

Private consultant worked at Enemalta for over 25 years

Matthew Vella

A private consultant working on behalf of BWSC had informed the Danish firm of the need "to tap another source higher up in the political hierarchy" before the start of the tendering for a €200 million contract for a new turbine at Delimara power station.

MaltaToday can reveal that in an email dated 10 May 2005 – just two months after the pre-tendering process was advertised in the national press in late March – Joseph Mizzi told a BWSC manager of how to go about the tender.

Mizzi, from San Gwann, is a former Enemalta employee who worked at the national energy company for over 25 years.

Attempts to contact Mizzi on his home and mobile numbers proved futile.

Mizzi, representing BWSC's interest in the tender for the 100MW Delimara extension, guided BWSC sales manager Martin Kok Jensen on the tendering.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DENISE SOCLUNA



Martin Kok Jensen

In emails seen by MaltaToday, Mizzi was praised by Jensen as "intelligence working in fifth gear".

As early as March 2005 – weeks before Enemalta advertised the start of the pre-tendering process in the press – Mizzi informed Jensen that

"your main competitors are surely Wartsila and MAN B&W as engine manufacturers."

The emails show that Mizzi was annoyed at the fact that a certain Bent Iversen, acting on behalf of BWSC, came to Malta sometime in February 2005

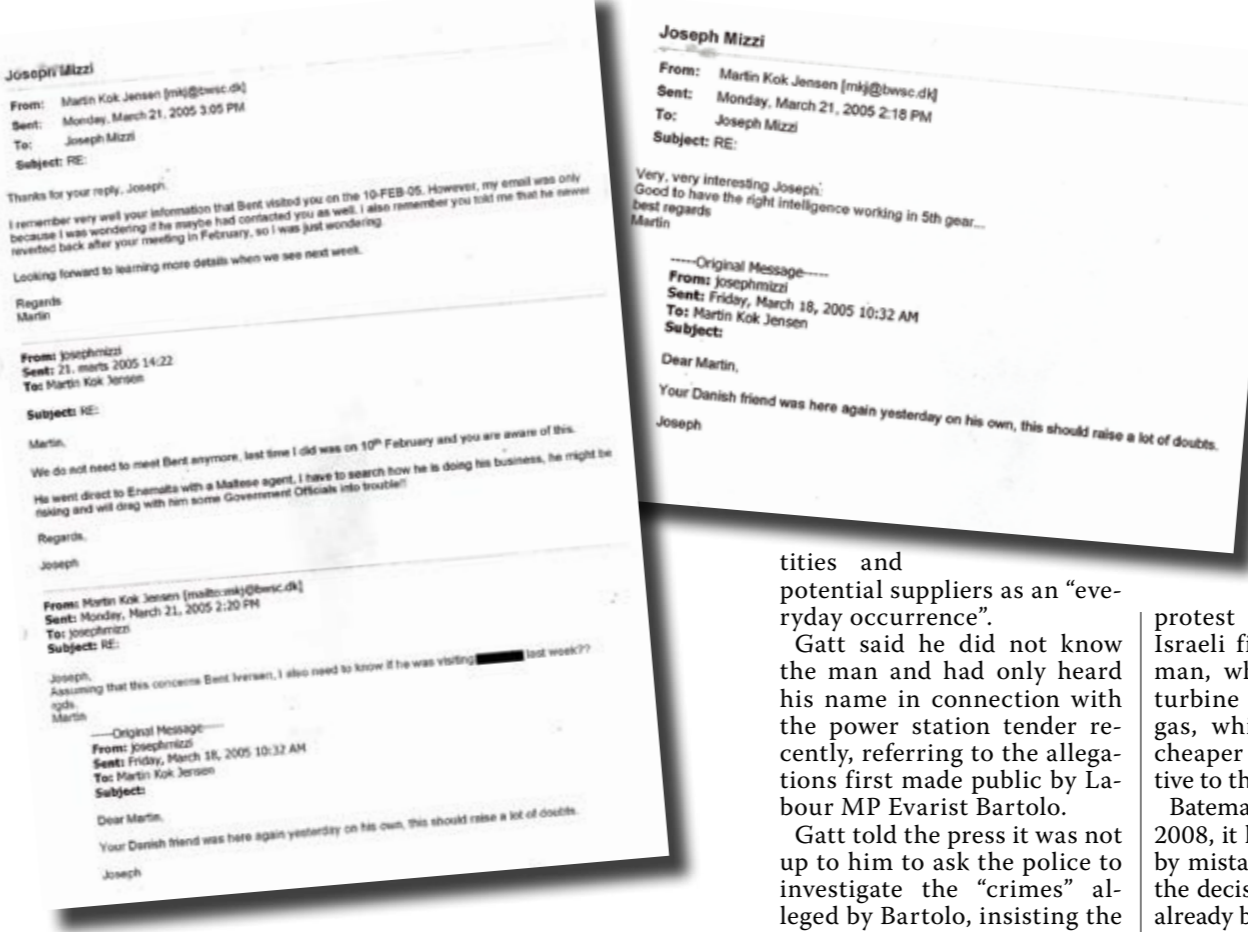
for an unofficial meeting with Enemalta officials.

Mizzi contacted Jensen to tell him: "He (Bent) went direct to Enemalta with a Maltese agent. I have to find out how he is doing his business, he might be risking and will drag with him some govern-

ment officials into trouble."

Another email from Jensen, also dated in March, congratulates Mizzi: "Good to have the right intelligence working in fifth gear."

The email conversations took place in March. Enemalta has already claimed



that since 2004 the corporation was evaluating the possible use of medium sized diesel engines for a small extension to the Delimara power station. This was later increased to 100MW, but the request for information was published in September 2005.

Enemalta claims that BWSC could not have had any technical details in its hand beforehand, because the request for proposals was published in November 2006.

Investments Minister Austin Gatt has dismissed the contacts between government entities and potential suppliers as an "everyday occurrence".

Gatt said he did not know the man and had only heard his name in connection with the power station tender recently, referring to the allegations first made public by Labour MP Evarist Bartolo.

Gatt told the press it was not up to him to ask the police to investigate the "crimes" alleged by Bartolo, insisting the prosecution of criminal offences was the prerogative of the "autonomous institutions" responsible for such matters, which "act independently of the wishes of a minister".

He would not say whether he would be demanding an internal investigation into the allegations.

"If Evarist Bartolo knows more than he has written he should inform the police and if he does not, then it is up to the police to decide what to do with what he has written, one way or the other," Gatt said.

BWSC was earlier this year awarded the €200 million contract to supply a new 100MW turbine, which will operate on heavy fuel.

The award was followed by a judicial protest from a rival bidder, Israeli firm Ido Hutney/Bateman, whose offer was for a turbine operated by natural gas, which would have been cheaper and a cleaner alternative to the heavy fuel plant.

Bateman says that in May 2008, it had been sent an email by mistake which revealed that the decision to drop its bid had already been taken.

MaltaToday is in possession of this email, sent by an Enemalta employee to senior officials on Thursday 22 May 2008. "I propose that an invitation should be sent tomorrow to BWSC and MAN, which submitted the best two offers for 100MW plant as evaluated so far," the email reads.



Austin Gatt

When Bateman drew the corporation's attention to the fact that it had received this email, and was therefore cognisant of the rejection of its bid, the Israeli company was once again shortlisted, only to later discover that its bid had been rejected at a point when it was no longer possible to appeal.

While no environmental impact assessment was conducted for the new power station extension, government even increased the allowable emission limits for Delimara, by means of a legal notice back in January 2008 – right in the middle of the tender process – which enabled the diesel engine technology to comply with the requirements, in contrast to the original levels on the proper tender document.

Email blunder – govt official: 'does MaltaToday have the right to info?'

Finance ministry refuses to disclose Maltese partners of Delimara bidders

Matthew Vella

A finance ministry spokesperson quizzed his superior on whether MaltaToday was entitled to know who the Maltese partners of the three bidders for the Delimara power station extension were.

Just weeks ago, this newspaper was refused basic information on the local partners of BWSC, Ido Hutney/Bateman, and Man Diesel, who tendered for Enemalta's €200 million extension. The finance ministry spokesperson claimed the Malta sub-contractors were protected by confidentiality clauses.

The Delimara contract has attracted controversy over claims by rival bidder Bateman, which has filed a judi-

cial protest against the award to Danish firm BWSC. Bateman says its offer was cheaper and more environmentally-friendly than BWSC's.

And the admission by Enemalta chairman Alex Tranter of his "possible conflict of interest" – given that he is a business partner of a BWSC sub-contractor, Vassallo Builders Group – has fuelled interest into who are all the local partners and agents of the three foreign bidders.

It is standard practice to know which local companies are partnered when foreign multinationals bid for public tenders.

But the finance ministry was of the opinion that confidentiality rules guarded this information, referring this newspaper to the Public Contracts Regulations. The rules protect techni-

cal details from being disclosed during tendering.

So MaltaToday demanded an explanation as to why such details, for a public tender that has already been awarded, were not being disclosed.

But this week, the spokesperson erroneously emailed MaltaToday asking: "Good morning. Can you see this email pls – is he correct in his part that he has the right to ask for such info?"

Hours later, the sheepish disclaimer popped into the mailbox: "This was of course not intended for you, but of course I was/am checking whether this is confidential info or not."

Not as confident as their first refusal. But it's good to know the finance ministry double-checks every time it refuses public information.

@ Tranter and Vassallo
www.maltatoday.com.mt/2009/06/28/13.html

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Tranter, solar power director



ENEMALTA chairman Alex Tranter is the non-executive director of a solar energy firm aiming to invest over €1.2 billion in solar parks in the Mediterranean.

Tranter confirmed his role with MaltaToday this week, after this newspaper highlighted the various roles of the chairman of the national energy corporation.

Sunray Renewable is headquartered at the Valletta Waterfront, and its main office here handles the overall

management of the company's operations in Spain, Italy, Greece, Israel and France.

The company aims at becoming "one of Europe's largest independent power producers" specialising in photovoltaics. With some \$200 million in capital from equity firm Denham, and bank finance, Sunray has a total portfolio of over €1.2 billion to develop solar parks.

Sunray is also handling Italy's largest solar plant, with around 80,000 panels producing 40,000MWh energy per year, offsetting some 22,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Tranter heads the Caremalta Group – which runs homes for the elderly – owned by his business partner Nazzareno Vassallo. Vassallo's flagship company Vassallo Builders is sub-contracted by Danish firm BWSC for the €200 million extension to the Delimara power station.

Tranter informed MaltaToday he had not participated in any of the discussions on the contract for the 100MW extension since June 2008 when he realised he had a "potential conflict of interest".

Safety at Sea Initiatives at Blue Lagoon

The Malta Maritime Authority has designated new anchorage areas for visiting craft at Blue Lagoon (Comino). For the benefit and safety of all mariners and bathers, the Authority urges all visitors to adhere to the new arrangements.

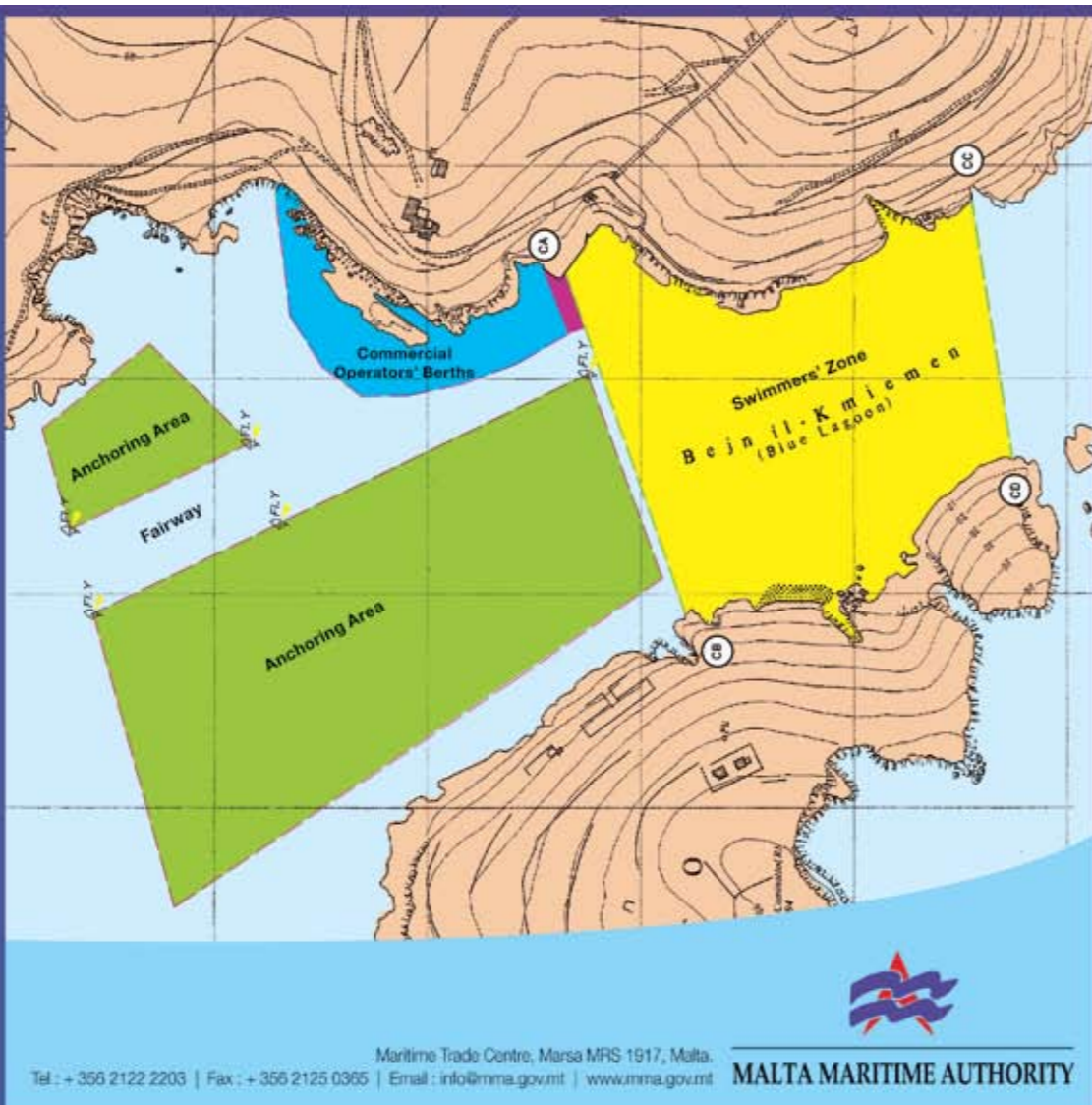
Law enforcement officers will be constantly patrolling the area.

For your own safety:

- The use of pontoon is EXCLUSIVELY reserved for loading and unloading from visiting craft. No swimming is allowed from and in the vicinity of pontoon.
- The designated anchorage areas are demarcated by yellow marker buoys flashing yellow.
- The designated Swimmers' Zone is demarcated by yellow and red marker buoys attached to a steel wire rope.
- Swimmers are strongly advised to remain within the Swimmers' Zone.

Mariners should proceed at a safe speed, keep a sharp lookout and remember that:

- All craft are prohibited from entering the Swimmers' Zone.
- All craft are prohibited from mooring to any marker buoys and/or ropes delineating the zone.
- Anchoring is only permitted within the two designated areas (shown in green) leaving a min. distance of 3m from the Swimmers' Zone.
- Fairway to be kept clear at all times.



PLEASE REPORT ALL CONTRAVENTIONS TO THE POLICE

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MALTA MARITIME AUTHORITY