



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 25, 2019

**TO:** USAID/West Bank and Gaza Acting Mission Director, Courtney Chubb

**FROM:** USAID OIG Middle East and Eastern Europe (ME/EE) Regional Office, USDH  
NFA Coordinator, Abdoulaye Gueye /s/

**SUBJECT:** Closeout Examination of Blumont Engineering Solutions, Inc.'s Compliance With the Terms and Conditions of Indefinite Quantity Contract AID-294-I-00-12-00003, Under Infrastructure Needs Program II, Task Order 294-TO-16-00008, Gaza Desalination Plant Expansion Project in West Bank and Gaza, January 1, 2018, to January 31, 2019 (8-294-19-027-O)

This memorandum transmits the final report on the closeout examination of Blumont Engineering Solutions, Inc.'s compliance with the terms and conditions of indefinite quantity contract AID-294-I-00-12-00003, under Infrastructure Needs Program II, task order 294-TO-16-00008, Gaza Desalination Plant Expansion project, for the period January 1, 2018, to January 31, 2019. The USAID/West Bank and Gaza contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm El Wafa Company to conduct the examination engagement.

The audit firm states that it performed its examination in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and generally accepted government auditing standards, except for not participating in an external quality control review program. The audit firm explained that West Bank and Gaza does not offer such a review program. The audit firm stated that they participate in MAZARS worldwide quality control review program which requires their office to be subject, every four years, to an extensive quality control review by partners and managers from other affiliate offices. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do

not express an opinion on Blumont's internal control effectiveness or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.<sup>1</sup>

The examination objectives were mainly to: (1) determine whether Blumont complied, in all material respects, with Task Order specific terms and applicable laws and regulations, including testing the contractor's compliance with Executive Order 13224 – Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Person Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism; (2) evaluate and obtain a sufficient understating of Blumont's internal controls related to compliance, assess control risk, and identify reportable conditions, including material internal control weaknesses; and (3) provide reasonable assurance of detecting fraud, illegal acts, or violations of provisions of the Task Order. To answer the examination objectives, the auditors performed the subject examination engagement that covered the period from January 1, 2018, to January 31, 2019.

The auditors expressed that Blumont complied in all material respects with the terms of the Task Order and applicable laws and regulations for period from January 1, 2018, to January 31, 2019 and did not identify any material instances of noncompliance. The auditors did not identify any material weakness and significant deficiency in internal control. The auditors also did not identify any material instances of noncompliance with Executive Order 13224.

The report does not include any recommendations for your action.

We appreciate the assistance extended during the engagement.

OIG does not routinely distribute independent public accounting reports beyond the immediate addressees because a high percentage of these reports contain information restricted from release under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905 and Freedom of Information Act Exemption Four, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) ("commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential").

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<sup>1</sup> We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify any items needing clarification or issues requiring management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and excludes review of the auditor's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.