



# **LIBERIA ELECTRICITY CORPORATION**

## **Mt. Coffee Project Implementation Unit**



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**MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

### **LEC SIGNS CONTRACT WITH HYDRO OPERATION INTERNATIONAL (HOI)** *for the Operations and Maintenance of the Mt. Coffee Hydropower Plant and Training of Operational Staff*

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Monrovia – September 2016

The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) has on August 23, 2016 signed a five-year contract with Hydro Operation International SA, in joint venture with AEE Power SA, a Switzerland-based firm, to operate and maintain the Mt. Coffee hydropower facility for a period of five years while carrying out theoretical and hands-on training of qualified operations and maintenance staff of LEC. The Operations, Maintenance and Training Contract (OMT Contract) for the Mt. Coffee Hydropower Plant includes training of Liberian staff on the operation and maintenance of Mt. Coffee with the goal to develop sufficient Liberian capacity such that expatriates will no longer be required for the safe and reliable operations and maintenance of the plant. It also includes the actual operation and maintenance of the Plant during the initial five years of operation.

HOI was created in May 2014 and provides services in the field of hydropower plant rehabilitation, operation and maintenance, with current projects in Rwanda and Congo as well as Liberia. AEE Power is an international EPC Contractor and Power Developer specialized in the energy industry and focused on Sub-Saharan Africa.

To build a foundation for the OMT Contract, the Mt. Coffee Project Implementation Unit at LEC carried out an Early Recruitment & Training Plan in 2016 to recruit and hire competent LEC counterpart/trainee staffs, involving current LEC-PIU Engineers and others recruited through a competitive recruitment process, to ensure the intended operational staff for Mt. Coffee would be prepared for their assigned responsibilities under the OMT contract. Training is divided into three (3) phases with phase one comprising a three-month training course at the Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre in Zambia. This phase of training covered equipment maintenance training for maintenance trainees, engineers, and maintenance managers; plant operations training for Operator Trainees and Operations Manager; Additional Plant Management and Support training in Management Training; Dam Safety; Safety & Occupational Health; Environmental Training and Report Writing.

The second phase of the training will be held in Germany and Liberia under the direction of Voith Hydro, the contractor hired for the supply and installation of the generating equipment for the Mt. Coffee hydropower plant and will be focused on equipment- and site-specific trainings in the electromechanical equipment. The third phase of training may encompass study tours to operational hydropower plants overseas. The OMT Contract also includes optional internships at plants overseas throughout the five-year period of the contract.

Positions identified and filled by Liberians who will be trained by counterpart international experts are: the Plant Manager, Operations Supervisor, Maintenance Supervisor, Electrical Engineers-Controls and Power (2 positions), Civil, Mechanical and Geotechnical Engineers(3 positions), Performance Monitoring & Planning Officer, Safety, Health & Fire Protection Supervisor, Training Officer, Environmental and Social Supervisor, Financial and Administrative Supervisor, Shift Operator Trainees (5 positions), Protection and Controls Trainee, Electrical Trainee, and Mechanical Trainee. LEC is still looking for a Technical Services Supervisor.