bids for transmission lines -necessary steps for the re-tendering process ongoing.



Re-survey work of 30 km



Electricity Transmission Project : *Substation Work Progress*

Land Acquisition- Substations

- *Ratmate Substation*: The acquisition of 20 ha of land is complete –fencing completed.
- *New Butwal and New Damauli Substations*: Land has been provided by NEA.

Livelihood Restoration Program – Ratmate

- The two-year Livelihood Restoration Program (LRP) is currently underway, providing job and skills training to 272 project-affected persons whose land has been acquired for the Ratmate substation in the Nuwakot district.



LRP – Tomato Farming



LRP – Adult Literacy Class



Electricity Transmission Project : *Transmission Line Work Progress*

Land Acquisition

For 315 km of line that passes through 10 districts of Nepal approx. 104 ha of land will be acquired for 856 tower pads as per Land Acquisition Act, 1977 -

- Compensation fixation process initiated in nine districts with the publishing of notices as per Clause 9 of the Act;
- Valuation Recommendation Sub-Committees formed and activated under the leadership of Assistant CDOs or Administrative Officers in nine districts to conduct the valuation of lands.

Forest Clearance

- *Forest Consultations*: 73 consultations with 121 Community Forest User Groups and 8 Leasehold Forest User Groups in nine project-affected districts completed;
- *Forest Census*: Forest census completed in Chitwan, Tanahun, Makawanpur, Nawalparasi- Bardaghat Susta East.





Road Maintenance Project: *Work Progress*

- Around 40 km of road segment in East-West highway in Dang district identified for maintenance with new technology: Full Depth Recycling (reclamation)
- High –level stakeholder Consultation carried out in Dang to build consensus and common understanding on the design of the road section to undergo maintenance works.
- Four (4) labs with essential equipment to train technicians have been established at the Department of Roads (DoR);
- Trainings on new technology use i.e. Full Depth Reclamation (FDR), Superior Performing Asphalt Pavements (Superpave) etc.carried out.



Lab inauguration in DoR



Deflection measurement using FWD



Extensive Community Consultations

- A total of 152 consultations including public hearings organized at the community and municipal level in all 30 affected municipalities to finalize the EIA for ETP;
- 97 ward-level consultations organized for the MCA Partnership Program, a benefit-sharing component with communities affected by the ETP;
- 11 ward-level consultations organized in affected communities to address grievances of ETP;
- Around 400 community consultations being carried out to support forest census works and resettlement action plans during land acquisition works in all ten affected districts ETP;
- 5 public hearings organized in affected municipalities of Road section in Dang district.



ETP - Public hearing in Nuwakot



RMP- Public Hearing in Dang



Status of Safeguard Documents

- **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** : Approved by Ministry of Forest Environment
- **Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** : Approved by MCC
- **Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)**: Approved by MCA-Nepal Board and MCC
- **Social and Gender Inclusion Plan (SGIP)**: Approved by MCA-Nepal Board and MCC
- **Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP)**: RAP/LRP for Ratmate Substation prepared and implemented (LRP under implementation); RAP/LRP for Transmission Line under process
- **Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS)**: Final Stage
- **MCC Policy Provisions**



Environmental and Social Compliance Requirement

National Legal/Policy Provisions

- Environment Protection Act, 2019
- Environment Protection Rules, 2020
- Guidelines for Use of National Forest Area for National Priority Project, 2019
- Land Acquisition Act, 1977
- Electricity Act, 1992 and Electricity Rules, 1993
- National Policy on Land Acquisition, Compensation and Resettlement in Development Projects in Nepal, 2015

MCC/International Policy Provisions

- International Finance Corporation Performance Standard (IFC PS)
- MCC Environmental Guidelines, 2010
- MCC Gender Policy, 2011
- MCC Counter Trafficking in Persons Policy, 2021



Mitigation Approach

Better-off Approach

- Ascertain that affected entities are no worse off than they were prior to the project;
- Lands and Assets valuation at *Replacement Cost Principle* with no deduction for depreciation;
- Capital Gain Tax by MCA-Nepal.

Acquisitions Approach

- As per Land Acquisitions Act, 1977
- Complying with IFC PS 5
- Resettlement Policy Framework with Entitlement Matrix



Projects : Benefits



Construction Phase	Operation Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Growth in local employment opportunity<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ About 7000 full-time jobs during the 42 months of construction▪ 200 full-time job opportunities during the period of ETP operations<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity for local business<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Construction materials procured from the local vicinity<input type="checkbox"/> MCA Partnership Program<input type="checkbox"/> Growth in local biodiversity<input type="checkbox"/> Increase in work efficiency<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Technology transfer<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Inclusion<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 33 percent women's participation encouraged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improvement in the credibility of the National Transmission Line▪ Expansion in financial investment▪ Growth in GoN's income▪ Growth in local employment opportunity▪ Reduction in GHG emission



Fostering economic growth with better access to electricity and roads



MILLENNIUM
CHALLENGE CORPORATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**Pre-Proposal Conference
Procurement of Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to
Enhance Electricity Use
MCA Partnership Program
Electricity Transmission Project**

Millennium Challenge Account Nepal

2 January 2024

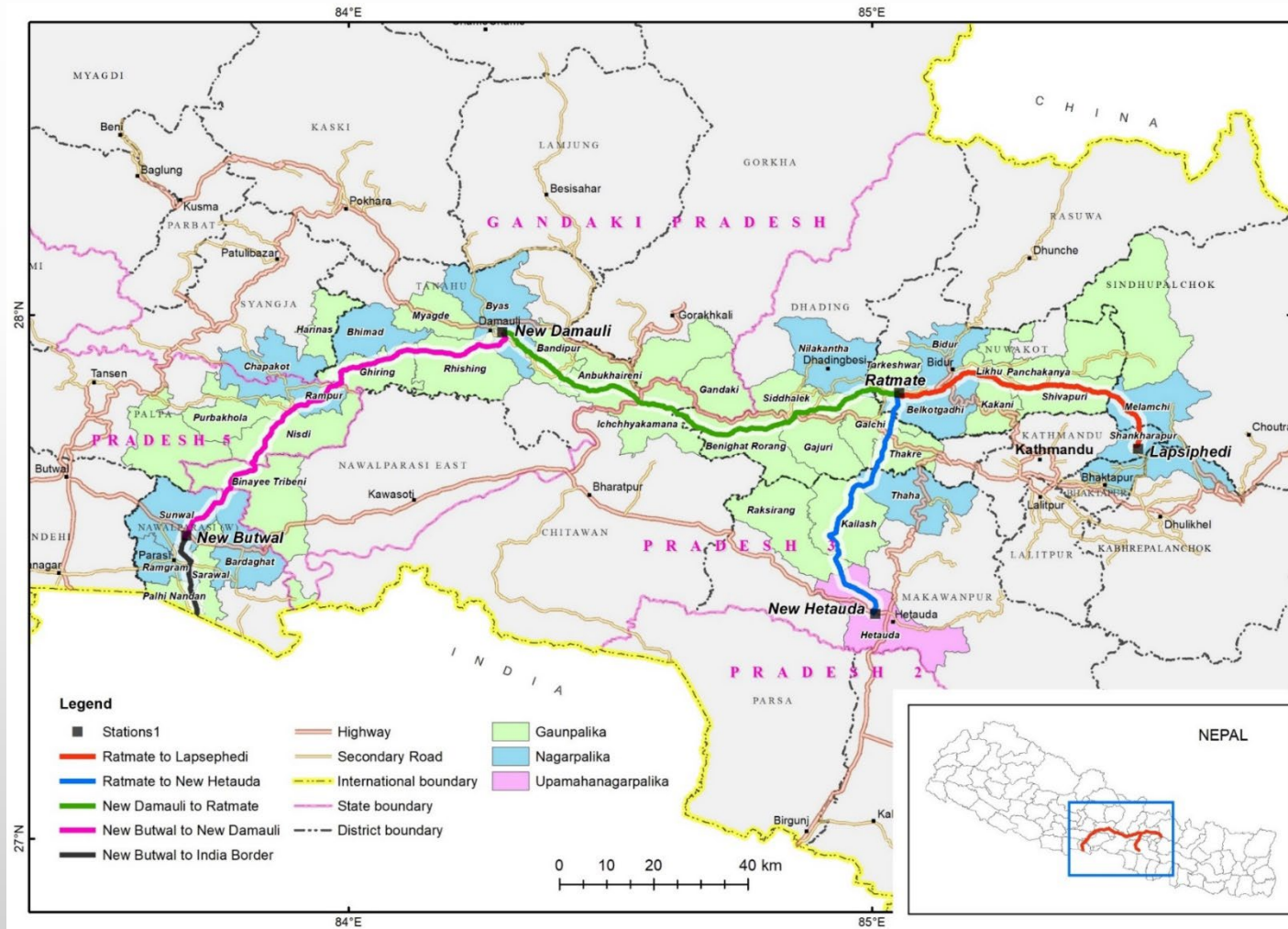


Electricity Transmission Project Overview

- **A Component of Nepal's Electricity Transmission Line System**
- **GoN has declared this as a National Pride Project**
- **400 kV Quad Moose Double Circuit Transmission Line**
- **Approximate Route Length - 315 km**
- **Approximate 856 no. Transmission Towers**
- **Across 10 Districts, 30 Municipalities and 99 Wards**
- **3 Substations**
- **MCA Partnership Program Activities**
- **Technical Assistance to NEA and ERC**



Map of Transmission Line Route



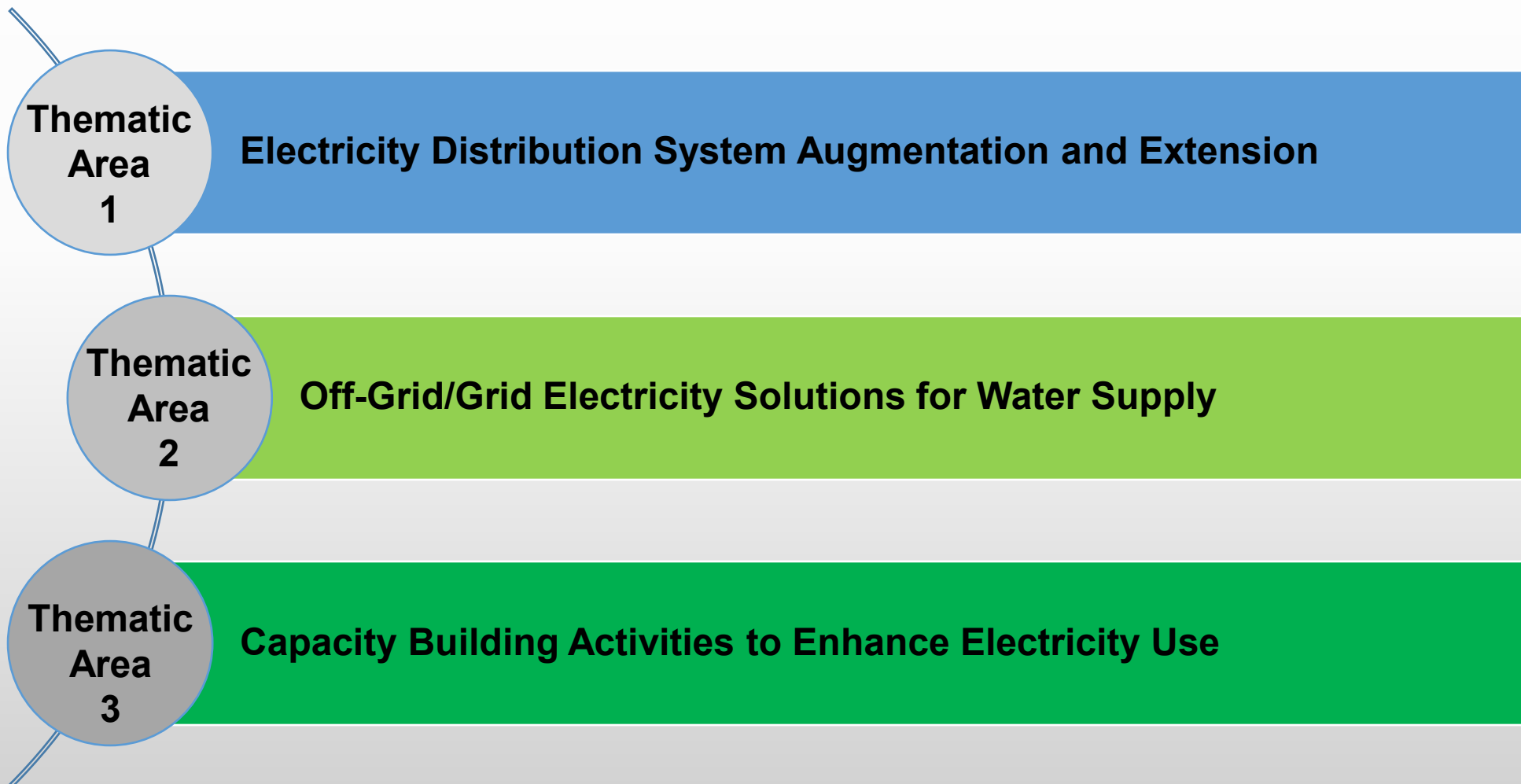


MCA Partnership Program

- **The MCA Partnership program is the benefit-sharing component of the Electricity Transmission Project (ETP).**
- **Objective**
 - To ensure that project-related benefits are accrued by the project communities.**
 - To help build good relationships with the project communities.**
- **Goal**
 - Build trust and rapport and share the ETP benefits with the affected communities and to develop relationships with the project communities for smooth and timely project completion.**



MCA Partnership Program





Procurement for Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Capacity building activities to enhance economic activities through use of the electricity.

The consultant is expected to

- **Develop Municipal Energy Plans (MEPs) for the ETP-affected municipalities.**
- **Implement capacity building activities focused on Productive Use of Electricity (PUE).**
 - **For individuals (Skill training)**
 - **For business/entrepreneurs**



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Scope of Services

Municipal Energy Plan

- ETP affected 30 municipalities

Market Assessment Survey

- ETP affected 30 municipalities

Capacity building for Productive use of Electricity (Business/Entrepreneurs)

- Around 768 Business/Entrepreneurs
- ETP Affected communities of the wards

Capacity building for Productive use of Electricity (Individual Skill)

- Around 1200 individuals
- ETP Affected communities of the wards

Post Training Support

- As required for Business/Entrepreneurs
- Job Placement for Individuals



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Task 1: Develop Municipal Energy Plan

- **Review and reflect the documents related to energy situation in Nepal (policy, periodic plans etc)**
- **Prepare and implement field plan approved by MCA-Nepal**
- **Assess Energy needs of municipality**
- **Develop municipality energy plan based on Alternative Energy Promotion Center MEP development guideline (2020)**
- **Facilitate the endorsement process for the 30 MEPs from the relevant municipality**



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Task 2: Rapid Market Opportunity Assessment

- **Assess the market potentials for various products and associated skills**
- **Map and identify potential enterprises for PUE**
- **Identify employment/business opportunities that require electricity in the market areas**
- **Develop a priority list for identifying trainings**
- **Market opportunity assessment report explaining the market scenario and the proposed training interventions.**



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Task 3: Business Training

- **Training to 768 entrepreneur (around 8 from each ward)**
- **Focus for upscaling, upgradation and expansion.**
- **Customized training package according to the entrepreneurs status.**
- **Establish pre (baseline) and post training status of trainee.**
- **Coordinate/collaborate with respective local governments for implementation**
- **Include all logistics costs in training (venue, training cost, transportation etc)**
- **Facilitate in establishing connections with Financial Institutions**
- **Database of the regular activities including trainee/instructor daily attendance.**



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Task 4: Skill Training

- **Deliver skill training to 1200 trainees (at an average of 12 trainees per ward)**
- **Develop a detailed skill training plan and trainee should be**
 - **At least 35% women**
 - **At least 35% from socially excluded or traditionally marginalized group**
- **Coordinate and collaborate with respective local governments**
- **At least 95 percent of the selected trainees should complete the training.**
- **Memorandum of Understanding with NSTB for skill test examination.**
- **Database of the regular activities including trainee/instructor daily attendance.**



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Task 5: Post Training Support

- **Continued business counselling sessions to the trainees and their families**
- **At least one refresher training event**
- **Conduct continued market linkages for the trainees**
- **Facilitate skill testing of all the trainees**
- **Ensure at least 70 percent of the NSTB pass graduates are employed**
- **The employment status verification in three and six months**
- **Document the project impact among the participants**



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Consultant Responsibilities

- **Project Management**
 - **Stakeholder Engagement plan**
 - **Communication plan**
 - **Field Plan**
- **Gender and Social Inclusion Considerations**
- **Environmental and social Considerations**
- **Monitoring Plan**



Environmental and Social Consideration

Policy and Guidelines

- **MCA-Nepal ESHSMP (Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Management Plan)**
- **Grievance Redress Mechanism outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) of MCA-Nepal.**
- **IFC Performance Standard 1-8 as required.**



MCA-Nepal ESHSMP

ESHSMP is to safeguard people, society and the environment from the project activities.

- **Ensure all operations and investments comply with laws.**
- **Regarding labor and working conditions**
 - **Fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunities**
 - **Compliance with national laws on employment and labor**
 - **Establishing, maintaining and improving relationships between workers and management**
 - **Promotion of safe and healthy working conditions**
 - **Maintenance of appropriate employment records and payment system**
 - **Development of a Workforce Management Plan**
 - **Establishment or use of the existing grievance redress system at the community and organizational level**



Gender and Social Inclusion Consideration

Policy and Guidelines

- **MCC Gender Policy, Counter-TIP Policy, Inclusion and Gender Strategy**
- **MCA-Nepal Social and Gender Integration Plan, 2020**
- **MCA-Nepal TIP Risk Management Plan, 2023**



Gender and Social Inclusion Consideration

Gender and Social Inclusion Compliance

- **Safe and harassment free work place**
 - Zero tolerance policy against sexual harassment
 - No any kind of gender-based violence
 - Implement Code of Conduct
 - Establish and operate internal grievance redress mechanism (anonymous)
 - Establish worker's HR plan defining formal process of handling and investigation of complaints
- **Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) risks**
 - Zero tolerance policy against TIP
 - Implement minimum standard for preventing TIP risks



Gender and Social Inclusion Consideration

Gender and Social Inclusion Scope

- **Deliverables**
 - Inclusive and diverse working team, methodology, field consultations
 - Inclusive trainee selection criteria
 - Accommodating training time and venue
 - Separate toilet facilities with waste bins
- **Training, Communication, Reporting**
 - Training sessions to the entire team (consultant), refresher every year - before any field mobilization
 - Reporting of GSI concerns regularly
 - Pamphlets, posters on display in workplace



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Personnel

- **Key Personnel**
 - **Energy Specialist (Team lead)**
 - **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Specialist**
 - **Capacity Building Specialist**
 - **Enterprise Development Specialist**



Thematic area 3: Consultant for Capacity Building Activities to Enhance Electricity Use

Timeline





Fostering economic growth with better access to electricity and roads.

Annex C

Questions and Answers

#	Questions	Answers
Questions sent via Zoom message:		
1.	can you please send today's schedule in general chat?	The schedule was displayed as a video sharing during the presentation.
2.	Will you share the list of attendees of this event?	List of attendees is provided in Annex A of this minutes of meeting.
3.	Whether a Proprietorship Consultancy firm can participate in the bidding?	<p>The procurement is open to the participation of any legal entity that may provide or provides the Services to the MCA Entity under the Contract.</p> <p>MCA-Nepal expects that all legal entities participating in the procurement, shall comply with the requirements in the terms of reference, scope of services, firm's eligibility and capacity of the firm to undertake the assignment.</p>
4.	Hello, what is the planned timing for household connections by the participants in the capacity-building program? How many participants will be connected before or during this consultancy?	This consultancy is for the capacity building activities only. Most of the area are already electrified and we do have thematic area 1 which is aimed at distribution system grid extension and upgradation for which a different procurement will be launched later.
5.	Are the ETPs intended to be completed before the distribution extension reaches that community, or after?	This consultancy is for the capacity building activities only. Most of the area are already electrified and we do have thematic area 1 which is aimed at distribution system grid extension and upgradation for which a different procurement will be launched later.
6.	Are distribution engineering considerations a factor in the content of each ETP?	This procurement is for the capacity building activities only.
7.	Ref. ITC 1.5 of the Data Sheet, is it necessary for foreign firm to get registered?	Yes, please refer ITC 1.5 which states " Please note that PAN/VAT registration is required for Consulting Firms after Contract award as per the rules of the Government of Nepal. Firms which are already registered in Nepal, must provide the following Documents: VAT/PAN registration and tax clearance to fulfill the Government requirement".
8.	What is the eligibility to meet financial criteria in case of bidding by single entity and joint ventures	<p>Please refer Tech-2A in details for the requirement.</p> <p>Summary of Tech-2A is:</p> <p>The Consultants should submit with their proposal the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audited financial statements for the last three (3) years, supported by audit

#	Questions	Answers
		<p>letters or</p> <p>Certified financial statements for the last three (3) years, supported by tax returns and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of financing (US\$200,000, in words: Two hundred thousand United States Dollars) dedicated for the implementation of the consulting services as attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant. <p>Further, please refer to the 3.2 Financial Criteria, and 3.7.3 Financial Situation of 3.7 Qualification table under the Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria for better understating of the requirement to be fulfilled by a Single Entity and Joint Venture.</p>
9.	In due respect to MEP formulation of 30 Municipalities and other capacity building activities, can MCA Nepal rethink to add an MEP Planning Expert separately in the team composition of the key experts of 4 persons or not?	MCA-Nepal has identified 4 key personnel for the capacity building activities; however, the consultants are free to add any other personnel for the implementation of the activities covered by the terms of reference and scope of work. Please take a note that the Lead partner must propose at least the Team Leader and at least one Key Personnel.
10.	Please clarify MCA's expectations with regards to the skills training. The TOR calls for "CTEVT curriculum Level 1 which has a period of minimum 390 hours along 65 net training days with 6 hours per day". However, achieving CTEVT Level 1 requires "Successful completion of one month (160 hours) vocational training in relevant occupation/trade." [https://ctevt.org.np/nstb] Please clarify which is correct for Level 1: CTEVT at 160 hours or the TOR at 390 hours?	The RFP mentions that the skills training for CTEVT curriculum Level 1 is comprised of a minimum of 390 hours along 65 net training days with 6 hours per day. https://ctevt.org.np/curriculum/short-term
11.	In case of Expert CV , if Expert meet experience and education qualification he/she should be provided with full mark and score. Because good experts has huge experience and education degree upto master level	Please note that the evaluation of proposal shall be carried out as per the provided technical evaluation framework as per 3.6 Technical Evaluation Framework, under Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria. 3.6 Technical Evaluation Framework for scoring is as follows: 0 = Not meeting the requirements 1 = Material deviation from the requirements 2 = Significant deviation from the requirements

#	Questions	Answers
		<p>3 = Marginal deviation from the requirements</p> <p>4 = Meeting the requirements</p> <p>4.3 = Marginally exceeding the requirements</p> <p>4.7 = Significantly exceeding the requirements</p> <p>5 = Outstandingly exceeding the requirements</p> <p>If the proposed key person meets the requirement he/she will receive 4/5 of the allocated points. That is 80% of the allocated points. Exceeding the requirements will receive higher points.</p>
12.	What is the expected duration of the contract?	Please refer SCC/GCC 16.3, which states “The Contract shall expire on 36 months from the effective date. ”
13.	What is the provision for maximum number of companies in the JV?	As per the Request for Proposals document, there is no restriction on the number of joint venture/Association members .
14.	Please share the Link for Registration with VAT and PAN. How long it will take to get registration for an International firm?	<p>https://taxpayerportal.ird.gov.np/taxpayer/app.html</p> <p>In general, it is a one business day task. However, the organization’s representative has to be physically present to provide biometric data required by the Authorities.</p>
15.	Once again can you repeat about the maximum number of Joint ventures company we can go through	There is no restriction on the number of joint venture/Association members as per the bidding document.
16.	For TECH-2A, in case of JV, the provision of USD 200,000. Should all members of JV have that capacity or is it a combined capacity?	<p>All members combined (in case of Joint Venture) must meet this requirement.</p> <p>Please refer 3.7.3 Financial Situation of 3.7 Qualification table under the Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria.</p>
17.	For Trainees, do we need to make any provision for tools startup supports and allowances, This will directly affect the cost of financial proposal	The RFP clearly mentions the scope of work for training activities. It is up to the consultant to propose the methodology for sustainability of the training within the given budget.
18.	As part of Mandatory criteria, Being a local Pvt. Ltd firm, do we need to have experience in other developing country? Do all the participating Firm of JV need to fulfill it ?	<p>If the local firms have the experience in Nepal, this experience will be considered, as Nepal is a developing country.</p> <p>This requirement may be fulfilled by all members combined (in case of Joint Venture). Please refer 3.7.4 Experience of 3.7 Qualification table under the Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria.</p>
19.	For Capacity Development Activities , in which manner MCCA supports financially just for software part like MEP preparation, training/PEU promotion cost based on rapid assessment findings or are there other provision for hardware part for MEP	The RFP clearly mentions the scope of work for MEP and training activities. The current scope of work for MEP is the development and facilitation for the endorsement of MEP by the local government. In case of trainings, it is up to the

#	Questions	Answers
	implementation and PEU set up subsidy/grant if any?	consultant to propose the methodology for its sustainability within the budget.
20.	To clarify with regard to the requirement to achieve 70% employment of training participants, is that 70% of skills training participants only, or 70% of all participants (skills + business training)?	70% employment of the training participants is for the task 4 (skills training) only.
21.	For evidence of USD 200000, we need to make new one from bank or existing one will work	The document such as letter from consultant's bank which reveals the evidence of financing (US\$200,000) for the implementation of this consulting services as attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant is required.
<u>Questions from the Floor:</u>		
1.	Can the same personnel be in various proposals?	Yes (refer Section I Instruction to Consultant (ITC) 14.1 of the of the Request for Proposal (RFP) document.
2.	For the financial qualification of USD 200000, does it have to be only from the lead partner, or can it be joint?	All members combined (in case of Joint Venture) must meet this requirement. Please refer 3.7.3 Financial Situation of 3.7 Qualification table under the Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria.
3.	Financial qualification shall be qualified by the lead partner only or also the JV partners?	The submission of "Audited financial statements for the last three (3) years, supported by audit letters or Certified financial statements for the last three (3) years, supported by tax returns." need to be fulfilled by all the partners individually. Regarding evidence of financing (US\$200,000, in words: Two hundred thousand United States Dollars) dedicated for the implementation of the consulting services as attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant, all members combined (in case of Joint Venture) must meet this requirement. Please refer 3.7.3 Financial Situation of 3.7 Qualification table under the Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria.
4.	As per the RFP page no. 16, the bidder must nominate a representative who will have all the authority of the signature, should that nominee be from the management or from	There is no specific requirement on who shall be nominated as a representative.

#	Questions	Answers
	the project team? Does it mean the nominee has to be from the project team?	
5.	Is SWC (Social Welfare Council) approval required for MCA?	Consultants are required to comply with all the laws of Nepal and if it comes within the purview of the Social Welfare Act, 2049 (1992), then, it shall be as per such Act.
6.	Do you have any division of budget for program and overhead?	The estimated budget for the proposed assignment as disclosed in the RFP, includes all costs required for the assignment's implementation. No breakdown will be disclosed.
7.	While providing support for entrepreneurship skills for electricity use are we allowed to incorporate hardware support in our financial proposal? If certain machinery is required, are we allowed to support form the Project or not?	The RFP clearly mentions the scope of work for training activities. It is up to the consultant to propose the methodology for sustainability of the training within the given budget.
8.	As there are several forms to be filled and specific format of those forms, is it possible to provide the word document of those forms?	We will be providing the Forms in Word Format.
9.	The firm should provide evidence of financing, can you clarify that? What is the evidence of the financial documents, are you asking for the annual turnover of the organization or the bank guaranties?	The RFP is not asking annual Turnover. The RFP requires Evidence of financing (US\$200,000, in words: Two hundred thousand United States Dollars) dedicated for the implementation of the consulting services as attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant. The document such as letter from consultant's bank which reveals the evidence of financing (US\$200,000) for the implementation of this consulting services as attested by an authorized representative of the Consultant.
10.	Business training is intended for the existing enterprise, however if new opportunities are identified during the intervention, can we include them in the business training or not?	Business training is intended for the upgradation and upscaling of the existing enterprises.
11.	For skill training, can the individuals be associated with the enterprise, or should they be the new ones?	This would depend on the selection criteria that would be developed after the market survey in coordination with local government and MCA-Nepal.
12.	Does Business and training individual needs to be different? If the business has 10 employees, can we train 5 of them?	This would depend on the selection criteria that would be developed after the market survey in coordination with local government and MCA-Nepal.
13.	If someone is going as a sub consultant, will their technical capacity be evaluated?	Sub-Consultant experience shall not be evaluated as Experience of the Consultant. The Sub-Consultant will be evaluated as per provision of the RFP. However, when proposing the sub-consultant,

#	Questions	Answers
		the Consultant must clearly identify for what purpose the Sub-Consultant is being proposed.
14.	In case of submitting the letter of intent to form a JV at the proposal stage, will the qualification of the JV partner be applicable?	Yes. The qualifications of all JV members will be evaluated.
15.	As per the requirement, the lead partner needs to propose the team leader and at least one key expert, does it mean the JV partner should also have at least one key expert?	This requirement is only for the Lead Partner and there is no such requirement for other joint venture/Association members.
16.	Regarding the eligibility requirement of English language for the key expert, is it required to show supporting documents to prove the expertise? What are the means to show the evidence?	This is not applicable, as there is no such requirement of language for any Key Person.
17.	Regarding the scoring of the key expert, for example it says that the team leader must have master's degree in certain field, if the person exceeds the minimum criteria the scoring will be higher, but what will happen if the purposed expert has only bachelor's degree? Will the scoring of that section be reduced, or will it be completely disqualified?	The scoring for the specific criteria will be reduced. The proposal will be evaluated for all other technical criteria stated under Section III, except the mandatory criteria, for which, the consultant shall meet the requirement.
18.	Does the quotas of the trainee (35% women and 35 % from socially excluded) satisfied for each training modules or applicable for cumulative number?	The quotas of the trainee (35% women and 35% from socially excluded) is the cumulative number.
19.	Regarding the financial capacity of the consultants, is it mandatory for the JV partners to submit the financial documents if the lead partner satisfies the financial requirements alone? Is it required for each party to submit the financial documents?	Financial document is required to be submitted by all the Joint Venture/Association members.
20.	What is a tax return? Is it only tax clearance certificate or whole Annexes of tax returns?	We are trying to say regular tax filing. Tax Clearance Certificate should work, however MCA-Nepal may ask for detailed annexes like VAT returns.
21.	Can consultant or sub- consultant be registered entity?	Yes, any consultant or sub-consultant has to be a registered entity.
22.	What is the minimum financial transaction required in the last 3 fiscal years to meet the eligibility?	The minimum financial transaction has not been required as per the RFP document.
23.	It is just technical assistance or even hardware support for the promoted entrepreneurs allowed?	The RFP clearly mentions the scope of work for training activities. It is up to the consultant to propose the methodology for sustainability of the training within the given budget.

#	Questions	Answers
24.	If the lead partner or any other partner in the consortium is an international firm, how are payment made? Directly by MCA or through lead Nepali partner respectively.	MCA-Nepal pays to the contract signing party (lead consultant). If a Joint Venture (JV) is bidding, MCA-Nepal will directly send the payments to the bank account designated by the JV.

Annex D:

Video Recording of the Conference

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/vdaizziaf95glv5kshjj7/h?rlkey=7tuksqnk7t0av84rbw4d0orze&dl=0>