



Any reply or subsequent reference to this communication should be addressed to the Contractor-General and the following reference quoted:-

No. :

TELEPHONE No. : 929-8560/6466

FAX No. : 929-7335

E-mail: general@ocg.gov.jm

OFFICE OF THE CONTRACTOR-GENERAL
17 KNUTSFORD BOULEVARD
P.O. Box 540
KINGSTON 5
JAMAICA, W.I.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTRACTOR GENERAL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE TO FACILITATE PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACT AWARDS UNDER \$4 MILLION

Kingston, April 4, 2007 – In its on-going drive to bring increased transparency to the Government contract awards process, to ensure compliance with Government procurement rules, and to prevent corruption in Public Sector procurement, the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) has today launched a new website through which particulars of Government contract awards, beneath \$4 million in value, can be publicly scrutinized.

The information which is being made available to the public has been garnered from the Quarterly Contract Award (QCA) Reports which Procuring Public Bodies are now legally required to file with the OCG in respect of contract awards in the range of \$250,000 to \$3,999,999.

The OCG's QCA Report regime is a major anti-corruption initiative which was introduced last year by Contractor General, Greg Christie, shortly after he was appointed into office. It is applicable to Government contracts which are awarded as of May 1, 2006.

“This new and ground-breaking measure will significantly assist the process of bringing Jamaica into line with the best practices in procurement, which are employed by those jurisdictions which are globally ranked as ‘least corrupt’. Effective today, the Government of Jamaica, taxpayers, competing contractors, the media and other stakeholders, will have access to an unprecedented wealth of information regarding the award of Government contracts by Public Bodies”, Mr. Christie said.

...MORE



Included in the information which will be provided, is the following:

1. A brief description of each contract which has been awarded;
2. The name of the Public Body which has awarded the contract;
3. The name of the contractor to whom the contract was awarded;
4. The date of the contract award;
5. The value of the contract;
6. An indication as to whether the contractor was a qualified Government contractor who was registered with the National Contracts Commission (NCC);
7. The procurement method which was utilized by the Public Body in selecting the contractor;
8. The number of tenders or quotes which were received; and
9. An indication as to whether or not the contract award was evaluated and approved by the Procurement Committee of the relevant Public Body.

To view the QCA Report particulars of Procuring Public Bodies, interested persons should go to the OCG's website at www.ocg.gov.jm and then click on the link: '**Contracts Under \$4 Million**'.

Consistent with its strategic and operational objectives, the OCG has already begun to analyze the QCA data which it has so far received. Its preliminary findings have disclosed that more than 6,100 contracts in the \$250,000 to \$4 million range, valuing approx. \$5.7 billion, were awarded by 174 Procuring Public Bodies during the period May 1 to December 31, 2006.

Of significant concern, however, is the discovery that roughly 23% or just over 1,400 of these contracts, valuing more than \$1 billion, were reportedly awarded without evaluation by, or the approval of, the Procurement Committees of the awarding Public Bodies. Of even greater concern to the OCG is the alarming disclosure that over 3,100 contracts or approx. 51% of the total contracts scrutinized, valuing more than \$2.7 billion, were reportedly awarded to contractors who were not registered with the National Contracts Commission (NCC) or who were not qualified to receive Government contracts.

...MORE



“The gravity and implications of these preliminary findings are very worrying. The OCG’s QCA Regime has clearly begun to graphically demonstrate its immeasurable value. Decisive steps must be taken to ensure that Public Bodies and Public Officials who willfully ignore the Government’s Procurement rules are brought to book”, the Contractor General said.

The QCA Report Regime was designed, developed and implemented by the OCG within pre-existing OCG human and budgetary resource allocations and without any capital expenditures being made. It has allowed the OCG, among other things, to improve the discharge of its core statutory mandates of monitoring and investigating the award of Government contracts in a substantially more informed, effective and efficient manner.

Persons who access the OCG’s new website facility are asked to take special note of the Conditions which are associated with the publication of the QCA data. In particular, it should be noted that the OCG has delayed the uploading of the QCA Reports of several Procuring Public Bodies pending their satisfactory completion and submission of their QCA Reports in both the required electronic and hard copy formats.

The QCA Report information, which will be updated regularly, is published by the OCG pursuant to the powers which are reserved to the Contractor General by Sections 4 and 24 (1) (b) of the Contractor General Act. Information regarding NCC-endorsed Government contract award recommendations, of \$4 million in value and above, is already available for public scrutiny on the OCG’s website.

-END-

Contact: Claudia Williams
Communications Officer
Office of the Contractor-General
Tel: (876) 929-6460
Pvt: (876) 968-8061
E-mail: cwilliams@ocg.gov.jm