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Contracts Circular N° 02/2013

Department of Contracts
Notre Dame Ravelin
FLORIANA FRN 1600

To Permanent Secretaries
Directors General
Directors
Heads of Public Sector Organisations

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ELECTRONIC PUBLIC PROCUREMENT – REVIEW OF TENDER TEMPLATES

Following the publication of Contracts Circular N° 13/2012 dated 13th June 2012, the provisions of which continue to apply, it is with pleasure to note that significant progress has been registered in the transition from traditional to electronic procurement. In fact, the number of e-tenders and registered economic operators is increasing very rapidly. Since the beginning of this year all tenders forwarded to this Department are being published through the electronic public procurement system. Besides, a good number of Departmental Tenders are also being published as e-tenders. In this regard, the lengthy co-existence of parallel electronic and paper-based procedures should be avoided as much as possible so as not to increase the costs incurred by both Contracting Authorities and Economic Operators alike while on the other hand further efficiency in public procurement is introduced.

In a continuous effort to streamline and simplify the tender processes, the Department has again embarked on an exercise to review the tender templates which include the single template for Supplies, Services and Works and other standard templates such as the 'General Rules Governing Tendering', together with the XML Tender Response Format (Tender Structure). The modifications carried out were both in terms of content and presentation.

The revised templates which are accessible, upon registration, via the e-tenders portal: www.etenders.gov.mt under 'Resources', must be invariably used with all electronic calls for tenders, irrespective of the estimated cost of the tenders. Furthermore, Government Departments and Organisations are also encouraged to use the electronic public procurement system for their calls for quotations. In this regard, it is expected that intelligent use is made of the purposely built-in flexibility of the templates.

It is hoped that this review of the tender templates will help to increase the efficient and effective award of public tenders while at the same time safeguard the important principles of fairness, transparency and non-discrimination between economic operators.

Francis Attard
Director General (Contracts)