

Limited Liability Company
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PRESS RELEASE

ABOUT THE INSTITUTED CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

JSC FIRM "SMUR"

ON CHARGES OF CARTEL CONSPIRACY

At present, numerous publications have appeared in authoritative all-Russian publications (Kommersant Publishing House, Vedomosti, etc.) concerning the criminal case initiated against the management of the JSC firm "SMUR" on the fact of a cartel conspiracy committed within the framework of the "Digital Economy" project.

JSC firm "SMUR" together with JSC "Kvant Telecom" and foreign one-day companies Global Kvant Services GMBH <http://kvant-telecom.de/>, KVANT TELECOM KAZAKHSTAN, Global Qtcom. Corp., <http://globalqt.com/> and Kvant Global GM, are owned by Voronezh businessman N.D. Torokhov and his family.

N.D. Torokhov is the sole shareholder of the companies: JSC firm "SMUR", Global Kvant Services GMBH and JSC "Kvant-Telecom" and an active participant in the construction market of the Voronezh region.

In April 2019, PJSC "Rostelecom" posted an open request for quotations in electronic form for the right to conclude an agreement for the construction of communication lines in the Voronezh Region for the implementation of the federal project "Information Infrastructure" of the national program "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation" for the needs of the Macroregional Branch "Center" of PJSC "Rostelecom".

(https://zakupki.rostelecom.ru/2158619/?sphrase_id=356267)

In accordance with the summarizing protocol (No. 31907748082/4) of the request for quotations based on the results of matching the bids, the commission decided to approve the results of the rebidding / procurement and recognize the procurement Winners as:

- Limited Liability Company "ProektStroyService",
- Limited Liability Company "AKS GROUP",
- Limited Liability Company "CenterTelecomStroy",
- Limited Liability Company SKS PROM,
- Limited Liability Company "IkstelCom",
- **Joint-stock company firm "SMUR", postal address: 394019, Voronezh, st. Eremeeva, 22;**
- Limited Liability Company "KROSS",

- Limited Liability Company "ComStroy",

and to conclude the agreements with these companies for the construction of communication lines in the Voronezh Region for the implementation of the federal project "Information Infrastructure" of the national program "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation" for the needs of the Macroregional Branch "Center" of PJSC "Rostelecom" in the amount of 112,660,062.00 rubles (One hundred twelve million six hundred sixty thousand sixty-two rubles 00 kopecks) including VAT (20%) each.

(https://zakupki.rostelecom.ru/2158619/?sphrase_id=356267).

The newspaper "Kommersant" (No. 31 of 20.02.2020, page 4), published the following:

“Simultaneously, law enforcement agencies conducted searches in six regions as part of a criminal case on cartel conspiracy during the auction held by Rostelecom as part of the digital economy of the Russian Federation national project. According to the investigation, nine companies coordinated their actions when submitting applications for the construction and connection of a fiber-optic communication line in the Voronezh Region and, thanks to the patronage of two top managers of Rostelecom, were able to conclude contracts for 788.6 million rubles.

According to the investigation, in April 2019 they entered into an agreement limiting competition in the bidding process for the construction of communication lines in the Voronezh Region within the framework of the federal project "Information Infrastructure" (part of the national project "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation"). “Acting by prior agreement, using confidential information about bidders, they coordinated the bids of nine companies, some of which simulated a drop in the price offer, and another part refused to participate at an early stage in order to subsequently conclude a subcontract at a favorable price,” explained one from the interlocutors of Kommersant. The investigation estimates the income that the suspects managed to extract at 788.62 million rubles.

According to the government procurement portal, the auction, which could form the basis of the criminal case, was announced on April 9 last year in the form of an open request for quotations. We are talking about the conclusion of an agreement for the construction of a fiber-optic communication line, installation of equipment and commissioning for connecting socially significant objects to the Internet in more than 750 settlements of the Voronezh region (mainly villages and townships). The maximum price of the contract was 901.8 million rubles, applications were received from 13 companies from Voronezh, Moscow, Belgorod, Kaluga, Volgograd, Krasnodar and Samara. Based on the results of rebidding, eight legal entities that offered the best price reduction coefficient were recognized as winners. According to the terms of the auction, the total amount of the contract was divided between them in equal parts - 112.66 million rubles. "

<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4260902>

<https://regnum.ru/news/economy/2864111.html>

“The police suspect the detainees of organizing a collusion of nine companies from the Voronezh, Kursk, Belgorod, Kaluga and Volgograd regions, as well as Moscow. Tenders for the construction of communication lines with their participation were held in April 2019. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, some of the companies refused to participate in favor of the subsequent conclusion of a subcontract agreement at a favorable price, and another part simulated a drop in the price offer. As a result, the suspects were able to extract a particularly large income - 788.6 million rubles. ”

<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4260504>

“According to Kommersant-Chernozemye, the investigation has requested a similar preventive measure for six more suspects, at the moment the court is considering the relevant requests. In total, there are nine defendants in the case: seven entrepreneurs and two employees of Rostelecom. In addition to Maksim Eremeev, the organization of a cartel conspiracy with the extraction of an especially large income (clause "c", part 2 of article 178 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, up to six years in prison) is also imputed to the deputy director of the department for organizing the construction of centralized projects of the macroregional branch "Center" Andrey Belov. According to the police investigation, in April 2019, the participants in the conspiracy coordinated their actions during the bidding for the construction of a fiber-optic communication line in the villages and towns of the Voronezh region worth RUB 901.3 million (implemented as part of the federal project "Information Infrastructure", part of the national project "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation"). According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, some of the participants simulated a drop in the price offer, and some refused applications in favor of a profitable subcontracting. As a result of restricting competition, they managed to generate income in the amount of 788.6 million rubles. ”

<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4266909>

Also, these companies were noted for frauds in the sale of communication channels for access to the Internet in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as reported in the article "Who steals the Internet" posted on 25.01.2019, on the portal <https://telegra.ph/Pochemu-tak-i-ne-uluchshilsya-Internet-i-kto-na-ehom-obogashchaetsya-01-24>.

JSC "Uzbektelecom" purchases communication channels for access to the Internet from well-known companies Megafon, Vimpelcom, Rostelecom, Transtelecom.

Initially, Global KVANT Services entered into an agreement with Uzbektelecom and provided services through the Kazakhtelecom communication line.

In August 2018 was determined the need to split the international channel and connect an additional alternative channel and a sharp decrease in the price of Internet access, according to the order of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 9, 2018.

However, instead of implementing the President's order, Uzbektelecom again increases the access channel and adds additional channel volume through the Kazakh operators, and, on the contrary, turns off alternative channels through Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, which lays the foundation for future monopolization of Internet access prices.

At the same time, even after receiving messages from the official curators of the company in law enforcement agencies about the lack of transparency, Uzbektelecom continued to work.

JSC firm "SMUR" was an active participant in corruption schemes in the Republic of Uzbekistan and participants in a cartel conspiracy in Russia, as a result of which the management of JSC firm "SMUR" is currently involved in a criminal case.

This fact cannot but affect the reliability and contractability of both JSC firm "SMUR" and the activities of JSC "Kvant-Telecom" affiliated with it and foreign one-day companies Global Kvant Services <http://kvant-telecom.de/>, KVANT TELECOM KAZAKHSTAN, Global Qtcom. Corp., <http://globalqt.com/> and Kvant Global GM, controlled by the family of N.D. Torokhov.

In this regard, I warn dear colleagues and partners against "cooperation" with these organizations, the only result of which, most likely, will be numerous long-term litigation and criminal cases initiated on the basis of false denunciations.

Member of LLC "Company" ALS and TEK "



I. I. Salimov