

Improvements to Release 12

Dear Sir or Madam

As already mentioned in the explanatory information for Release 12, TED (Tenders Electronic Daily), the electronic publishing platform for EU public procurement agencies, has made several changes to the forms it uses. In accordance with Article 12 of the “Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community on certain aspects of government procurement” dated June 1, 2002, we were obligated to make the same changes to the forms used in simap.ch. Had we not made them, publications on simap.ch exceeding certain threshold values would no longer have been accepted by TED. Our request for a special exemption from TED was turned down. Initially TED also wanted the “estimated value” be declared in the form for invitations to tender but it subsequently rescinded that proposed change.

The feedback we received after the roll-out of Release 12 prompted us to have our software development partner make several improvements to the simap platform. In consultation with all parties involved, a supplemental release to Release 12 will be installed on November 28, 2016. It will make the following improvements:

- **New category in “Canton Department” dropdown list**

A hotfix was already installed during the week that Release 12 was rolled out. It concerns the “departments” that can be selected by a procurement authority of a canton or of an institution with a cantonal role. Besides the cantonal departments/offices, users can now select “Andere” (“Other”) as an additional category. This allows procurement authorities that are not directly assigned to a cantonal department or office to select a more appropriate category.

Canton of the contracting authority/authority of assignment¹:

¹ This field is mandatory, if the “Kind of authority of procurement” is selected as “Public authority” below **Country** it was specified Switzerland.

Canton (Department) *:

- Basel-Landschaft
- Please select
- Finanz- und Kirchendirektion
- Volkswirtschafts- und Gesundheitsdirektion
- Bau- und Umweltschutzdirektion
- Sicherheitsdirektion
- Bildungs-, Kultur- und Sportdirektion
- Andere

- **Restriction on text fields for entering contract award criteria removed**

The field for entering award criteria is still a required field. A post-release software change will be made here. The restriction on the number of characters that can be used for entering the award criteria will be removed. It is important to note, however, that no more than 200 characters will be published in this field in TED. It will again be possible to use more than 200 characters in this field on simap.ch but in the TED notice the text will be cut off after the first 200 characters. Contracting authorities will be informed of this limitation. In the forms used on simap.ch, the following message will appear with this field: “Only the first 200 characters (including spaces) will be transmitted to TED.”

- **Changes to the “Negotiated procedure” form**

In the "Contract award" form the “award criteria” and “Number of bids received” fields will not be displayed.

If “no” was selected in section 0.4 “In accordance with GATT/WTO agreement or international treaty” and the contracting authority is not the federal government (central/decentral) and the procedure in question is an open or selective tendering procedure, the two fields will be displayed as optional fields.

- **Change to contract duration details**

Beneath the “duration of contract period, of framework agreement or of the dynamic procurement system” field of the invitation to tender form, the field for entering the ending date will be an optional field. For one-time contracts (e.g. a single purchase), 1 day can be entered for the contract duration and the “end” field can be left empty.

- **The term "Cost criterion" changed to “award criteria”**

In the invitation to tender form (award criteria field) and in the award of contract form (award criteria field) the term “cost criterion” will be changed to “award criteria”.

- **Empty line between two criteria when listing multiple award criteria**

To improve readability in the display mode for a tender, empty lines will be inserted when entering multiple award criteria.

2.10 Zuschlagskriterien

Die Angaben betreffend Zuschlagskriterien müssen zusammen mit den (vorgegebenen) Angebotsunterlagen eingereicht werden.
Die Bewertung der Angebote erfolgt gemäss der nachfolgenden Zuschlagskriterien:

ZUSCHLAGSKRITERIUM ZK1: Preis, Gewichtung 60 %

ZUSCHLAGSKRITERIUM ZK2: Inhalt / Qualität der eingereichten Unterlagen, Gewichtung 20 %; unterteilt in:

- ZK2.1: Technischer Bericht, Gewichtung 6 %
- ZK2.2: Organisation, Baustelleneinrichtungen, Gewichtung 4 %
- ZK2.3: Referenz Schlüsselperson Baustellenchef, Gewichtung 4 %
- ZK2.4: Referenz Schlüsselperson Polier, Gewichtung 4 %
- ZK2.5: QM-Konzept und Risikoanalyse, Gewichtung 5 %

ZUSCHLAGSKRITERIUM ZK3: Bauprogramm, Gewichtung 10 %; unterteilt in:

- ZK3.1: Bauprogramm Objekt J34, Gewichtung 5 %
- ZK3.2: Bauprogramm Objekt J42b/c, Gewichtung 5 %

Furthermore, we received two suggestions that we will evaluate with the Change Advisory Board and possibly implement with the next Release:

- An additional free text field should be created for the award criteria, for example to rate the importance of the various award criteria. This field would not be published in TED though.
- The order of the “award criteria” and “eligibility criteria” sections is not ideal. It would make more sense if the eligibility criteria were entered and displayed first and then the award criteria, as before.

Fields such as award criteria, date of the opening of bids, number of bids received, contract duration are required fields that must be completed to ensure compatibility with TED. TED did not accept our request to make an exception here.

The simap.ch Association, as stated in Article 2 of its Statutes, will continue to promote transparent contract award procedures and effective competition in public-sector procurement activities.

Bern, October 2016
Roger Schnyder, Managing Director