



PRESS RELEASE

AFGHANISTAN HAS A NEW NATIONAL ELECTRICITY COMPANY

Kabul, Sept 2009 – H.E. Dr. Omar Zakhilwal, Minister of Finance, has signed the Memorandum of Transfer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Moassassa (DABM) to Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) in the presence of H.E. Al-Hajj Mohammed Ismael Khan, Minister of Energy and Water, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Jalil Shams, Minister of Economy, and H.E. Mohammad Youssuf Pashtoon, Minister of Urban Development.

The Ministry of Energy and Water, under the leadership of H.E. Ismael Khan, was able to rehabilitate most of the existing infrastructure and to improve the generation and import of power, providing electricity 24h/d to most of the grid. With the completion of this transfer, the Ministry will now be able to turn its attention to priority tasks, such as regulating and planning power sector development as well as the implementation of ongoing large investment projects.

From 1st October 2009 DABS will be the new national electricity company responsible for the management and operation of all electric power assets nationwide. With this Memorandum of Transfer, the Government of Afghanistan represented by the Minister of Finance confers to DABS the authority to manage and operate the generation, transmission and distribution and sales of electricity throughout the country. DABM, the “daulatı tasady” (State-owned Enterprise), is being liquidated.

DABS will assume responsibility for all DABM staff and infrastructure and operations will continue as usual, while restructuring, new tools and technologies and higher standards are implemented. DABM staff will undergo extensive training, which will result not only in the enhancement of their working environment, but above all, will improve services for the people of Afghanistan.

During the past 4 years the World Bank has financed this complex corporatization process, which has been implemented by a team of experts from MVV decon GmbH, Germany, under the leadership of its Project Director, Dr. Petra Seidler.

H.E. Dr. M. Jalil Shams, Minister of Economy, also appointed to serve as the first Chief Executive Officer of DABS and a member of the Senior Management Group of the customer-oriented enterprise, that will improve quality, reliability and efficiency of the electricity supply and delivery system, reduce losses and enforce all due revenue collection. He declared that the company will be operating as a state-owned commercial enterprise, answerable to the shareholders represented by the Board of Directors. He added “DABS is setting new standards not only for the power sector in Afghanistan, but also benchmarks for national private businesses, focusing on customer care services, introducing fully transparent procedures and integrated reporting systems”.

DABS' vision is to provide safe and reliable power at reasonable rates to facilitate national economic growth with integrity, transparency and efficiency.

DABS is an independent and autonomous corporation, owned by the State of Afghanistan, incorporated on 4th May 2008 (15 Saur 1387). DABS has been established under The Corporations and Limited Liabilities Law of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, operating on a commercial basis, and guided by the overall policies and regulations for the energy sector developed by the Ministry of Energy and Water.

Media Contact: info.dabs@gmail.com; Mr. Mirwais Alami, phone: + 93 (0) 708 36 00 00