



## **FRAUD WARNING**

### **RE: IRAQI PROCUREMENT**

*December 31, 2007*

Companies interested in doing business in Iraq should be aware of ongoing fraudulent contract offers made by persons posing as Iraqi officials. These scams are merely variations on the notorious "[Nigerian 419](#)" scam, and indeed baited companies have typically reported contact with Europe-based, West African émigrés. Companies have received e-mails and other correspondence asking them to satisfy such conditions as the following to participate in Iraqi ministry tenders: (1) pay large, up-front fees to "register" for the tender; and/or (2) provide detailed bank account information as a reference or to show qualification for a letter of credit. Other typical features of this scam include:

1. Personal contact from the offices of a senior Iraqi Minister or Vice President;
2. Use of European banks that are claimed to be special Europe-based offices designed to facilitate Iraqi Government purchases;
3. Misrepresentation of Iraqi Government contracting procedures.

Although some of the documents sent to firms appear to be authentic tender documents from Iraqi ministries, these tenders are fictitious and these conditions are not legitimate. If you comply with such conditions, you may suffer substantial financial losses.

If you believe you may have received such a tender offer, the Commerce Department's Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force may be able to assist. While this office is not a contracting agency, it has substantial knowledge of the proper contracting mechanisms of the Iraqi Government and has seen enough legitimate and fraudulent procurement offers to be able to assist most companies in determining the legitimacy of your tender offers. Please email such inquiries, including copies of the tender offer(s), to: [IraqInfo@mail.doc.gov](mailto:IraqInfo@mail.doc.gov).

Communications that raise questions of fraud should always be reported to your national authorities. In the United States, the lead agency for such claims is the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://ic3.gov/>. In no case should a company send money or bank account information without verifying the authenticity of the tender, the related documents, and the conditions of participation.

Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force  
Market Access and Compliance  
International Trade Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
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