



Procurement Initiatives to Undergo Intense Scrutiny

At a time of sustained pressure and focus on public sector spending, the UK's most successful public procurement initiatives are set to be scrutinised by a panel of leading figures from across the public, private and third sectors.

The National Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards, now in their tenth year, help save the taxpayer money by promoting the very best examples of innovation, creativity, collaboration and partnership in the procurement and delivery of vital public services. The Awards are free to enter and open to all public, private and third sector organisations across the UK.

Held as part of Procurex National 2012, the UK's leading event for the collective government procurement community taking place on 13 and 14 March at the NEC in Birmingham, the National GO Awards 2012/13 will set the benchmark by which procurement excellence is measured. The Awards will be presented at a prestigious ceremony at the Birmingham Metropole Hotel on the evening of 13 March.

The judging panel for the National GO Awards reflects its position as the highest-profile Awards of its type. It comprises John Collington, Chief Procurement Officer, Efficiency and Reform Group, Cabinet Office; David Shields, Managing Director, Government Procurement Service; Sir Stephen Bubb, CEO, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO); David Smith CB, Commercial Director at the Department for Work and Pensions and President of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS); Robert Hillman, Chair of the London Contracts and Supplies Group; John F McClelland CBE, author of the Review of Public Procurement in Scotland and Chair of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Council; John Tizard, former Director of the Centre for Public Service Partnerships; Paul Robb of the National Outsourcing Association; Duncan Eaton, former CEO of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency; and Grahame Steed, Managing Editor, GO.

John Collington said:

"The National GO Awards are the foremost recognition of best practice and innovation within public procurement, recognising the achievements of all parties in the delivery of effective and value for money public services. I urge organisations that have success stories to share to do so by entering these Awards."

Grahame Steed said: *"The calibre of the judging panel that we have established for the National GO Awards 2012/13 underlines the position they have established within this sector. Those organisations entering the Awards will raise their profile and help drive forward improvements in procurement practice, with the end result being better services and increased value for the taxpayer. This is not the time for modesty – if you have achieved something exceptional, share it."*

The submission deadline for the Awards has now been extended to 27 January, giving organisations more time to submit their entry for consideration.

Further information on the National GO Awards can be found at www.govopps.co.uk/go-awards/

Notes for Editors

1. Government Opportunities (GO) is the leading online media channel for all involved in public sector procurement, finance and service delivery. Its website is www.govopps.co.uk
2. The National GO Excellence in Public Procurement Awards were established in 2002. The GO Awards Scotland were established in 2008. Each aim to improve public procurement through the sharing of best practice and promotion of innovative approaches to public service delivery.
3. The National GO Awards are held as part of the Procurex National 2012 event, taking place at the NEC, Birmingham on 13 and 14 March 2012. Procurex National is a unique event that brings together public sector buyers and private sector suppliers.
4. Procurex National 2012 features the GO Live Keynote Arena (with a strong line-up of industry leaders and keynote speakers including Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office & Paymaster General), Skills Development Zones, an Exhibition, the Legal Advice and Procurement Support Zone and the new GO Networking Zone.
5. Registration is free at www.procurexnational.co.uk
6. Procurex National is supported by the Government Procurement Service, the Pro5 Group and Birmingham City Council. GO is the media partner for the event.
7. Government Opportunities, the National GO Excellence in Public Procurement Awards and Procurex National are provided by BiP Solutions Ltd (www.bipsolutions.com), one of Europe's leading experts in the public procurement sector.