





Minutes of Site Visit

for

Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 400kV Double Circuit (D/C) Transmission Line (TL) for
Lot 1: (A) Base: Lapsiphedi to Ratmate, (B) Option: Ratmate to New Hetauda

Lot 2: Ratmate to New Damauli
Lot 3: New Damauli to New Butwal

MCA-N/ETP/CB/009

VENUE: PROJECT SITE

12 to 16 December 2024

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I. MEETING

All Participants were requested to meet at MCA-Nepal Office, at Yak and Yeti Complex, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, on 12 December 2024 at 8:45 AM. Representatives of the more than 12 prospective Offerors attended the meeting; The participants were instructed to strictly adhere to all norms and rules provided in the "Do's and Don'ts" check list to be followed by all participants at all times during the site visit.

II. AGENDA

- Welcome remarks by Procurement Agent
- Welcome remarks and briefing in site visit by MCA-Nepal team
- Proceed for Site Visit as per the Schedule
- Continue for 4 days
- End of the Site Visit

III. MEMBERS PRESENT

- MCA-Nepal's representative
- MCC
- WSP representatives
- Procurement Agent's representative
- Prospective Offeror's representative

Note: Attendance of all attendees is attached in Annex A of this minutes

IV. WELCOME REMARKS BY PROCUREMENT AGENT

The Procurement Agent Manager of the Procurement Agent welcomed the prospective Offeror's representatives and thanked them for attending the site visit. He provided guidance about the rules to be followed during the site visit including what should be done and what should not (Do's and Don'ts) during the site visit for the participants.

V. WELCOME REMARKS AND SMALL BRIEF BY MCA-NEPAL TEAM

Deputy Executive Director – Management and Deputy Executive Director - Project Delivery of MCA-Nepal welcomed the participants joining the site visit and conveyed best wishes for the site visit. They also requested the prospective offerors to send us in writing any questions they may have by the request for clarifications deadline. Deputy Executive Director - Project Delivery of MCA-Nepal also highlighted technical requirements of the procurement.

Procurement Manager of MCA-Nepal added some important points that should be taken care during the site visit and highlighted that any answers provided by the MCA-Nepal team members, during the site visit are only draft and the official answers to the questions will be provided in writing.

The Senior Procurement Specialist of the MCA-Nepal Procurement Agent described some details about Do's and Don'ts during the site visit and requested the bidders to follow the information/guidance provided by the MCA-Nepal team during the site visit and requested the representatives of Prospective Offerors to follow the travel schedule and any if any prospective offeror would like to terminate the site visit attendance, in that case, they should inform the MCA-Nepal team.

It was also informed to the participants that the next event will be the Pre-Offer conference which will be held on 18 December 2024 starting at 10.00AM; the link for the meeting/webinar is provided in the Bidding Document for the participants willing to join online.

VI. PROCEED FOR SITE VISIT AS PER THE SCHEDULE

Day 1:

The participants got together at the MCA-Nepal Office and were provided a brief orientation. After the day 1 attendance and orientation, the participants travelled towards the sites for the day-1 sites (Shivapuri and Pipaltar). After the 1-hour lunch break, the team visited the Ratmate Substation Site and moved toward the Hotel for night stay.

Day 2:

Site visit started from the Hotel at Ratmate (Hotel Water Tower), some of the participants followed the MCA-Nepal team from the Hotel while other participants reached directly to the Site 1 (Gajuri). After filling the attendance register, the MCA-Nepal team provided a short briefing and visited one of the tower locations at this site. Due to the road blockage, the participants were required to have a 30 minutes' walk to the tower location.

After this visit, the next observation point which was also in Gajuri and the last observation point for Day 2 was at New Damauli Sub-Station Site. The MCA-Nepal team travelled to Pokhara for night stay.

Day 3

It was notified to all the participants that the assembling point of Day 3 is at Khairenitar. Many participants arrived at Khairenitar and travelled together with MCA-Nepal team, while some of the participants reached directly to Observation Point 1 (Ghiring). The next observation point for Day 3 was Attrauli. After completion of the visits of these two observation points, the team had a lunch break and moved towards Chitwan for night stay.

Day 4

Day 4 observation point 1 was at New Hetauda Sub-station site where all the participants gathered, and a brief description about the site was made by MCA-Nepal team members.

Representatives of some of the prospective offerors informed MCA-Nepal team that they will not continue to the last observation point.

There was a roadway obstruction on the way to observation point 2. Most of the participants (representatives of Prospective Offerors) returned back, as approximately 45 minutes of walking towards the hillside in the forest was required to reach the observation point 2. MCA-Nepal team members and the representatives of one Prospective Offers reached to this observation point (T124/T125). After a briefing at this observation point, the site visit was ended and MCA-Nepal team members moved towards Hetauda for night stay.

Day 5

MCA-Nepal team members travelled back to Kathmandu from Hetauda.

The photographs of the site visit as per locations are attached as Annex B.

VIII. QUESTION AND ANSWERS

During the site visit, the MCA-Nepal team answered the questions made by the representatives prospective Offerors; however, they were requested to submit the questions in writing so that MCA-Nepal can formally respond them. They were also informed that the provided answers during the site visit is draft and the final answer will be only in writing.

IX. END AND CLOSING REMARKS

At the end of the observation Point 1 of Day 4 (New Hetauda Sub-Station Site), after the description of the site by technical team, MCA-Nepal Procurement Manager and MCC representatives thanked the representatives of prospective Offerors for their active participation and wished them all the best for the submission of their offers; MCA-Nepal procurement manager requested them to travel the last Observation Point which lies around the top of a hillside near Hetauda.

Annexes:

Annex A: Attendance Register

Annex B: Record of Site Visit as per Location

Annex C: Questions and Answers during Site Visit

ANNEXES/ATTACHMENTS

Annex A Attendance	Attached
Annex B Photographs of Site Visit	Attached
Annex C Question and Answer during Site Visit	Attached

Annex A

Attendance











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ATTENDANCE REGISTER SITE VISIT

Procurement of Plant Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 400kV Double Circuit (D/C) Transmission Line (TL) for Lot 1: (A) Base: Lapsiphedi to Ratmate, (B) Option: Ratmate to New Hetauda, Lot 2: Ratmate to New Damauli, Lot 3: New Damauli to New Butwal.

Ref: MCA-N/ETP/CB/009

Date: 12 December 2024

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Date	Date: 13 December 2024							
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14 December. Date: **Email Address** Signature Organization Designation S. No. Name of the Person Kalozona. Loy@ MGR T_{i} alo sona 1 ranspeil 2 Acho Ka Build con the Manzes marott. Summer (2) R. Suryavanti Maroti 3 Jyoti Stenctus eg. Then katuwal 1700 grave Engineer 4 Hulas steel litendra Katura 5







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Ref: MCA-N/ETP/CB/009

Date: 16 December 2024

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Roads and Electricity, Way to Prosperity

Annex B

Photographs of Site Visit

Photographs of Meeting

1. Day 1

1. MCA-Nepal Office

Points Discussed

- Gathering at Office
- Welcome Remarks
- Short briefing about rules (Do and Don't)
- General briefing



Picture 1: Briefing at MCA-Nepal Office



Picture 2: Briefing at MCA-Nepal Office



Picture 3: Briefing at MCA-Nepal Office



Picture 4: Briefing at MCA-Nepal Office

2 Observation Point 1 (Shivapuri)

- Technical description
- General Observation
- Observation of Section of route T74 T82 under Lapsiphedi to Ratmate Route





Picture 2: Briefing at Shivapuri



Picture 3: Briefing at Shivapuri



Picture 4: Briefing at Shivapuri

2 Observation Point 2 (Pipaltar)

- Technical description
- General Observation
- Explain the Ratemate to Lapsiphedi alignment (T29-T33)



Picture 1: Briefing at Pipaltar



Picture 2: Briefing at Pipaltar







Picture 4: Briefing at Pipaltar

3 Observation Point 3 (Ratmate Sub-Station Site)

- Technical description
- General Observation
- Explained Lapsiphedi to Ratmate and Ratmate to New Hetauda and Ratmate to New Damauli alignment and their terminal points.
- Observation of Trishuli river Crossing of Ramate New Damauli line at T238-T240N



Picture 1: Briefing at Ratmate S/S site



Picture 2: Briefing at Ratmate S/S site



Picture 3: Briefing at Trishuli Crossing at Ratmate



Picture 4: Briefing at Ratmate S/S site

2. Day 2

1 Observation Point 1 (Gajuri)

Points Discussed

- Technical description
- General Observation
- Observation of T183 to T189 of Ratmate New Damauli Route including the 220 and 132 KV crossing





Picture 2: Briefing at Gajuri



Picture 3: Briefing at Gajuri



Picture 4: Briefing at Gajuri

2 Observation Point 2 (Gajuri)

- Technical description
- General Observation
- Explain about T173-T175 of Ratmate New Damauli line at Gajuri





Picture 1: Briefing at Gajuri

Picture 2: Briefing at Gajuri

3 Observation Point 3 (New Damauli Sub-Station Site)

- Technical description
- General Observation
- Explain about Ratmate New Damauli Sub-Station Termination and along with New Damauli to New Butwal alignment



Picture 1: Briefing at New Damauli SS Site



Picture 2: Briefing at New Damauli SS Site



Ficture 4: Briefing at New Damauli SS Site

Picture 3: Briefing at New Damauli SS Site

3. Day 3

1 Observation Point 1 (Ghiring)

- Technical description
- General Observation
- Explain about New Damauli-New Butwal route alignment at T179



Picture 1: Briefing at Ghiring



Picture 2: Briefing at Ghiring



Picture 3: Briefing at Ghiring



Picture 4: Briefing at Ghiring

2 Observation Point 2 (Attrauli)

Points Discussed

- Technical description _
- _ General Observation
- _ Observation of Kaligandaki river crossing (T143 - T144N)



Picture 1: Briefing at Attrauli

Picture 2: Briefing at Attrauli



Picture 3: Briefing at Attrauli

Picture 4: Briefing at Attrauli

4. Day 4

1 Observation Point 1 (New Hetauda Sub-Station Site)

- Technical description
- General Observation
- Explain termination at Hetauda Sub-Station, river crossing at Rapti river and quad circuit towers -





Picture 1: Briefing at New Hetauda SS Site

Picture 2: Briefing at New Hetauda SS Site



Picture 3: Briefing at New Hetauda SS Site



Picture 4: Briefing at New Hetauda SS Site

2 Observation Point 2 (around T124 near Hetauda)

- Technical description
- General Observation of TL alignment at around T124/T125



Picture 1: Briefing at T124/T125 area



Picture 2: Briefing at T124/T125 area

Annex C

Question and Answer during Site Visit

	MCA-Nepal Response to the questio	ns raised during Contractor's site Visit for 297km
S.N.	Questions	MCA-Nepal Response
1.	Why is there Base and Option in Lot 1? It is requested to relax the qualification/evaluation criteria in case the Option is not going to be exercised.	MCA-Nepal has initiated budgetary support for the Option Lot-1 and it's in the advanced stage of approval. If the approval is received prior to the contract award, the Lot-1 Option shall be exercised at the time of award itself.
		Regarding the relaxation of qualifications, as of now the qualification criteria are as per the bidding document and the bidders need to submit the offer as per the criteria unless otherwise it is change and the changes will be informed to the bidders through issuance of an Addendum to the Offer document.
2	Do the Contractor need to carry the detailed & check survey? Is the Contractor supposed to submit a profile after the survey?	The contractor shall carry out the detailed survey and check survey in accordance with the Employer's Requirement. The contractor shall also develop plan and profile drawing by using PLS- CADD and subsequently submit the same.
3	If any changes occur at some locations while carrying out the detail/check survey, how will that be handled? Will it be a variation in the contract?	As per 5.2 Employer's Design Requirement in B1 - Contractors cannot change the tower locations from those presented in these requirements and the tower foundation has to be accommodated within the perimeter of the land acquired by the Employer (Annex C-2). Changes to these sites and footprint area are not anticipated. However, if the Engineer determines such changes are necessary as proposed by the Contractor during check survey for reasons of public grievances, topography/geotechnical and constructability or design - related considerations, the Engineer may review such proposals and determine accordingly on the merit of the proposal as per the provision of the Contract. As such, this type of change may only be considered as variation if agreed by Engineer.
4	(i)What is the status of tree/forest cutting/clearance?(ii) How much percentage of forest clearance is going to be completed by now?(iii) Will it be managed by MCA-Nepal? What is the	(i) Tree/forest clearance as per the earlier forest census is in progress and cabinet approval is expected by June 2025. (ii) Almost 50% progress has been achieved in respect of Forest Clearance Permit.

	MCA-Nepal Response to the questio	ns raised during Contractor's site Visit for 297km
S.N.	Questions	MCA-Nepal Response
	scope under contractor? (iv) Are the additional number of trees also identified due to the changes in tower design/height?	Forest census (access track and design changes) for Supplementary EIA is expected to commence from March 2025 and forest clearance followed by approval of Supplementary EIA is expected by December 2025.
		(iii) Forest census, Supplementary EIA, cabinet approval and tree cutting clearance are in the scope of MCA-Nepal. Actual tree clearance and related activities at site for tower footprint, ROW and access track is to be done by the contractor. For this day-to-day operational clearance. from DFO/CFUGs are to be managed by the contractor (that is cost and time for these activities are in the scope of contractor).
		(iv)Identification of additional number of trees will be done during forthcoming forest census activities for Supplementary EIA. For bidding purposes, the number of trees is quantified in the price schedule. Any changes to the estimated quantity following the contract award will be a variation (positive or negative). It means a variation to be approved by the Engineer
5	What is the status of land acquisition? What percentage of the land will be acquired by MCA- Nepal at the time of contract signing (approx. April/May 2025), and within 6 months of contract signing?	The land acquisition activities for 297km are in progress. The CFC rate determination for 6 Districts has been completed and is expected to be completed in the remaining 4 districts within the next 3 months. Signing of compensation agreement (CA) will start soon in 6 districts where CFC rate determination has been complete. It is expected that about 30% of land for tower footprint will be acquired prior to commencement of foundation activities (Phase1) (by November/December 2025). Within the following six months (June 2026) another 30% of land acquisition for tower footprint will be completed (Phase2)

	MCA-Nepal Response to the questio	ns raised during Contractor's site Visit for 297km
S.N.	Questions	MCA-Nepal Response
6	When will the actual field activity & construction start?	It is estimated that the commencement of the contract starts in June/July 2025.
7	What are the exact tower locations so that the bidders can check the elevation and footprint?	Please refer to the tower schedule, KMZ file and footprint schedule under Annex C and Annex H of B1 document.
8	To understand the difficulty of the site, how much is the leg difference data? (+-) 3m leg difference was counted last time.	Maximum difference in two legs generally shall not be more than 6m. In case of exhaust of the permissible leg combination, raised chimney with maximum height of 6m could be provided.
9	To understand the difficulty of the site, what about the details of the approaching road from the nearby roadhead?	The details of temporary access tracks can be referred to Annex-I of B1.
10	Is there a kmz file of the location?	Yes. Please refer to Annex-H, B1.
11	Is the LiDAR data taken from a helicopter or drone?	LiDAR survey was undertaken using helicopters.
12	How many pile foundation locations are there along the alignment?	Pile foundation is generally to be used at locations where the topsoil layer is weak/waterlogged/marshy having insufficient bearing capacity or at river crossing locations having scour-able soil strata. A Pile foundation may also be required at normal locations where SPT 'N' value is less than 10 and shear strength is less than 35 kN/sq.m. The pile foundation shall be as per Employer's Requirement.
13	How can we quote for the shut down or power blocking costs to be incurred during testing & commissioning?	As of now, the cost for power blockage (Shutdown) during construction activities, especially during stringing activities (while crossing existing lines) is in MCA-Nepal's scope.

	MCA-Nepal Response to the questio	ns raised during Contractor's site Visit for 297km
S.N.	Questions	MCA-Nepal Response
14	Is the route/alignment also crossing the Laarpaak - Ratmate transmission line?	Yes. The crossing is tentatively located in a section in RM-ND line (Lot 2) near Ratmate Substation.
15	Is the power clearance check done with 132 kV crossings?	As a part of preliminary design of transmission line, the required electrical clearance of 5.5 m has been maintained for all crossings of HT power lines (132kV and above).
16	Is there any construction required for access tracks?	Yes. Temporary access tracks of width up to 3.5m are allowed to be constructed in accordance with the design criteria and technical specifications of access tracks.
17	What is the farthest tower location (distance wise) from the nearby road head?	TN 235 (ND-NB) is around 2172 m from the existing road head as per our assessment. Also refer to the access track assessment report. (Annex-I, Section - V/B1)
18	How many and which towers' land acquisition is on hold due to grievances if any?	There are few towers around 2% in the entire alignment which are on hold due to Grievances for land acquisition.
19	Where does the NEA tower exist at New Hetauda?	Please refer to Tower Schedule (Annex C – B1/Section V)
20	Are there any auxiliary cross-arms expected in the proposed towers? Is it the contractor's or MCA-Nepal's scope?	It is in the contractor's scope of work. As per 5.4 General characteristics of B1 document covers the Tower with an angle of deviation 60-90 degree. However, Specific for the angle more than 90-degree, bidder need to suggest the required modification/strengthening measure during the detailed design stage.
21	At locations where there are crossing with NEA's line, will the proposed circuits/conductors be on the lower side (beneath the NEA circuit) or on the upper side of NEA circuit?	Please refer to Plan & Profile drawings (Appendix 11 of Annex B, B1/section V) and tower schedule (Annex C) for details. In most of the cases, MCA-Nepal line crosses over the NEA lines. However, at T186N in RM-ND (Lot 2), the crossing is under NEA 220kV lines.

	MCA-Nepal Response to the questio	ns raised during Contractor's site Visit for 297km
S.N.	Questions	MCA-Nepal Response
22	Is the uplifting/overturning at the gantry/tower near the river bed already checked?	No, checks against uplifting, sliding and overturning come under the design of foundation and tower, which is under the scope of contractor.
23	Will there be DC circuits after multi circuits?	Yes. In case of the section having quad circuit towers (T1-T16) in NB- ND (Lot 3), the line will be bifurcated to two DC towers to interface with Butwal Substation. For details, refer to Annex C, B1.
24	Are the terminating towers under MCA-Nepal scope?	Supply and installation of all terminal towers are under the scope of Contractor. The Transmission line Contractor will be responsible for stringing the conductor from dead-end tower (terminal tower) to the gantry and provide sufficient length of the conductors to reach to the first substation equipment. The Transmission line Contractor has to do such work at both sending and receiving end substations.
25	How many and which towers at New Hetauda are having pile foundations? Why is MCA-Nepal proposing only 2 towers with pile foundations, whereas almost every tower here at this location is in the river bed?	MCA-Nepal has not specifically identified the tower locations for providing pile foundations. The requirement of pile foundation for Special and River Crossing Towers shall be based on soil investigations. Pile foundation is generally to be used at locations where the topsoil layer is weak/waterlogged/marshy having insufficient bearing capacity or at river crossing locations having scour-able soil strata. A Pile foundation may also be required at normal locations where SPT 'N' value is less than 10 and shear strength is less than 35 kN/sq.m. The pile foundation shall be as per technical specification. The bidder may have proper due diligence before submission of technical and financial proposal.
26	Are the geotechnical investigations done for T137, T138 & T139?	Please refer to the supporting report (Annex-F, B1/ Section V) to get information about the geotechnical investigations.

	MCA-Nepal Response to the questio	ns raised during Contractor's site Visit for 297km
S.N.	Questions	MCA-Nepal Response
27	Can you please give the number of multi circuit towers proposed lot wise?	In NB-ND (Lot 3), 16 M/C towers are provided which is under the scope of DB contractor. 2 M/C towers are provided in RM-NH line (Lot 1- Option), which is not under scope of DB contractor (except stringing of two circuits for MCA – Nepal). Please refer to Annex C (Tower Schedule) to identify the tower number and types.
28	Prototype tower testing will be carried out up to 9m leg extension and 35m body extension.	Full-scale testing of the tower for all types of towers (1 No. for each type for double circuit towers) with the highest body extension of the maximum overturning moment, maximum uplift in maximum loading condition needs to be done.
29	Will the prototype testing be required also for the Special / horz. towers?	As of now proto testing of the Horizontal tower is not required. It will not be considered in the project estimate submitted by the bidders. Moreover, DDS has been considered a special tower for long river/valley crossing (>1000m) and proto testing for DDS is required.
30	What type of special towers are proposed (w.r.t height, span etc.)? Will those be designed by the contractor?	As per the base design of MCA-Nepal, DDS has been considered as special tower for long river/valley crossing (>1000m). It is the responsibility of the contractor to design all type of towers in accordance with the design criteria, technical specification, applicable IS codes and other requirements articulated in Employer's Requirement.
31	For special towers, in case the selected contractor comes with a different design, it will have an impact on the mid-span clearances, OPGW clearances and also on stringing. How will such changes be managed?	Design of line and towers shall be done in line with IS 802, 2015 and the requirements stated in B1. MCA-Nepal doesn't foresee any significant changes in design and other parameters.

	MCA-Nepal Response to the questio	ns raised during Contractor's site Visit for 297km
S.N.	Questions	MCA-Nepal Response
32	Calculation of OPGW elongation is a different thing, and which may change so many things. Have they already been designed? Is the ultimate tensile strength (UTS) of the proposed OPGW (mainly the top conductor) already checked?	Please check with the PLS CADD files (Annex-G, B1) to have an understanding of line design and UTS in case of all cables under various loading conditions.
33	We have analyzed 1 or 2 access tracks for the towers. Can it be checked with MCA-Nepal data to match with the ground scenario? This will help in bidding.	Please refer to the Access Track Assessment Reports (Annex-I, B1) for details.
34	Is the benching a Lump Sum item in bidding?	There is no separate item as benching in this contract. It is included within the tower foundation work. Refer to price schedule.
35	Is the wind pressure counted (taken care) for 9m extension?	Wind pressure has been considered in accordance with IS 802 (Part 1, Sec 1), 2015. Please also refer to Section V, B1 Document-5.6.2 – Loading. Loading Conditions to be considered for the design of all tower types, please refer to Table B1-1. The Contractor shall consider site-specific installation conditions to determine the drag and gust response factors. Variables such as wire height, tower height, span length, altitude and exposure (terrain roughness and local topography) can impact the applicable wind pressures. The Contractor shall upload M4 PLS-TOWER models into the PLS-CADD model and use the software's ability to calculate these factors and ensure structure strengths are adequate at each location.
36	If the tower height is increased in the design, how will that be managed?	The Offerors should conduct proper Due Diligence before submission of technical and financial proposals. The Offerors should adhere to the bidding document including the price schedule and price reasonability document.

	MCA-Nepal Resp	ponse to the questior	ns raised during Contractor's site Visit for 297km
S.N.	Questions	S	MCA-Nepal Response
37	What will happen to the co 2028?	ontract after August	The compact has been signed by both the Governments of Nepal and the USA. After the compact is over GoN will assign a successor entity.