

Lockington, Elliott (SPAC/PSPC)

From: Media <media@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca>
Sent: May 25, 2020 11:30 AM
To: fitz-morris, James (SPAC/PSPC); Roy, Cecely (SPAC/PSPC)
Cc: Media; Jean-François Létourneau; Lucie Brosseau; Bryan Blom; Elizabeth Lindsay; James Stott
Subject: REVISED: For MO approval: Media Response - Tier 1 / COVID-19 – List of contracts for medical supplies / The Canadian Press

James, Cecely,

We had to go back to program to validate the changes. Here's the revised approved version:

Q1. On Public Services and Procurement Canada's website, a sample of the Canadian companies who've signed contracts with the federal government to produce COVID-19-related medical supplies is provided. Can you please provide me with the full list of companies, as well as the dollar value for each contract?

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. Many of the procurements being carried out in response to COVID-19 are being done under a national security exception (NSE), meaning that many solicitation documents are not published on Buyandsell.

We are not operating in normal circumstances. With respect to international procurements in particular, the NSE allows us to move as quickly as possible to procure large quantities of life-saving equipment, which is 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.

Also, 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. 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, 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.

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The Canadian Press

Levitz, Stephanie (The Canadian Press)

Date call received: May-19-20 at 13:25

Deadline: May-20-20 at 17:00

Tier 1 - COVID-19 – List of contracts for medical supplies

CONTEXT (for your information):

The reporter is seeking a list of all Canadian companies having signed contracts with the Government of Canada to manufacture medical supplies to help fight COVID-19. The reporter has already consulted PSPC's website for the latest information about COVID-19 procurement efforts.

Reference:

Supplying the Canadian healthcare sector in response to COVID-19

<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/comm/mc-cd/provisions-supplies-eng.html>

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.

QUESTION AND ANSWER:

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produce COVID-19-related medical supplies is provided. Can you please provide me with the full list of companies, as well as the dollar value for each contract?

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We are not operating in normal circumstances. With respect to international procurements in particular, 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 is 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.

Also, 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. Similar procurement flexibilities are being applied by other countries around the world, due to COVID-19.

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