



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Ministry of Solid Minerals Development

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AS INVESTOR IN
BITUMEN BLOCKS**

As part of the ongoing reform programme in the Solid Minerals sector, the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development will be divesting from all its ownership interests in the sector. It is the intention of the Ministry to focus solely on its role as administrator-regulator, while the private sector will act as owner-operator.

Bitumen was first discovered in Nigeria in 1900. It underlies a belt which stretches East-West for over 120km with outcrop exposed over a 6km wide region across Ogun, Ondo, Edo and Lagos states. The first attempt at commercial exploration of bitumen in Nigeria was by the Nigerian Bitumen Corporation (NBC) and Shell D'Arcy between 1908 and 1914. Subsequently, several additional exploration boreholes have been drilled within the belt. The Bitumen Project Implementation Committee (BPIC) has recently undertaken extensive work to explore two blocks within the region that have been shown to contain sufficient reserves for commercial development.

These blocks will be offered for sale to pre-qualified investors through a competitive bidding process on **Wednesday, May 24, 2006**. The blocks to be offered for bidding are as follows:

1. Block 1 (Ondo/Ogun States)

Lat (N)	Long (E)
6 50 51.74	4 08 10.8
6 50 51.74	4 13 21.64
6 45 00	4 13 21.64
6 45 00	4 20 6.75
6 27 16.2	4 20 6.75
6 27 16.2	4 08 10.8

2. Block 2 (Ondo State)

Lat (N)	Long (E)
6 45 00	4 20 6.75
6 45 000	4 36 20.28
6 41 33.7	4 36 20.28
6 31 11	4 36 20.28
6 31 11	4 29 11.0
6 28 49	4 29 11.0
6 27 16.2	4 29 11.0
6 27 16.2	4 19 58.57

Preliminary data packages for the above properties will be available by **Monday, March 6, 2006** at the offices of the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, and online on the Ministry's website (<http://www.msmd.gov.ng>).

Applicants are expected to be local / international investors or groups with a proven track record in ownership, financial capability and technical competence in the exploration and development of bitumen.

In order to be pre-qualified, the prospective Investor must possess verifiable evidence of Technical, Managerial and Financial capability to own and manage the bitumen blocks. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Record of successful investment and technical management in the exploration and mining of bitumen;
- Record of successful management of relevant externalities like community relations and the environment; and
- The requisite financial resources.

In addition, the Federal Government has the following objectives for the sale:

- To secure investors with demonstrated commitment to carry out exploration required to further increase the proven reserves in the blocks;

- To secure credible investors with the capability and commitment to develop the bitumen properties, including the local market estimated to be about 350,000 tonnes annually;
- To obtain fair value for the investments made in the bitumen blocks to date;
- To encourage participation of indigenous investors in the sector, in line with the spirit of the Nigeria Local Content Legislation.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested investors should indicate their interest by providing the following documentation and information:

- Full name of company and contact person, postal address, telephone / fax numbers and e-mail address.
- Ownership structure of the company;
 - Name(s) of major shareholders, and
 - Percentage shareholdings.
- Audited financial statements for up to the past five (5) years and most recent management accounts.
- Technical and operational capabilities
 - Number of years in bitumen exploration and / or mining;
 - Local and international experience in the industry; and
 - List of bitumen properties owned or managed by the firm.
- Composition and profile of management team showing qualification and years of experience in bitumen exploration and / or mining.
- Evidence of ample financial resources.
- A listing of the bitumen properties for which the Investor is seeking pre-qualification

Upon receipt of the Expression of Interest from interested investors, the Ministry shall evaluate and pre-qualify applicants for the bitumen blocks of their choice. Results of the pre-qualification exercise will be published on **Wednesday, April 26, 2006**. Thereafter, pre-qualified applicants will be issued bidding packages for the bitumen blocks of their choice upon payment of **Five hundred thousand naira (N500,000) only per property** in bank draft drawn in favour of the **Ministry of Solid Minerals Development**. Details of the bidding procedure shall be contained in the bidding package.

An original copy and five (5) other copies of Expression of Interest in a sealed envelope clearly marked "**EOI BITUMEN BLOCKS**" at the top right hand corner shall be delivered to the address below not later than **Friday, March 31, 2006** by **5.00pm**:

The Minister
Ministry of Solid Minerals Development
Annex 3, 5th floor Federal Secretariat Complex
Shehu Shagari Way
P.M.B. 107
Abuja – Nigeria

Attn: **Ademola O. Gbadegesin**
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