

Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians fled the fighting there.

TUNISIA

Bizerte refinery shortlist cut

The shortlist of bidders for the delayed Bizerte oil refinery contract has been cut to three, from an original nine. The companies or groups shortlisted are: France's *Technip*, with the UK office of *The Ralph M Parsons Company* of the US; *Heurtey Industries*, also of France, with Japan's *Gasoil*, and *Hitachi*, also of Japan, with another US firm, *The Lummus Company*. Consultant is *Foster Wheeler Francaise*. The contract could be awarded by December.

The \$ 500 million project involves expanding the refinery's annual capacity to 6.5 million tonnes, from 1.5 million tonnes. Work is expected to take 36-42 months (MEED 26:11:82).

Bizerte, Tunisia's only major refinery, is operated by *Societe Tunisienne des Industries du Raffinage (STIR)*, a 50:50 joint venture between Italy's state hydrocarbons concern *Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI)* and the government. Built by Italy's *Snamprogetti*, it opened in 1962.

The scheme's importance is said to be one reason for the delay: bidders were originally prequalified by STIR in early 1982, when an award was expected within a year. The client's request for financing proposals is also responsible for lengthening the bidding process.

Dam bids progress

The prequalification process is moving ahead on two major dam projects, at Siliana and Lebna. Bid documents have been sent to about 20 companies prequalified for the former; they are to be returned by the end of September. The earthfill dam — expected to cost about \$87 million — will irrigate 4,000 hectares in the northwestern Kafour region (MEED 20:5:83).

Bidding is more advanced for the Lebna dam; 15 prequalifiers submitted offers at the beginning of August, and the civil engineering contract could be awarded in about one month. The project, 70 kilometres east of Tunis, involves construction of a 20-metre-high, 600-metre-long earth and rockfill dam, plus associated structures requiring a total 10,000 cubic metres of concrete.

Consultant for both projects is France's *Coyne & Bellier*.

Skhira shortlist due

A shortlist for the Skhira sulphuric and phosphoric acid plant was due to be drawn up as MEED went to press. The five original bidders are to be reduced to two.

The client, *Societe Industrielle d'Acide Phosphorique & d'Engrais (SIAPE)*, is expected to base its decision partly on currency movement forecasts because no clear leader has emerged on price. SIAPE is reported to be looking at the forward strengths of the currencies in which the bids are denominated. These are in a narrow TD 80 million-90 million (\$112 million-126 million) band (MEED 15:7:83).

The strength of the yen could be to the disadvantage of a Japanese bid from *Hitachi* and *Mitsubishi Corporation*.

SIAPE is also considering a late bid from West Germany's *Kloekner Industrieanlagen (Kloekner Ina)*, whose earlier bid, with the UK's *Davy McKee*, was rejected on price. Kloekner's second offer is in conjunction with *Lurgi*, also of West Germany. The group is offering process engineer Lurgi's own technology for the sulphuric acid lines, as an alternative to the *Monsanto* process proposed by the other bidders.

These bidders are: the UK's *Sim-Chem*, with Spain's *Fomento de Comercio Exterior (Focoex)*; Italy's *Technipetrol* and *Ingeco*, and *Spie Batignolles* and *Heurtey Industries*, both of France.

The contract calls for construction of a complex 80 kilometres north of Sfax. It comprises two 1,750-tonne-a-day sulphuric acid lines, a 1,000-tonne-a-day concentrated phosphoric acid line and

two 550-tonne-a-day phosphoric acid lines.

IN BRIEF

Twenty prequalified companies, the majority international, have received documents for a civil engineering contract to extend Tunis-Carthage airport. An award is expected at the beginning of 1984, a representative of the client, *Office des Ports Aeriens de Tunisie (OPAT)*, says. The scheme is valued at TD 10 million (\$14 million). Tunis-Carthage is the capital's airport, and lies nine kilometres northeast of the city centre.

TURKEY

Istanbul dam scheme unveiled

Tenders are to be issued in October for the TL 40,000 million (\$171.9 million) Buyuk Gekmece dam near Istanbul. Feasibility studies have been done by *State Hydraulics Works (DSI)*, and the Istanbul municipal authorities hope to be in a position to award a contract in December.

The World Bank is interested in lending money for the dam and discussions are "in hand," according to Istanbul governor Nevzat Ayaz. However, no agreement has been reached. The contract — part of the city's second stage water supply project — is for building, equipment buying and supervision.

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