



Our ref.: 20521/2018/OBS/OSD/IMO/TenderSpec-Testing

25 July 2018

Subject: Generic tender specifications for Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)

Action required: Provide feedback on suitability of the material, **at the latest by 28 September 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

WMO Members expressed the need for guidance related to the procurement of observing systems, and in particular of automatic weather stations. In this context, Congress recognized the challenges faced by small National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in selecting suitable observing solutions fit for their purpose and requested that additional guidance material be developed to help Members in their procurement practices and in assessing the quality and suitability of observing systems, such as automatic weather stations.

I am glad to inform you that WMO has collaborated with the Association of Hydro-Meteorological Equipment Industry (HMEI) and the World Bank in the preparation of a set of documents for generic tender specifications for Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) to support Members and other organizations in their tendering processes. The documentation is based on and in line with the WMO guidance material and is neutral with respect to manufacturers.

The documents are now available for testing and can be accessed on: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/IMOP/AWS_Tender_Spec/AWS_Tender_Spec.html

I encourage you to make use of these documents in case you envisage purchasing AWSs, and also to inform other potential users from your country, and/or from funding agencies that are considering tendering for AWS about the existence of these documents. Users are invited to make use of them as a base for their tendering processes, and amend them, as needed, to fit their needs and own tendering process regulations.

For the moment, the documentation has not been formally approved, neither by WMO nor by HMEI. Prior to formally finalizing it, we are seeking feedback from users on their experiences with this documentation, to ensure that it meets their expectations, and to identify possible ways of improving it. If this approach is welcomed by Members, it could possibly be followed up for the tendering of other types of systems.

It is therefore important that you provide us with feedback on the experience that you will make with this material, so that WMO, and CIMO in particular, can be able to decide how to continue with this project. Should this approach meet Members' expectations, it could be widened, by providing templates for specific applications of AWS (e.g. agriculture, aviation, etc.), and/or a similar approach could be followed for other observing systems (e.g. upper-air measurements) and a user-friendly interface could be developed.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives
Presidents of regional associations
Presidents of technical commissions
Executive Secretary, HMEI

In the event that the material does not meet your expectations, it would also be important for us to know about it, so that we could modify it, and make best use of available resources.

Your support in trialing this documentation is critical to ensure that the approach that was followed is adequate for your Service, and for other institutions in your country. I am therefore looking forward to your feedback on how suitable this documentation is to meet your requirements, how it could be improved, and whether this approach should be further pursued.

Received feedback will be discussed at the occasion of the Seventeenth Session of the Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO) and at the WMO Technical Conference on Meteorological and Environmental Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO TEC0-2018) that will be held in October 2018 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. It would therefore be appreciated if your response would be received by **28 September 2018** at the latest.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General