Republic of Niger

Transport Sector Program Support Project

REDACTED REPORT

March 27, 2013
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Executive Summary

This Report provides the findings of an administrative inquiry (the investigation) by the World Bank Group’s (the Bank’s) Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) into allegations that two companies, Company A and Company B, engaged in misconduct in the procurement process for a Bank-financed contract under an infrastructure project in the Republic of Niger. INT found evidence indicating that a representative of Company A submitted false and misleading information regarding the company’s prior work experience in the company’s bidding documents. INT found no evidence to support the allegation relating to collusion between the two companies.
Background

The Transport Sector Program Support Project in the Republic of Niger (the Project) seeks to support the Government of Niger’s infrastructure reform efforts by improving the physical access of the rural population to markets and services by strengthening the national roads network. The Project is financed by a grant worth approximately USD 30 million, which was approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank in April 2008. The Project became effective in September 2008, and is scheduled to close in December 2013.

Allegations

In 2009, INT received allegations of possible collusive practices by two bidders, Company A and Company B, in bids submitted under the Project. INT also received information suggesting that both bidders had used the same consultant for bid preparation. Additional information received by INT alleged that Company A may have misrepresented its prior experience in its bid under the Project.

Methodology

INT commenced an investigation that involved the review and analysis of: (i) correspondence between the Bank and the Government’s implementing agency (Implementing Agency); (ii) relevant Project documents; (iii) bid documents; and (iv) correspondence from the entity for whom Company A claimed, in its bid, to have previously worked.

Findings

INT’s investigation has led to the following findings:

INT found evidence suggesting that Company A and an official of Company B submitted false and misleading information regarding Company A’s prior work experience

The bidding documents for the relevant contract under the Project required a bidder to provide information on its experience in working on similar projects. Company A submitted a bid for this contract. The bid was signed by an official of Company A and contained documentation purporting that Company A had completed similar work for another firm, Company C, on a different project.

In response to an email query from the Implementing Agency, the representative of Company C advised that they had no knowledge of Company A or of the project that Company A referenced in its bid as a project that Company A worked on for Company C. In a separate communication, Company C confirmed this statement to INT.

INT found no evidence with regard to the allegation of collusion
While INT did find evidence indicating that Company A and Company B had used the same consultant in the preparation of their bids, INT found no evidence that either company was aware of the dual role played by the consultant. INT, thus, found no evidence to support the allegation of collusion between Company A and Company B.