



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT NEPAL (MCA-NEPAL)

Minutes of Pre-Bid Conference

**Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation,
Testing and Commissioning of New Butwal -Nepal/India Border
400kV D/C Transmission Line (18 km)**

Ref No: MCA-N/ETP/CB/006

VENUE: ROYAL SINGI HOTEL, KATHMANDU

01 April 2024

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I. MEETING

The Pre-Offer 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 01 April 2024.

II. AGENDA

- Welcome by the Procurement Agent
- Welcome Remarks by MCA-Nepal
- Presentation on technical aspects of the Bidding Document including the presentation on Environmental, Social and GSI aspects.
- 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 timeline and dates of the procurement process.

V. Welcome Remarks by MCA-Nepal

The Executive Director of MCA-Nepal welcomed all present and provided background of the project and highlighted urgency of this procurement and changes made in the new procurement of 18km Transmission Line.

It was also highlighted that any response provided during the conference should be considered as a draft response and final 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 deadline.

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

The Project Manager–Transmission Line of MCA-Nepal provided a technical presentation with the information about updates on project timeline and main project requirements. Further he was supported by a presentation by Engineer Transmission Line.

The ESP Specialist and GSI Specialist of MCA-Nepal provided a brief description on the ESP requirements and the GSI requirements.

VII. 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.

VIII. Question and Answers – Pre-Bid Conference

After the technical presentations, 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 during the conference. The questions raised by the bidders' representatives and their responses made by MCA-Nepal team are presented in Annex B.

IX. End and Closing Remarks

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

Annexes:

Annex A: Attendance Register

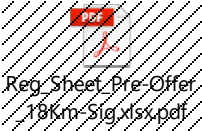
Annex B: Presentations

Annex C: Questions and Answers

Annexes/Attachments

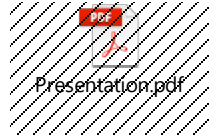
Annex A

Attendance register – Pre-Offer Conference



Annex B

Presentations



Annex C

Questions and Answers

#	Questions	Answers
Questions sent via Zoom message:		
1.	What about approach to land compensation?	The concern has been clearly articulated in Employers Requirement B0: 5.2 Scope of Works and Interfaces.
2.	<p>As per GCC 14.3 (c), the limit of retention is 5% of contract price.</p> <p>As per Schedule of Payments (Part of Appendix to Offer), payment for 10% of the measured value of Supply and Installation shall be made upon issue of TOC.</p> <p>And as per Note 5 of Schedule of Payments, 50% of the 10% retained from installation, start-up, testing and commissioning will be released upon TOC and balance 50% shall be released upon DLP completion or against RBG with TOC.</p> <p>Please clarify which clause is final.</p>	<p>The information provided under Appendix to Offer is correct that is as per GCC 14.3 (c), Limit of retention money shall be: five percent (5%) of the Contract Price.</p> <p>Schedule of Payment states how the payment will be done and last 10% is similar to retention but not retention as per GCC 14.3 (c).</p> <p>The 10% stated in this note is not correct and will be amended to 5%.</p>
3.	Payment cycle period? when we will get payment after submitting all documents related to payment.	Please refer GCC clause 14.1 to 14.15. 28 days for Engineer to certify and 28 days for Employer to Pay.
4.	Reg. tender fee cost, we understand subject Tender is free of cost. Please confirm	Yes, Bidding Document is free of Cost. A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by interested eligible offerors upon the submission of a written application at the following email id MCANepalPA@dt-global.com copy to manish.regmi@dt-global.com and procurement@mcanp.org or the electronic copy of the bidding document can also be obtained at the address below through external hard drive.
5.	Advance is interest free .. right ?	Yes, Please refer GCC 14.2.
6.	Will delay in ROW requisition be compensated to contractor?	We expect there will be no delay. Individual situations will be dealt during the Contract implementation as per provision of the Contract.
7.	Same route .kmz file and tower schedule has to follow .. bidder can not change	Yes, please refer to 5.2 EMPLOYER'S DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.
8.	Please could you clarify if TDS will be applicable. If Yes, how much?	TDS is based on residential status, Compact provisions and Nepalese tax laws. Any TDS applied is available for set off as an advance tax while filing Income Tax Return. TDS rate varies. Therefore, for the TDS rates, please refer to Nepalese Tax laws.

#	Questions	Answers
		For detailed applicability of taxes, bidders are requested to go through Section 2.8 of the Compact read alongwith ANNEX VII: TAX SCHEDULES.
9.	Can you pls inform about the taxation to be considered for this project during bidding .. like custom duty, VAT, any other taxes to be included in cost ??	Customs duties, VAT and certain other taxes are exempt (or taxes will be refunded in certain cases if it is already paid) if the goods or services are imported/purchased in furtherance of the Compact for MCA-Nepal. For detailed applicability of taxes, bidders are requested to go through Section 2.8 of the Compact read alongwith ANNEX VII: TAX SCHEDULES to assess whether the taxes form part of the cost of goods and services supplied for the project.
10	Do we need to be PE if we exceed 180 days of work here in Nepal? or is it no required?	This will be governed as per Nepalese Laws.
11	What is the budget of MCA for this project ? Will you pls inform.?	MCA-Nepal/Employer expects to disclose the budget through Addendum to the Bidding Document.
12	Can you please provide your authorised vendors for getting quotes for boughtout items	We do not have authorized vendors. The Bidders are required to propose the manufacturers as per requirement of the Bidding Document.
13	bidder has to follow route .kmz and tower schedule provided in tender.. Bidder cant change the route and tower schedule .. is it correct ?	Normally no change is permitted but during check survey any location is found unsuitable for construction of tower the Contractor may propose alternate location. However, approval of alternate location is purely on the discretion of the Engineer.
14	Is it possible to provide price variation for atleast major items like towers, conductor etc.	Considering duration of the expected contract, MCA-Nepal decided not to include Price Adjustment clause.
15	Butwal S/S is existing or proposed ?	The 220kV portion is existing and 400kV portion is Proposed. The last mile connection will be at 400kV associated.
16	Is there any limit of proposed manufacturers?	There is no limit on number of proposed manufacturers in the bidding document.
17	What about crop compensation, damages etc. of corridor? who's scope and who will pay ?	The concern has been clearly articulated in Employers Requirement B0: 5.2 Scope of Works and Interfaces.
18	Can a file or folder (if found with errors) be deleted from the File Request link or replaced after uploading?	After uploading the file cannot be deleted however you can re-submit substitution, modification or withdrawal as per bidding document.
19	Will MCA have access to our price offers when we upload the file to your dropbox before the deadline of the bid?	Uploaded file is received by Procurement Agent of MCA-Nepal not to MCA-Nepal. You have option to protect the file through password but provided

#	Questions	Answers
		the correct password as per the timeline provided in the Bidding Document.
20	Is there as on option of deleting the file after uploading till the final bid submission date	No, but in this case you should submit a substitution.
21	What will be the Custom Duty charge percentage if applicable?	The rate for custom duties vary. Please refer to Nepalese tax laws for that.
22	Is TDS applicable? What will be the percentage?	<p>TDS is based on residential status, Compact provisions and Nepalese tax laws. Any TDS applied is available for set off as an advance tax while filing Income Tax Return. TDS rate varies. So, for the TDS rates, please refer to Nepalese Tax laws.</p> <p>For detailed applicability of taxes, bidders are requested to go through Section 2.8 of the Compact read alongwith ANNEX VII: TAX SCHEDULES.</p>



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT NEPAL (MCA-NEPAL)
ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Program: 18 Km TL pre-bid conference

Date: 1 April, 2024

Venue: Royal Singi Hotel; Mandala Hall

S.N	Name	Organization	Signature
1	Alina Rajbhandary Shrestha	MCA-Nepal	
2	Binaya Joshi	MCA-Nepal	
3	Binaya K.C.	MCA-Nepal	
4	Braj Bhusan Chaudhary	MCA-Nepal	
5	Chandan Duwal	MCA-Nepal	
6	Dhurjati Prasad (DP) Sahu	MCA-Nepal	
7	Hari Krishna Uprety	MCA-Nepal	
8	Ishwar Bhatta	MCA-Nepal	
9	Janak Raj Pathak	MCA-Nepal	
10	Kalawati Rai	MCA-Nepal	
11	Khadga Bahadur Bisht	MCA-Nepal	
12	Kumar Adhikari	MCA-Nepal	



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S.N	Name	Organization	Signature
13	Mahendra Kumar Shrestha	MCA-Nepal	
14	Mahendra Prasad Lamsal	MCA-Nepal	
15	Mahesh Acharya	MCA-Nepal	Mahesh J. Acharya
16	Missu Bhandari	MCA-Nepal	
17	Nirmal Khatiwada	MCA-Nepal	Nh
18	Pushpanjali Dhakal	MCA-Nepal	
19	Rajendra Prasad Thanju	MCA-Nepal	
20	Rajib Dahal	MCA-Nepal	Rajib Dahal
21	Sanjay Kumar Sharma	MCA-Nepal	
22	Shalini Tripathi	MCA-Nepal	
23	Shyam Krishna Upadhyaya	MCA-Nepal	
24	Sujan Koirala	MCA-Nepal	



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S.N	Name	Organization	Signature
25	Aarati Gupta	RCM	<i>Am</i>
26	Bibek Chapagain	RCM	<i>Bibek Chapagain</i>
27	Luis Villatta	DT Global	<i>Luis Villatta</i>
28	Rakesh Kumar	DT Global	<i>Rakesh</i>
29	Ram Regmi	DT Global	<i>Ram Regmi</i>
30	Manish Regmi	DT Global	<i>Manish Regmi</i>
31	<i>Sabin Mishra</i>	<i>MCA-Nepal</i>	<i>HT</i>
32	<i>Sayam Tamang</i>	<i>MCA-Nepal</i>	<i>Tamang</i>
33	<i>Ashish Dhimal</i>	<i>MCA-Nepal</i>	<i>Ashish Dhimal</i>
34			
35			
36			



Millennium Challenge Account Nepal (MCA-Nepal)
18 Km. TL Pre-bid Conference
REGISTRATION SHEET

Date: 1-Apr-24

Time: 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Venue: Hotel Royal Singi, Kathmandu - Mandala Hall

S.N.	Name of Organization/Company	Country	Name(s) of Representative	Email	Mobile number	Signature
1	Deltacore Pvt. Ltd.		Arjun Gurung	deltacore.arjun@gmail.com;		
2	Deltacore Pvt. Ltd.	Nepal	Sudarshan Sapkota	deltacore.sudarsh@gmail.com;	9849168571	
3	Deltacore Pvt. Ltd.	Nepal	Niraj Thapa	niraj.deltacore@gmail.com	9813449608	
4	BP Construction Pvt. Ltd.		Mr. Rahul Kumar Shah	er.rahulshah3637@gmail.com	9823113893	
5	BP Construction Pvt. Ltd.	Nepal, Kathmandu	Mr. Sarvesh Ghimire	srawan.me@gmail.com	9867004767	
6	Mountain InfraConstructionLtd		Janak Tiwari	dhanalaxminsp@gmail.com; mtinfratender@gmail.com		
7	Mountain InfraConstructionLtd		Satish Gauatm	dhanalaxminsp@gmail.com		
8	GCE Group		Samrat Raj Vaidya	samrat.baidya@gce.com np;		
9	KEC International Limited	Nepal	Mushtaque Shahid	shahidm@kecprg.com	9865099788	



Millennium Challenge Account Nepal (MCA-Nepal)
18 Km. TL Pre-bid Conference
REGISTRATION SHEET

Date: 1-Apr-24

Time: 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Venue: Hotel Royal Singi, Kathmandu - Mandala Hall

S/N	Name of Organization/Company	Country	Name(s) of Representative	Email	Mobile number	Signature
10	Metta Services Private Limited	Nepal	Kevin L. Shrestha	kevin.shrestha@mettanepal.com	9801111070	
11	ZNCC	Nepal	Bashir	bd@zncc.com	9702437308	
12	Mudbhay Goshi Const.	Nepal	Kiran Mudbhay	kiramudbhay@gmail.com	980202177	
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

**Registrants for 'Pre-Offer Conference for 18 KM
Transmission Line Procurement (MCA-N/ETP/CB/006)'**

S.N.	Registrants
1	Bibek Chapagain - MCC
2	Kumar Adhikari
3	Sameer Lama
4	Amit Agarwal
5	PRADIP MAZUMDAR
6	sheikh anoar ali
7	Lalit Saxena
8	Janak Tiwari
9	Snehadeep Roy
10	Sunita Tamang
11	Kriti Maharjan
12	Pawas Pandey
13	Yogesh C
14	Satish gautam
15	Neelam Shinde
16	Baljit Verma
17	karana bhadu
18	Lalit Sharma
19	Bipin Shah
20	Daya Neethi
21	K Manjula
22	RAGHAVAN SRINIVASAN
23	Subodh Kumar Singh
24	manish Regmi
25	Amol Wankhede
26	Bhupa Raj Kafle
27	Surendra Pandey
28	Shahid Afzal
29	Manish Khanal
30	Uddhav Raj Acharya
31	Nabina Mahar
32	binita poudel
33	Pawan Joshi
34	Mahendra Lamsal
35	Sagar Pandey
36	Saneej Shrestha



Electricity Transmission Project

Procurement of Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation,
Testing and Commissioning of
New Butwal -Nepal/India Border 400kV D/C Transmission Line (18 Km)

01 April 2024



Objectives of the Pre-Bid Conference



Objective of the Presentation

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





Agenda

- From 10:00 am PM to 2:00 PM (Including Lunch)
- During first Part: Presentations
- Second Part: Questions and Answers Session
- Closing Remarks
- Most Important Session:
 - Interactive Q&A session



Timeline



Event	Date	Remarks
Publication Date	15-March-20243	Completed
Site visit	Non-Guided Site Visit 27-29 March 2024	Completed
Pre-Bid conference	01--April-2024	Completed
Last date for requesting Clarification	8-April-2024	
Last date for responding to request for Clarification	19-April 2024	
Submission Deadline	16-May 2024	
Offer validity period	12-December-2024	210 days
Bid Security	NA	USD 150,000
Validity of Bid Security	9-January-2025	28 days after 12 December 2024



Question and Answers

- Very Important: All official information for this Procurement is exclusively managed by the Procurement Agent. Offerors shall not use any information that is not issued by the PA.
- 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 (ETP)
Pre-bid Meeting**

New Butwal S/S –Nepal / India Border 400kV D/C Transmission Line (18 KM)

01 April, 2024



HIGHLIGHTS OF EMPLOYERS REQUIREMENT



SCOPE OF WORKS

- ✓ **Design-Build contract in line with the FIDIC Yellow Book for the Construction of Double circuit 400kV line (New Butwal Substation to Nepal India Border)**

WORK EXCLUDED

- ✓ **The land required for the construction of the towers will be acquired by the Employer**
- ✓ **Right of Way (RoW) of 46m wide transmission line corridor for stringing of the conductor will be made available to the Contractor.**
- ✓ **The cabinet approval for tree clearance will be obtained by the Employers.**

INTERFACES

- ✓ **At New Butwal S/S**
- ✓ **At the Nepal-India Border**



BIDDERS SHALL PREPARE BID

- **Based on KMZ file (route alignment), PLS-CADD drawings (profile drawings) and Tower Schedule shared with the bid document (Annex C, G & H respectively).**
- **Based on the geo-technical investigation provided under Employer's Requirement while selecting the tower foundations.**
- **The Bidder can propose their own design based on the design criteria described in the Employers Requirements.**
- **The Bidder has to submit both Price Schedule and Price Reasonability as a part of their bid document.**



DESIGN REQUIREMENTS (BINDING)

- ✓ **IS-802, 2015 version shall be adopted as the main governing reference design standard for the structural loadings of the overhead transmission line.**
- ✓ **Contractors cannot change the tower locations from those presented.**
- ✓ **The tower foundation shall be accommodated within the land acquired by the Employer. (The area of land acquired are from 21mx21mx to 41mx41m) (No narrow base foundation shall be considered.)**
- ✓ **The electrical clearance must be maintained as per the Employer's Requirements.**
- ✓ **Detailed Engineering Survey to be carried out.**
- ✓ **Geo Technical Investigation**
- ✓ **Detailed Design and Proto-Type Testing**
- ✓ **Engineering Software: PLS-CADD with SAPS module software license, PLS-TOWER, and also AutoCAD to be used for the development of the deliverables.**



DESIGN REQUIREMENTS (FLEXIBILITY)

- ✓ **May propose own Tower family and its accessories based on the site condition, prevailing codes, standards and loading conditions mentioned in Employers Requirements.**
- ✓ **Flexibility for the temporary leasehold of the private lands in accordance with the temporary land access procedures defined in the ESHSMP to carryout the construction activity (at their own cost) subjected to the approval of Engineer or the Employer.**
- ✓ **The Bidder can also propose tower design which they had developed and used earlier in similar type of projects subject to fulfilling the design criteria outlined in the Employer's Requirement.**



CHANGES IN DESIGN CRITERIA TO PREVIOUS DESIGN REQUIREMENT

S. No.	Parameter	Earlier Requirement	Current Requirement
1	Design wind pressure	1025 N/m ²	879 N/m ²
2	Shield Angle	5 degrees	20 degrees
3	Proto Type Tower Testing	All types of Towers	Two types of Towers
4	Permissible Wind Span and Weight Span	Considering 315km	Considering 18km only
5	Loading Conditions	As per IEC & IS Codes	As per IS 802, 2015
6	Ice Loading consideration	13mm ice (IEC extreme ice)	No ice load
7	Strength Reduction Factor for Foundation design only	As per IEC	As per IS
8	Clearance and Load related to Live Line Maintenance	Considered	Not considered



CHANGES IN TRANSMISSION LINE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

S. No.	Parameter	Earlier Requirement	Current Requirement
1	Grade of Steel for Tower Material	As per ASTM	Either ASTM or IS code
2	OPGW	48 fibers	24 fibers
3	Insulator	Glass with high kN value upto 539kN	Porcelain with maximum kN value of 160kN
4	Step Bolt	Capability to carry Mechanical Strength of 22.2kN	Capability to carry Mechanical Strength of 2.2kN
5	Concrete Grade	M30	M20, however considering the geographical condition bidders may propose ready mixed concrete as well.



PROJECT TIMELINE (Transmission Line)

Estimated Timeline for 18km Transmission Line Contract Implementation (Tentative)

Activity	Duration (approx.)	Remark
Survey, Geo-Tech Investigation and Design	4 months	
Proto Type Testing of Tower	3 months	Parallel work
Foundation work	11 months	
Erection work	9 months	Parallel work
Stringing work	7 months	Parallel work
Testing, Commissioning and Energization	1 month	
Defect Notification Period	12 months	
Contract Closure	3 months	

The Contractor shall determine their work plan to complete the work within the scheduled timeline of 21 months (including energization) from the date of commencement of the contract.



ESP-REQUIREMENTS

- **MCA-Nepal is required to follow GoN Environment Regulations, MCC Environmental Guidelines and IFC Performance Standards**
- **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.**
- **Contractors need to follow practices as mentioned in the ESHSMP, develop their own CSHSMP and get it approved before 30 days of field mobilization so that the proposed environmental safeguards and management plan including mitigation measures will result in the avoidance, reduction of the identified adverse impacts associated with the transmission line project**



ETP ESHSMP WITH OTHER PLANS

- **The ESHSMP is designed to provide practical guidance for managing engineering works in ways that safeguard the environment and people.**
- **Components of ESHSMP**
 - **Workers Code of Conduct and Workforce Management Plan.**
 - **Occupational, Health & Safety Management Plan.**
 - **Social safeguards required by the project.**
 - **Environmental Safeguards (physical and biological).**
 - **Waste Management Plan.**
 - **Monitoring, Reporting and Enforcement process.**
 - **Safety Absolutes and Zero Tolerance Policy.**
- **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including Grievance Redress Mechanism.**
- **Communication Plan.**



ACCESS TRACK

- ✓ **Contractor may lease lands temporarily for use as access tracks minimizing environmental impacts subjected to the approval of Engineer or the Employer.**
- ✓ **The Contractors shall compensate land owners for the use of such lands and the land shall be rehabilitated as per the ESHSMP.**



GS-REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Prevention of Gender-based Violence, Sexual Harassment, Children Employment;**
 - **Zero tolerance policy against sexual harassment.**
 - **Develop and implement Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy.**
 - **Enforce Worker's Code of Conduct.**

- 2. Prevention and Mitigation of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Risk;**
 - **Zero tolerance policy against TIP.**
 - **ETP sites are at high risk of TIP.**
 - **Develop and implement TIP Risk Management Plan.**
 - **Regular Toolbox Talks.**



GSI-REQUIREMENTS

- 3. Labor and Employment Opportunities including Women Employment;**
 - **Work Plan, Methodology to prioritize women workers.**
 - **Safe and harassment free working environment.**
 - **Non-discriminatory recruitment and payment system.**
 - **Anonymous Complaint Mechanism System.**

- 4. Staffing throughout the Project Period;**
 - **Dedicated Gender and Social Inclusion Manager in the team.**
 - **Close coordination with the ESP, H&S team.**
 - **Regular training, communication, reporting.**



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