

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: May 27, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC); Elizabeth Lindsay; Jean-François Létourneau; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger; Media; Bryan Blom
Subject: RE: For MO approval - Media response / Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Name of Chinese companies of faulty PPEs / Ottawa Citizen

Noted. We'll send shortly.

Michèle

From: Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC) [mailto:cecely.roy@canada.ca]
Sent: May 26, 2020 9:21 PM
To: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Cc: James Fitzmorris <james.fitz-morris@canada.ca>; Elizabeth Lindsay <Elizabeth.Lindsay@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Jean-François Létourneau <Jean-Francois.Letourneau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Lucie Brosseau <Lucie.Brosseau@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Martine Skelton <Martine.Skelton@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Me'Shel Gulliver Bélanger <MeShel.GulliverBelanger@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Rachel Lagacé <Rachel.Lagace@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Sara Lacasse <Sara.Lacasse@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>; Vivianne Soubhie <Vivianne.Soubhie@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: For MO approval - Media response / Tier 1 / COVID-19 - Name of Chinese companies of faulty PPEs / Ottawa Citizen

Hi there - I've just adjusted the response so we have a standard version on this.

This is approved by MO with adjustments.

Thanks!

Cecely Roy
343-549-7293

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The Government of Canada is engaged in an unprecedented effort to acquire supplies and equipment to ensure that our front-line healthcare workers and Canadians stay safe and healthy. Throughout this pandemic, there has been a surge in global demand for the PPE and medical supplies needed in response to COVID-19. As a result, we are operating in a highly competitive marketplace, and facing the risks posed by fragile international supply chains.

~~In order to protect the integrity of our procurement processes, as well as the integrity of global supply chains, we need to exercise caution at this time with the information we are able to provide about specific suppliers and contracts.~~ Some of the procurements being carried out in response to COVID-19 are being done under a national security exception (NSE), meaning that the associated solicitation documents are not published on Buy-and-Sell.

~~With respect to international procurements in particular, the NSE allows us~~ The NSE allows us to ~~the NSE allows us to protect Canada's supply chains and sources for these essential goods. It also ensures that we can~~ move as quickly as possible to procure large quantities of life-saving equipment, which ~~are~~ then tested and deployed into the health system. Without the use of the NSE, in some cases, tenders are required to remain open for weeks. Given the urgency of Canada's needs as we face this pandemic and the environment in which we are currently operating, this length of time would not be feasible. ~~Similar procurement flexibilities are being applied by other countries around the world, due to COVID-19.~~

~~We are not operating in normal circumstances. Considering the fierce global competition for the same products, including for N95 masks and surgical masks, among other products,~~ if we were to disclose information about specific contracts or suppliers, we would jeopardize Canada's supply chains for these life-saving products, putting our delivery to Canada and into the hands of frontline health care workers at risk.

However, we are posting some solicitation documents for COVID-19 related procurements on Buyandsell, particularly where the timeline to secure the particular good or service allows for more flexibility, and in cases where we need to broaden our search for information or sources of supply. For example, we recently published a Request for Proposal for logistics services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Another example is the Notice of Proposed Procurement for cloth face masks, which we recently published on behalf of the Department of National Defence.

We have also publicly announced several contracts over the past few weeks and will continue to do so where possible. We are also providing information about our response, for example, by posting details of our orders and deliveries of personal protective equipment online.

Cecely Roy
343-549-7293

On May 21, 2020, at 4:38 PM, Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Cecely and James,

For MO approval, please.

Thanks,

Marc
873-354-7219

Media response
Ottawa Citizen
Pugliese, David (Ottawa Citizen)
Date call received: May-20-20 at 12:55
Deadline: May-21-20 at 17:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 - Name of Chinese companies of faulty PPEs

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter was reviewing transcripts and news articles about DM Bill Matthews declining to provide a parliamentary committee the names of the Chinese companies that provided Canada with faulty PPE/respirators, and is looking for answers to his questions.

VALUE STATEMENT:

The Government of Canada is collaborating with provinces and territories on an ongoing basis to identify their needs and purchase required equipment, supplies, and services to combat COVID-19.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is taking an aggressive approach to buying, especially when it comes to personal protective equipment for frontline healthcare workers. This includes:

- Ordering ahead in bulk on behalf of provinces and territories
- Supplementing those orders by purchasing limited-availability supplies that are immediately available
- Ramping up the domestic manufacturing capacity, through the Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, being led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

This is over and above the efforts provinces and territories are taking to secure their own supply

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q1. Why did DM Matthews decline to provide the names of these firms? Was it because he didn't want to upset the Chinese government?

The Government of Canada is engaged in an unprecedented effort to acquire supplies and equipment to ensure that our front-line healthcare workers and Canadians stay safe and healthy. We are aggressively procuring in the global marketplace, while facing the risks posed by fragile supply chains, the fluidity of the current situation, and a surge in demand.

In order to protect the integrity of our procurement processes, as well as the integrity of global supply chains, we need to exercise caution at this time with information we are providing about specific suppliers.

Some of the procurements being carried out in response to COVID-19 are being done under a national security exception (NSE), meaning that the associated solicitation documents are not published on Buyandsell. This allows the response to move rapidly as we purchase goods and services to protect the health and safety of Canadians as we face this pandemic. Similar procurement flexibilities are being applied by other countries around the world, due to COVID-19.

However, we are posting some solicitation documents for COVID-19 related procurements on Buyandsell, particularly where the timeline to secure the particular good or service allows for more flexibility. For example, we recently published a [Request for Proposal for logistics services](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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We have also publicly announced several contracts over the past few weeks and will continue to do so. We are also providing information about our response, for example, by posting details of our orders and deliveries of personal protective equipment [online](#).