

THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR SPECIALIST

Project Country	Belize
Contracting Agency	Ministry of Economic Development
Project Name	MCC Compact Development – Belize
Consultancy Name	Electricity Sector Specialist
Contract Period	1 year with the option to extend for an additional year.

Background: The US Government-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has selected Belize for a five-year government to government grant to fund a program aimed at reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth. Belize was selected because it offers MCC the opportunity to engage with a country that is committed to democratic governance, reducing the rising poverty rate, addressing the significant challenges to economic growth, and mitigating its vulnerability to external shocks.

The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Economic Development has contracted a team of individual consultants to form a Compact Development Team in Belize that is working together with a U.S. based MCC Team to develop Joint Project Design Document. The Belize Compact Development Team (BCDT) is led by a National Coordinator who manages the team, engages key stakeholders across all sectors, and bears responsibility for the overall performance and work quality of the team.

One of the constraints to economic growth that the Government of Belize has selected is to reduce the high cost of electricity. The Government of Belize has submitted a Concept Note to MCC that outlines the proposed approach to reduce the cost electricity.

Duties and Responsibilities: The Electricity Sector Specialist will be a member of BCDT and will work closely with the Program Coordinator and other members of the BCDT as well as the MCC team to develop the Electricity Project following the MCC's Investment Criteria. Specifically, some of the tasks to be performed are as follows:

Electricity Sector Analysis

- Collaborate with the BCDT, MCC staff and consultants contracted with Compact Development funds, and stakeholders (Energy Unit, PUC, BEL, consumers, IPPs, etc) to draft a Joint Design Document for the Electricity Project and related documents. This will require the Electricity Sector Specialist to:
 - Identify and apply international best practices in power generation investments and operations. Experience and expertise in hydropower, thermal generation, solar

power, and battery storage are required. Extensive knowledge of international best practices in solar power generation project planning and investment cost estimation is critical.

- Assess projects using IPP frameworks including standard forms of contracts (power purchase agreements, fuel supply agreements, etc.), establishing a competitive solicitation process, and providing IPP project finance advisory services
- Apply expertise in the design and implementation of energy efficiency and distributed generation systems including the evaluation of potential energy impacts on consumers and distribution utilities including retail tariff issues, plus project design, implementation and evaluation.
- Apply expertise in power sector reforms and international best practice in the designing power sector systems. The specialist must have expertise in Power Purchase Agreements contracts for a range of generation types and alternative sector designs.

Project and Contract Management

- In close coordination with the National Coordinator and Procurement Specialist, develop and implement a strategy for the procurement of further studies, including Electricity Sector assessments, feasibility and design studies, and economic, social, and environmental impact assessments and others as needed. This will include developing Terms of Reference (TORs), supporting the evaluation of bids, and working closely with other BCDT team members to ensure that cross-cutting priorities like gender and social inclusion and environmental and social performance are adequately integrated and addressed in the studies.
- Serve as lead contract manager on all Electricity Sector contracts, including making decisions regarding acceptance of deliverables and approvals of invoices and payments, and supporting the BCDT and Government entities to ensure all conditions are in place for effective contract performance.
- Prepare and review all relevant project design documents, including creating, tracking, and updating key project management documents (i.e. preparation of budgets, disbursement request packages, work plans, and procurement plans) and preparing reports on the progress as requested.
- Identify bottlenecks, risks, and mitigation strategies, and work with the BCDT team to address them.

Managing Relationships

- Collaborate with other technical and administrative BCDT team to deliver a well-designed project, including working closely with the BCDT team responsible for infrastructure assessments and designs that contribute to the Energy objectives of the project; gender and social inclusion to consider the project's benefits to women, the poor, and the marginalized; environmental and social performance to ensure that the project design and implementation approach will be compliant with the IFC performance standards; with the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) work to contribute to the design of the eventual program logic and identification of indicators.

- Serve as the BCDT's operational link with the Ministry of Energy, and more broadly, ensuring stakeholder participation in project design, and representing the BCDT in public forums regarding the Energy project.
- Interface with MCC staff and other donors involved in the development of the Energy project.

Required qualifications:

- A Bachelor's Degree, preferably a Master's Degree, in engineering, economics, public policy or other relevant discipline.
- At least five (5) years, preferably ten (10) of relevant professional experience working in the electricity sector in Belize.
- Additional work in the electricity sector in countries outside of Belize is a plus.
- Excellent project leadership and management skills.
- Experience writing technical publications, project design documents, ToRs, or project evaluations.
- Excellent contract management skills with demonstrated experience managing multiple consulting services contracts at once.
- Experience in working on interdisciplinary teams and interacting constructively with technical experts, government officials, and civil society, including NGOs, CBOs, and people that could be affected by proposed projects.
- Familiarity with implementing gender and socially inclusive programs, especially as related to the Electricity Sector, is preferred.
- Good ICT skills – MS Word, Excel, etc.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

Level of effort: The Electricity Sector Specialist is anticipated to work 150 to 220 days per year, and to give preference in scheduling to this assignment.

Reporting: The Electricity Sector specialist will report to the National Coordinator.

Duty Station: Belize City, Belize

Remuneration: Competitive fee, commensurate with academic level, work experience and other relevant strengths of the winning candidate.

Application Submission: Interested candidates are requested to submit ONE PDF File that shall include: a) Letter of Interest indicating the post being applied for; b) the curriculum vitae, c) copies of university degrees, and d) the names of 3 references who can be contacted later.

Subsequently the top 3 applicants for each post will be interviewed.

Deadline for application: April 14, 2023: The application can be sent via email to: econdev@med.gov.bz

Clarification: Any request for clarification should be sent via email to econdev@med.gov.bz not later than April 10, 2023. Responses will be provided within three days.