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**ST-São Tomé: EDF — technical assistance to strengthen the competitiveness of export sectors**  
**2011/S 56-090222**

**Location: ACP countries, Central Africa — São Tomé and Príncipe**

**Contract forecast notice**

**Services**

Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

Main object:

79411100 Business development consultancy services

1. **Publication reference:**  
EuropeAid/131168/C/SER/ST.
2. **Procedure:**  
Restricted.
3. **Programme:**  
9th or 10th EDF.
4. **Financing:**  
Financing agreement.
5. **Contracting authority:**  
European Union, represented by the European Commission on behalf of and for the account of the beneficiary country, São Tomé, SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE.
6. **Nature of contract:**  
Fee-based.
7. **Contract description:**  
The general aim of the technical assistance is to devise and implement, along with the supervisor (National Authorising Officer) and the awarding authority (Ministry of Development and Planning — Directorate for Trade and Industry), a strategy to strengthen the competitiveness of key export sectors identified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR). This section involves increasing the participation of the private sector and civil society in devising and implementing the national trade strategy.  
This is expected to have an impact on 2 levels:  
1) at sector (micro) level: taking relevant action to help local companies develop with a strategic change which assesses sources of competitive advantage, taking into account their international value chains, allowing companies to be more competitive in the long term;  
2) at structural (meso) level, with a better understanding of the sectors' requirements, the government can:  
a) adapt general intervention tools and structural and horizontal policies in order to improve its support for companies and associations and act as a catalyst to change, in particular by favouring a logic of synergies between the various parties involved;  
b) define the critical factors of the sectors to be taken into account with regard to the country's trade integration.  
This general aim requires technical work for each sector, alongside major intervention in the field of change management for parties in the private and public sectors.

8. **Numbers and titles of lots:**  
The contract is divided into lots: no, 1 lot only.
9. **Budget:**  
Maximum budget: 480 000 EUR.
10. **Intended timing of publication of procurement notice:**  
April 2011.
11. **Additional information**
12. **Legal basis:**  
9th or 10th EDF: ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23.6.2000, as amended.
13. **Date of dispatch of this notice:**  
10.3.2011.

**Remarks:**

There must be a minimum period of 30 calendar days between the publication of this contract forecast and the publication of the corresponding procurement notice.

No applications or requests for information should be sent at this stage.