History of the Tender Specification Project

Jan 2016   World Bank (WB), WMO and HMEI choose to begin the project
Jun 2016   WMO decides it would be better to not work with HMEI on the specification development until after HMEI completed its work
Jul 2016   HMEI hires Foeke Kuik to begin development of the tender specification document
            HMEI also begins work on an internet-based tool to support the development of tender documentation.
Sep 2016   HMEI completes development of tender specification document and turns work over to WMO for validation.
Oct 2016   HMEI show cases the tender specification internet-based tool at Meteorology Technology International show in Spain.
May 2017   HMEI and WB express to WMO at the Executive Council disappointment in the delay by WMO to move on the project.
July 2017  President of CIMO commits resources to work on the project in earnest with a completion date of December 2017.
Sep 2017   Doug Body seconded from BOM for 4 months to review the documentation. This ended up in a rewrite.
Mar 2018   Doug works for 1 week in Amsterdam with Foeke Kuik to complete the documentation.
May 2018   CIMO states at HLCM-5 that documents will be posted on WMO website for review by WMO Members. Completion of the project is set for October 2017 at Meteorology Technology International show in Amsterdam.
Aug 2018   HMEI provides a financial proposal to WB on cost to complete the internet-based tool.
Oct 2018   WB states it cannot financially support the internet-based tool development given the project has not been vetted by WMO.

CIMO holds town hall where WMO Members consistently state two things

- The tender documentation in general, is found as appreciated and useful, but none of the respondents have had an opportunity to test the documentation in a real procurement project.
- Proposals for potential improvements include: extend the documentation to other applications (e.g. agriculture, aviation), other instruments (e.g. disdrometers, marine instrumentation, radiosondes, tidal gauges), observing systems (e.g. radars, wind profilers, RVR systems), and telecommunication devices (GPRS, radio, satellite);

Project has not been completed by WMO. Chair of HMEI writes to the WMO SG with a copy to the WMO President (summary below). Also provided was the financial proposal on cost to complete the internet-based tool.

1. The Tender Specification Project has been slow to reach fruition of its intended goals. Given the delays in the Tender Specification Project, I would like to inform you that the World Bank will not be providing funding for Phase 2, the Internet Tool Development since WMO has yet to make formal approval of the developed documentation. HMEI requires clarification as to WMO’s willingness and capacity to fund this phase.
2. WMO, the WB and HMEI should appoint a single Project Leader to lead and coordinate the combined WMO, WB, HMEI Project Team to get the project on track.

Dec 2018 Fernando Belda Esplugues of WMO replies to SG email. The summary below lists the sentiments of WMO Members from the CIMO Meeting in Amsterdam.

- Replies that were received were overall supportive. That is very encouraging. Some replies included suggestions for improvements, or extension of the project. However, to date we have not received any feedback indicating that the documentation was used as template or base for a procurement process.
- WMO is of the firm opinion, that prior to investing significant additional human and financial resources in this project, we need to ensure that the material can be effectively used by developing countries.
- To ensure that donor and funding agencies be advised of the documentation and that procurement process is in accordance with major funding agencies policies, such as the World Bank Policies.

Concerns by HMEI

1. Given the delays, the WB has withdrawn any financial support from the project.
2. Project has been delayed by WMO for 2+ years with no date stated for completion. WMO has consistently missed each deadline they have set which indicates that this project is not a priority even though it is of high value to WMO Members (developing and developed countries), the World Bank and other IFI’s.
3. The Dec 2018, Bullet 3, that WMO has not communicated or is working with the WB on this project.
4. Project was not just of value to developing countries as Mr Belda states but also for the developed countries as well.
5. The largest concern is when WMO will complete their work?