



COUNTRY INITIATIVE

PRIVATE SESSION - XI ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INGP



**Ministry of Finance and Planning
30 National Heroes Circle,
Kingston 4, Jamaica**

Implementation of Electronic Tendering in Jamaica Project

1. Description and objectives of the initiative:

Since 1999, Jamaica has been steadily modernizing and reforming its public procurement systems. Several developments have taken place, aimed at strengthening the procurement legal framework, institution building and improving process and oversight. The many initiatives include new regulations, procedural improvements and introduction of standard bidding documents. Several other actions have been undertaken geared at improving transparency and public confidence in the public procurement process.

The introduction of e-procurement is seen as a critical step in the procurement modernization process, and will further enhance transparency as well as to improve the efficiency of the process.

In 2005 Jamaica conducted an *E-Procurement Readiness Assessment*. This assessment found the country to be at a sufficient level of readiness to implement an e-procurement system. This was subsequently followed by the preparation of an *E-Procurement Strategy and Roadmap* document in 2007 as well as a number of other activities in pursuit of e-procurement development.

In order to support the development of e-GP, in December 2011, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a *Program to Implement Electronic Government Procurement in Jamaica*, through grant financing.

The Technical Cooperation was designed to finance the following project activities:

- i. Activity 1 – Development and implementation of a comprehensive e-tendering system;
- ii. Activity 2 – Development and implementation of a Training program; and
- iii. Activity 3 – Awareness and dissemination.

The objective of this program is to strengthen the efficiency and quality of public procurement in Jamaica through the development of an electronic government procurement system.

Expected results are defined as follows:

Outcome indicators	Base Level	Target	Comments
1. Strengthen the efficiency of public procurement.			
Average procurement cycle time.	4 months	3 months	This indicator will measure the average time it takes between requisition submission and purchase order placement.
2. Strengthen the quality of public procurement.			
% of public	Baseline	20 %	This indicator will measure progress

Outcome indicators	Base Level	Target	Comments
procurement processed through e-GP systems as % of GDP.	(Nov 2010):		towards the outcome of significant savings in government purchases due to greater competition among suppliers, better comparison of prices and reduction in transaction cost.
Competition, value for money and controls in procurement: Indicator PI – 19.	Baseline (2007):		Indicator PI-19 focuses on the quality and transparency of the procurement regulatory framework in terms of establishing the use of open and fair competition as the preferred procurement method and defines the alternatives to open competition that may be appropriate when justified in specific, defined situations.

2. Description – Principal characteristics of the initiative:

Characteristic	Requirements	Action & Comments
1. Leadership and Institutional Capacity:		
a. Government Leadership	Strong Government of Jamaica (GOJ) leadership and endorsement of the program.	The Government of Jamaica has endorsed and supported the initiative. The requisite budgetary, legislative and human resources requirements have been put in place.
2. Governance		
a. Policy	Policy setting and re-engineering of processes.	e-GP system implementation is being undertaken in the context of the GOJ's thrust to have ICT being an enabler for all sectors of the economy and in fact will become a major initiative in terms of e-Government. In addition, procurement business processes are in the process of being reengineered to leverage the use of electronic services where feasible, for e.g. the use of Web Services for validation of Suppliers Tax Compliance Status, replacing the paper Tax compliance certificate and the acceptance of payment by credit card (through the system) for tender documents, replacing manually delivered Supplier cheques / bank drafts.
b. Legislation	Providing the legal basis for procurement	The newly promulgated <i>Public Procurement Law, 2015</i> has sanctioned the use of the electronic procurement

Characteristic	Requirements	Action & Comments
	systems.	system for execution of government procurements.
c. Regulation	External and internal monitoring systems.	Procurement regulations are being drafted to support the prescribed methods and techniques built into the system..
3.Business Functionality & Standards:		
a. IT infrastructure / Services	Robust (country) Information Technology infrastructure.	Jamaica has a robust telecommunication infrastructure and relatively high Internet penetration rate hence making feasible the deployment of web based Procurement system. Additionally the GOJ has Public Internet Kiosks island-wide which will be leveraged for use by small suppliers not having direct Internet access.
b. Standards	Appropriate procurement and technical standards.	All procurement and technical / technology standards are compliant with the GOJ prescribed standards.
4.Business Involvement		
	Private sector activation and provision of incentives to participate in e-GP, especially for MSME's.	Recognizing that success will ultimately be dependent on Business / Suppliers project participation and use of the system, there has been strong collaboration with the Business community in respect of public education, providing feedback opportunities and system training.
5.Information Technology		
	Identification and implementation of appropriate technology solution.	Major activities have been as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identification, procurement and implementation of e-Tendering and Contract management system. ii. Identification and commissioning of training room facilities. iii. Leveraging of GOJ Island-wide Internet Kiosks outlets.

3. Impact and Achievements:

Activities	Details	Impact
i. Implementation of a comprehensive e-tendering system.	<p>e-Tendering & Contract Management modules of e-GP System was procured in May 2014 from European Dynamics UK with implementation activities commencing in July 2014.</p> <p>e-Tendering system commenced Pilot operations on schedule on July 31 2015. Pilot will run until December 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The e-GP utilizes technique and methods as prescribes in the PPL 2015 hence will standardize the procurement process. ii. Standardizes on the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) taxonomy for classification. iii. Provides for Supplier self registration and notification of tender opportunities, electronic delivery of tender documents, electronic submission of Supplier Bids and Electronic tender opening, hence increased efficiencies & cost savings. iv. Automation of the GOJ's Annual Procurement Planning (APP) process. v. Automation of the evaluation process, providing for the inclusion of evaluator scoring as well as having the functionality for partial system scoring. vi. Provides an electronic 'notice board' for all procurement opportunities and contract information. vii. Provides a single data-base for all GOJ procurement transactions, hence facilitating reporting & analysis.
ii. Development and implementation of a Training Program	<p>Multiple training initiatives have been undertaken among the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Electronic procurement systems Training for GOJ Procurement practitioners by Crown Agents UK b. E-GP System vendor led training for project team by European Dynamics. c. E-GP System Training for Procurement Officers is 	Trained and competent Procurement Practitioners and Suppliers.

Activities	Details	Impact
	<p>being conducted by the project team and will be ongoing as a part of the Procuring entity on-boarding activity.</p> <p>d. E-GP system training for Suppliers provided and ongoing</p>	
iii. Awareness and dissemination.	A holistic Public Education Campaign has been embarked upon utilizing various communications vehicles including the media (radio and television), stakeholder workshops and conferences and social media channels	Informed and educated Stakeholders.