



Sierra Leone Receives Additional Funding for Bumbuna Hydro Electric Project

The Government of Sierra Leone has received a supplementary loan from the African Development Fund of UAC

35,610,000 to meet the cost of completing the Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project, and the government intends to apply part of the funds to eligible payments under the contract for the management, operation and maintenance of the Bumbuna Hydro Power Plant and associated transmission facilities.

The Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project (BHP) is located on the river Seli about 250 km northeast of Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. It consists of an asphalt-faced rock-fill dam 88 meters high, two multipurpose tunnels and a powerhouse at the toe of the dam with a design capacity of 50 MW. A single-circuit 161 kV transmission line will transfer Bumbuna's power to Freetown and intermediate towns. A 161 kV/33 kV substation in Freetown will link Bumbuna with the 33 kV sub-transmission system, which is owned and operated by the National Power Authority (NPA). The Project is substantially complete with work being suspended in May 1997 due to the conflict situation in Sierra Leone.

The project is intended to increase the supply of reliable, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable electricity for industrial, commercial and domestic use, and to support the sustainable delivery of quality electricity services at the lowest possible cost within the Western Area of Sierra Leone, and to promote private sector development in the country.

The construction of Bumbuna was started in 1973 at an estimated cost of \$USD 200 million, but has now incurred costs in excess of \$USD 600 million to Sierra Leone tax payers. By the time the project is fully completed and operational, it would have cost \$USD 200 for each man, woman, and child in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is considered to be one of the poorest and underdeveloped countries in the world.

The Government of Sierra Leone has issued a bid notice to interested parties for management and operations of the Hydro Electric Power station, which closed on June 5, 2009. No winner has been announced as of yet.