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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
 DZONGKHAG ADMINISTRATION
 Wangdue Phodrang
 Engineering Sector



DAW/DES-41/2025-2026/5752

6th Feb 2026

Minutes of Prebid Meeting

Topic: Pre-bid Meeting for the “CW-03: Construction of Integrated Drinking Water and Irrigation Scheme for Hesotshamchu”

Venue: Conference Hall, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Administration

Date and Time: 06.02.2026, 10:30 AM onwards

The Chief DE of the Dzongkhag Administration welcomed all participants to the meeting and highlighted the significance of the project. He noted that the project has been in the readiness phase for a considerable period and expressed appreciation for the keen interest shown by all stakeholders.

Dasho welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the meeting. He underscored the need for prospective bidders to conduct site visits prior to quoting their rates in order to ensure realistic and informed bids.

The Project Manager from the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Team Leader of the Project Management and Supervision Consultant (PMSC) delivered a presentation outlining the key and critical aspects to be considered prior to the submission of bids. The presentation is attached for reference.

In addition to the presentation, the following points were also shared by the PMU and PIU:

1. The scope of works includes cliff cutting, gentle slope cutting, formation cutting, steel pipe works, and associated activities. The width of cutting will be measured for payment purposes. Bidders are advised to quote their rates taking into account all these factors.
2. The SCADA and instrumentation components shall be implemented on a design-and-build basis. While the system is relatively new in the drinking water and irrigation sector, it has been implemented in a few projects under the Water Flagship Program and they have faced challenges, nevertheless, the project aims to move forward with technology adoption. Therefore, proper due diligence in selecting a capable vendor is essential.
3. The scope of works also includes carbon steel pipes which, while not new to the country, are new in irrigation systems. Considering the challenging terrain and topography of the country, even minor pipe failures could lead to serious consequences. Therefore, the works must be executed with utmost care and high standards of workmanship. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures must be strictly adhered to at all times to ensure the safety of workers.
4. Insurance coverage must be ensured immediately upon award of the works till the end of the Defects Liability Period. The transmission line package is the first package and it will be followed by the distribution network package, hence there should be proper integration. Accordingly, the transmission line

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and distribution works will have to be implemented in parallel to ensure timely delivery of project benefits to the beneficiaries. Strict compliance with technical specifications is required to maintain quality.

5. HDPE pipes must be supplied with stub ends. When placing orders for HDPE pipes, procuring fittings from the same manufacturer is recommended to ensure homogeneity of raw materials. In cases where fittings are not supplied by the manufacturer, it is better to have the suppliers bear the associated risks. Jointing is to be carried out at site, which is technically challenging, therefore, bidders are advised to factor this into their costing and not quote rates merely with the intention of securing the work. It was highlighted that hydrostatic pressure testing is an important requirement and is to be carried out accordingly.

6. The PIU informed, that there is a village with houses constructed of rammed earth located directly below the siphon profile. Careful attention is required when working in this area. Additionally, there is an old trail connecting Wangduephodrang to Thimphu via Chamgang, where there is a possibility of encountering wild animals. A site visit is considered essential and should be planned jointly rather than on an ad-hoc basis. The site visit should be carefully organized to assess potential risks to both lives and property.

7. It was highlighted that there are multiple access points to the project area. Bidders are encouraged to consider these in their work plans, as they could help optimize the construction schedule.

The floor was then opened for queries from the bidders. The table below presents the queries raised by the bidders along with the corresponding responses provided by the Client.

Sl. no	Query	Response
1	Whether similar works must be specifically in irrigation	Since the eligibility criteria which states " <i>Contracts involving the laying of HDPE pipe of diameter $\geq 250\text{mm}$ and length $\geq 3.5\text{ km}$</i> ", do not distinguish between drinking water and irrigation projects, experience in both sectors will be considered acceptable.
2	Missing of HR requirements and other documents	Due to printing issues, certain portions of the bidding documents were missing for the first three bidders who purchased the documents. It was clarified that the missing documents were issued to them on the day of the pre-bid meeting.
3	If the number of works in hand of the joint venture partner is a criterion	Works in hand are not a standalone criterion, however, they will be indirectly considered under financial capacity. It was also clarified that the required human resources and equipment must be available at site throughout the contract duration.

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4	Availability of soft copies of bidding documents	The soft copy of the bidding documents will be shared. However, during the submission of the bids, the sealed documents purchased from the client must be submitted.
5	The bidders raised that most insurance companies typically charge around 1% of the work value and sought clarification on whether this cost has been incorporated in the project estimate. It was also mentioned that, for RGoB projects, bids exceeding $\pm 20\%$ of the estimated cost are generally not considered.	Insurance is a mandatory requirement for all contractors and has been applicable for previous works as well. While there is no separate provision in the estimate, bidders are required to incorporate the insurance cost in their bids.
6	Instrumentation and SCADA: value of works not specified in key experience criteria	It was clarified that experience in SCADA requirement states "Design, Supply, installation, Testing and commissioning of instrumentation and SCADA system for any water supply / irrigation scheme with remote monitoring similar to the proposed works during the last 7 years (January 2019 to December 2025)", hence, SCADA experience either in drinking water or irrigation projects will be considered and is not linked to the project cost.
7	Qualification criteria for similar contracts: whether Nu. 375 million refers to a single project or aggregate	The requirement refers to experience from a single project.
8	Availability of .kmz file of the alignment	The KMZ file will be shared with the bidders.
9	A query was raised regarding who would be responsible for obtaining the Environmental and Forest Clearances.	The required ECs and FCs have already been obtained by the Client. Any issues arising during implementation will be addressed by the PIU.

At the conclusion of the queries, the Client briefly reviewed all queries and responses to ensure that all participants had a clear understanding. It was also informed that the signed Minutes of the Pre-bid meeting will form part of the contract document.

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Dasho expressed his appreciation to all participants for attending this important meeting and encouraged their participation in the jointly scheduled site visit on 10th February 2026.

The meeting concluded with a demonstration of the KMZ file showing the transmission line alignment, presented by the designer.

The following participants were present during the meeting:

1. Mr. Tashi Dawa, Dasho Dzongdag, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Administration
2. Mr. Phurba Wangdi, Dasho Dzongrab, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Administration
3. Mr. Tashi Norbu Sherpa, Chief DE, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Administration
4. Mr. Singay Dorji, Project Engineer, PIU, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Administration
5. Mr. Kinley Dorji, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Division, DoID, MoIT
6. Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Offtg. Chief Engineer, Water and Sanitation Division, DoID, MoIT
7. Mr. Thinley Gyamtsho, Specialist, Irrigation Division, DoID, MoIT
8. Mr. Jiwan N Siwakoti, Team Leader, PMSC
9. Mr. Deki Phuntsho, General Manager, Shambhala Infra Pvt. Ltd.
10. Ms. Chandrika Pradhan, Engineer, Hi-tech Co. Pvt. Ltd.
11. Mr. Samten Lhendup, Engineer, Construction Development Co. Ltd.,
12. Mr. Kinzang Tenzin, Project Manager, Druk Magical Pvt. Ltd.,
13. Mr. Lotay Tsheten, Project Manager, Bhutan Engineering Pvt. Ltd.,
14. Mr. Samten Phuntsho, Manager, NTT Construction Pvt. Ltd.,
15. Ms. Chimi Dema, Project Manager, PMU, Water and Sanitation Division, DoID, MoIT

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