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DEC 03 2012

Mr. Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Library of Parliament
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A9

Dear Mr. Page:

Thank you for your letter of November 19, 2012, in which you request copies of the bids submitted by Vancouver Shipyards Co. Ltd. and Irving Shipbuilding Inc. as part of your examination of the Joint Support Ship Project, in connection with the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy.

The objective of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy competition was to select two shipyards to be the strategic source of supply for Canada over the next 20–30 years. The solicitation documents do not stipulate awarding contracts, and the bidders were not asked to submit cost estimates for any of the vessels.

The information contained in the bids was provided in confidence and is proprietary to the shipyards. Section 30 of the *Defence Production Act* also prevents disclosure of information with respect to an individual business that has been obtained under or by virtue of the Act. We are therefore unable to provide the bids. However, officials from the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy Secretariat are available to brief you and your officials on the Strategy as a whole, including the evaluation process / methodology.

Should you wish such a briefing, I would invite you to contact Mr. Pierre Berthiaume from the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy Secretariat, at 613-943-3692.

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While I regret that my response cannot be more favourable, I hope that you will understand the position of the Department on this matter, and that we are bound by the provisions of the legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle d'Auray

c.c.: Mr. Pierre Berthiaume
Senior Advisor, Communications
National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy Secretariat
Public Works and Government Services Canada