


a challenge. Apart from the turbines, the Civil Works contractor will procure the balance of the mechanical items under subcontracts once the designs and other detail requirements have been finalised. The site teams are liaising closely with local land owners, particularly for the construction of the access roads.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT

The consulting services include design of the civil works, compilation of tender and contract documents for the civil works and turbine supply contracts and the supervision of construction and project management.

Construction of the project commenced during late November 2006 and is due to be completed by mid February 2008. River diversion, to deal with the continuously flowing water from the LHWP, is a challenge. In order to satisfy operating requirements, Kaplan turbines, supplied from India, will be installed in a reinforced concrete power house in relatively deep excavations, which are required to provide the necessary back pressure to prevent cavitation of the turbine blades. Negotiations with Eskom for power line connections to the local grid network are in the process of being concluded.

Local farmers and stakeholders have been included in the Environmental Approval process for the schemes and associated power lines. Although the EIA process has been time consuming, there has been general support from both the authorities and the public for the construction of the project, particularly in the light of the fact that energy harnessed from the project will not cause pollution. 



Satellite image of South Africa's Orange River.