

Microwave Link to Pakistan Installation

Project Summary

Subsector	Telecommunication
Location	Kabul to Pakistan border
Project Cost	\$1.4 Million
Project Type	Microwave Link Installation
Project Executing Firm/Agency	Ministry of Communications
Financing Agency /	Government of Afghanistan /
Procurement Agency	Afghan Assistance Coordination Authority (AACA)



Project Outline

The MOC believes that it is necessary to have an effective communications infrastructure for the Government of Afghanistan to remain stable, to promote national unity, to aid in conflict resolution, and to demobilize and to reintegrate of former combatants. It is also an essential ingredient to stimulate investment activity and restore the productive capacity of the economy. Therefore the mission statement for the MOC regarding telecommunications is “to enable rapid growth of affordable communications to all of our people and let them experience the digital age whoever they are and wherever they may be”.

The MOC has prioritized 21 necessary projects. Establishing a microwave link to Pakistan is their second ranked priority.

Technical Description

The Ministry of Communications plans to re-establish the terrestrial network between Afghanistan (Kabul) and Pakistan (Peshawar), and a number of other key cities, using microwave technology. The project will take place in three phases. The first phase would link Kabul with Peshawar; the second phase would link Laghman and Jalalabad with Kabul and Peshawar; and the third phase would link Nuristan, Kunar and Torkham to Jalalabad.

This project is considered to be a priority because it will provide vital telephone access to neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan which has a sizeable Afghan refugee population. The microwave link would provide redundancy for international network connections which would improve network reliability. The key benefit for this new link would enable greater social linkages and economic activity.

Project Site

The major project would take place between Kabul and the international border near Peshawar, Pakistan.

Project Status/Timeline

A feasibility study has been completed and the ministry is preparing the engineering design and bid materials. The Ministry expects the bid to be sent out by early third quarter. The project is expected to begin in the 4th quarter of 2003 and to take 6-12 months to complete.

Equipment and Services

The following equipment is required for this project:

- Rehabilitation of existing towers and repeaters
- Installation of new towers and repeaters

U.S. Competitiveness

The U.S. is a leader in telecommunications and satellite related equipment. Germany, France, Japan, India, Pakistan and Korea are expected to be competitors. The U.S. can however be successful by providing high quality at competitive prices.

Project Financing

The Ministry of Communications has requested \$1.4 million from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) to fund this project.

Conclusion

The goal of the proposed telecommunications project is to establish a critical infrastructure link to restore international communications to Pakistan.

Key Decision Makers

Organization or Company Name	Ministry of Communications
Contact Person	H.E. Mohd. Masoom Stanekzai
Title	Minister of Communications
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