

Iran’s uranium enrichment puts pressure on U.S.

By David Wainer and Daniel Flatley
BLOOMBERG NEWS

WASHINGTON — Iran’s decision to ramp up uranium enrichment is prompting debate over whether the U.S. should — or even can — invoke a threat that negotiators built into the 2015 nuclear agreement but hoped would never be used: a “snapback” of international sanctions.

Although President Donald Trump withdrew from the accord last year, the administration is being pressured by some American hard-liners to invoke a mechanism that ultimately would trigger a return to United Nations Security Council sanctions beyond those the U.S. is imposing unilaterally.

Such a move, if successful, would shred what’s left of European-led efforts to keep the multinational accord alive, and analysts and diplomats say it would be galling coming from the nation that was first to quit the deal.

“Do I think there’s an argument to be made for snapping back? Sure,” said Richard Nephew, who was the lead sanctions expert for the Obama administration team that negotiated the 2015 accord. “Do I think the rest of the council agrees? No. It’s not clear people would stay in their chairs during discussions if we invoked this.”

Nephew, now a senior research scholar at Columbia University, said the snapback was designed to give the U.S. unilateral privileges to restore sanctions through the Security Council.

Under the snapback clause, any of the signatories to the Iran accord can cite Iran for violating the ac-

cord in a complaint to a dispute resolution committee. The matter eventually could be brought before the Security Council, which could vote on a resolution to keep the previous sanctions from going back into force. But the U.S. could get its way by exercising its veto on the council.

To get around a dispute over whether the U.S. has standing to initiate the snapback mechanism, American officials are leaning on France and the U.K. to consider exercising it. The Europeans are signaling they’re not at that point, but they are using the American threats to put pressure on Iran to restrain itself, according to Western diplomats at the U.N.

A trio of hard-line U.S. senators says the White House doesn’t need to wait for the Europeans to start the process.

“Your administration has refrained from invoking the snapback mechanism in United Nations Security Council resolution (U.N.SCR) 2231, which if invoked would restore international restrictions against Iranian uranium enrichment, plutonium-related heavy water work, and ballistic missile development,” Republicans Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Tom Cotton said in a letter to Trump.

Even without the snapback provision, the U.S. has instituted punishing sanctions targeting Iran’s oil exports and its broader economy. European nations have been trying to salvage the deal by offering barter provisions that would sidestep the U.S. banking system — with little success — even as they warn Iran against continuing to violate the deal’s limits on uranium enrichment.

New Zealand buys weapons back from gun owners

By Nick Perry
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Dozens of Christchurch gun owners on Saturday handed over their weapons in exchange for money, in the first of more than 250 planned buyback events around New Zealand after the government outlawed many types of semi-automatics.

Police said they paid more than 430,000 New Zealand dollars (\$288,000) to 169 gun owners during the event. The money was paid directly into the bank accounts of gun owners.

New Zealand lawmakers in April rushed through new legislation to ban so-called military-style weapons after a lone gunman killed 51 people at two Christchurch mosques in March.

The government has set aside more than NZ\$200 million to buy back weapons such as AR-15 style rifles, although many gun owners remain unhappy with the compensation on offer.

Under an amnesty, gun owners have until December to turn over their now-banned weapons.

Police said at least 14,000 guns around the country are banned under the new legislation. There are an estimated 1 million to 1.5 million guns in New Zealand and 250,000 licensed gun owners.

Under the buyback scheme, gun owners are compensated between 25 percent and 95 percent of the pre-tax price of a new gun, depending on the condition of their weapon.

People who own guns that are not banned under

the new laws can also turn over their weapons during the amnesty, although they won’t get any compensation. Police said a half-dozen such weapons were turned in during the Christchurch event.

Police are using hydraulic machines to crush the gun barrels and firing mechanisms of the weapons that are handed in, rendering them inoperable, before disposing of them.

Mike Johnson, an acting district police commander, said the Christchurch buyback had been a success and the attitude of gun owners “outstanding.”

Police Minister Stuart Nash said the results from the first collection were very encouraging.

“Many of those who handed over firearms commented how easy the process is, how the prices are fair, and how police made the whole event go smoothly,” Nash said in a statement.

But Nicole McKee, the secretary of the Council of Licensed Firearms Owners, said the government was shortchanging gun owners by trying to complete the buyback on the cheap.

She said gun owners were forced to rely on police assessments of the condition of their guns and weren’t getting paid anything for the thousands of dollars they had spent on tax as well as certain accessories and ammunition.

“They do want to abide by the new laws but they have no incentive and they’re having fingers pointed at them and are being treated like criminals,” McKee said. “They’re angry at the way they’re being treated.”



Ashraf Shazly / AFP / Getty Images

Camels get a lift to market

Traders use a mobile crane Wednesday to lift a camel to be loaded into a waiting truck headed to the border with Egypt, where the animal was to be sold, at El-Molih camel market west of Omdurman, Sudan.



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| <h2>Notice To Creditors Ad \$74.00*</h2> <p>Call the Legals Team 713-224-6868 Ext. 6435 or 4204</p> <p>*\$74.00 includes first 36 lines and 1 Affidavit of Publication *\$1.92 per line over 36 lines</p> | | | <h3>CITY OF HOUSTON</h3> <p>Invitation to Propose for Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement and Medicare Part D Plans (Solicitation #S76-T29098) for eligible retirees of the City of Houston and their eligible dependents.</p> <p>The online Request for Proposal (RFP) can be found at www.proposaltech.com.</p> <p>Proposal Tech is a secure website, which you will electronically complete your proposal, pose questions, and submit requests for clarification or additional information. Questions may also be submitted via email to: Bridget Cormier at Bridget.Cormier@houston.tx.gov for the Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement, and Medicare Part D Plans RFP (Solicitation #S76-T29098).</p> <p>Any addenda or other information regarding the RFP will be posted to the Proposal Tech website. Proposers should check the website daily for information in the forms of formal addenda and Letters of Clarification to the RFP.</p> <p>A pre-proposal conference will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. CDST at the Learning and Development Center, 4501 Leeland, Room 107, Houston, TX 77023.</p> <p>Eleven (11) sealed proposals responding to the RFP, including one original signed in blue ink, and ten (10) flash drives of the entire proposal plus exhibits, shall be delivered to the Office of City Secretary, 900 Bagby, Rm. P101, Houston, TX 77002.</p> <p>Deadlines and specific instructions are included on the first page of the RFP. Proposals are due Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. CDST. Proposals will not be accepted after the due date and time.</p> <p>All proposals will be required to comply with City Ordinances: No. 78-1538, passed August 9, 1978 referring to Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance, No. 94-1309 relating to participation goals for Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises, No. 2007-534 Pay or Play, requiring contractors to offer their employees a minimum level of health benefits and No. 2011-766 relating to Hire Houston First, allowing the city to consider a vendor's principal place of business in awarding certain contracts. The MWBE goal will be 3% of the total value of the administrative services fee paid to the administrator. Concurrent with the pre-proposal conference, the Office of Business Opportunity will host a fair for minority/women-owned businesses and companies that may propose to provide products, equipment and services for the listed plans. The City reserves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals, or any part thereof, deemed to be in the best interest of the City.</p> | | | <h3>GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY</h3> <h4>METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF HARRIS COUNTY</h4> <h5>2018 CALL FOR PROJECTS</h5> <h5>Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant Program</h5> <p>Project Proposals are due to METRO on or before August 16, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. (CST), by electronic submittal to: grantapplications@ridemetro.org</p> <p>Late submittals will not be accepted</p> <p>Pre-Application Workshop Monday, July 22, 2019 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>METRO 1900 Main Street Board Room Houston, Texas 77002</p> <p>The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County is conducting a Call for Projects for the 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant program.</p> <p>Congress establishes the funding for FTA programs through authorizing legislation that amends Chapter 53 of Title 49 of the U.S. Code. On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, reauthorizing surface transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2020. The FAST Act continued the 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities formula program established in MAP-21.</p> <p>The Application Package, budget worksheets and related documents are available to download from the METRO website at http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx. Questions submitted by July 26, 2019 will be posted by August 2, 2019. Please check back for updates.</p> <p>For more information about these programs or questions regarding the application and budget process, please email your questions to grantapplications@ridemetro.org, or Mr. Albert Lyne, METRO Director of Grant Programs, at 713-739-4697.</p> | | |
| <h3>INVITATION TO BIDDERS</h3> <p>Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Dannenbaum Engineering Corp. will be received at the office of Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, 3100 West Alabama, Houston, Texas 77098 (Tel. 713/520 9570) until 10:00 A.M., local time, WEDNESDAY, July 31ST, 2019, and then publicly opened and read for "Detention Pond Conversion to Detention/Amenity Pond for The Reserve at Brazos Town Center, within Fort Bend County MUD No. 167, within the City of Rosenberg, TX"</p> <p>Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Excavation, grading, concrete work (slope paving), haul off and disposal of spoil material.</p> <p>Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON--MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on WEDNESDAY, July 24TH, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M., local time, at the office of Dannenbaum Engineering Corp. Each prospective bidder or its representative is encouraged to attend but is not mandatory.</p> <p>Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided, and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.</p> <p>Complete bidding documents are available for download at www.civcastusa.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.</p> <p>The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.</p> | | | <h3>LEGAL NOTICES & CLOWNS</h3> <p>TWO THINGS THAT HAVE A RIGHT TIME AND PLACE</p> <p>Stay legal and get noticed by emailing our team at legals@chron.com or calling 713.224.6868</p> <p>HOUSTON CHRONICLE HoustonChronicle.com</p> | | | | | |
| <h3>BIDS & PROPOSALS</h3> <h4>COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ATTN: BID/PROPOSAL RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON AUGUST 21, 2019 FOR THE FOLLOWING:</h4> <p>PURCHASE OF WIRE ROPES AND OTHER LIFTING GEAR FOR BARBOURS CUT TERMINAL, BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINAL AND TURNING BASIN TERMINAL (CST)</p> <p>A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE BARBOURS CUT TERMINAL ADM. BLDG., 1819 E. BARBOURS CUT BOULEVARD, LA PORTE, TEXAS 77571 (SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM), ON AUGUST 7, 2019, 10:00 AM SO THAT THE PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROJECT.</p> <p>SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE https://buyspeed.poha.com/bsa/. PROPOSALS WILL BE OPENED AT 11:30 A.M. OF THE DAY DUE IN THE PROCUREMENT SERVICES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS. THE PORT AUTHORITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS OR RESPONSES.</p> <p>Request for Qualifications Statements - Office of the County Engineer</p> <p>Harris County is accepting Qualifications Statements from interested firms licensed in the State of Texas to provide Engineering Services in support of the development of an Inter-agency Infrastructure Coordination and Assessment Tool (ICAT). The tool will assist in the coordination and assessment of partnership opportunities and projects occurring in Harris County. A mandatory pre-submittal conference will be held on August 5, 2019, 2:00 PM at the Office of the County Engineer, 1001 Preston St, Suite 500, Houston TX 77002. Interested parties should submit one (1) original package and five (5) copies entitled "Sealed Request for Qualifications for Engineering Firm(s) to develop an Inter-agency Infrastructure Coordination and Assessment Tool (ICAT)," no later than August 23, 2019, 4:00 PM to the Office of the County Engineer, Attention: Angela Murry, Administrative Officer, 1001 Preston, Suite 500, Houston, TX 77002. Please visit https://www.civcastusa.com/ to obtain additional information. Registration is free of charge and the documents can be retrieved by clicking on "Browse Bids" and searching "Qualification".</p> | | | <h3>BIDS & PROPOSALS</h3> <p>Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, 3100 West Alabama, Houston, Texas 77098 (Tel. 713/520 9570) until 10:00 A.M., local time, MONDAY, July 29TH, 2019, and then publicly opened and read for "Dellrose Section 7 in Harris County MUD 319, in Harris County, TX"</p> <p>Scope of Work of the Contract includes the following: Water Distribution, Sanitary Sewer, and Storm Water Collection.</p> <p>Bids received after the closing time will be returned unopened. A NON--MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on MONDAY, July 22ND, 2019, AT 10:00 A.M., local time, at the office of Dannenbaum Engineering Corp. Each prospective bidder or its representative is encouraged to attend but is not mandatory.</p> <p>Each Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or a certified or cashier's check, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount Bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into the Contract and execute the Bonds on the forms provided, and provide the required insurance certificates within seven (7) days after the date Contract Documents are received by the Contractor.</p> <p>Complete bidding documents are available for download at www.civcastusa.com. Bidders must register on this website in order to view and/or download specifications, plans, soils report, and environmental reports for this Project. There is NO charge to view or download documents.</p> <p>The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.</p> | | | | | |

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