



# MEETING NOTES

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Sol Invictus 132kV Powerline BAR
<b>PROJECT NUMBER</b>	41102909
<b>DATE</b>	20 July 2021
<b>TIME</b>	10h00
<b>VENUE</b>	Online (MS Teams)
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Pre-Application Meeting with DFFE
<b>CLIENT</b>	Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd
<b>PRESENT</b>	Zama Langa (DFFE) – ZL Nyiko Nkosi (DFFE) – NN Dr. Danie Smit (DFFE) – DS Magdalena Logan (Red Rocket) – ML Janine Brasington (Red Rocket) – JB Ashlea Strong (WSP) – AS Robert Els (WSP) – RE Jennifer Green (WSP) – JG
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Ephron Maradwa (DFFE) Tim Szöke (Red Rocket)
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	As above

MATTERS ARISING	ACTION
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— JG welcomed everyone followed by a round of introductions and an overview of the meeting agenda.</li><li>— A PowerPoint presentation was presented to all attendees to provide information and mapping.</li></ul> <p><i>* JG received consent from all parties present to record the meeting.</i> <i>** A copy of the PowerPoint presentation has been attached hereto for reference.</i></p>	
<b>2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND</b>	
<b>2.1 Project Background and Description</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— JG provided a brief overview of the Project, identifying Sol Invictus (Pty) Ltd as the applicant and provided background to the Sol Invictus PV Solar Energy Facility (PVSEF) for which the proposed overhead powerline (OHPL) is required for the evacuation of generated power.</li></ul>	

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## MEETING NOTES

### MATTERS ARISING

### ACTION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The Project comprises the 132kV OHPL of approximately 23km in length, as well as the proposed Eskom collector substation (on the PVSEF site) and expansion of the existing Eskom substation (near Agenneys).</li> <li>— Layouts showing the PVSEF and proposed Project infrastructure were shown.</li> <li>— The location of the Project areas was identified as being between 15km-25km SW of Agenneys, in the Nama Khoi Local Municipality, Northern Cape.</li> <li>— The Project traverses 8 farm portions affecting 2 landowners.</li> <li>— Key consideration noted include the OHPL traversing CBAs, ESAs, a FEPA, the Kamiesberg Bushmanland Augrabies NPAES, and that the OHPL falls within the Northern Strategic Transmission Corridor (STC).</li> </ul> <p>2.2 <b>Assessment Process and Competent Authority</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— JG ran through the applicable Listed Activities of the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended), noting a Basic Assessment (BA) process is required for the application for Environmental Authorisation.</li> <li>— JG indicated that DFFE had been identified as the Competent Authority (CA).</li> <li>— NN confirmed that DFFE is the CA.</li> </ul> <p>2.3 <b>Specialist Assessments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— JG ran through the identified sensitivities as per the DFFE Online Screening Tool report, and specialist assessments noted therein.</li> <li>— JG identified the specialist assessments that are to be undertaken as part of the BA process, as well as the studies that are not being undertaken as part of the assessment and supporting reasons for their exclusion.</li> </ul> <p>2.4 <b>Public Participation Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— JG provided an overview of the proposed public participation process in accordance with the EIA Regulations (2014, as amended).</li> <li>— JG noted that a draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) will be issued to DFFE along with the meeting minutes for consideration and approval.</li> </ul> <p>2.5 <b>Timeframes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— JG noted the application process will follow the legislated BA timelines; however, as the 132kV OHPL is located within the Northern STC, it would benefit from the shortened decision-making timeframes (57 days instead of 107 days) outlined in GN 113.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.0 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS</b></p>	
<p>JG opened the floor for any comments or questions. The following items were raised and discussed.</p> <p>3.1 <b>Northern Strategic Transmission Corridor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— NN queried whether the full transmission line was located within the Northern STC.</li> <li>— JG confirmed that the full OHPL is within the STC.</li> <li>— NN noted that the transmission line route would need to be pre-negotiated with landowners and confirmation thereof provided with the application.</li> <li>— NN further noted that a map showing the location of the entire OHPL route within the Northern STC would also need to be submitted as part of the application.</li> </ul> <p>3.2 <b>Online Submission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— NN noted that all submissions are to be undertaken via the online submission platform, excluding the pre-application meeting minutes and PPP which are to be emailed to ZL for approval.</li> <li>— The approved meeting minutes and PPP are also required to be attached to the application.</li> <li>— NN requested that, upon submission, the main report is separated from the appendices and that the appendices are appropriately labelled (i.e. include description/heading).</li> </ul> <p>3.3 <b>Minutes and PPP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— ZL queried when DFFE will receive the minutes and PPP.</li> <li>— RE indicated that the draft minutes and PPP would be issued that afternoon (20 July) or the following morning (21 July).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Application to include:- Map showing OHPL within Northern STC; Landowner approval of route</li> <li>— Application and Reporting to be submitted via online platform</li> <li>— Minutes and PPP to be submitted via email</li> </ul>

## MEETING NOTES

### MATTERS ARISING

### ACTION

#### 4.0 WAY FORWARD

- JG summarised the following action points for the way forward:
  - WSP to formalise meeting minutes and submit via email to DFFE, along with the Public participation Plan, for approval.
  - WSP to draft the application form and submit to DFFE along with all required supporting documentation as indicated herein.
  - WSP to submit all application and reporting documentation via the online platform.
- NN noted that as the Project includes proposed substations that two EMPs will be submitted.
- RE confirmed that the two generic EMPs (OHPL and Substations) will be submitted.


No further points were raised for discussion.

RE closed the meeting at 10h33.

- WSP to formalise meeting minutes and distribute, along with PPP, for approval
- Two generic EMPs to be submitted for the Project

### NEXT MEETING

No additional meetings have been scheduled.




**DFFE Pre-Application Meeting**  
Proposed 132kV Sol Invictus Overhead Powerline near Aggeneys, Northern Cape

20 July 2021

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**Agenda**

1. Introductions
2. Overview of the Project
  - Background
  - Location
  - Technical Description
3. Overview and Confirmation of Basic Assessment Process and Competent Authority
  - Listed Activities
  - Competent Authority
  - Specialist Assessments as identified by DEA Screening Tool
  - Specialist Studies commissioned
4. Public Participation Process
5. Timeframes
  - Shortened authority decision timeframes associated with GN 113
6. Questions and Discussions
7. Way Forward



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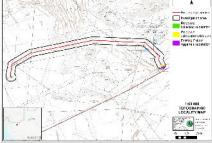
**1. Introductions**

- Red Rocket South Africa (Pty) Ltd:
  - Magdalena Logan
  - Janine Brasington
- WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd:
  - Jennifer Green (Environmental Consultant)
  - Robert Els (Project Manager)
  - Ashlea Strong (Project Director)
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE):
  - Nyiko Nkosi
  - Zama Langa
  - Ephron Maradwa
  - Dr Danie Smit




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**2. Overview of the Project**

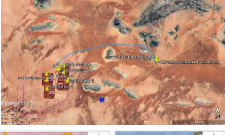
**Background**

- Red Rocket (applicant: Sol Invictus (Pty) Ltd)
- Sol Invictus PV Solar Energy Facility (PVSEF) 1 - 6
  - Originally only 4 PV projects of 150MW each (i.e. Sol Invictus 1 - 4) were planned and authorised under 4 separate EAs in September 2016.
  - Proponent later split (February 2019):
    - Sol Invictus 3 into two 75MW projects (i.e. Sol Invictus 3 and 5, and
    - Sol Invictus 4 into two 75MW projects (i.e. Sol Invictus 4 and 6 (75MW))
- EA still required for:
  - OHPL for evacuation of generated power (current application – ‘the Project)
- The Project
  - 132kV Overhead Powerline (OHPL) of approx. 23 km in length
  - Connecting Sol Invictus 1 - 6 PVSEF cluster to national grid via-
    - proposed Eskom collector substation, and
    - proposed expansion of existing Eskom Substation near Aggeneys



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## 2. Overview of the Project




### Location

- Location
  - Project area between 15km-25km SW of Aggeneys, NC
  - Namakwa District Municipality
  - Nama Khoi Local Municipality
  - Project will occur on the following farm portions:
    - Portion 5 of Farm 66
    - Portion 6 of Farm 66
    - Portion 14 of Farm 66
    - Portion 5 of Farm 62
    - Portion 6 of Farm 62
    - Portion 2 of Farm 62
    - Portion 1 of Farm 56
    - Portion 2 of Farm 56

Two land owners

- Key considerations for the Project:
  - OHPL traverses several areas classified as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA) – as per Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas (2016)
  - OHPL traverses a sub-quaternary catchment considered important as a Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (FEPA). No wetlands will be traversed by the OHPL (a natural depression wetland indicated within south western portion of the investigation area, considered to be in a largely natural (Class A/B) ecological condition with only a few modifications) – as per NFEPA database (2011).
  - Project falls within the Kamiesberg Bushmanland Augrabies National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) focus area
  - Falls within Northern Strategic Transmission Corridor




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## 2. Overview of the Project

### Technical Description

- Overhead Powerline**
  - 132kV steel single or double structure with kingbird conductor
  - Approximately 23km in length
  - A 200m corridor around the powerline will be assessed, 100m either side
  - Pole positions will only be available post preferred bidder award (i.e. once the powerline design has started)
- Construction Methodology**
  - Standard overhead line construction methodology will be employed-
    - Drill holes or excavate (depending on ground conditions), plant poles, string conductor
  - Not envisaged that any large excavations and stabilized backfill will be required




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## 3. Overview and Confirmation of BA Process and Competent Authority

### Listed Activities

- Listing Notice 1 - GNR 327

LISTED ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY
<b>Activity 11:</b> The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more; excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is — (a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure; (b) 24 kilometres or shorter in length; (c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and (d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.	The project involves the construction of a 132kV powerline to evacuate electricity from the Sol Invictus PVSEF.  APPLICABLE
<b>Activity 12 (i), (a) and (c):</b> The development of— (i) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse	There is potential for the alignment of the powerline to be constructed within 32m of a watercourse(s). The footprint of the powerline and associated servitude is greater than 100m².  POTENTIALLY APPLICABLE
<b>Activity 19</b> The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse	There is potential for the OHPL to be constructed within 32m of a watercourse(s) and depending on the footprint of the infrastructure, this activity may be triggered.  POTENTIALLY APPLICABLE




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## 3. Overview and Confirmation of BA Process and Competent Authority

### Listed Activities (Cont.)

- Listing Notice 3 - GNR 324

LISTED ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY
<b>Activity 12 (i), (a) and (b):</b> The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation. Except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The OHPL route traverses a CBA (according to the Namakwa Biodiversity Sector Plan and the Northern Cape Provincial Biodiversity Plan) and falls within the Kamiesberg Bushmanland Augrabies National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) focus area.  APPLICABLE
<b>Activity 14 (i), (c) and (d), (i), (ii) and (ff):</b> The development of— (i) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.	The construction of the OHPL tower structures will potentially require the clearance of indigenous vegetation where the combined area to be cleared will exceed 300m².  APPLICABLE
Northern Cape: (i) Outside urban areas; (ii) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.	The OHPL route traverses a CBA (according to the Namakwa Biodiversity Sector Plan and the Northern Cape Provincial Biodiversity Plan) and falls within the Kamiesberg Bushmanland Augrabies NPAES focus area.  There is potential for the powerline to be constructed within 32m of a watercourse(s) and depending on the footprint of the infrastructure, this activity may be triggered.  APPLICABLE




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### 3. Overview and Confirmation of BA Process and Competent Authority

#### Competent Authority

- Section 24C(2)(a) of NEMA
  - The Minister must be identified as the CA if the activity has implications for international environmental commitments or relations
- GN 779 of 01 July 2016
  - Identifies the Minister as the CA for the consideration and processing of environmental authorisations and amendments thereto for activities related the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 – 2030
  - Proposed Sol Invictus 132KV OHPL constitutes associated infrastructure of the approved Sol Invictus PVSEF cluster (1 to 6)
- DFFE is therefore deemed to be the Competent Authority

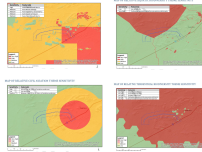



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### 3. Overview and Confirmation of BA Process and Competent Authority

#### DEA Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme				X
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme		X		
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme			X	
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			


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### 3. Overview and Confirmation of BA Process and Competent Authority

#### DEA Screening Tool Specialist Assessments

- Agricultural
- Landscape/Visual
- Archaeological & Cultural Heritage
- Palaeontology
- Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Aquatic Biodiversity
- Avian
- Civil Aviation
- Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)
- Geotechnical
- Plant Species
- Animal Species

N	Specialist Assessment	Assessment Protocol
1	Agricultural Potential Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Archaeological_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Archaeological_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
3	Avifauna Impact Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Avifauna_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Avifauna_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
4	Palaeontology Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Palaeontology_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Palaeontology_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
5	Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
6	Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
7	Avian Impact Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_Avifauna_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_Avifauna_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
8	Civil Aviation Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_Civil_Aviation_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_Civil_Aviation_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
9	Geotechnical Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
10	Plant Species Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
11	Animal Species Assessment	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://www.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Screening_General_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>



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### 3. Overview and Confirmation of BA Process and Competent Authority

#### Specialist Studies Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment	A soils survey will be undertaken and the Agricultural Research Council Guidelines will be used to identify and map land capability and soil potential.
Archaeological and Cultural heritage Desktop Assessment	The Heritage Specialist has prepared a cover letter to motivate for a desktop vs fieldwork Heritage Impact Assessment and submitted this to SAHRA. If SAHRA approves, a desktop Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Visual Impact Assessment	The powerline could potentially negatively impact sensitive visual receptors. A Visual Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	A large portion of the route falls within a CBA and the OHPL falls within the Kamiesberg Bushmanland Augrabies NPAES focus area. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment has therefore been included in the BA process.
Freshwater Impact Assessment	The proposed route falls within an FEPA and a wetland occurs within the Project area. A Freshwater Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken.
Avifauna Impact Assessment	Due to the potential impacts on birds as a result of the Overhead Powerline, an Avifauna Assessment will be undertaken as part of the BA Process.
Bat Impact Assessment	A desktop assessment to determine potential impacts on bats will be undertaken. A brief field survey will only be performed if during the desktop assessment the powerline route is identified to be in close proximity to potentially important bat roosts, which require investigation.
Social Statement	A detailed social statement will be prepared. The social statement will be based on a desktop review and telephonic interviews with key stakeholders.
Climate Change	A high level assessment will be conducted of the potential for climate change storm-related damage to powerlines in the study area.



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### 3. Overview and Confirmation of BA Process and Competent Authority

#### Specialist Studies NOT Commissioned

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Geotechnical	A Geotechnical Assessment will not be undertaken as part of the BA Process as this will be undertaken during the design phase, once preferred bidder status is obtained.
RFI	A Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) Study will not be undertaken.  SKA-SA conducted a high-level risk assessment to determine the impact of the proposed Sol Invictus PVSEF cluster on the SKA in December 2016. The nearest SKA station is approximately 180km from the PVSEF site. SKA-SA confirmed that the proposed PVSEF cluster poses a very low risk of detrimental impact on the SKA given the distance. No mitigation measures or further studies were proposed.  SKA-SA will be engaged with as part of the Public Participation Process.
Civil Aviation	A portion of the powerline falls within 8km of the Aggeneys Airport. A formal Civil Aviation Assessment will not be undertaken as part of the BA Process. Nevertheless, the relevant Authorities (such as the Civil Aviation Authority) will be included on the project stakeholder database. They will be informed of the proposed Project, and comment will be sought from these authorities as applicable.  An Application for the Approval of Obstacles will also be submitted to SACAA.
Palaeontology	Palaeontological resources in this area are predominantly listed as of low significance (blue) on the Palaeo Sensitivity Map and the appointed Heritage Specialist has therefore proposed that a letter of exemption from doing a specialist study is requested from a palaeontologist.

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### 4. Public Participation Process

#### Public Participation Plan

- Site notices:
  - English and Afrikaans
- Compilation and management of I&AP Database
- Written notification:
  - Owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site
  - Municipality Ward Councillor
  - District Municipality
  - Relevant State Departments
- Advertisement (One English and one Afrikaans in local newspaper)
- Draft BA Report Review for 30 days
  - WSP on request
  - Online on the WSP website
  - WSP will confirm with Aggeneys Public Library as to whether they are open and able to accept documents for public review
- No provision has been made for public or focus group meetings due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

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### 5. Timeframes

- Shortened authority decision timeframes associated with GN 113
  - Falls within Northern Strategic Transmission Corridor

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### 6. Questions and Discussion

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