

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Press Release

NGC hosts Contractors' Forum

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC) held its first Contractors' Forum last week, designed to boost contractor performance management to provide quality, timely and cost effective services.

Reviewing projects completed over the last five years, Mr. Wade Hamilton, NGC's Vice President, Technical Services said the company faced a number of challenges and that the Forum was aimed at continuous improvement of its construction projects. Some of the challenges according to Mr. Hamilton included conformance to contract requirements and schedules, safety standards, cost overruns and high fees.

"What we are attempting to do as we go forward with this series of Contractors Forums is to have a discussion with contractors to alert them about the issues that have arisen over the years, the lessons learnt and how we plan to mitigate some of these issues that have occurred going forward, so we can have better delivery and execution of projects," Mr. Hamilton told contractors gathered at the Cara Suite Hotel and Conference Centre in Claxton Bay.

Mr. Patrick Bynoe, Manager, Engineering and Construction Services (Ag.) added that NGC would like to have a smoother process of implementation of contracts, particularly in ensuring that contractors were well acquainted with the conditions of the contract, improving efficiencies, and ensuring procedures were up to date and that costs were acceptable.

The Contractors attending the forum were engaged in a vibrant question and answer session and presentations on the Standard Forms of Contract,

Project Management Controls, Development of Contractor Standard Operating Procedures, Project Insurance Requirement and Safety Matters.

They were also brought up to date on major projects that are on-going, including the Phoenix Park Power Station upgrade and the Liquids Fuel Project at Caroni.

Mr. Hamilton said NGC was also focussed on finding cost-effective ways of pipeline installation for the light industrial consumer sector, particularly the manufacturing industry that consume less than 5 mcf of gas daily.

He said that NGC also planned to embark on tenders later this year for the rehabilitation of its aging pipeline infrastructure, some of which were over 30 years old, and was also looking at a cross-country pipeline to deliver more gas to new plants that are being proposed for the Point Lisas Industrial Estate.