

Dear Sirs,

Thank you very much for the additional information provided. We have studied and discussed the terms of reference and would like to inform you that our institute is able to cover all aspects and disposes also of the qualification needed for performing the tasks mentioned in this document.

Although the tasks to be performed by us have been made clearer after receiving the terms of reference, for providing the invoice paper information required (costs, experts, duration etc.) we have certain aspects which we could clarify only after an on-site pre-assessment visit of our experts. Therefore, we would like to ask you if it possible to perform such a pre-assessment visit, and if yes, please be kind to propose the period which would be convenient for you.

Thank you and we are looking forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Best wishes,

George Artur GĂMAN - PhD., Eng.

General Director

Dear Mr. Gaman

Thank you very much for your instant reply on our letter.

Regarding your questions, I'd like to provide to you following information:

Tkibuli-Shaori coalfield is located in the sub-mountain part of the Great Caucasus southern slope, near Tkibuli industrial city (45-50 km northeastwards from the city of Kutaisi). Deposit area spans over the territory of Tkibuli and Ambrolauri administrative regions of Georgia.

There are two coal mines in operation, Mindeli and Dzidziguri. Both are part of the Tkibuli-Shaori coal basin which is located in mountainous areas of Imereti close to the border to Racha (western part of Georgia). The company mines hard coal in underground operations. The coal is a sort of medium volatile bituminous coal which contains considerable amounts of methane. Total amount of coal under the mining license amount to 331 m metric tons.

Because of the fact that coal seams are deemed to be subject to hazards from rock-bursts and, therefore, Tkibuli-Shaori coal mines' are characterized by extreme geological conditions, the operations apply the mining of both upper and lower protective layers.

The coal-bearing series are represented by three levels: lower sandstones (the soil sandstone), the coal-bearing stratum and upper sandstone (the top sandstone). This Coal-bearing seam up to 32m thick, the foundation of the coal-bearing deposits of Tkibuli- Shaori region, lays on the powerful (1000-25000 m) series of porphyritic rocks, dated from the Bajocian age (consisting of porphyrite, tuff-breccia and sandstone), and shale from the Bathonian age with the 100-150m thickness. The coal-bearing seam with the up to 32m thickness is conditionally divided into nine separate coal beds, out of which coal mining is currently held at II, 7/4, III and IV beds.

Currently, a total of 1500 mining and other personal are employed in the company.

Also, please find Terms of References for Tkibuli mines technical and H&S inspections as attached file.

Sincerely,

Grigol Tchkadua

Labour Condition Inspecting Department

Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

Address: 144 Ak. Tsereteli ave, Tbilisi/Georgia

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Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank you for expressing your interest in our institute's activities and for your intention of cooperation.

For almost 70 years, National Institute for Research and Development in Mine Safety and Protection to Explosion – INSEMEX Petrosani has developed research activities which mainly aim the improvement of the occupational health and safety level for the underground mining industry, being assigned as state authority in this field.

Taking into account the underground coal mining activity performed by “Saknakhshiri” (GIG Group) LTD, INSEMEX is able to provide consultancy for the following main directions:

- mining ventilation and degasification of coalbeds for reducing methane releases;
- blasting works and blasting techniques;
- safety of explosion-proof equipment and installations;
- mining rescue and intervention operations.

In this regard, for providing the requested consultancy service, we propose the following work programme:

1. On-site visit of INSEMEX experts;
2. Collection of data/documentation and other relevant information on the accident cases from the two mines;
3. Providing INSEMEX with technical information concerning technological processes for mining / mining methods;
4. Analysis of existing documentation;
5. Development of proposals for improving existing documentation (recommendations, procedures, guidelines, norms etc.);
6. Training of workers for the main topics mentioned before;
7. Workshop organisation;
8. Follow-up on the recommendations set up by INSEMEX .

In order to be able to draw up the technical and financial offer, please be kind to provide us several additional preliminary information, for each one of the two mines (Mindeli and Dzidziguri).

- geographic location and geo-mining conditions;
- number of workers;
- production;
- current mining methods etc.

Also, we kindly ask you to express your opinion on the work programme/consultancy activities proposal, on the estimative number of persons which you are willing to involve from your behalf in these activities and to inform us who is going to be the beneficiary party with whom the potential consultancy contract shall be concluded.

Thank you in advance and we are waiting for your answer with interest.

Best wishes,

George Artur GAMAN – PhD., Eng.

General Director

To: **George Artur Gaman**
GENERAL MANAGER
Insemex Consulting

Dear Mr. Gaman

First of all, on behalf of the Labour Condition Inspecting Department of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, let me to greet you.

As you might know, in Tkibuli/Georgia there are two active coal mines in operation, Mindeli mine and Dzidziguri mine. Coal mining in this area has started from the 19th century. Currently, from 2006 mines are operated under the “Saknakshiri” (GIG Group) LTD.

It’s very regretful to mention that during last several years, mines hold leading places in occupational accident field. As for example, in 2018, 12 miners have died and several injured in Tkibuli.

Coming out from this situation, International Labour Organization (ILO), suggested your organization as consultant that can assist ILO tripartite constituents in Georgia in improving working conditions in Saknakshiri (GIG Group) LTD and can also provide expertise in the areas of mine management and operation practices and systems.

Thus, based on above mentioned issues, we kindly ask you, to notify us if you are ready to engage in consultation process for Saknakshiri (GIG Group) LTD in Tkibuli mines and provide your invoice paper mentioning all of the costs, number of engaged experts/specialists and duration period and other issues related to these procedures.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Grigol Tchkadua

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