

MEDIA INFORMATION

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VFS Global renews Visa and Residence Permit services contract for Norway globally

- Providing Visa and Residence Permit Services for Norway in 52 countries
- Securing the Norway contract marks VFS Global's eighth global success in 2023

The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has awarded VFS Global the global tender to provide visa and residence permit services in 52 countries across the globe. Under this new agreement, VFS Global will continue to operate on behalf of the Government of Norway in all regions worldwide – Americas, Australasia, China & Hong Kong, Europe & CIS, Middle East & North Africa, Russia, Belarus & Armenia, and South Asia.

VFS Global has worked with the Government of Norway since 2014 and has successfully handled nearly 1.5 million applications on their behalf.

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: “We look forward to a continued smooth and professional cooperation with VFS Global on provision of visa and residence permit services. The cooperation we have developed has proven to be effective and fruitful, with both our organizations working well together in performing their respective responsibilities and tasks.”

Chris Dix, Head of Business Development, VFS Global, said: “VFS Global is delighted that we will continue to serve the Government of Norway as their sole service provider. We have enjoyed a strong partnership and welcome the opportunity to renew our services in the existing locations where we operate. We look forward to offering best-in-class visa solutions, and a seamless application process across all regions globally with an annual estimated customer count of 220,000. This is the eighth global contract win this year and is a testament to our dedicated efforts to provide all our client governments with top quality services.”

This win comes soon after VFS Global was exclusively appointed to manage the UK Government visa and passport services across 142 countries, catering to approximately 3.8 million applicants annually. Additionally, VFS Global has secured the prestigious global biometric collection service mandate with Australia and successfully renewed the global visa service contract with Sweden.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

List of countries 52 countries where this service will be available:

Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, , Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, , Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, , Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, , Tanzania, Thailand, The Dominican Republic, The Palestinian Territories, The Philippines, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA and Vietnam.

VFS Global is responsible for managing the front-end administrative duties only. This includes the collection of application forms and required documents as per the checklist as well as the enrollment of biometrics. VFS Global does not play a part in the decision-making process nor does it possess insight into the final decision made by the embassy/consulate.

About VFS Global

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions. VFS Global is the trusted partner of 70 client governments, operating a global network with more than 3,300 Application Centres in 149 countries. The company has processed over 272 million applications since its inception in 2001. The company manages non-judgmental and administrative tasks related to applications for visa, passport, and consular services for its client governments, enabling them to focus entirely on the critical assessment task. VFS Global has its headquarters in Zurich/Switzerland and Dubai/United Arab Emirates. VFS Global is majority-owned by funds managed by Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager. Blackstone seeks to create positive economic impact and long-term value for their investors, the companies in which they invest, and the communities in which they work. Blackstone's USD 991 billion in assets under management include investment vehicles focused on private equity, real estate, public debt and equity, infrastructure, life sciences, growth equity, opportunistic, non-investment grade credit, real assets, and secondary funds, all on a global basis. The Swiss-based Kuoni and Huentobler Foundation and EQT, a global investment organisation, headquartered in Stockholm/Sweden, hold minority stakes in VFS Global.

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