



Press Releases

Ex-HKUST supplier charged by ICAC jailed for 28 months over concealing conflict of interest in \$3.2m procurement

2023-10-11

The ICAC had earlier charged two operators of two former suppliers of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) for fraud by conspiring with a then Adjunct Associate Professor of the university to conceal the latter's interest in the two suppliers concerning various procurements that involved payments amounted to several million dollars over a span of more than seven years. One of the duo was sentenced to 28 months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to his offences at the District Court today (October 11).

Yeung Siu-on, 41, then sole director and shareholder of PIT Limited (PITL), pleaded guilty to 11 charges – one of conspiracy to defraud, contrary to Common Law; and 10 of fraud, contrary to section 16A(1) of the Theft Ordinance. Three similar charges against him were left on file at the District Court.

In sentencing, Deputy District Judge Mr Cheang Kei-hong said the defendant failed to distinguish right from wrong and obtained the procurement orders by making false declarations. He took an overall starting point of 48 months' imprisonment and reduced the jail term to 28 months having considered the defendant's guilty plea and other mitigating factors.

At the material time, PITL was a supplier providing environmental testing services and Yeung Siu-on became its sole director and shareholder in late 2011. When medical product supplier Chun Fo (Asia) Pharmaceutical Co., Limited (CFPL) incorporated in mid-2012, Yeung Siu-on was its sole director and shareholder.

Between September 2011 and February 2019, Yeung Lam-lung, then Adjunct Associate Professor of the Department of Chemistry of HKUST, conducted tendering and procurement exercises for the university and its subsidiary to purchase various laboratory equipment and testing services from PITL and CFPL.

In accordance with the regulations of HKUST, Yeung Lam-lung was required to declare his conflict of interest with any suppliers before engaging them. Suppliers were also required to declare whether any HKUST staff had any interest in them.

The ICAC investigation arose from a corruption complaint. Enquiries revealed that although Yeung Lam-lung had direct or indirect financial interests in PITL and CFPL, Yeung Siu-on conspired with the latter to defraud HKUST by concealing the latter's interest in the two suppliers and induced it to engage CFPL in one of the above tendering and procurement exercises.

The court heard that Yeung Siu-on, together with Yeung Lam-lung, induced HKUST or its subsidiary to engage PITL in 10 other tendering and procurement exercises by the same fraudulent means. The 11 tendering and procurement exercises involved payments totalling over \$3.2 million.

As Yeung Lam-lung had already left Hong Kong, a warrant for the arrest of him was issued by a Magistrate in early October 2022 upon the application made by the ICAC.

Co-defendant Au Yeung Siu-fung, who replaced Yeung Siu-on as the sole director and shareholder of CFPL in the material time, earlier pleaded not guilty to two counts of conspiracy to defraud and one count of fraud. His trial is scheduled for 21 February, 2024.

HKUST had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

The prosecution was today represented by Senior Public Prosecutor Chan Sze -yan, assisted by ICAC officer Michael Lim.

The ICAC reminds members of public and private organisations to avoid conflict of interest and make declarations in strict adherence to internal guidelines. Concealing any conflict of interest in relation to one's official duties to benefit himself may contravene the criminal law, such as the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance if offering or accepting of bribes is involved.

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新聞公佈

遭廉署起訴科大前供應商隱瞞利益衝突騙取320萬元採購訂單判囚28個月

2023年10月11日

廉政公署早前落案起訴香港科技大學(科大)兩個前供應商的經營者，控告他們串謀一名時任科大兼任副教授，逾七年間於多項採購中隱瞞該兼任副教授在有關供應商的權益，涉款共數百萬元。其中一名被告今日(10月11日)在區域法院承認多項控罪，被判入獄28個月。

楊兆安，41歲，時任高準檢驗及檢測有限公司(高準)獨資董事及股東，承認11項罪名，即一項串謀詐騙，違反普通法；及10項欺詐，違反《盜竊罪條例》第16A(1)條。他另外三項相類罪名則由區域法院法庭存檔。

區域法院暫委法官鄭紀航判刑時表示，被告不分是非對錯，以虛假申報騙取採購訂單。他以監禁48個月為總量刑起點，考慮到被告認罪及其他求情因素，將刑期扣減至28個月。

高準於案發時提供環境測試服務，楊兆安於2011年底成為其獨資董事及股東。醫療用品供應商駿科(亞洲)製藥有限公司(駿科)則於2012年中成立，楊兆安當時是其獨資董事及股東。

於2011年9月至2019年2月期間，時任科大化學系兼任副教授楊霖龍透過進行招標及採購活動，為科大及其附屬公司向高準及駿科採購多項實驗室儀器及測試服務。

根據科大規例，楊霖龍須在委聘任何供應商前，申報他與供應商的利益衝突，而供應商亦須申報它們是否與科大職員有任何利益關係。

廉署早前接獲貪污投訴遂展開調查，發現楊霖龍雖然在高準及駿科擁有直接或間接財務權益，但楊兆安卻與楊霖龍串謀詐騙科大，隱瞞楊霖龍在該兩間供應商的權益，誘使科大在上述其中一項招標及採購活動中委聘駿科。

案情透露，楊兆安又以相同詐騙手段，與楊霖龍誘使科大或其附屬公司在其他10項招標及採購活動中委聘高準。該11項招標及採購活動涉款共逾320萬元。

因楊霖龍已離開香港，廉署已於2022年10月初向裁判法院申請手令，通緝他歸案，並獲裁判官簽發有關手令。

同案被告歐陽兆煒於案發期間取代楊兆安出任駿科獨資董事及股東，他早前否認兩項串謀詐騙罪名及一項欺詐罪名，審訊排期於2024年2月21日進行。

科大在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由高級檢控官陳詩欣代表出庭，並由廉署人員林民樂協助。

廉署提醒公、私營機構人員應避免利益衝突及根據機構指引作出申報。在處理職務上隱瞞利益衝突使自己從中獲利，有可能觸犯刑事罪行；若當中涉及行賄或受賄，便可能違反《防止賄賂條例》。

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