

For immediate release
Geneva, 5 April 2006

Cotecna signs a Pre-Shipment Inspection contract with the Republic of the Congo - Brazzaville

Cotecna, the international trade inspection group, has signed a 3 year renewable Pre-shipment Inspection contract (PSI) with the Government of the Republic of Congo.

This three-year renewable contract is expected to start on 15 May, 2006. Cotecna is proud to count the Republic of the Congo among its government clients which include: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Ecuador, Ghana, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Yemen. The main office in the Republic of the Congo will be located at Pointe Noire and Cotecna envisages that a total of 50 local staff will be needed to operate the inspection programme.

Cotecna will install high tech IT and communication equipment, including a VSAT for satellite transmission of data, voice and video signals. Local Cotecna staff and Customs will benefit from training and knowledge transfer programmes. This Pre-shipment contract intends to assist the government of the Republic of the Congo in improving security, modernizing Customs and reinforcing capacity building.

Robert Massey, CEO Cotecna said, "Cotecna is honoured to have been chosen by the Republic of the Congo to provide expertise in setting up a Pre-shipment inspection programme. Cotecna will apply best procedures gained from its multiple experiences of similar contracts in Africa and around the world."

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Founded in Switzerland in 1974, the Cotecna Group offers a wide range of trade facilitation services, trade security services and quality certification standards. Cotecna is a pioneer in areas such as Risk Management, Destination Inspection, Scanner integration projects, Customs modernization programmes, Customs Valuation Assistance and Trade Security solutions. For a full description of our services, please visit www.cotecna.com. The Cotecna Group has a combined workforce of about 4,000 employees and agents in close to 100 offices and holds 14 government inspection contracts.