

A number of Canadian companies have the mistaken impression that the Bank is responsible for primary selection of tenders within a project (for technical assistance, execution, supervision and equipment control or supply). But, in fact, the agency responsible for execution of the project makes this choice. The Bank's intervention is limited to monitoring and overseeing, in accordance with its regulations governing the procedures for acquisition of goods and services.

However, the executing agency is designated by the individual country and the Bank. It may be a government ministry, a public or semi-public corporation, a government agency or even a private corporation. Its work begins with the preparation of terms of reference and continues through the screening process or drawing up of short lists, if any; the call for tenders; examination of the proposals received; selection of one of them; and finally negotiation of the contracts for implementation of the project. All these steps are governed by a series of controls at each stage: when consulting engineers are chosen, when the specifications are drawn up, and when the tenders are read. The names and addresses of executing agencies may be obtained from the quarterly summary of operations, from the information records prepared by the Bank, or from the project officer himself.

2. Registering your Firm

The Bank maintains a file of individual consultants, firms of consulting engineers, contractors, and suppliers of goods and equipment. Putting a company on one of these lists does not in any way constitute formal approval nor does it confer any right or priority with respect to selection by the Bank or its borrowers.

The Bank prefers to approve a short list of companies for each individual project, rather than to establish a long list of generally qualified firms. For this reason, these lists are primarily intended as a directory of the professional references of various companies, that may be consulted by the Bank's experts when they are drawing up the approved short lists.

You may obtain one of these registration forms from the Bank's registry office, the Embassy in Abidjan, or the Africa Trade Development Division, Department of External Affairs (GAT).