

I Need Your Questions
By Woody M. Collins
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"When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, (fame due to the name of the LORD), she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her." 1 Kings 10:1-3

I am the Project Leader for our Project Proposal - Providing Transportation and Power for Rural Village Health Centers. Our project was selected as one of the 105 finalists in the World Bank's Global Development Marketplace 2007 (DM2007) Competition. This year's competition which paired up with the World Bank Health, Nutrition and Population (HNP) units to focus on improving health, nutrition and population services for the poor, attracted a record high of nearly 2,900 applicants. As a finalist, we are invited to the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC on May 22-23 to display our project and to vie for grant funding. Our project requested \$199,960 to establish a Basic Utility Vehicle (BUV) micro factory in Congo and to provide 28 rural village health centers with a BUV.



The BUV is a three wheeled vehicle which utilize a 10 horsepower diesel engine and a small pickup truck rear-end wheel assembly. The BUV will be used to transport patients, supplies, and equipment to and from the health center and the reference hospital. And the BUV will be used to generate electricity for the health center. Finally, it can run pumps and grain mills for the village.

As a finalist, we requested and received comments on our initial and draft full proposal from the MIT Sloan School of Management in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Afterward, we completed and submitted our final and full proposal on April 11. The Development Marketplace team has assembled a group of jurors who will visit each finalist team on May 22, the first day of the Final Event for the DM2007 Competition. The jury is comprised of roughly 50 percent World Bank Group staff and 50 percent from outside the World Bank (such as Inter-American Development Bank, Oxfam, McKinsey and Company, Harvard University, Microsoft, and GTZ). Jury members are senior level representatives of the institutions they are from. During two 15-minute jury visits, our team should be prepared to answer any questions the jurors may have about our proposal, our project idea, our implementation plan, budget details, organization background, etc.

To help us prepare for the jury visit, I am looking for volunteers to review and send me questions, comments, or concerns you may have regarding the four documents (the 15-page final proposal, 3-year budget, Curriculum Vitae for the Project Leader, and our Contact Information Sheet) submitted as the final and full proposal to the DM2007 team. If you would like to assist me (or know someone), please contact me for the documents. Together, we can make a difference. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

PS: The third major spoken language in the United States after English and Spanish is Chinese.

Blessings,

Woody M. Collins
President
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