

Ravenna, 6 May 2009

Ground breaking ceremony of Theun Hinboun Expansion Project in Laos

The ground breaking ceremony of Theun Hinboun Expansion Project in Laos took place on Tuesday 5 May 2009.

The project, worth euro 180 million, is the expansion from 220 to 440 MW of the installed capacity of the existing hydroelectric power plant originally built by Recchi-Cmc JV in the years 1995–1998.

It was awarded to Cmc by Theun Hinboun Power Company Ltd, owner and operator of the existing power plant and co-owned by Electricité du Lao (60%), Statkraft, the Norwegian state-owned utility (20%) and GMS Power of Thailand (20%).

The expansion project will comprise the following main works:

- A regulating dam located about 20 km upstream of the existing Theun Hinboun weir. The dam will be a rolled compacted concrete structure with a central spillway with 5 radial gates designed for discharging the maximum flood of 16.000 m³/sec. The dam height is 65 meters with a crest length of about 500 meters. The dam will provide regulated flow to the Theun Hinboun headpond and will include a power station with two 30 MW turbine-generator units;
- a new water intake and a second concrete lined headrace tunnel, 5.500 meters long, with internal diameter of 6,5 meters located parallel to the existing tunnel;
- a steel penstock 1.000 meters long with diameter ranging between 5,8 and 5,3 meters. The difference of elevation between the two ends of the penstock is 230 meters;
- a new power station, with one Francis type 220 MW turbine-generator unit, located on the right side of the existing power station.

Cmc is responsible for the design and construction of all civil works included the hydromechanical equipment.

The completion of the works is scheduled after 40 months.

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