BACKGROUND

The Africa Region’s Energy Unit (AFTEG) is responsible for the World Bank’s energy sector lending operations in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

The World Bank (Bank) is working with countries in SSA to develop energy sector infrastructure and institutions to provide modern energy services to their people. The Bank’s energy program is growing rapidly through investment support in the areas of power generation, transmission and distribution, rural energy services, and renewable energy development, with an increasing emphasis on provision of off-grid energy solutions and investments to improve the sustainability of biomass energy for cooking, and development of regional and domestic power markets. The Bank’s energy project portfolio in SSA includes more than 40 projects with a total commitment of over US$4 billion. New lending is reaching close to US$1 billion per annum.

The Africa energy sector at the World Bank consists of two Units (AFTG1 for East and Southern Africa and AFTG2 for West and Central Africa). Each of the two units is managed by a Sector Manager. Each Sector Manager also is responsible for two cross-cutting themes: (AFTG1 for PPPs and Energy Sector Reforms, and renewable energy, and AFTG2 for Hydropower, and Energy Access). Leadership for themes ensures a consolidated approach to the issue at hand in the region. The two units together have over 60 staff with over 20 in various field locations, and more than half of the operational and advisory activities are managed/led by field-based staff. AFTG1/2 cooperates with bilateral and multilateral partners in its business and AAA activities.

The AFTG2 program includes activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) comprising, among others, the Regional and Domestic Power Markets Development Project (PMEDE) and the South African Power Market Project (SAPMP) for which the Bank is providing a total financing of around one billion US dollars. Owing to a long period of instability in the country, the existing generation, transmission and distribution installations have not been systematically maintained, and are therefore dilapidated. The PMEDE is rehabilitating the Inga 1 and 2 Hydroelectric Power Stations, increasing the transmission capacity between the two power stations and Kinshasa, the capital of DRC, and improving the distribution system in Kinshasa. Further, the PMEDE is supporting the reform of the State owned electric utility. The SAPMP is restoring the capacity of the transmission system that links the Inga 1 and 2 power stations to the South African Power Pool.

AFTG2 is also assisting the Government of DRC in the development of the country’s huge hydroelectric potential estimated at 774 TWh per annum. The DRC has the third highest hydroelectric potential in the world behind China and Russia. When expressed as firm power capacity, the Congo River potential is equivalent to 100,000 MW or 13 per cent of the global hydropower potential. The Inga site alone can generate 45,000 MW out of which only 1,775 MW
can be exploited with the existing installations. Energy resources on this scale will enable the DRC to play a pivotal role in meeting not only its future domestic energy requirements for poverty reduction and economic development, but also the energy needs at the regional and continental levels.

To support AFTG2’s intervention in DRC, there is now an opportunity for a dedicated professional to join the AFTEG team in Washington DC to work in close collaboration with the Task Team Leader (TTL). The work program for this position will be to primarily support the TTL in the implementation of the PMEDE and the SAPMP and the preparation of new energy projects.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Junior Professional Officer (JPO) will support the TTL for DRC by playing an active hands-on role in the preparation and supervision of the projects supported by the Bank. This will cover a variety of implementation support, operational and project management tasks, including some analytical and advisory aspects. These include:

- Participate in project preparation, appraisal and supervision missions and in the preparation of post-mission aide-memoires and other documentation.
- Review and provide comments on project implementation plans, procurement documents (pre-qualification documents, tender documents, bid evaluation reports, terms of reference for consultants etc.), consultants’ technical reports and other technical documents.
- Identify potential problem areas and proactively propose appropriate measures to resolve issues. This will involve working with stakeholders on project cycle management issues, including ensuring that project preparation / implementation remains on schedule.
- Participate in dialogue with the Government and the State owned electric utility on the sustainable development of the energy sector in DRC.

The selected candidate will report to the AFTG2 Sector Manager, who is based in headquarters, Washington, D.C. Day-to-day supervision will be conducted by the TTL for the DRC program.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Master’s degree in engineering, finance, economics or a related discipline.
- A minimum of 2 years professional experience, with a significant share of this in the energy sector. A mix of both on-grid and off-grid energy sector experience is preferred.
- Candidates must be able to demonstrate extensive hands-on project management experience, an ability to efficiently manage a large number of activities simultaneously, a flair for problem-solving and an ability to self-navigate through complex bureaucratic environments.
- Superior communications and client engagement skills, with demonstrable commitment to working in a collegiate fashion with Bank counterparts, including mentoring where appropriate.
- Familiarity with Bank or other multilateral development bank (MDB) processes and guidelines, particularly pertaining to project cycle management and procurement, is a very strong asset.
- Work experience in Sub-Saharan Africa is a strong asset.

Full proficiency in written and oral English and French is essential.