

How do Firms get Information about Bank-Financed Projects?

The World Bank's Monthly Operational Summary (MOS) provides updated information about projects from the earliest stages in the project cycle until they have been approved, and lists the country where the project is located, the administering government agency/ministry, and the amount of Bank lending anticipated. Once projects are in the implementation and supervision stages, they no longer appear in the MOS.

By checking the MOS regularly, consulting firms can find out about a project at its earliest stages and can instruct their local representatives to make contact at this time, when consulting services are often required. It is provided without additional charge to subscribers to the United Nations' Development Forum Business Edition.

(Subscriptions to the MOS can be ordered through The John Hopkins University Press (Journals Division), Baltimore, MD 21218, for \$75 year.)

The World Bank's Technical Data Sheets provide details on those items that will be purchased for a project, including the consulting services required, and the address (including cable address or telex number) of the project's administering agency. The Sheets, of which there are about 200 a year, are printed immediately after a loan is approved by the Executive Directors and are mailed to subscribers in weekly packets.

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The United Nations' Development Forum Business Edition contains general procurement notices about Bank-financed projects (as well as those financed by other multilateral institutions). These notices are mandatory when the items or services are to be purchased through international competitive bidding (ICB).

The notices, usually directed to civil-works contractors and suppliers, normally appear before the loan or credit for a project has been approved, describe it in broad terms, and list its various components. They offer contractors and suppliers the general information they need to determine if the business opportunities should be explored further. They also state if prequalification is required (that is, if a company must furnish information about its experience, finances, and so forth, in order to be qualified to bid), and where further information can be obtained.

After the general notice, a more specific notice appears that lists the items or equipment to be purchased in a particular contract, and states when bidding documents will be available and when bids are due.

Interested companies should contact the agencies administering the projects in response to the general notice. They will be informed, among other things, of when bidding documents will be available and of the fees involved to obtain them. Bidding documents are usually not sent automatically. They must be requested specifically and the fees paid.