

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)084

(Question Serial No. 0184)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the expenditure of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on using technology to enhance street cleansing efficiency, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) For the outsourced cleansing service contracts awarded in the past 3 years, what were the respective expenditures on innovative cleansing technologies such as the automated cleansing robot and smart surveillance system? What were the respective expenditures on manpower? Please provide a breakdown by contract.
- (b) The current tendering system for cleansing service already covers the rating on innovative technology. What are the specific assessment criteria for such item? Please illustrate with examples. For instance, in the past year, what kinds of technologies were provided by the outsourced contractors who scored high marks in this item? Were there any outsourced contractors who had plans to apply technology but scored low marks in this item, and what were the reasons?
- (c) In the 2026-27 Budget, will additional resources be allocated for the application of innovative environmental hygiene technologies? If yes, what are the details and budget allocation? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- (a) In recent years, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has been actively promoting the application of innovative technologies. Through research and field trials, it carefully evaluates and identifies suitable technologies and products for gradual incorporation into regular services in a bid to promote environmental hygiene work and continuously take it to a higher level. Starting from mid-June 2025, trials have been conducted on the use of the automobile cleaning robot in street sweeping on the pedestrian walkway along the Ma Liu Shui waterfront in Sha Tin. The automobile cleaning robot is still in the testing stage and has not yet been included in the terms of street cleansing service contracts. In the past 3 years, the expenditures of FEHD in relation to trials on the automobile cleaning robot are as follows:

Year	Expenditure
2023-24	Not applicable
2024-25	\$580,000 (Borne by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department)
2025-26 (Revised estimate)	About \$2 million

Regarding the tendering for street cleansing service contracts of FEHD, tenderers are not required to provide itemised quotations for the innovative suggestions that they put forward. Therefore, FEHD does not keep a breakdown of the relevant expenditures. For the contracts commencing in the 2023-24 and 2025-26 financial years, based on the information provided by the contractors in the tenders, it is estimated that the expenditure on staff accounts for 80% of the total contract value.

- (b) Pursuant to the standard marking scheme framework as stipulated in the Government's relevant procurement policy, FEHD has established a marking scheme for tendering for the procurement of street cleansing service contracts, with the criteria covering innovative suggestions submitted by tenderers. Tenderers will score marks if they provide innovative suggestions for adopting technology or other means that help enhance service efficiency, effectiveness and productivity. Innovative suggestions of past tenderers that scored marks in this item include the use of on-board refuse bin cleaner to enhance service efficiency, provision of electric vehicles for refuse collection to promote environmental protection, etc.

Generally speaking, in the submission of innovative suggestion, a tenderer will not score any mark in this item if he fails to provide details of the implementation plan, or confirm that the proposal can improve the service or bring positive values/benefits to the Government or the public, or if the equipment/manpower suggested is something that already exists/conventional/widely used, or if it is merely a requirement of the contract terms rather than an innovative suggestion.

- (c) FEHD leverages technologies to enhance street cleansing efficiency, such as using mini street washing vehicles equipped with pressure washer surface cleaners to perform deep cleaning. The expenditure involved has been included in the budgets of street cleansing service contracts. There is no separate breakdown of the estimated expenditure on the application of innovative technologies. FEHD will continue to proactively keep an eye on the development of new technologies in the market and flexibly deploy resources for research and introduction of suitable new technologies to improve cleansing service in a persistent manner.

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