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Government Tender for New Power Station

The Government has invited tenders for a new 80MW gas fired power station which it is proposed will be located in a reclaimed area off the North Mole. This will guarantee Gibraltar's power and energy needs for decades to come. A number of the engines will be "dual fired" in order to be able to burn diesel should gas supplies ever not be available.

This is the culmination of the work of the Interministerial Committee on power generation which is made up of Ministers and officials and has been considering Gibraltar's electricity needs since the new Government was elected. It will be recalled that the £150 million diesel project that the previous administration had opted for has been terminated on environmental and economic grounds.

The project is in line with the Government's manifesto commitment to investigate all alternative sources of energy and to eradicate the noise pollution and emissions that affect many residential areas of Gibraltar.

The tender is for the design, manufacture and construction of a new natural gas fired power station of approximately 80MW capacity comprising natural gas fired generating units able to deliver a net guaranteed heat rate of 42MW with an output range of 7 to 15MW each. The remaining sets are to be dual fired generating units should there be a need to operate the plant with an alternative fuel. The scheme includes the provision of the necessary infrastructure for the unloading and transfer of both fuels within the boundary of the new power station.

The final date for the registration of interest is 31 May 2013 and the closing date for tender submissions is 1 August 2013.

The proposal has been discussed in advance and in detail with the Environmental Safety Group (ESG), the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GONHS) and the Nature Conservancy Council. In line with the policy of the Government, this project will be presented to the Development and Planning Commission for guidance and advice.