

The United Nations Agencies

This section describes the activities of selected United Nations agencies, the amounts and profiles of their procurement, and the procedures to be followed by potential suppliers. Given the large number of agencies and organizations in the UN system, it is not possible to provide descriptions for all. Those described below are the ones making the largest purchases.

Beyond the procurement centres based in New York, Copenhagen and Geneva, agencies are grouped according to their areas of activity: agriculture, economic development, culture and education, health, humanitarian assistance, natural resources and environment, population, and science and technology. An agency working in more than one area will be cited in each of them but described only once.

New York Procurement Centres

The following three organizations are based in New York and act as the main buyers for the UN Secretariat.

UN/DPD - United Nations Procurement Division (www.un.org/Depts/ptd)

The Procurement Division acquires goods and services for the UN Secretariat, peacekeeping missions, regional economic commissions and, sometimes, other United Nations agencies.

Procurement: Procurement essentially focuses on manufacturing machinery, construction materials and equipment, vehicles, foodstuffs, pharmaceutical products and telecommunications equipment.

In the services sector, this division is also responsible for transporting peacekeeping contingents and therefore devotes a large share of its budget to logistics. The UN building maintenance, internal and external communications and document printing services are also among this division's responsibilities. The impressive total of the division's procurement figure thus encompasses a significant share of expenditures for the internal operations of United Nations agencies.

In 1996, the Procurement Division spent US\$554 million on goods and services.

Purchases over US\$25,000 are subject to international competitive bidding unless there are special circumstances.

Registration: Interested firms must register with this agency. A registration form is available from its Internet site: www.un.org/Depts/ptd

In addition, the following will be requested: financial statements, catalogues and references.

Contact: UN/DPD, Chief, Procurement, 304 East 45th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A., tel.: (212) 963-0321, fax: (212) 963-3503.

DPKO - Department of Peacekeeping Operations Field Administration and Logistics Division (UN/FALD)

UN/FALD supports peacekeeping missions in the field and is essentially responsible for planning, technical materiel specifications and mission logistics.

Procurement: UN/FALD procures transportable equipment such as field hospitals, medical supplies, construction materials, generators, security equipment and storage materials.

Note that all procurement for UN/FALD is delegated to UN/DPD, while foodstuffs and an increasing number of goods and services are procured in the field by the missions themselves.

Procurement in 1996 totalled US\$127 million in equipment and US\$57 million in services.

Registration: Interested suppliers must register with UN/DPD (above), but must also have contacts with UN/FALD, since this is the group that determines the features of the goods and services to be procured.

Contact: UN/FALD, Director of Field Administration and Logistics, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A., tel.: (212) 963-6141, fax: (212) 963-0383.

UN/DDSMS - Department for Development Support and Management Services

This department conducts feasibility studies to assess and develop mineral, energy and water resources. It also works on economic and social planning and development and institution building.

Procurement: Procurement is carried out in a wide range of fields and includes scientific equipment, laboratory apparatus and supplies, mapping equipment, drilling equipment and vehicles. Expert services are also required for the department's various areas of activity.

The department's procurement in 1996 totalled US\$6.9 million for goods and US\$3.9 million for services.

Contact: Interested firms should introduce themselves to the Chief, Contracting and Procurement, UN/DDSMS, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A., tel.: (212) 963-8947/963-8948, fax: (212) 963-8911.

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