

Suspected bias in the tender for the purchase of a truck for waste disposal in Vadul lui Voda

The Vadul lui Voda Municipal-Land Management, an enterprise founded by the local council and responsible for sanitation and landscaping, chose as the winner of the tender for the purchase of a waste disposal truck, with an estimated value of 1 million lei (~56,670 USD) excluding VAT, an economic operator created on the same day the tender announcement was published and whose offer was missing some mandatory components. The head of the Regia denies any collusion between this firm and the contracting authority. After the tender was challenged by three of the five participating economic operators, the National Agency for Solving Complaints (ANSC) annulled the contract award decision, noting that the Regia had evaluated the bids with bias. The contract was awarded to another firm.

On February 16, 2024, the City Hall of Vadul lui Voda adopted [a decision](#) to increase the share capital of the "Regia locativ-comunală a oraşului Vadul lui Voda" by 600 thousand lei (~34,001 USD). This amount was to be added to the contribution of 700 thousand (~39,668 USD) lei provided by the National Office for the Implementation of Environmental Projects for the purchase of a waste disposal truck. The estimated value of the project supported by the Office, called "Efficiency of solid waste transportation in the city of Vadul lui Voda", was 285,307.10 USD.

Based on this decision, the Regia started the procurement process and on March 11 published the [announcement of](#) the tender. According to the specifications and [the technical specification](#), the truck was to have a body capacity of 10-12 m², to be manufactured no earlier than 2023, to have an all-metal loading bunker, etc. It was also specified that the warranty period must be a minimum of 2 years and the delivery period - 30 days.






One of the local councillors, **Eugen Cebotari**, told Moldova Curată that the Council had previously discussed the need to buy a truck with a larger capacity, which could transport a larger amount of waste and thus save fuel and effort:

"Garbage is now transported with two machines that have a capacity of 8 m². That is why it was discussed to buy a modern machine with a larger capacity - that the dumpster in the back where the garbage is collected and pressed should be at least 16-20 m², so that it can transport, in one trip, the volume of at least two of the machines that are used now. That is, the two existing, old GAZ model ones should be taken out of use, as they consume more fuel and parts, and a new one should be purchased, which can work longer distances and haul double the amount. But I understand that again a small capacity car has been bought. That, unfortunately, is not cost-effective at all for the locality."

The head of the Regia, **Fiodor Conoval**, confirms that such discussions did indeed take place, but claims that neither the Regia nor the local public authority would have the money to buy a bigger and more expensive truck: "Maybe someone would have wanted us to buy a Ford. But it costs three or four million lei (~170,000 USD- 226,675 USD). The car we are buying costs one million lei (~56,668 USD). Is there a difference? For the money we have, this car suits us".

Out of five participating economic operators, three challenged the tender

Five economic operators submitted their bids to the tender: "Eximotor" SA, "Tehnolider" SRL, "Reliacentre" SRL, "Promo Soluții" SRL and "Ravitan" SRL. All except "Ravitan" SRL proposed trucks at a price of less than 1 million lei (~56,668 USD) excluding VAT.

Camion pentru evacuare de deșeuri (NOU)						1,000,000.00 MDL
	EXIMOTOR SA	documente ofertă	02/04/2024 09:31	915,000.00 MDL	Oferă refuzată	Decizie
	Tehnolider	documente ofertă	01/04/2024 11:52	947,777.00 MDL	Oferă refuzată	Decizie
	Reliacentre	documente ofertă	27/03/2024 12:14	958,233.33 MDL	Oferă refuzată	Decizie
	S.C. PROMO SOLUTII SRL	documente ofertă	01/04/2024 14:24	996,700.00 MDL	Oferă refuzată	Decizie
	RAVITAN SRL	documente ofertă	29/03/2024 19:35	1,130,000.00 MDL	Oferă acceptată	Decizie

The winner was declared the company "Reliacentre", registered in Comrat on the day when the Communal-Housing Authority of Vadul lui Vodă published the announcement about the auction - March 11, 2024, as it appears from the data published on the Idno.md portal. The company proposed a truck with a capacity of 12m2, but did not indicate the delivery term, and the guarantee it could offer for the operation of the truck was one year, while the contracting authority requested 2 years. "Reliacentre" is the only participant that offered a truck with a capacity of 12m2, in the rest of the offers the proposed capacity was 10m2. However, Fiodor Conoval claims that there was no agreement between the working group and the economic agent, and that the selection was guided by the "lowest price" principle.

After being informed of the working group's decision regarding the winner, "Eximotor" SA, "Ravitan" SRL and "Tehnolider" SRI submitted appeals. The first was rejected, without being examined on the merits, invoking the late submission, and the following two were combined for examination. Both appeals were admitted, the final decision of the National Authority for the Resolution of Appeals was to annul the decision to award the contract and oblige the Directorate to re-evaluate the offers. At the same time, the contracting authority is required to report to ANSC within 3 days about the remedial measures carried out with the attachment of confirmatory documents.

Read more at moldovacvacurată.md

The project [Increasing the Integrity of Public Procurement](#) is implemented by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) Viitorul, in partnership with the American organization Partnership for Transparency. The project aims to support public procurement reforms in Moldova that will increase transparency and fairness in public procurement by empowering citizens to hold relevant institutions accountable.

[IDIS Viitorul](#) is an independent think tank established in 1993 that combines social, political and economic research with strong advocacy components. The institution conducts applied monitoring research in several areas: economics, social policy, EU policies, regional development, and security and foreign policy risks.

[Partnership for Transparency](#) (PTF) is based in Washington, DC and its mission is to promote innovative civil society-led approaches to improving governance, increasing transparency, promoting the rule of law, and reducing



PARTNERSHIP FOR
TRANSPARENCY



corruption in developing and emerging countries. Since 2000, PTF has supported over 250 projects aimed at promoting NGO involvement in decisions, processes, and laws that enforce transparency and accountability in public procurement.