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18 June 2025

All contractors on the  
List of Approved Contractors for Public Works and  
List of Approved Suppliers of Materials and Specialist Contractors for Public Works

Dear Sirs/Madams,

**Electronic Tendering System for Works Contracts -  
Release of New “Open Tendering” Function and  
Extension of Interim Arrangement for Submission of Paper-Based Tenders**

Following the full implementation of the Electronic Tendering System (Works Contracts)<sup>1</sup> (“e-TS(WC)”) in July 2024, we would like to announce the release of an extended function of the e-TS(WC) to handle tenders invited by open tendering.

***Implementation of “Open Tendering” Function in the e-TS(WC)***

2. To enable potential tenderers to get familiar with the new “open tendering” function in the e-TS(WC), we have selected suitable works contracts (“**pilot contracts**”) for application of the new function. Tenderers of the pilot contracts will have to handle the tendering process, which includes, inter alia, checking tender invitations, downloading tender documents/supplementary information/addenda, raising tender queries and receiving responses, submitting tenders, receiving tender clarifications and making responses, and receiving award results, via the system.

3. Subject to successful application of the new function in the pilot contracts, we plan to apply the e-TS(WC) to handle all public works tenders to be invited by open tendering under the ambit of the Central Tender Board and Public Works Tender Board

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<sup>1</sup> The Electronic Tender System could be accessed through the hyperlink - <https://www.ets.gov.hk>

in around September/October, 2025. We will make formal announcement of the exact implementation date in due course.

***Extension of Interim Arrangement for Submission of Paper-Based Tenders***

4. To address an earlier concern of some bidders on the integrity of their submissions made via the e-TS(WC), we have introduced an interim arrangement to allow tenderers of public works contracts to submit their tenders in paper-based form in addition to the electronic version submitted. The validity period of such interim arrangement will expire on 30 June 2025 according to our original plan. In light of the introduction of the new “open tendering” function, we hereby announce the extension of the validity period of the interim arrangement **until further notice**. In other words, the interim arrangement is also applicable to tenders to be invited by open tendering.

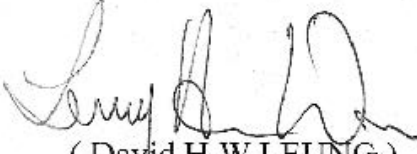
***System Enhancement to deal with Tenders submitted by Unincorporated Joint Ventures***

5. In addition to the above, we have also enhanced the e-TS(WC) to deal with tenders submitted by unincorporated joint ventures (“**unincorporated JVs**”). According to the requirement for tender submission via the e-TS(WC), in case a tenderer is an unincorporated JV, the essential submissions which are required to be **digitally signed** must be so signed by **all participants** of the unincorporated JV. To avoid tender invalidation in case there are missing digital signature(s) of any participant(s) of the unincorporated JV for the essential submissions, we have launched a new feature in the e-TS(WC) to verify the number of digital signatures in the Form of Tender (“**FoT**”) and Contract Data Part two (“**CDP2**”) (for works contracts adopting NEC TSC contract form). In gist, when a tenderer makes its tender submission via the e-TS(WC), it will be asked firstly if it is an unincorporated JV. If affirmative, it will then be required to input the number of participants in the unincorporated JV. When uploading the FoT and CDP2 files, the tenderer will go through a procedure to verify the number of digital signatures adhered to these two files against the number of participants input by the tenderer at the beginning. If there is inconsistency found, the tenderer will be notified so that it can rectify the signature problem accordingly before proceeding further with its tender submission.

***Support***

6. The two helpdesk cum telephone hotlines (General Enquiry: 3997 1844 or Technical Support: 6310 9329) will continue to provide timely and prompt assistance to users.
7. For enquiries, please contact Mr Eric Chan, AS(WP4)7, on 3509 8711.

Yours faithfully,



( David H W LEUNG )  
for Secretary for Development

- c.c. The Hong Kong Construction Association  
Hong Kong General Building Contractors Association  
The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical and Mechanical Contractors  
The Hong Kong Electrical and Mechanical Contractors' Association  
The Hong Kong Registered Contractors Association

Internal

CAS(W)7, AS(WP4)1, AS(WP4)3, AS(WP4)7, AS(WP4)8, TL(WS) and TS