

Letter to the Reader

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Dear reader,

The current issue of the of the TCU Journal presents a theme of substantial relevance to Public Administration, considering the budget constraint environment we are experiencing in the moment, i.e., the bidding process. The procurement of goods and services in the public sector has gained increasing importance lately and society monitoring has been growing every day, which has demanded from the State ongoing concern on how to streamline the expenditures on such operations.

To that effect, we must try to make possible the acquisition of goods and services with the desired standard of quality, at the lowest possible cost and in a timely manner. To this end, it is essential to promote the efficient use of what we have available to meet adequately both the daily and the innovative demands, resulting, therefore, in minimizing losses. This is the experience in every Brazilian household and it cannot be different in the Public Administration.

If each State Agency adopt, as a top management priority, rational criteria and efficient use of resources, resulting from the taxes paid by Brazilian citizens, this will encourage actions that, in a larger scope, will result in benefit to the whole society. According to philosopher and Economist Adam Smith, the pursuit of individual economic interests contributes to the promotion of what the community wants, a premise worth in both private and in public sectors.

With the increasing demand for services and goods, it is imperative that the State enables the economic and social development; it becomes necessary to adopt control mechanisms to ensure the regularity of the application of the available resources efficiently and effectively, following principles of transparency and equality. One of the most important steps in this direction is the bidding.

The bidding process is, therefore, a subject of highest relevance to the Public Administration and to the country as a whole. It is an instrument that allows public management to use the buying power of the State sector to generate economic and environmental benefits, increasing employment and income, fulfilling, therefore, the social role of the bidding. The acquisition of more sustainable products by the State, in turn, can stimulate the market and vendors to develop innovative approaches and to increase the competition of the national industry

In this regard, the six articles included in this issue feature important issues related to the bidding process, such as the participation of joint ventures and cooperatives in the bidding process; the designation of a brand when specifying the object of the bidding; and procedures that can lead to mischaracterization of the contractual object. Such topics will lead the reader to reflect on matters directly or indirectly associated with the economic, legal, social and innovation issues.

Similarly, the new section incorporated now to the Journal – Opinion – presents relevant considerations on the role of the Court in improving public procurement procedures, using modern information technology tools in the actions applicable to the sector

As for the highlights, I would like to mention the creation of a specific Department within the structure of the Executive Office of the Court. This department will be responsible for the oversight of the special operations in infrastructure, also the overall assessment of the actions and initiatives carried out by TCU as President of the Latin American and Caribbean Organization of the Supreme Audit Institutions - Olacefs.

Equally relevant is the interview with Minister Vital do Rêgo, he introduces relevant aspects of his public life and his perception as to the evolution of the bidding process and how much attention Public Administration is paying to the issue. More particularly, regarding the need for excellence in the legislation proceedings provided for in the law, also the technical expertise of the Court's staff responsible for conducting those procedures.

Enjoy the reading!