national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# ANNEXURE 1

# FACTSHEET ON eTENDER PUBLICATION PORTAL FOR GOVERNMENT

## Introduction

Currently no single point of entry exists for the publication of national, provincial and local government tenders causing duplication and fragmentation of notices for government tender opportunities. It does not support easy and transparent access to businesses in South Africa to government tender opportunities. In addition, information related to the award of tenders is not consistently published with information related to the successful bidder, price awarded and the names of bidders.

The eTender Publication portal is aimed at simplifying, standardising and automation of the procurement process. It is in fact a first step towards implementing government's eProcurement system as part of the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) and will directly contribute to reducing duplication, fragmentation and inefficiency in government tender publications. The eTender Publication Portal is an initiative from the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer (OCPO) that would practically lead to the following benefits:

- Provide a tool where South African business and government meet digitally;
- Reduce and eliminate duplication costs and effort associated with traditional tender publications;
- Improve competition for government business; and
- Improve transparency and accountability in relation to the public and award of government tenders.

## What happens on 1 April 2015?

By 1 April 2015, the eTender portal will regularly exhibit all public sector tenders for national and provincial departments in South Africa. The portal is managed by the Office the Chief Procurement officer (OCPO) who sets the policy on content, functionality and coordinates the administration with users at national, provincial

and local government level. The technical support, maintenance and hosting of the portal is provided by SITA.

Prior to advertising on the eTender portal, the departments should submit their Procurement Plans before the last day of April. As of next year, the timelines for submitting the procurement plans will be shifted to 31 March to coincide with the end of the financial year and advertising in the beginning of the starting financial year. The tenders for the 2015/16 financial should start going through towards the end of April 2015 for procurement plans that have been approved.

This portal provides the following functionality:

- Publication of all tender notices, accompanied by official tender documents and relevant Terms of Reference or other description of functionality that may be applicable;
- Publication of corrigendum by procuring entities;
- Publication of Award notices and minimum information prescribed by the OCPO;
- Comprehensive information on procurement rules and guidelines;
- Search capability to identify opportunities per:

| | |
|---|---|
| Commodity category: | Eg. Motor vehicles or medical equipment or ITC Equipment; |
| Tender Type: | Eg. Request for Bid (RFB), Request for Quotation (RFQ), Request for Information (RFI); |
| Tender Status: | Eg. Published, Awarded, and Cancelled; |
| Region: | Eg. Province, Department, Municipality, District; |
| Sector: | Eg. Health, Education or Transport; |

There is no charge to contracting authorities or suppliers for this service. eTender Publishing Portal is also freely available for use by the oversight bodies, media and the public.

## What happens on 1 July 2015?

The above mentioned arrangements will become applicable to municipalities and municipal entities to coincide with the start of the municipal financial year.

By 1 July 2015, the eTender portal will regularly exhibit all public sector tenders for national and provincial departments as well as for municipal tenders in South Africa.

## Where to access the portal?

www.etenders.gov.za

(Active from 1 April 2015)

## What are the benefits?

- Single point of entry to view, search and identify government tender opportunities;
- Improve competitiveness in the tender process by making it easier to identify to access tender information and documents;
- Increase transparency in relation to the tender awards published on the eTender portal;
- First step to digitalising interaction between South African business and government;
- Reduce and hopefully eliminate duplication of costs and effort associated with traditional tender publications;
- Provide a free service to departments, business and public in accessing tender information and opportunities.

## Current tender publication processes

Departments, municipalities and public entities are currently publishing tenders in at least the government gazette. This practise will continue until 31 March 2016 to ensure a stable and smooth transition from paper based tender notices and awards to digital tender process. A National Treasury Instruction note will be issued in January 2016 to formalise minimum requirements on how procuring entities must

approach the publication of tenders in the government gazette, eTender portal, electronic media, printed media and other channels to publicise tender opportunities.

The eTender Portal will link with government's Central Supplier Database: this will be the first step to establish an eProcurement system as part of the Integrated Financial Management System of government.

## What is the impact?

The benefit for private sector will be red tape reduction and administrative effort to do business with government. Access to tender information will be centralised and transparency will be increased by publishing award notices with the name of the winning bidder and price quoted on the eTender Portal.

## Future Developments

The eTender Portal will provide functionality to subscribe to email alerts, tender apps, and enhanced search capability. Electronic submission and evaluation of tenders will also be automated in the next three years resulting in digital tender process. These features will be available once the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) development and implementation has adequately advanced to accommodate eProcurement processes.

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