

Procurement of Material for Biometric Voter Registration



Case studies: DR Congo and Conakry

Case: DR Congo



Scope of the Assignment

- **10,000 voter registration kits**
- **Training of operators**
- **On-Site Technical support**
- **AFIS, Consolidation of data, production of voters' list NOT included (who was then responsible for this list? Electoral Management Body/UNDP project)**

Procurement Process



- 1. An Expression of Interest was posted on IAPSO's website on 02/02/05 with a closing date on 15/02/05. In parallel the APEC project had posted an Expression of Interest in the local newspapers.**
- 2. 19 responses received, 8 companies were shortlisted**
- 3. 5 proposals were received**
- 4. 1 proposal did not pass the technical evaluation and 1 supplier submitting a proposal passing the technical evaluation did not agree on the Terms & Conditions.**

Procurement Process



- **A validation test was conducted in DRC during the period April 25 to 3 May 2005 by a team of experts appointed by the Country Office to confirm the result of the administrative evaluation done by UNDP/IAPSO**
- **UNDP Contracts Committee approval on May 9, 2005 and contract issued thereafter in the value of USD 43,000,000**
- **Order placed and delivered**



Case: Conakry

Scope of the Assignment

- Provide 1000 registration kits and IT backbone (central data centre)
- Training of operators
- Technical assistance
- Consolidate data, AFIS and produce voter's list



Procurement challenges

- Time constraints
- National counterpart with relatively low capacity
- Uncertainty of requirements
- Software rights – open source?
- Sustainability
- Responsibility of supplier – risk allocation

The Procurement Process

A screenshot of a web browser displaying a procurement notice from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The browser's address bar shows 'UNDP - United Nations Development Programme'. The page header reads 'United Nations Development Programme'. The main content area features a 'go' button and the following text:

Procurement of the following items and services: 1333 digital kits for the registration of the voters and related services

UNDP Guinea Conakry via UNDP/IAPSO
Deadline: 04-Jul-07

Procurement of the following items and services: 1333 digital kits for the registration of the voters and related services
EOI
Reference Number: 2007/1378

In the frame of the upcoming elections, UNDP Guinea Conakry, via UNDP/IAPSO in Copenhagen, Denmark, is calling for expressions of interest for the procurement of the following items and services:

1333 digital kits for the registration of the voters and related services

1) Each kit shall contain among others the following items, all assembled as one complete kit

- One portable generator (on wheels) ;
- One digital camera for the take of ID photos; USB 2.0
- One portable printer, USB 2.0, A4 format (to print reports, control lists, registration certificates) with long-lasting battery ;
- One fingerprint scanner (min. 400 dpi), USB 2.0;
- One professional laptop;
- One software capable of registering voters, revising voters lists, boundary delimitation and print electoral documents (the supplier must be ready to transfer the intellectual property of this software and its concept to the state of Guinea

- ❑ Call for Expression of Interest
- ❑ Published on UNDP/IAPSO's website and UNGM
- ❑ Published in two local Guinean newspapers in July 2007

The Procurement Process



- All responses to the EoI evaluated
- 11 companies were shortlisted and invited to submit a proposal (RFP) on 24 August 2007
- The closing date of the bidding was on 24 September, 2007 (3 proposals received)

The Procurement Process



Evaluation process

- All offers were evaluated against the criteria stated in the RFP
- Only offers passing the technical evaluation were evaluated financially
- The suppliers offering the best 3 evaluated offers were invited to Conakry for a validation test in line with the methodology.





Validation test

- The test is designed to validate the technical proposal and test if the solution offered will work in the local environment**
- It is, from a procurement point of view, a purely technical assessment**
- Validation test in January but originally planned in October**

Validation test

Validation test criteria:

- Content and methodology of the training
- Functionality of the kit, both the hardware & software
- Identification of multiple registrations of individual voters
- Generation of the voters' list



Validation test

- For the test, each supplier provided four kits to be operated at two different locations
- The operators of the kits were Guineans with no prior relationship with the suppliers
- The training of the operators were the responsibility of the suppliers



Validation test



- The test would reveal any weaknesses that needed to be corrected prior to implementation.
- It would also provide an estimate of the number of voters that can be registered in a day, providing input to the operational plan



Approval Procedures & Contracting

- **Due to changes in quantities, bidders were required to confirm their unit prices**
- **CAP/ACP approval received March 1, 2008**
- **Contract signed March 27, 2008 in the amount of USD 6,800.000**

Lessons learned for both cases



- Involve procurement as early as possible already in the project design**
- Review of samples of all sensitive materials prior to placing orders**
- Tests should validate the evaluation when procuring highly complex products such as biometric voter registration & e-voting systems**



Lessons learned

- Outsourcing procurement to avoid pressures**
- Be clear about the market structures (supply/demand/vendor driven)**
- Do not wait for the funds to start the procurement planning process**
- Constraints on operational planning of electoral activities – no goods no election**



Lessons learned

- Pre-bid conferences for complex projects potentially in the recipient country**
- Contract management of suppliers**
- Sustainability (total cost of acquisition, reusability, managing expectations, etc.)**
- Insufficient budget**
- Managing obligations of other stakeholders e.g. EMBs**

- **Thank you for listening**

