



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

COUNTRY: Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) region - Malawi and Zambia

Projects Grant No.: TF-A4772

Assignment Title: Feasibility Studies for the Malawi - Zambia 400kV Transmission Interconnector Project

Background

The Governments of Malawi and Zambia have, in line with the call for greater regional integration, agreed to strengthen their existing bilateral cooperation by among others, constructing the Malawi-Zambia Power Interconnector. To this effect, an Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding (IGMoU) between Malawi and Zambia was signed in August 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia. During the same time an Inter-Utility Memorandum of Understanding (IUMoU) was also signed between ESCOM and ZESCO, the two respective national power utilities. Historically Malawi and Zambia have had cross border power trade at distribution level dating back to the year 2000 in which ESCOM supplies power to Zambian towns in the border area. This was undertaken in response to a resolution of the then SADC Council of Energy Ministers. From 2018, Malawi has also been benefiting from the cross border power supply from Zambia through a 33kV line from Chipata to Mchinji.

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Project Description

The Malawi-Zambia Interconnector Project will involve constructing a 330/400 kV line from the newly constructed Nkhoma 400/132 kV Substation in Lilongwe in Malawi to the existing Chipata West 330/132 kV substation in Zambia. The total line distance is approximately 184 km out of which 40 km is in Zambia and 144 km is in Malawi. The 400/330kV transformation shall be at new Substation to be constructed at Border District of Mchinji in Malawi. The line route and preliminary design of the Line on the Malawi side was already demarcated and studied as part of the Malawi 400kV Transmission Backbone that was completed in 2018 with financing from the World Bank. Full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the line route on the Malawi side was also undertaken under the referenced study.

The interconnector will be constructed to the same or better standard as the existing 400kV lines in the region, taking into account recent advances and improvements in line structures, conductor and insulators technologies. Considering that the route selection on the Malawian side has already been determined, the exact and final line route in Zambia will be chosen after optimization, taking into account the environmental and social safeguards.

Objectives and scope of consultancy assignment

The objective of this assignment is to carry out and develop a bankable feasibility study for the Feasibility Study for the Malawi - Zambia 330/400kV Transmission Interconnector up to Bankable stage and complete with Conceptual Design, Specifications and Tender Documents.

On the Malawi side, the transmission line route from Nkhoma Substation in Lilongwe to the proposed Mchinji substation has been studied and the ESIA completed. These studies will however require to be reviewed under this assignment. The existing reports for this portion shall be availed to the consultants.

The Consultant will review and confirm the transmission line route on the Malawi side and define the alternative power line routes for the Zambia side, confirm the transmission voltage levels, the main characteristics of the line and terminal equipment, etc. The Interconnector will have the purpose of facilitating electricity flow in both directions.

Required Qualifications and Experience

The Consultant shall be a qualified, internationally recognized firm with at least 15 years general and specific experience in similar projects.

This shall involve at least 2 or more similar assignments executed/under execution by the firm, including at least 1 similar assignment in the Sub-Sahara region. The Consultant shall have experience in Power system analysis (static and dynamic) of large systems and planning/analyses of interconnectors, Economic and financial analysis of Power interconnector projects, Transmission line design, including geotechnical analysis, Demand forecasting, Analyses of regional power trades and markets.

The firm should be able to field registered highly experienced multinational teams, covering at a minimum, the following key experts: Project Manager/Team Leader; Substations Engineer; Transmission Line Engineer; Structural/Civil Engineer; Financial Analyst/Power Economist and Surveyor.

The SAPP now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

- Years in business with relevant power sector consulting services experience.
- Availability of qualified and experienced key experts.
- Evidence of having executed relevant projects in terms of similar size / volume and complexity including a sub-Sahara region project.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained by email listed below.

Expressions of interest must be emailed to the email below, on or before 02 April 2021 at 15:00 hours Central African time and mention "**Expression of Interest for Consultancy Services for the Feasibility Studies for the Malawi - Zambia 400kV Transmission Interconnector Project**"

Contact:

Southern African Power Pool

Attention: Thembekani Luthuli, SAPP Procurement Specialist

Tel: +27 10 446 9600/+27 72 709 7252

Email Address: thembekani.luthuli@sapp.co.zw