



Ministry of Finance and Planning  
Jamaica

**ADVANCES: COUNTRY PROFILE**  
**IX ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INGP**

1. Short Description – Principal characteristics of the procurement solution.

An agenda for the development and reform of public procurement has arisen partly from within the Procurement and Asset Policy Unit under the Ministry of Finance and Planning, which has recognised the need for a more efficient system with greater transparency. Jamaica has laid out its public sector procurement policy<sup>1</sup> based on the ten fundamental guiding principles, which include (i) economy; (ii) competition; (iii) efficiency; (iv) equity; (v) integrity; (vi) fairness; (vii) transparency; (viii) accountability; (ix) reliability; and (x) value for money.

2. Accomplishments, Progress 2012-2013.

- i. **Electronic Tendering Project:** The journey towards e-Government Procurement (e-GP) started in 2005 with the appointment of IGS to conduct an *E-Procurement Readiness Assessment*. This assessment found the country to be at a sufficient overall level of readiness to implement an e-procurement system. In 2007 a follow-up e-GP Roadmap Study was carried out and an *Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) Roadmap and Implementation Strategy (2007 and updated in 2009)* was developed. Following the roadmap and implementation strategy, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a *Program to Implement Electronic Government Procurement in Jamaica*, which provides resources to finance the contracting of consulting services and procurement of goods necessary for the execution of the programme.

The system will provide a single portal to the Government Purchasing and Tendering Authorities and Suppliers and automate activities performed by the parties by integrating them on a single electronic network. During the period the Request for Proposal was finalized and issued. The deadline for submission of proposals was August 30, 2013.

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Jamaica Public Sector Procurement Policy, Nov 2010

- ii. **Public Procurement Law (PPL):** The Government of Jamaica, through its Procurement and Asset Policy Unit, Ministry of Finance and Planning (MOFP), has developed a comprehensive Bill and attendant Regulations covering major best practice procurement principles and binding public entities to specific standards of procurement practice. This initiative was borne out of the absence of a comprehensive law covering major best practice procurement principles and binding public entities to specific standards of procurement practice. This created a high risk perception of the Jamaican procurement environment held by both multi-lateral development and financing agencies and private contracting interests. The PPL will establish the Public Procurement Commission (the National Contracts Commission will be renamed and separated from the Office of the Contractor General), which will establish the independent Commission with its own regulations, location and staff complement. The Discussion Draft of the PPL was reviewed by a Technical Working Team constituted by the MOFP during November 2012. The PPL will be tabled during the 2013/14 financial year.
- v. **The Mandatory posting of Procurement Plans** - Through a national training initiative, GoJ through the Ministry of Finance and Planning's website has commenced the mandatory publication of Procurement Plans.

3. Please indicate the role/contribution of the INGP in the previously mentioned accomplishments.

Through the application of technology in member countries and the sharing of those experiences within the INGP, Jamaica has recognized that eGP is one of the most effective means for promoting efficiency and transparency in public procurement.

4. Goals 2013-2014

The following public procurement reform initiatives are currently being pursued:

1. Implementation of an Electronic Tendering System.
2. Enactment of the Public Procurement Law - Act and supporting Regulations.
3. Comprehensive revision of the current Government of Jamaica Handbook of Public Sector Procurement Procedures and Standard Bidding Documents.
4. Establish the GOJ Public Procurement Website.
5. Establishment of the Jamaica Network of Procurement Professionals to be launched at the Public Procurement Conference in November, 2013.
6. Conduct a Career Path Assessment for Public Procurement Practitioners.

7. Publication of the Government of Jamaica Public Procurement Page: The Introduction of a Government of Jamaica Public Procurement Page to allow for centralized publishing of GOJ procurement advertisements via a designated page (s) in the daily circulated national newspapers. The Procurement Page will be coordinated and managed by the Jamaica Information Service, an executive governmental agency responsible for the production and dissemination of information relating to Government affairs/business. This initiative is expected to result in reduced advertising costs to the government, while affording suppliers/contractors greater access to public procurement opportunities.
8. Training and Certification Programme; The Ministry of Finance and Planning is currently embarking on a drive to establish a well-trained cadre of public procurement professionals. The comprehensive public procurement training and certification programmes will be designed to strengthen the capacity of public procurement practitioners by establishing standardized and structured procurement training at each level in the procurement system with robust certification. The courses will be designed to cover all areas of public procurement - the context of the Jamaican legislative and regulatory framework through to international best practices and will include skills development from operational application to strategic public procurement contract management.