

Six regions to benefit from US-funded power projects

By Devota Mwachang'a, TSJ

CONSTRUCTION and expansion of power transmission and distribution lines in six regions is set to take off soon following the signing of the 97.5bn/- contracts in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Two firms, Symbion Power LLC and Pike Electric won the contracts awarded by

the US government through Millennium Challenge Corporation.

US Ambassador Alfonso Lenhardt said the two firms will construct or expand approximately 1,600 kilometres of power transmission and distribution lines in the regions of Mwanza, Tanga, Dodoma, Mbeya and Iringa.

He said the contract was awarded only after a vigorous, full and open international

competition.


MCA-Tanzania Chief Executive Officer Bernard Mchomvu said that Symbion has been given two lots worth USD47,707,130.20 covering Mwanza, Morogoro, Iringa and Mbeya regions while Pike Electric will execute a package covering the regions of Dodoma and Tanga, costing some USD 17,967,802.43.

"We are very confident that the great historical

performance record you carry will be positively demonstrated at the delivery end," he said.

Mchomvu said only about 15 per cent of Tanzanians have access to power, noting that the project will help to increase the number of people getting power to 18 per cent.

He said upon completion, more people will be able to carry out important activities such as irrigation farming and other domestic activities.



According to Mchomvu the project is expected to be completed in early 2013. He warned that the contract could be terminated if the firms failed to meet the deadline.

"The contract awards represent the achievement of yet another important milestone in the ongoing implementation of the US\$206m MCC Energy Project.

"Other components of the Energy Project include the

manufacture and installation of a new 100 megawatt submarine power cable linking Zanzibar to Mainland Tanzania," stated Mchomvu.

The Chief Executive Officer of Symbion, Paul Hinks said they were delighted to be awarded the contract.

"We assure you that we will work hard with the view to complete the job on time, covering all distribution network extensions in the

respective regions," said Hinks.

The distribution network extensions work in six regions will involve construction of a total of 78 networks made up of some 252 kms and 1,247 kms of 11kV and 33kV lines respectively.

"This is our fourth contract award in Tanzania in 2010, and it is the second for MCA-Tanzania which has entrusted us with almost US\$100m of electrification work across the

country funded by the American people," he said.

He confirmed that in recent history America construction companies have been noticeable by their absence in Africa, saying they intend to work in Tanzania for many years to come.

Chairman and CEO of Pike Electronic Corporation, Eric Pike said his firm was honoured to be part of the electric infrastructure build-up in Tanzania.