

Slovak Republic

Two-envelope system in bids submission



TYPE OF TOOL
*Methodology/
Guidelines/
Requirements*



MAIN SECTOR
All sectors



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS
Efficient and effective public procurement

In a nutshell



OBJECTIVE: The two-envelope approach in a bidding procedure can help mitigate integrity risks during the procurement process.



Agency in charge
Public Procurement Office



Levels of government
National



Year of implementation
2013



Current status
Fully operational

Overview

The two-envelope approach in a bidding procedure can ensure that procurement decisions are taken according to the set criteria and help mitigate integrity risks during the procurement process. In this approach, bidders submit two sealed envelopes simultaneously, one with the technical proposal and the other with the economic proposal. Only the technical proposals are opened at the date and time indicated in the bidding document. The economic proposals remain sealed and are held in custody by the buyer. The advantage of this approach is that the buyer can evaluate bids based solely on the technical requirements and proposals, without having any information about the cost. This excludes inadequate bids from the beginning, which contributes to ensuring good quality infrastructure and makes the competition fairer.

In the Slovak Republic, two substantial amendments to the Act No. 25/2006 Coll., on Public Procurement became effective in 2013. In the bids submission phase of the procurement cycle, the one-stage tender process has been replaced by a two-stage tender, involving a “two-envelope system”.

Bids in the tenders are to be submitted in two parts: the “Criteria” part contains the offer with respect to the award criteria, i.e., in most cases only the price; while the “Other” part contains all other documentation and information related to the bid. The “Other” part is opened first and only after evaluation of whether the selection criteria (e.g., technical equipment) have been met can the “Criteria” part of all submitted bids be opened and evaluated. Generally, such a two-stage process should ensure that the price does not influence the technical evaluation of the bid.

REFERENCES:

- [Schoenherr \(2013\), Slovakia: Substantial changes in public procurement - Every detail counts, Schoenherr legal insights.](#)