

Firms Prequalified for Tibar Bay Port

The Government has prequalified four firms to tender for the new port to be built at Tibar Bay.

The Project Evaluation Team, led by the National Procurement Commission, announced that the Council of Ministers has endorsed the recommendation that International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI), Mota-Engil - Ambiente e Serviço, SGPS, S.A. (MEAS), the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (POSNCO) and Bolloré Africa Logistics (Bolloré AL) are the firms prequalified.

The project involves the construction and operation of a 600 meter wharf along the western side of Tibar Bay, together with container storage, equipment and other infrastructure required by a modern cargo terminal. The Government, with support from its project adviser the International Finance Corporation (IFC), has conducted extensive feasibility studies and planning over the last two years. The winning bidder will be granted a 30-year Concession to construct and operate the port. The total project cost is estimated to be around US\$300-400 million, with a major part of this to be invested by the winning bidder.

The Government, with support from IFC, designed prequalification criteria to ensure that firms bidding for the project have a strong international track record in port construction and operation, as well as the required financial capacity to take on a project of this size. The open invitation to prequalify was issued on 21 October 2013 and distributed widely through local and international media. Prequalification applications were assessed against the criteria by The Project Evaluation Team.

The Project Evaluation Team is very happy with the response. The four firms selected are reputable companies with considerable international experience.

The next stage in the tender will see the four firms issued with an invitation to submit proposals, bidder consultations, followed by submission of proposals and selection of the winning bidder.

The tender process is designed to ensure the Government gets the best value for money for this project, as well as the technical requirements for the port that will be focused on the development benefits like employment opportunities for Timorese, economic opportunities for local people and strong community consultation.

The project is a long-term partnership between the Government and the investor. With IFC's help the Government have learned from past experience in Timor-Leste, as well as internationally, to make sure the Government's interests are fully protected under the Concession.