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| **Subject** | Information meeting |
| **Project** | Construction of Gas Interconnector Serbia-Bulgaria on the Serbian territory |
| **Publication reference** | NEAR/BEG/2021/EA-OP/0032 |
| **Venue** | Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams hosted by Ministry of Mining and Energy, Belgrade, 36 Kralja Milana st. |
| **Date/time of the meeting** | 26 April 2021, 11:00 CET |

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

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| 11:00 – 11:20 | Connection/Registration |
| 11:20 – 11:30 | Opening of the meeting and welcome words:  Ministry of Mining and Energy– Saša Stojanović, Assistant Minister |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Presentation of the Project  Procedural details:  Ministry of Finance (CFCU), Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes – Saša Marković, Project manager in Division for Tender Preparation and Project and Contract Management  Project importance:  PE Srbijagas – Milan Zdravković, Executive Director  Technical parts:  TA Mott Macdonald Connecta Consortium – Boban Stanojlović, Mechanical Gas Pipeline Engineer |
| 12:00 | Closing of the Meeting |

Agenda

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

On behalf of the Final beneficiary of the Project, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Mr. Saša Stojanović, assistant minister, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He informed all participants that there will be no Q&A session in the meeting since it would require participation of all personnel included in the tender preparation stage of the project, which is not possible due to the COVID restrictions. Mr. Stojanović informed participants that any questions must be submitted in writing which will be answered in the same manner as submitted, in writing.

Mr. Saša Marković, Project Manager in Division for Tender Preparation and Project and Contract Management, on behalf of the Contracting Authority, Ministry of Finance, Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU), presented procedural details regarding this tender, as well as the main parties in the project implementation. Mr. Marković underlined the fact that any questions related to technical and/or legal aspect of tender dossier must be submitted in writing to the addresses listed in the tender dossier and that the Contracting Authority shall issue official answers at the addresses indicated in the tender dossier in line with the deadlines listed therein. Only these answers shall be considered as official answers of the Contracting Authority.

Mr. Marković pointed out that participation at the tender opening session is restricted to authorised representatives of the companies that are tendering for the contract and that each representative will have to submit the document of authorisation.

Also, he emphasized the important dates related to the tender which can also be found in the respective tender dossier and provided information that two sets of the Clarifications have already been published on the official websites.

On behalf of the representative of the End Recipient of the Project, PE Srbijagas, the participants of the meeting were welcomed by Mr. Milan Zdravković. Mr. Zdravković shared some of the major notes of project importance, not only for Serbia, but for the region as well. It was mentioned that the aim of this project is to provide the diversification, not only the of the roads, but also of the sources of supply to Serbia and the region as well. This project is an integrated part of the southern corridor, providing new sources of gas to be supplied to Europe from the Caspian region, as well as the present and future planned LNG sources in Greece and Bulgaria as well. Project provides for a huge potential for a continuous gasification of the region in this part of the Western Balkans of the countries not gasified at the moment such as Montenegro, Albania and the territory of Kosovo as well.

Since this pipeline crosses the part of the southeast Serbia, the expectation for the local and national benefit of this project is huge, because it will provide for the solid ground for further gasification of this territory and bring the potential to the 200 000 homes to be connected to the gas grid.

This project could provide the further prospect of connecting to the TANAP project on Turkish territory which could diversify gas sources. According to the European concept of the energy Union, this would be the concept that could integrate present and future planned gas storages in the territories into the regional market and could also be available for the third party access for the suppliers and gas traders interested to participate on the gas market. Additional benefit for Bulgaria would be the scenario of the additional gas volume supply from north, connecting to the present gas hubs in Europe, especially on Baumgarten, and that from the existing gas network to make able gas deliveries from that direction.

Mr. Boban Stanojlović, Mechanical Gas Pipeline Engineer on the behalf of the Mott MacDonald Connecta Consortium presented technical details of the project. Mr. Stanojlović gave information regarding location of project, which is the southeaster part of Serbia between cities of Niš and Dimitrovgrad. The city of Niš is about 240 kilometres away from Belgrade. Cities of Belgrade and Niš are connected via highway E75 which connects to E80 to Dimitrovgrad. There are also two international airports near Belgrade and Niš. Mr. Stanojlović highlighted the main characteristics of the MG10 gas pipeline which are total length of 109 km, nominal diameter of 700 mm, maximum operating pressure of 55 bars, four metering and regulating stations and one metering station. The brief description of crossings with other infrastructure was also given.

The meeting was closed at 12:00 hours.