



NEWS RELEASE

NAM THEUN 2 FINANCING LAUNCHED

VIENTIANE, March 1, 2004 -- The Nam Theun 2 Power Company Ltd (NTPC) and its shareholders (EDF International, EGCO, Electricité du Laos and Italian-Thai Development) have completed the selection of both International and Thai Lead-Arrangers to arrange and underwrite the US\$ and Thai Baht loan facilities for the Nam Theun 2 cross-border 1,070 MW Hydroelectric Project in Lao PDR.

Commercial banks which comprise 9 international banks and 7 Thai banks are in the process of being appointed.

Among the international banks BNP Paribas will act as Documentation Bank, Fortis Bank as PRG/PRI Coordinator, SG as ECA Coordinator, ANZ as Technical and Insurance Bank and KBC as Modeling Bank, with Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi, Credit Agricole Indosuez, ING and Standard Chartered completing the International Lead Arrangers group formed on a club-deal basis.

Among the Thai banks Bangkok Bank will coordinate documentation requirements, Bank of Ayudhya and Kasikornbank will coordinate the technical due diligence, Siam Commercial Bank and Thai Military Bank will coordinate insurance matters with Krung Thai Bank and Siam City Bank completing the Thai Lead Arranging group.

NTPC will raise about USD 850 million equivalent of long term debt financing in equal proportions between Thai Baht and US\$. The financing plan for the Project contemplates a combination of Thai Baht commercial Loans and US\$ commercial loans to be covered against certain risks by the ADB, MIGA, the World Bank and Export Credit Agencies including Coface of France, EDC of Canada, EKN of Sweden and GIEK of Norway. Development Financing Institutions such as AFD (French Agency for Development) and PROPARCO, as well as Nordic Investment Bank, Thai-Exim and the ADB are also expected to provide direct USD loans to NTPC.

Commitments from banks are expected by the end of 2004 with Financial Close scheduled in May 2005.

ANZ and Kasikornbank are acting as NTPC's financial advisors and Clifford Chance and PwC are acting as NTPC's legal advisors. The Lenders have appointed Allen & Overy, Chandler & Tong-Ek and Mekong Law Group as their legal advisors and PB Power as their technical advisor.

A Concession Agreement with the Government of the Lao PDR was signed in October 2002 and Power Purchase Agreements with EGAT and Electricité du Laos in November 2003. Commercial Operation is planned by the end of 2009.

-###-

*For more information about the Nam Theun 2 Project, please visit our website
<http://www.namtheun2.com>*