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Ministry of Energy and Mines
Partnerships British Columbia

THREE PROPONENTS SHORTLISTED FOR SIERRA YOYO DESAN ROAD

VICTORIA – Partnerships British Columbia and the Ministry of Energy and Mines have shortlisted three qualified proponents to move to the next stage in the procurement process for the design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance of the Sierra Yoyo Desan Road.

The 188-kilometre public road, which is located northeast of Fort Nelson, is primarily used by resource companies for industrial activities. It is currently operating under a partnership established in 1988 between industry and government, with companies paying to use it. A major upgrade is required to promote all-season oil and gas activities as part of the province's oil and gas development strategy. The new partnership will build on the existing arrangement.

Five proponent teams responded to a request for qualifications, with representation from 31 individual companies. The submissions were evaluated on the basis of road and bridge design and construction capabilities, road operations and maintenance experience, financing capabilities and experience with similar projects.

The three shortlisted proponent teams are:

- Walter/SNC-Lavalin Joint Venture. This team consists of Walter Construction, SNC-Lavalin, Allnorth Consultants, Kledo Construction, Ruskin Construction, GTM Consulting and Hatfield Consultants.
- Ledcor Projects Inc. This team is made up of Ledcor Projects, McElhanney Consulting Services, Buckland & Taylor, Trow Associates and Triton Environmental Consultants.
- Emcon-Tercon. This team consists of Tercon Construction, Emcon Services, Surespan Construction, Stantec Consulting, AMEC Earth & Environmental, Delcan Corporation, QR Engineering and Macquarie North American.

A request for proposals will be issued to the shortlisted proponents by the end of September. To advance the project, construction has already begun on the new access to the road from the Alaska Highway, which includes a bridge over the Fort Nelson River. The new access and bridge are expected to be completed by December 2004, while the proposed schedule for the upgrade of the balance of the road will be provided by the three proponents in their response to the request for proposals.

Further information about the project can be found at www.partnershipsbc.ca online.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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