Construction of a new multi-purpose 40 Megawatt dam in Taraba State, Nigeria will generate much needed electricity for the country and provide job opportunities, social and economic benefits to people in the area.

The preliminary design was for a dam with a storage capacity of 200 million m³ but this was subsequently increased to 500 million m³. The main challenges were related to the lack of data in the hydrological and geological studies as well as the project location in the extreme south-eastern part on Nigeria, which required long travel times on very poor roads.

The hydropower station was initially designed with an installed capacity of 18 MW, however, following detailed hydrological modelling and yield analysis carried out by Aurecon, a 40 MW installed capacity was implemented. Aurecon’s input on this project led to a more economical design of the dam and an increased installed capacity for the hydropower station.

The dam is expected to be ready for commissioning in December 2014.