

Task Force on Electronic Tendering

Discussion Paper No. 4/2000

Progress Report on Electronic Dissemination of Tender Documents

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This paper reports the progress made on the electronic dissemination of tender documents since the 3rd Plenary Meeting of the Task Force on Electronic Tendering held on 16 June 2000.

2. Works Bureau Technical Circulars (WBTC) on Electronic Dissemination of Tender Documents

- 2.1. During the 3rd Plenary Meeting, the task force endorsed the draft WBTC on Electronic Dissemination of Tender Documents. After the meeting, WB completed the consultation process and issued the finalized version of the circular on 5 July 2000 as WBTC No. 21/2000. The circular took effect on 25 August 2000.

- 2.2. Members also raised the following issues during the 3rd Plenary Meeting-

- (a) electronic dissemination of tender documents for contracts managed by consultants;
- (b) distribution of EDP's to specialist contractors to facilitate more effective participation in the tendering process; and
- (c) restriction on generations of sub-licensing.

- 2.3. The issues in paragraphs 2.2(a) and (c) have been dealt with in WB's circular letters to members of 13 July 2000 and 11 August 2000 respectively.

- 2.4. Regarding paragraph 2.2(b), we will soon issue the WBTC (copy attached) for distributing EDP's to members of construction industry associations. After the promulgation of this WBTC, we will conclude distribution agreements with the following trade associations which have expressed interest in joining the scheme-

- (a) Hong Kong Electrical and Mechanical Contractors' Association, which will also serve members of the following associations-

- (i) Hong Kong Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Association;
 - (ii) Fire Services Installation Contractors Association (FSICA); and
 - (iii) Lift and Escalator Contractors Association
- (b) Hong Kong Electrical Contractors Association (HKECA);
 - (c) Hong Kong Plumbing and Sanitary Ware Trade Association; and
 - (d) Hong Kong Construction Association Ltd. (HKCA)

3. Publicity

- 3.1. We have arranged publication of feature articles (copy attached) on the electronic dissemination scheme in the October 2000 issue of the Journal of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and the web site of Works Bureau (<http://www.wb.gov.hk/etender>). Publication in other relevant associations will follow shortly. Similar articles were also published at several local newspapers.
- 3.2. We had conducted the following road shows for introducing the electronic dissemination scheme to the construction industry-

Date	Trade Association	Approximate Attendance
28 July 2000	FISCA	30
7 August 2000	HKECA	20
24 August 2000	HKCA	150

4. Further Actions on Electronic Dissemination

- 4.1. We will take further actions on the following issues-

- (a) Internet dissemination

We will work on the probable arrangements for Internet dissemination of tender documents. Current target date is early 2001;

- (b) Digital Signing of files in EDP's

We have deferred the requirement to digitally sign all files in EDP's because the tools for processing batch signing and verifications were not available when WBTC No. 21/2000 took effect on 25 August 2000. As the cryptographic tools are

now ready, we aim at invoking this provision for tenders issued after 4 January 2001. The existing practice of issuing unsigned files will however continue;

(c) Review of electronic dissemination

We will issue questionnaires to the tenderers who have collected EDP's to gather their feedback with a view to making future improvements.

5. Endorsement

5.1. This paper is submitted for endorsement, and we welcome any comments and suggestions from members.

Works Bureau
19 October 2000

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