



2013/1765/45

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Information Technology Department - e-Tender/e-Procurement System-Process flow document for Online Payment System of e-Procurement-Revised -Orders issued.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (B) DEPARTMENT

G.O. (MS)No.11/2013/ITD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 10.04.2013

Read: (1) G.O. (MS)No.08/13/ITD, Dated 10/04/13.

(2) Letter Number KSITM/e-Procurement/2011/9262/624, Dated 03/04/13 of Director Kerala State IT Mission.

ORDER

As per GO read above, Government have approved the '**process flow document for online payment system of e-Procurement**'. As per letter read as second paper above, Director KSITM has recommended certain modifications to the online payment process with regard to withholding of EMD amount of L1 and L2 bidder till the award of contract, refunding of EMD of other bidders, and some other minor corrections.

In the circumstances Government are pleased to revise the '**process flow document for online payment system of e-Procurement**' as outlined in the Appendix of this order by replacing the document appended to the GO read as first paper above.

The GO read as first paper above stands modified to the above extent only.

By Order of the Governor

P Balakiran IAS

Deputy Secretary to Government

To

All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries.

All Head of Departments.

✓ The Director, Kerala State IT Mission.

(He is requested to provide the copies of this GO to all concerned at once)

The State Informatics Officer, NIC, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Managing Director, SBT, Thiruvananthapuram.

Accountant General (Audit) & (A&E) Thiruvananthapuram.

Finance Department Vide UO (Note) No. 34440/Ind & BW B2/13/Fin,

Dated 09-04-13.

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Section Officer.

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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

e-Tender / e-Procurement system

e-Payment and Refund Process Flow and Roles & Responsibilities

Introduction: e-Government Procurement (e-GP) is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). Government of Kerala has implemented the e-Government Procurement system on 07th December 2011 to enhance transparency and efficiency in public procurement activities and monitor the same on a real-time basis. Kerala State IT Mission is the implementing agency for the e-Tender / e-Procurement system for all Government departments/ State PSUs/ Autonomous Bodies/ LSGIs in the State. National Informatics Centre is the Service Provider.

At present the payment towards Tender document fees and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of tenders published through e-Procurement system are collected offline as Demand Drafts. To enhance the transparency and to ensure complete confidentiality and anonymity in the tendering process, an online payment mechanism for tender document fees and EMD is introduced in the following manner. This process takes care of the refunds also, which has not been introduced in any State so far.

Government of Kerala, vide order no: GO(P) No:15/13/Fin dated 07.01.2013, has authorised State Bank of Travancore (SBT) as the Banker and online payment service provider for the e-tendering process.

The following are the features and process for the online payment mechanism for e-Procurement system of Government of Kerala:

1. **Payment modes:** The bidders shall make online payments through the following modes:
 - a) **State Bank of Travancore (SBT) Net Banking:** A bidder shall make online payments using his/ her Internet Banking enabled account with State Bank of Travancore.
 - b) **Payments through other bank accounts through NEFT payment gateway of State Bank of Travancore:** When the bidder selects NEFT payment gateway, a pre-filled challan will be made available online by State Bank of Travancore based on the parameters given by e-Procurement system, which the bidder may take print-out. With this challan, bidder will have two options:-

- i. To make an online NEFT payment using Internet Banking of the bank in which the bidder holds his account, by adding the account number in the challan as an Inter Bank Beneficiary.
- ii. Transfer from his Bank account, through NEFT. The bidder should exercise this option 48 hours before the closing of bid. This feature of offline payment would be available only till December 2013.

(It will be clearly mentioned in the challan, that the payment mode will be through NEFT only. The other Inter-Bank remittance channels viz. RTGS and GRPT are not available for e-tender process)

2. Pooling accounts: The amount towards tender document fees and EMD of a respective tender shall be collected in TWO pooling / collection accounts each for collecting Tender document fees and EMD. The same will be transferred to the Treasury/ PSU only after the respective bid opening. To enable the above, Government of Kerala has authorized State Bank of Travancore to open two pooling accounts in their Trivandrum Treasury Branch, for collecting Tender document fees & EMD amount vide GO(P) No:15/13/Fin dated 07.01.2013. Refunds will be processed by State Bank of Travancore, from these pooling accounts, opened for refund as per G.O(P) No. 96/13/Fin, dated 19-02-13.

a) Two collection accounts for all Government departments

- A/c No: 67206878757 - Kerala E-tender – Government Depts – EMD account
- A/c No: 67212545801 - Kerala E-tender – Government Depts – Tender Fees account

b) Two collection accounts for all PSUs

- A/c No: 67206880766 - Kerala E-tender – PSUs – EMD account
- A/c No: 67212546510 - Kerala E-tender – PSUs – Tender Fees account

Further, all the PSUs shall open separate Current accounts with the nearest State Bank of Travancore Branch, for transferring the Tender document fees and the EMD of L1 and L2 bidders.

Government departments need not open separate accounts, as the Tender fees and EMD are settled with Government Treasury.

3. Payment / Collection process through Internal Routing accounts:- A bidder desirous of taking part in a bid, shall login to the Kerala e-Tender site www.etenders.kerala.gov.in select the required tender, and initiate payment. He will be directed to the payment gateway page of State Bank of Travancore, where he will have two options:-

- a) State Bank of Travancore's Internet Banking
- b) Transfer through State Bank of Travancore's NEFT payment Gateway.

Payments made by State Bank of Travancore customers through Internet Banking, will be credited real-time to an internal SBOnline routing account (67212718333) maintained by State Bank of Travancore.

Payments made through NEFT by Non- State Bank of Travancore customers at their Bank branches or through their Bank's Internet Banking, will be credited to an internal NEFT routing account (67204576167) maintained by State Bank of Travancore, Trivandrum Treasury Branch, as per the NEFT settlement timings of Reserve Bank of India.

4. Handling of unmatched entries in NEFT routing account:-

As the payment by bidders through NEFT, by transfer from other banks include an offline process, there are chances of errors as follows:-

- a) Bidder making a payment of incorrect amount / making partial payment.
- b) The additional parameters regarding tender, not keyed in properly by the bidder's bank.
- c) The additional parameters regarding tender, not keyed in properly by the bidder, while making payment through Internet Banking of his bank.

In all the above cases, the entries in the routing account will remain unmatched and unreconciled. On the next bank working day, State Bank of Travancore shall provide an MIS to Government as well as to State Bank of Travancore's Trivandrum Treasury Branch, with the details of unmatched entries. State Bank of Travancore's Trivandrum Treasury Branch shall process the reversal transactions.

5. Routing of Tender fees and EMD amount to respective Government Department / PSU.

Based on the Government department code / PSU code provided by NIC, State Bank of Travancore shall bifurcate the payment received from a bidder, into four components viz:

- (a) Government Dept – EMD
- (b) Government Dept – Tender Fees
- (c) PSUs – EMD and
- (d) PSUs – Tender Fees.

The parameters sent by NIC will be in such a manner that State Bank of Travancore can differentiate whether the payment relates to:-

- (a) Government Department or PSU
- (b) If Government Dept, the department code/ Office code/ any relevant treasury code to identify the respective Tender Inviting Authority (TIA)

(c) If PSU, the PSU code / Account number

Based on the above parameters, State Bank of Travancore shall credit the Tender fees and EMD to the respective pooling accounts mentioned in Point – 2.

6. Refunds: Processing of refunds will be carried out by State Bank of Travancore in the following stages.

- a) After opening of Bid (incomplete bid or withdrawal of bids)
- b) After Technical Bid evaluation (rejected bids)
- c) After Financial Bid Evaluation (all bids other than L1 & L2)
- d) EMD of L2 bidder after Award of Contract/ execution of Agreement with L1

As an end-of-day (EOD) activity, the e-Procurement system shall generate two encrypted XML files for outward transactions, as per the format given by State Bank of Travancore (one for refunds to State Bank of Travancore accounts and other file for refunds to other banks) considering all the tenders opened on that particular day, indicating:

- (a) The list of bidders whose bids are incomplete / withdrew the bids
- (b) The list of bidders whose bids have been rejected following Technical Bid evaluation
- (c) The list of bidders other than L1 and L2

State Bank of Travancore shall process these XML file and make available, the processed file to the State Bank of Travancore's Trivandrum Treasury Branch, through a secure mode. State Bank of Travancore's Trivandrum Treasury branch shall process the refunds with respect to the EMD amount of unsuccessful / rejected bidders, except for L1 & L2 bidders, to the same bidder account through which it was debited/ received. This refund shall be made online on the next bank working day from the date of generation of the XML files.

After Award of Contract, the EMD amount of L1 bidder shall be remitted online to the District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram/ respective PSU account from the common collection account of State Bank of Travancore opened for e-Procurement project of Kerala and EMD amount of L2 bidder will be retained in the collection account of State Bank of Travancore. On receiving a confirmation from Tender Inviting Authority on the Award of Contract/ execution of an agreement with L1 bidder, the EMD amount of L2 bidder, retained by State Bank of Travancore, will be refunded online to his/ her bank account. In case L1 bidder is disqualified/ withdraws his/ her bid, the EMD amount of both L1 and L2 bidder will be remitted to the District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram/ respective PSU account by State Bank of Travancore.

7. Refunds due to Cancellation of tenders:-

Refunds due to cancellation of Tenders will be done as per the XML files provided by the e-Procurement system.

8. Settlement of funds with Government treasury / PSUs

As an EOD activity, the NIC system shall generate an encrypted XML file for inward transactions, as per the format given by State Bank of Travancore considering all the tenders opened on that particular day. State Bank of Travancore shall make use of this file for verification purpose and generation of final MIS for settlement with Government departments and PSUs.

- **Government Departments:-** On the next bank working day of tender opening, State Bank of Travancore shall provide an MIS to State Bank of Travancore's Trivandrum Treasury Branch. This MIS shall contain the Tender fees as well as the EMD of L1. The MIS pertaining to Kerala e-Tender will be included in the "Kerala e-payment Scroll" already being sent to State Bank of Travancore's Trivandrum Treasury Branch for manual settlement with Government Treasury as per department code-wise/ TIA-wise.
- **PSUs :-** On the next bank working day of tender opening, State Bank of Travancore shall provide an MIS to State Bank of Travancore's Trivandrum Treasury Branch. This MIS shall contain the Tender fees as well as the EMD of L1. State Bank of Travancore's Trivandrum Treasury Branch shall settle the funds with individual PSUs, by crediting the tender proceeds to the current account of PSUs, provided in the MIS.

Roles and Responsibilities:-

The following shall be the broad roles & responsibilities of stakeholders:

9. Role of National Informatics Centre:

- a. Customize e-Procurement software and web-pages of Government of Kerala (www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) to enable the provision for online payments.
- b. Coordinate with State Bank of Travancore for integration of the online payment system with e-Procurement system
- c. Make necessary arrangements for redirecting the bidders from e-Procurement website to State Bank of Travancore's payment page and provide / pass necessary details / parameters to the banker during online payment process for identifying details of department, tender, amount, date etc.
- d. National Informatics Centre shall make available all necessary reports to the respective Tender Inviting Authority detailing the amount received (Tender document fees and EMD) for each tender enabling the Tender Inviting Authority to qualify the bidders
- e. Enable automatic generation of daily XML files (irrespective of whether there is tender opening or not) from e-Procurement system and ensure delivery of the same to State Bank of Travancore for enabling automatic refunds / settlement of funds.

- f. Provision should be made available for Tender Inviting Authority to update the e-Procurement system on the execution of Agreement with L1 bidder. In this case, the daily XML file given to State Bank of Travancore from e-Procurement system should include the refund details of L2 bidder so that the EMD amount of L2 bidder, retained by State Bank of Travancore, will be refunded online to his/ her bank account.
- g. Provision should be made available for Tender Inviting Authority to update e-Procurement system in case L1 bidder is disqualified/ withdraws his/ her bid. In this case, the daily XML file given to State Bank of Travancore from e-Procurement system should include details of L2 bidder, so that the EMD amount of L2 bidder will be remitted to the District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram/ respective PSU account by State Bank of Travancore
- h. Map necessary bank accounts on e-Procurement system for enabling transfer of funds from bidders to routing / pooling / collection accounts

10. Role of State Bank of Travancore:

- a. Make necessary provision / customizations at their end to enable the provision for online payments / refunds as per this document.
- b. Coordinate with National Informatics Centre for integration of online payment system with e-Procurement system
- c. Provide necessary real-time message to bidders regarding successful or unsuccessful transactions during online payment processes and redirect them to e-Procurement website with necessary transaction reference details enabling them to submit their bids.
- d. The bank shall ensure transfer of funds from the pooling account to the current account of PSUs/ Treasury on the next bank working day of opening the bid.
- e. Bank should provide timely reports and reference details to NIC enabling them to carry out their role as stated above.
- f. Refund of amount to bidders as per the XML file provided by e-Procurement system on the next bank working day from the date of generation of the XML file and also provides a confirmation to NIC on the same.
- g. Provide MIS to Government Treasury on a daily basis, with respective Department codes, included in the "Kerala Government e-payment scroll" already being sent to Government treasury for uploading in Treasury Information System.
- h. State Bank of Travancore shall ensure the following transaction limits for transactions through SBTOOnline.
 - i) For Retail (personal) customers : Rs.1 crore per day
 - ii) For Corporate customers:
 - a. Through SARAL facility (sole-proprietorship) : Rs.1 crore per day
 - b. Through Vyapaar facility : Rs.10 crores per transaction
 - c. Through Vistaar facility : Rs. 500.00 crores per transaction.

11. Role of Kerala State IT Mission:

- a. Communicate requirements of Government departments/ State PSUs/ Autonomous Bodies/ LSGIs online payment requirements to National Informatics Centre / State Bank of Travancore for mapping/ customization.
- b. Facilitate necessary structure of MIS to National Informatics Centre / State Bank of Travancore in consultation with participating Government departments / State PSUs/ Autonomous Bodies / LSGIs and Government Treasury
- c. Provide necessary Treasury Account head / Department code to State Bank of Travancore for including in the MIS to be sent to Government treasury
- d. Provide the e-mail IDs of Government departments / State PSUs / Autonomous Bodies/ LSGIs to State Bank of Travancore / National Informatics Centre for sending MIS.
- e. IT Mission shall monitor the progress of e-Tendering by different Government departments / State PSUs/ Autonomous Bodies / LSGIs through an MIS. A User ID and Password shall be given to an authorized officer in Finance Department to enable real-time monitoring by Finance Department. IT Mission shall monitor and send monthly progress reports to the Government.

12. Role of Government Treasury:

- a. Settle the transactions head-wise, department-wise as per the scroll provided by State Bank of Travancore.
- b. Provide the treasury transaction details to the concerned Government departments.

13. Role of Government Departments having PSUs under them:

- a. The departments shall co-ordinate with all PSUs / Autonomous Bodies under them to open Zero Balance Current accounts with State Bank of Travancore under the product code 5011-1401.
- b. Provide the account numbers to State Bank of Travancore for configuration.
- c. Provide the e-mail IDs of all PSUs to IT Mission for sending MIS.

