A MECHANISM FOR SECURE TENDERING IN AN OPEN ELECTRONIC NETWORK

ABSTRACT

A mechanism for securing bid proposals until close of tendering is provided for an electronic tendering system over an open network. In order to be permitted to file a bid electronically in response to an invitation to tender, prospective vendors (100) encrypt their bid proposals using session keys obtained from a third party source (104). The encrypted proposals are filed with the bid requester (102) who does not have access to the session keys while the tendering period remains open. The encrypted bid proposals are cached in a safe repository until close of tendering.

FIG 1