



New online tender system

A new, improved, online tender system for public sector contracts is being launched by CPD – and anyone who tenders for government procurement opportunities in Northern Ireland, or wants to in the future, is being urged to prepare for the changeover.

The new system makes it easier for companies to submit online tenders for government contracts, as part of Finance Minister Simon Hamilton's commitment to collaborative working with the private sector to develop, procure and deliver better public services. The new system will reduce the length of tender documents businesses need to complete. Suppliers no longer have to answer the same core questions each time they complete a tender document. They can now answer the questions once, by completing a supplier profile certificate online, which will be retained on eTendersNI.

Following feedback received from suppliers tendering for public sector contracts, businesses can also be kept up to date on new tender opportunities, relevant to them, by registering for e-mail alerts.

The first procurement organisation to use the new portal will be CPD, which carries out procurements on behalf of central government departments, agencies and arm's length bodies. The other Centres of Procurement Expertise for Northern Ireland will begin using eTenders NI in a phased approach after this, and then the portal will be available for use by all public bodies.

For a number of months, some organisations will be advertising their opportunities on eSourcing NI, whilst others will already be using eTendersNI. During these first few months, suppliers are advised to check both systems to ensure they are aware of all tender opportunities.

Because the new system sends alerts for opportunities in areas where suppliers have registered an interest, registrations on eSourcing NI are not automatically carried forward. [Registration on eTendersNI is now open](#). **By registering now, suppliers will get alerts in areas of interest as opportunities start to come online.**

The registration process requires suppliers to use their Dun & Bradstreet number, which is a unique nine digit code to identify a business, to ensure that each organisation is only registered on the system once. During registration suppliers can use the D&B Query tool to obtain their D-U-N-S number. Any organisation which does not currently have a number can request one from www.dnb.co.uk/forms/new_duns.

Interactive Supplier Help Guides are available from the eTendersNI home page to help users navigate the new portal, and these include guidance on registration. A telephone help line is also available.

A series of eTendersNI road shows will also take place over the coming months in locations around Northern Ireland, offering a short workshop on how to use the portal effectively. The initial road shows will take place in three venues:

Wed 22nd April – Belfast – Pavilion, Stormont

Tues 28th April – Omagh – Silverbirch Hotel

Thurs 30th April – Armagh – Armagh City Hotel

You can [register for one of the workshops through the CPD website](#). (www.dfpni.gov.uk/cpd).

Access eTendersNI online today:

<https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps/home.do>