

WASTESERV MALTA LIMITED, MALTA

Background

WasteServ is a major stakeholder in the management of waste in Malta. Amongst other responsibilities, the state-owned company collects various items of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) at civic amenity sites.

Whilst WEEE has been collected for a number of years, the first exports were managed successfully in July 2010 and since then this has become a regular on-going activity. Being a provider of an environmental service itself, it was important for WasteServ to ensure that the procured waste collection and transport service be delivered in an environmentally-friendly manner.

Criteria used

Tenders published included the following subject matter: Contract for the provision of waste collection services in an environmentally-friendly manner.

Bidders were asked to ensure that all vehicles used for the transportation of WEEE are equipped with engines meeting EURO IV or better standards (EURO V or VI), according to [EU Directive 2005/55/EC](#).

In an effort to further assist the potential contractors involved, vehicles which were not originally certified as EURO IV, but were upgraded in a certified manner to achieve the same standard, were also accepted, provided that the documentation for the upgrade could be provided as part of the tender submission.

Contracts are awarded based on the cheapest compliant offer.

GPP criteria used by contracting authorities in Malta are available at https://secure2.gov.mt/tsdu/gpp_resources. The criteria are based on the EU's GPP criteria for all product groups and services.

Results

The procurement actions have been considered successful bearing in mind that the tendering processes have involved criteria that had not been used in previous tenders. For that reason, the initial evaluation of offers received took slightly longer in some cases since the evaluation committee had to dedicate attention to environmental data to ensure that bids were compliant with the requested specifications. Prior to the implementation of the Maltese national action plan on GPP, tenders issued by WasteServ did not include any green requirements for transportation.

Most bidders propose the use of vehicles already certified to the EURO IV standard, while others offer to upgrade their fleets and bid in subsequent tenders. Results so far demonstrate that the inclusion of green criteria in tenders issued by WasteServ in this area send a strong signal to the market about its more ambitious environmental requirements. The signal has served to motivate future potential contractors to invest in upgrading vehicle fleets.

In order to qualify with requirements, bidders must also submit permits for the loading and exportation of WEEE. Therefore, there are typically between two and six bidders for each tender.

Procurement objectives

The Maltese government adopted its [National Action Plan on Green Public Procurement](#) (GPP) in August 2011. Since then it has been working very closely with contracting authorities to achieve a range of targets, such as greening 30% of tenders for transportation by 2013.

In order to ensure sustainable management of waste streams, WasteServ routinely procures specialised waste transport and management services. Open public tenders for the management and transportation services of WEEE are therefore issued on a regular basis. The tenders include services such as transportation of mixed WEEE as well as collection and transportation of specific WEEE categories such as fridges and freezers units. GPP criteria have been incorporated into ten tenders issued by WasteServ for the procurement of waste collection services (heavy goods vehicles) thus far.

Environmental impacts

Implementation of this process resulted in the following impacts:

- Reduced emissions caused by transport: The main environmental impact from vehicles comes via CO₂ and other emissions from the engine, such as particulate matter (PM), which has a significant impact on local air pollution and particularly human health. Vehicles meeting EURO IV, as opposed to the older EURO III standard, emit five times less PM.
- Improved recycling of hazardous waste streams
- A reduction in the quantity of waste sent to landfill

Malta ranks amongst the countries with the highest car density in Europe, whilst the average age of Maltese commercial vehicles fleet is amongst the highest in the EU.

Through this process some 4,000 tonnes of WEEE have also been diverted from landfill and instead sent for appropriate treatment, that is, dismantling and recovery of recyclables.

Lessons learned

- The contracting authority appoints Officers in Charge (or experts) for each project. They are the most significant figures in the tender monitoring process. The Officer in Charge addresses and reports on any unforeseen problems during the tender implementation phase in order to improve future tendering processes. The cycle of improvement has thus become natural.
- By implementing GPP criteria in its tenders, WasteServ has learned that the market can be influenced in a positive way.
- Since introducing the practice of setting minimum emissions criteria for transport services, more and more suppliers have invested in the upgrades of their fleets to provide a cleaner and more environmentally-friendly service for the benefit of WasteServ's clients and the country as a whole.