

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



Ministry of Finance
Republic of Maldives



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Press Release

Statement on Design-Build-Operate of Waste to Energy Project

The Government of Maldives is committed to improving the environmental conditions and strengthening the solid waste management (SWM) system in the country. The government plans to develop a sustainable regional waste management facility at Thilafushi island. The facility is to be developed through a Design-Build-Operate (DBO) Contract, financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), ADB's Japan Fund for Joint Crediting Mechanism (JFJCM), and the Government of Maldives under the Greater Malé Waste to Energy Project implemented by Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology.

Pre-qualification of bidders were carried out for the project in accordance with the provisions set out in "Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017)". With a shortlist of 6 pre-qualified bidders, a total of 5 bidders submitted their bids by the deadline in September 2020. The technical evaluation was carried out with the support of international consultants with expertise in waste-to-energy and DBO contracts and experienced in ADB procurement regulations. As result, three bidders were declared to be technically qualified in accordance with the issued bidding documents. Price Bids of the technically qualified bidders were opened in April 2021 and were further evaluated as per the evaluation criteria set forth in the bidding document underpinned by ADB procurement regulations.

Following the issuance of the Letter of Acceptance to the lowest evaluated bidder on August 25, 2021, the outcome of the evaluation was informed to all bidders. Debrief requests¹ were received from two bidders and a response has been provided to the bidders. Furthermore, a bidding-related complaint has been received and will be dealt in accordance with the procedure outlined in ADB Procurement Regulations for Borrowers (2017) and Public Finance Regulation of the Maldives, and a response shall be issued promptly. There has been delays in the procurement process due to COVID-19, complex nature of technical evaluation and other complaints received during the different stages of the procurement process, which were dealt following ADB Procurement Regulations.

We would like to strongly emphasize that in addition to National Tender Board's scrutiny, all steps of this procurement, including technical and financial bid evaluation, were in fact reviewed by ADB, and no-objections were obtained, thereby confirming the processes are in line with the ADB's procurement regulation and policies.

Despite the recent attempts to undermine the credibility of the teams involved in the tender, we stand comfortable and confident on the administrative process carried out. Ministry of Finance assures all related stakeholders that we will ensure the rights of the bidders are protected and that all complaints are justly reviewed as stipulated in the ADB's Procurement Regulation and Public Finance Regulation of the Maldives.

¹ Debrief requests are requests to tendering authority for an explanation on the grounds of not being selected.



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