

eInvoicing Update – 6 months and counting!

Planning is key to eInvoicing readiness for April 2019/April2020

19 October 2018: Today marks six months to the 18 April, 2019 deadline, by which central Government public bodies need to be in a position to accept and process eInvoices in accordance with the European Directive, European Standard and national eInvoicing approach. The eInvoicing Ireland programme has been working with the Office of Government Procurement and public sector partners to put in place an eInvoicing Framework from which public bodies will be able to access the services and solutions needed to be compliant with the European Directive 2014/55/EU on eInvoicing, (‘eInvoicing Directive’) and the national eInvoicing approach.

This comprehensive Framework, currently under final review, aims to;

1. Meet the eInvoicing requirements of the public sector, from shared services and co-ordinating body facilities¹, to individual public bodies and
2. Cater for those looking to achieve basic compliance as well as those looking for more integrated solutions to realise longer term benefits.

The Framework has therefore been designed with multiple lots in order to address the differing needs of the respective shared service/ co-ordinating body facilities as well as individual public bodies.

The Request for Tender (RFT) for the Framework is expected to be published in quarter four, 2018, followed by an evaluation period in early 2019. Once the successful tenderers are awarded and the Framework is published, public bodies will be able to access the compliant eInvoicing solutions and services they require. The Framework has been designed to minimise timeframes for accessing these services and enable central contracting authorities and contracting entities comply with the April 2019 deadline.

It is intended that the transposition of the eInvoicing Directive into Irish legislation will include an option for sub-central contracting authorities and contracting entities to postpone the compliance deadline until April 2020. It is a matter for individual public bodies to determine whether the central or sub-central deadline applies to them, in regard to the eInvoicing Directive. Transposition of the Directive into Irish legislation is due in advance of the compliance deadline of April 2019.

The Framework development has been an extensive piece of work, building in considerations from four different sector partners, implications for suppliers and SMEs, solution providers, as well as other governance considerations and input from public sector representatives in areas such as procurement, policy, auditing, technology and data protection.

Declan McCormack, eInvoicing programme Manager urged *‘public bodies to plan for compliance and to use the Directive as an opportunity to reap benefits. In advance of the Framework it is important that public bodies start analysing their existing invoice processing environment, to be ready to draw down the relevant services and solutions when the time comes. Public bodies should profile and identify current invoice volumes across the various*

¹ A co-ordinating body facility refers to a set of managed administrative and/ or IT services for invoice processing that are co-ordinated at a commercial and/ or operational level by a particular body on behalf of a group of bodies, typically within a common segment of the public sector (e.g. The LGMA provides co-ordinating body facilities in relation to local and regional authorities).

suppliers and contracts, current paper-based dependencies, and the human resources involved. eInvoicing Ireland has produced a worksheet as a prompt to encourage public bodies to start considering some of these questions. For further information visit www.ogp.gov.ie/eInvoicing.

The eInvoicing Directive has created a real stimulus for suppliers and buyers in public procurement across Europe to take a real and significant step forward in the same direction. This is a great opportunity for all public bodies to leverage this momentum to their advantage and to improve how businesses transact with the public sector in Ireland and Europe.

For further information please contact:
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