

(The AfDB's Quarterly Operational Summary was traditionally not as up-to-date, comprehensive or reliable as the operational summaries of the World Bank and IDB, but significant improvements are apparently forthcoming.)

Each issue of *Development Business* also contains a section dedicated to the procurement notices which the AfDB and other IFIs require borrowers to publish throughout project execution.. AfDB requires that a **General Procurement Notice (GPN)** be published shortly after the approval of new project loans. The GPN describes the project in broad terms and outlines the general categories of goods, equipment and services expected to be procured during project implementation and the name and coordinates of the executing agency. Thereafter, **Specific Procurement Notices** are published in *Development Business* pertaining to individual tenders and prequalifications when required by the guidelines. These notices must also be published in at least one major newspaper in the borrowing country and are also circulated to the embassies or consulates of AfDB member states located in the borrowing country.

A standard hard-copy subscription to *Development Business*, which costs US \$495 per year or US \$895 for two years, is recommended for businesses actively pursuing AfDB projects. An on-line electronic version, called Scan-A-Bid, is also available but at US \$90 per hour and \$1.18 for each full document viewed, it is quite costly.

The **Indicative Lending Programme** is a list of upcoming projects and studies by country being anticipated for AfDB financing for a given year. The lists may include projects which are tentative but is a good supplement to other sources as it often contains projects not yet listed in the Quarterly Operational Summary.

Issued occasionally to the Board of Executive Directors is a useful package of documents called **Project Briefs**, which contains detailed descriptions of individual projects proposed for AfDB financing. Project briefs are sent 45-60 days before presentation to the Board of Directors.

Another useful source of information to interested consultants and suppliers is the project **Appraisal Report**, which contains the detailed background, description and plan of the project. These reports are technically not available to the public but can sometimes be obtained through the Canadian Embassy in Abidjan.

**Electronic Information Sources:** The African Development Bank Group does not yet have an Internet World Wide Web site but is planning to have one operational in the near future. However, the AfDB project pipeline and other relevant information can be accessed free of charge through the **Electronic Bulletin Board Service (EBBS)** operated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The EBBS can be reached by WIN registrants using a computer modem at 1-800-628-1581, or (613) 944-1581 in the Ottawa area.

Internet users should also be aware of the World Bank's Public Information Center accessible by visiting its World Wide Web site or using a Gopher service. The World Bank's electronic address, or Universal Resource Locator (URL), is <http://www.worldbank.org/>. The host name using Gopher service is <gopher.worldbank.org>. The World Bank's web site contains cross-references (links) to many other sites, including several oriented to Africa.