

Load Shed Service for imports Procurement Competition Fairness Advisor Summary Report

Introduction

Audit Services was engaged by the AESO's Commercial group to act as the Fairness Advisor to review activities associated with the 2020 – 2021 Load Shed Service for imports (LSSi) procurement competition. The role of Fairness Advisor is to ensure that the procurement is conducted in a fair and transparent manner. Audit Services is an independent function reporting to the AESO's Audit Committee. In conducting our work, we are required to meet the Institute of Internal Auditors code of ethics and standards set out in the International Professional Practices Framework.

Scope of Work

The Fairness Advisor's responsibilities included:

- Reviewing of all procurement documents including the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI), Request for Proposal (RFP), Evaluation Manual, the Import Load Shed Agreement (ILSA) and related revisions or addendums
- Providing ongoing consultation and oversight of the process
- Reviewing confidentiality requirements including commercial in confidence enquiries, relationship disclosures and protection of confidential information
- Witnessing the proposal deadline and cutoff
- Reviewing communications with Proponents
- Assessing whether the evaluation process was conducted in accordance with the RFP and Evaluation Manual
- Attending any meetings and training sessions and participating in discussions which the Fairness Advisor deems necessary to make a fairness assessment
- Validating that the award to successful proponents coincides with evaluation results
- Attending the proponent award and unsuccessful proponent debrief meetings
- Developing the Fairness Advisor report

Conclusion

The AESO's procurement, completeness and evaluation team members undertook their roles diligently and in accordance with the processes predefined in the LSSi RFP and Evaluation Manual. They responded in a fair and transparent manner to all Proponents. In Audit Services' opinion as Fairness Advisor, the LSSi procurement competition was undertaken in a fair and transparent manner as of this report date of April 27, 2021.