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GRANT FOR SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has agreed to provide a \$4.5 million grant for satellite technology to monitor Nile water levels. The scheme calls for 280 automatic monitors, with float devices, to read the level of the river at strategic points below the Aswan dam. The information will be relayed by satellite to a monitoring centre in Cairo. The project is intended to improve the efficiency of the irrigation system.

DAMIETTA DAM PROJECT

Four West European firms are front-runners for a contract to upgrade the earthfill dam on the Nile, about 15 kilometres from the new port being built at Damietta.

Low bidders are Austria's Universale Hoch-& Tiefbau and Italy's Societa Italiana per Condotte d'Acqua, both offering about \$24 million, followed by Spain's Dragados & Construcciones and France's SGE-TPI. A decision is expected in the next three months, pending evaluation of the financing arrangements attached to the bids. Client is the Irrigation Ministry.

The project involves strengthening the existing 500-metre wide dam, installing four concrete openings, and building a 150-metre lock to enable river traffic to serve Damietta port. The scheme, for completion in three to four years, is also designed to improve irrigation in the area.

The dam is one of several services contracts linked to the \$195 million port being built at Damietta by Compagnie de Constructions Internationales (CCI), with French government financing. CCI is a five-member French consortium, led by SGE-TPI.

Damietta is to handle 20 per cent of total imports by 2000; contracts for roads, railways and electrical equipment are expected to be awarded as the port's first construction stage nears completion towards the end of 1985.

CONTRACT TO UPGRADE TELEPHONE NETWORK AWARDED

A West German company, ANT Nachrichtentechnik, has two contracts, valued at a total DM 13 million, to upgrade local telephone networks. The jobs involve renewing the local system in Alexandria's central Manshia district, and extending the telephone network in the southern Cairo suburb of Maadi. They include supplying 4,000 kilometres of telephone cable and supervising the installation of equipment. Client is the National Telecommunications Organisation.